



Tracking, Learning and Sharing  
for the ARA Grassroots Action Research micro-grants  
- MIDLINE REPORT -



**FINAL** | 09 February 2024

Version	Issue date	Reviewed by:
1.0	December 8 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Jesse Demaria-Kinney; Kweku Koranteng
2.0	February 9 <sup>th</sup> 2024	

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## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

ARA Adaptation Research Alliance

CSO Civil Society Organisation

CT Consulting Team

GBP Great British Pound

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

## KEY TERMS

n	Definition
	There are 7 categories of activities which were initially identified to be adopted by the grantees during the baseline assessment stage
1. Advocacy and Policy Recommendations:	Insights gained from the action-research are translated into actionable recommendations that advocate for informed policy decisions and changes to support adaptation
2. Co-production of adequate adaptation measures	This activity includes the development of adaptation measures in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, ensuring their suitability and effectiveness in addressing the targeted climate-related impacts and identified challenges
3. Engagement of affected communities	This activity involves actively engaging the impacted community in the process, fostering a collaborative approach towards the understanding of the burning issues.
4. Knowledge co-produced with the affected community	This entails collaborative efforts to generate knowledge and ideas alongside primary stakeholders or the local community regarding the identified burning issue to be addressed by the Project.
5. Knowledge products	It involves generating tangible outputs such as reports, publications, or digital resources to document and share acquired knowledge
6. Research-oriented adaptation measures piloted with local communities	Adaptation measures are tested and refined through research-oriented pilot projects, allowing for evidence-based improvements.
7. Workshops, Trainings, Awareness Raising, Learning Exchanges, Meetings:	Activities within this category encompass a diverse range of exchange types, ranging from gatherings and events focused on launching and planning the project to follow-up meetings and presentations aimed at engaging stakeholders. Additionally, they involve co-diagnostic workshops, training sessions, awareness-raising campaigns, knowledge exchanges, as well as interviews and meetings designed for sharing and disseminating pertinent information during the engagement process of knowledge co-creation and engagement of involved stakeholders.
	For the purpose of this report, stakeholders have also been categorised in different types
Stakeholders	Includes grassroots organisations, NGOs, associations, local communities; research and academic Institutions; state and local government organisations/agencies, and international development agencies.

## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

### Achieved outputs

ARA's micro-grants Programme reveals progress in the activities of all 30 projects under implementation, and the following are the achievements up to the mid-term.

- **Community engagement:** 90% (27 out of 30 grantees) successfully engaged with communities affected by climate change, facilitating direct exploration of critical issues.
- **Workshops, Trainings, Awareness Raising, Learning Exchanges, Meetings:** A total of 99 workshops, trainings, awareness-raising events, learning exchanges and meetings were conducted by 24 micro-grants, with Latin America and the Caribbean hosting 39 events, closely followed by Africa and Asia-Pacific. In addition, 61 events specifically aimed at raising awareness of climate change were organised by 26 micro-grants, and a further 42 events focused on capacity building and learning exchanges were organised by 10 micro-grants.
- **Knowledge co-production:** 47 diagnostic analyses were completed through 12 micro-grants. Latin America and the Caribbean were the most active with 23 contributions, followed by Asia-Pacific with 22 and Africa with a smaller contribution. A diverse range of tools, methodologies, surveys, plans, and models were developed, totalling 17 initiatives across 12 micro-grants. Asia-Pacific was the leading region in this category, followed by Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa. 21 publications were produced, including research papers and reports, with a notable contribution from Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **Adaptation measures:** 6 micro-grants co-identified 42 adaptation measures. The Asia-Pacific region led with 29 adaptive measures, including 27 prototypes adaptation solution generated in Myanmar after thorough action-research and initiatives such as the Murta Plantation and the testing of a low-cost solar panel rotator called "Solar Achieve" in Bangladesh.
- **Research-oriented adaptation measures piloted with local communities:** A total of 26 pilot tests were conducted in 6 micro-grants, with a regional focus on Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **Knowledge products:** A total of 23 knowledge products were developed through 11 micro-grants.

### Challenges

- The main challenges encountered by grantees up to the mid-term survey are administrative and operational, with delays in the disbursement of funds identified as a critical and widespread obstacle across all regions.
- 40% of the ARA micro-grants (12 projects) made changes to their submitted proposal. These changes are multifaceted: delays in disbursement of funds; modification, or extension of specific activities to better respond to local realities; expansion of activities in response to the achievement of positive initial results; and political and security challenges prompted adjustments to project agendas and activities.

### Reported benefits achieved

- The benefits of micro-grant activities spread across different groups and sectors. Projects have had a broad impact on communities (26 micro-grants), research and grassroots organisations (16 and 14 micro-grants respectively), ecosystem support (4 micro-grants), government institutions (9 micro-grants), private enterprises (1 micro-grant), among others.
- Grantees reported the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders in their implementation, including state and local government institutions, research and academic institutions, community and grassroots organisations, NGOs and international development agencies, with a total count of 86. This includes 37 new collaborations, representing 43% of the total, and represents an active effort to foster new partnerships and bring different perspectives to the projects. These new collaborations, across all three regions, demonstrate a strategic approach to broadening the scope and network of the projects. Furthermore, there are 49 ongoing collaborations, representing 57% of the total, which have evolved from pre-existing partnerships. This continuation and development of previous collaborations demonstrates a deliberate focus on capitalising on established networks and expertise, thereby increasing the overall impact and reach of the micro-grants.
- Grantees acknowledge the importance of pre-existing collaborations and continuity in partnerships with different organisations as fundamental drivers of successful project implementation. Additionally, the engagement of governmental agencies was central, not only providing crucial support but also giving the projects the necessary legitimacy.

#### **GESI considerations in implementation**

- The most frequently observed GESI consideration/measure is women's inclusion in project activities and adaptation strategies, accounting for 39.9% of the micro-grants. Additionally, 23.3% of microgrants reported the use of data disaggregation and analysis to ensure gender-responsiveness. Furthermore, the same percentage of micro-grants focused on the use of inclusive language or any other relevant criteria to strategies to specifically reach out women in their activities.
- GESI challenges related to cultural resistance and/or patriarchal culture are the most frequently cited overall and the most important issue in all regions (40% of micro-grants in Africa, 38% of micro-grants in Asia-Pacific, and 25% in Latin America and the Caribbean). However, challenges vary regionally, with issues such as local language barriers, funding constraints, and difficulties engaging female keynote speakers.
- Over 80% of micro-grantees have indicated a need for additional support from the ARA Secretariat or other grantees. The major demand is for project management and administrative support. There is also a notable need to enhance learning opportunities and global outreach. There is also a strong interest in promoting peer learning and sharing good practice, reflecting a strong desire to participate in meaningful knowledge exchange and to gain insights from the collective experience of others.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. The Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants

### Background

The Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) stands as a global collaborative initiative with over 230+ members (continuously expanding), aiming to stimulate increased investment and capacity for action-oriented research and evidence-based strategies that underpin effective climate change adaptation.

The ARA's Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants programme (ARA micro-grants) strives to highlight and address knowledge gaps, ideas, and opportunities directly from affected communities. This programme facilitates a collaborative research process through which communities and researchers jointly explore appropriate responses. It represents an endeavour to unearth ideas and opportunities for adapting to climate change in local contexts in the Global South, employing a micro-granting process that establishes a connection between action and research partners, identifying knowledge gaps, ideas, and opportunities to adapt to and build resilience against a changing climate.

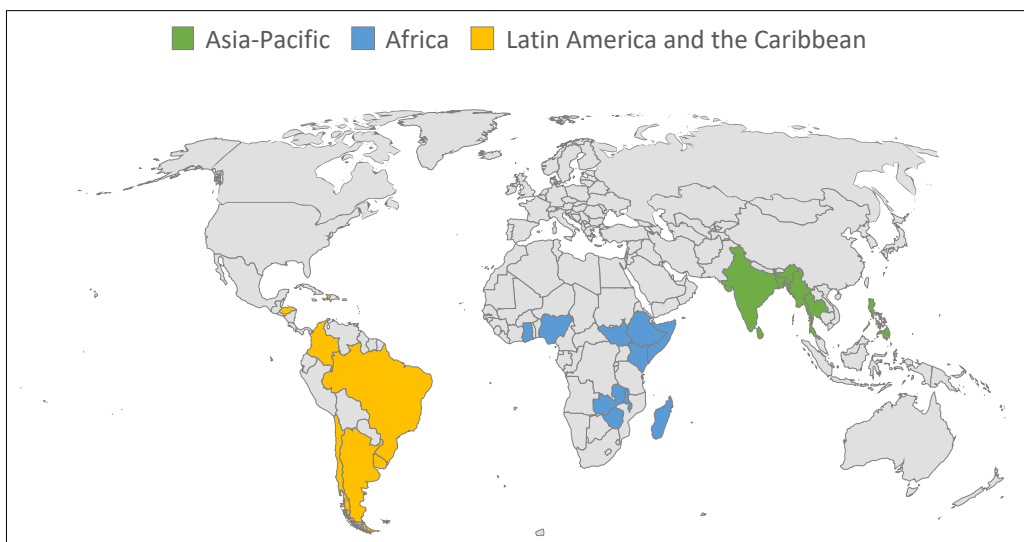
The inaugural round of ARA micro-grants was formally unveiled at COP26 in 2021, providing an opportunity for 25 grantees from the Global South to delve into pressing climate adaptation issues faced by local communities. These issues encompassed challenges related to water scarcity, coastal areas, informal settlements, health, and knowledge gaps. Each of the 25 micro-grantees received GBP 10,000, and their projects were officially implemented over three months.

## 1.2. Second edition of the Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants in 2023

In May 2023, the ARA Secretariat selected 30 projects from the Global South as recipients of its 2023 Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants. These projects are granted up to GBP 15,000 each to conduct inclusive, locally-led action research aimed at identifying needs and opportunities for building resilience. The timeframe for implementation is set at 8 months, with an additional 5 months allocated for establishing contracts and ensuring timely payments.

The ARA micro-grant portfolio encompasses a total of 30 grants, with Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean each contributing 10 grants (33.3%). Geographically, the portfolio spans 23 countries, as illustrated in Figure 1 (refer to [Annex 1](#) for a detailed breakdown of grants per region, country, and partner institutions).

Figure 1: Regional coverage of the approved Portfolio of ARA Micro-grants



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on data provided by grantees

### **1.3. Tracking Learning and Sharing (TLS) Strategy and Plan**

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

Within this framework, a baseline, midline, and endline report were required alongside two learning workshops designed for sharing and learning. The baseline report was submitted and approved in August 2023. The current document encapsulates the key findings from the midline TLS progress of the ARA micro-grants.

## 2. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1. Purpose

The midline reporting of the micro-grants constitutes a crucial component of ARA's endeavours in tracking, learning, and sharing, to promote real-time peer-to-peer learning. It ensures that information generated through this process is leveraged to enhance the implementation of the grantees. The midline report gathers information to track progress, document perceived successes, outline challenges faced and changes to the original plan, and provide recommendations. The findings of the midline report contribute to several key objectives:

- **Accountability:** Provision of information to co-financing institutions and the general public.
- **Learning:** Generation of key insights from the grantees' perspective. Integration of findings and lessons into new rounds of micro-grant design.
- **Tracking Progress:** Keeping records of results achieved. Identification of adaptive management strategies to conclude micro-grant activities and attain the intended outcomes.
- **Strategic Planning:** Understanding what works to contribute to better planning of strategies fostering action-research in the region.

The anticipated users of the report findings and recommendations include the ARA secretariat, donors, the grantees themselves, and a wider audience interested in best practices and methods for improving different interventions focusing on action-oriented research to address climate change adaptation issues. Sharing the learning journey of the micro-grants, along with lessons learned, good practices, and recommendations, aims to enrich future editions of the micro-grant, fostering continuous improvement in addressing climate change adaptation challenges.

### 2.2. Scope

The ARA micro-grants initiative is executed across 23 countries within a specified timeframe of 8 months, spanning from May to December 2023. The budget allocation for each grant is set at a maximum of GBP 15,000. The ARA's Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants programme seeks to elevate and identify knowledge gaps, ideas, and opportunities from the users themselves – and facilitates a research process where users and academics explore appropriate responses together

The duration covered by the TLS midline report encompasses the entire period from the commencement of the ARA micro-grants in May 2023 through to October 2023. This timeline serves as the basis for the comprehensive review of progress, challenges, and achievements documented in the midline report.

### 2.3. Midline Tracking, Learning and Sharing objectives and questions

The primary goal of the TLS midline report is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the grantees' journey towards achieving the anticipated results and to present recommendations for the enhancement of the ARA micro-grants. Specifically, the midline report seeks to inform the following aspects:

- **Effectiveness:** To what extent are grantees achieving the stated objective of the ARA micro-grant? What are the unintended effects, both positive and negative?
- **Gender, equity and social inclusion (GESI)** What achievements have been made concerning gender, equity, and social inclusion? What are the main challenges encountered in this regard?

The TLS midline report delves into the progress of the ARA micro-grants in connecting **diverse groups of action** and **research stakeholders**. It aims to foster collaborations that generate solutions and ideas within local communities affected by climate change. In essence, the TLS framework in the midline report seeks to understand how and to what extent the ARA micro-grants have advanced towards achieving this goal, as well as the challenges and successes encountered thus far. [Annex 2](#) outlines the key TLS questions the report addresses, along with the assessment matrix detailing criteria, methods, and data analysis employed for this purpose.

## 2.4. Theory of change

As part of the development of the 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 finalize 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 [Annex 3](#): Draft Theory of Change)

The expected **impact** of the Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants programme is an **increased linkage between research and action at the local and community level**. To better understand the needs of vulnerable communities in adapting to climate change and the 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 action-oriented research findings in adaptation actions and
- Influencing policy processes through action research

To achieve this impact, the ToC identified the following common **activities** taken up differently across grants to achieve the expected changes, among which: engagement of the community/ intersections between climate change and gender and inclusion, knowledge co-creation and dissemination, co-design of adaptation measures, advocacy, awareness raising and trainings.

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 Program 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.

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

- All stakeholders have 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, programme, 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.
- Policy decision-makers follow through 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

## 2.5. TLS approach and methodology

### TLS management

To formulate and execute the TLS strategy, the ARA Secretariat enlisted the services of Viridia Projects, a consultancy firm from the Global South, featuring a team of five female members. This team brings diverse expertise in various technical domains, encompassing monitoring, evaluation, and learning, data analysis, Gender, Equity, and Social Inclusion (GESI), as well as adaptation. Their approach is underpinned by a commitment to a multidisciplinary perspective.

The ARA Secretariat ensured that none of the external consultants had prior involvement in the design or implementation of the intervention. Furthermore, none of them had affiliations with the organizations responsible for the micro-grant design or implementation. Importantly, none of the consultants had previously been employed by the ARA Secretariat, nor had they played a role in establishing the project that led to the second round of micro-grants under assessment.

In facilitating communication between the consultants and micro-grant beneficiaries, the ARA Secretariat staff provided a contact list. Grantees actively participated, offering feedback, engaging in discussions during learning workshops, and providing recommendations during interviews and e-surveys.

An iterative revision process occurred during the drafting of the midline report, involved the collaboration between the consultancy team and the ARA Secretariat. The Secretariat contributed technical insights and clarifications as needed to enhance the understanding of micro-grant context and implementation aspects. Further details outlining the various roles of stakeholders during TLS implementation are provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Roles for the management of the TLS Strategy and Plan

Stakeholders	Key roles and responsibilities
External TLS consultancy team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Propose an initial methodology, including sampling, if required</li> <li>• Implementation of the TLS framework, including securing methodological requirements, data collection, analysis, reporting, and learning.</li> <li>• Coordination of the assessment, including quality assurance of the different reports.</li> <li>• Communication with the supervisory team at ARA Secretariat.</li> <li>• Share the key findings with the stakeholders.</li> <li>• Compile and address feedback on the design of the assessment and the baseline, midline and endline reports.</li> </ul>
ARA Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the strategic relevance of the deliverables to the ARA micro-grants at large.</li> <li>• Contribute to the identification of key stakeholders that need to be consulted/interviewed during the TLS process.</li> <li>• Facilitate the contact information of grantees and beneficiaries in the field.</li> <li>• Ensure all key stakeholders provide feedback on the assessment.</li> <li>• Liaise with the grantees to support the assessment exercise.</li> </ul>

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the TLS plan to ensure all methodology requirements are met.</li> <li>• Review the data collection tools to ensure definitions align with the requirements of the Project and data is collected to address all assessment questions.</li> <li>• Review and provide timely feedback on the deliverables.</li> <li>• Implement the knowledge management and dissemination strategy, including the development of the knowledge products.</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

## 2.6. Approach and methods

The TLS framework adopted a mixed methods approach, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis. Data collection was guided by the specific questions outlined in the TLS assessment matrix (refer to [Annex 2](#)). To ensure a comprehensive understanding of the progress of the ARA micro-grants, the consulting team triangulated multiple sources of data and analysis. This approach aimed to integrate insights into challenges faced, factors contributing to results, and overall project progress.

The methods and data sources utilized for the TLS midline report included:

**Desk review:** The consulting team reviewed all available project-related documents, including project proposals submitted by each grantee to the ARA. Supporting evidence shared by grantees as part of progress reporting through the e-survey was also examined.

**e-Survey:** The consulting team designed a standardized e-survey (refer to [Annex 4](#)), incorporating both open-ended and close-ended questions through KoboToolBox. This survey was distributed to the 30 grantees on September 15th and remained open for responses until October 27th. The e-survey aimed to capture a comprehensive overview of the grantees' experiences.

**Key informant interviews:** Key informant interviews were conducted by the consulting team to complement the information gathered through the e-survey. The criteria for sample selection were carefully considered, including:

- **Geographic Balance:** Ensuring a balanced representation, the team sought to interview grantees from various regions to capture regional differences.
- **Completeness of e-Survey Information:** Purposively including grantees who provided incomplete information in the e-survey, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding.
- **GESI Approach:** Including grantees with purposively GESI approaches to capture good practices.
- **Degree of Progress in Different Activities:** Considering the range of progress reported, the sample included grants with both the least and the most progress reported in different activities.
- **Type of Challenges:** Acknowledging the diversity of challenges experienced by different grantees, the sample factored in this variability to better understand the challenges faced.
- **Grantees Previously Benefited in Round 1:** Including two grantees who had previously benefited from ARA micro-grants in Round 1, providing insights into the continuation of their projects.

The consulting team developed an interview questionnaire (refer to [Annex 5](#)) comprising open-ended questions that delved into various aspects, including the progress of grantees, encountered challenges, Gender, Equity, and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategies, contributing factors, reported support needs to finalise implementation, and envisioned requirements for scaling up and sustaining financed projects post-completion. A total of 15 projects were interviewed, with representation from 4 in Asia-Pacific, 5 in Africa, and 6 in Latin America. The list of grants interviewed for the midline report is detailed in [Annex 6](#). The interviews, conducted online, took place between October 16th and November 13th, 2023.

The interviews served: (i) to collect information based on experience and own perceptions on the journey of the ARA micro-grants in particular; (ii) to identify the needs of the grantees for future support; and (iii)

to triangulate and validate self-reported information through the e-survey; as well as validate initial findings and recommendations.

**Learning workshop:** The primary aim of the learning workshop was to facilitate real-time peer-to-peer learning and ensure that the insights generated through this process enrich the implementation of the grantees. Additionally, the outcomes of the Micro-grants TLS framework were intended to inform and guide future activities of the micro-grant Project, with a focus on generating, capturing, sharing, and disseminating knowledge.

To accomplish these objectives, two learning and sharing workshops were conducted on November 14<sup>th</sup> (see list of attendees in [Annex 7](#)). One workshop was tailored for Asia-Pacific and Africa grantees, and the other for Latin America and the Caribbean ARA micro-grants. Leveraging the information already processed from the e-survey and interviews, the workshop served as a platform for grantees to share their experiences. The key areas of discussion included.

- Action-Research Approaches: Grantees shared their experiences and insights regarding the action-research approaches employed in their projects.
- GESI Strategies Implemented: Participants discussed Gender, Equity, and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategies implemented in their projects, providing valuable perspectives on inclusivity.
- Challenges and Strategies: Challenges encountered during project implementation were openly discussed, and grantees shared effective strategies employed to overcome these challenges.
- Recommendations: Grantees offered recommendations based on their experiences, contributing to a collective pool of insights for future initiatives.

By fostering this collaborative learning environment, the workshops aimed to create a space where grantees could exchange valuable knowledge and contribute to the continuous improvement of climate change adaptation projects.

**Data analysis:** For the midline report, a comprehensive data analysis approach was employed, encompassing both qualitative and quantitative aspects. To analyse quantitative data, Microsoft Excel was predominantly utilised to process descriptive statistics derived from the e-Survey. In parallel, the consulting team conducted a qualitative analysis by processing information obtained from interviews and insights shared by grantees during the learning workshop. The qualitative analysis involved categorizing key recurring topics to aggregate data and identify commonalities across different grants.

**Triangulation:** Furthermore, a triangulation method was implemented to enhance the robustness of the findings. Stakeholders' perceptions, gathered through interviews and the learning workshop, were triangulated and complemented with quantitative information sourced from the e-survey. This triangulation approach aimed to provide a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding by cross-referencing qualitative insights with quantitative data, thereby strengthening the validity and reliability of the overall analysis.

## **2.7. Limitations of the TLS midline report**

In the midline report, certain grants reported being paused due to delays in receiving funds. Additionally, some grantees took longer than others to respond and complete the e-survey, scheduling interviews at different points in time, leading to varying progress reports. Moreover, the TLS strategy was formulated after the grants were approved, resulting in several grantees expressing unpreparedness to collect and provide specific data requested in the e-survey. Notably, the consulting team did not receive supporting evidence for all self-reported activities and results from grantees. In alignment with the TLS strategy's objectives and the overarching goal of learning, the consulting team, in consultation with the ARA Secretariat, chose not to pursue further inquiries into this matter. However, it is essential to acknowledge

that this decision introduces limitations to the reliability of the reported results, impacting the robustness of certain conclusions and quantitative data.

Considering the aforementioned limitation, the consulting team aimed to ensure a thorough examination of individual grantee journeys by conducting interviews with 50% of the entire portfolio. To mitigate the risk of biased conclusions, triangulation involved reviewing and cross-validating supporting evidence, along with manually adjusting self-reported data in the e-survey when errors were identified.

### 3. KEY FINDINGS

#### 3.1. Effectiveness

##### 3.1.1. Overview of the ARA micro-grant portfolio

The ARA micro-grant portfolio consists of 30 micro-grants, of which 10 in Africa, 10 in Asia-Pacific and 10 in Latin America and Caribbean.

A total of twenty-two micro-grants (73%) adopted a cross-sectoral approach covering more than one thematic focus of the total 9 initial proposed thematic categories (see table 2). In terms of thematic categories, Adaptation planning and Intersections of climate change, gender, and inclusion show the highest uptake with 16 micro-grants (20%) and 15 (19%) micro-grants, respectively. This is attributed to these approaches interacting the most with other thematic areas. Subsequently, the domains of food and agriculture, along with Climate-resilient infrastructure, have been allocated eight micro-grants (10%) each, noteworthy for their close interaction with the Intersections of climate change, gender, and inclusion approach. Flood management and Others have received seven micro-grants (9%) each. Additionally, forest restoration and water resources each have six (7%) grants. Finally, Health and Coastal management have 6 (7%) and 3 (4%) micro-grants, respectively (see Figure 2).

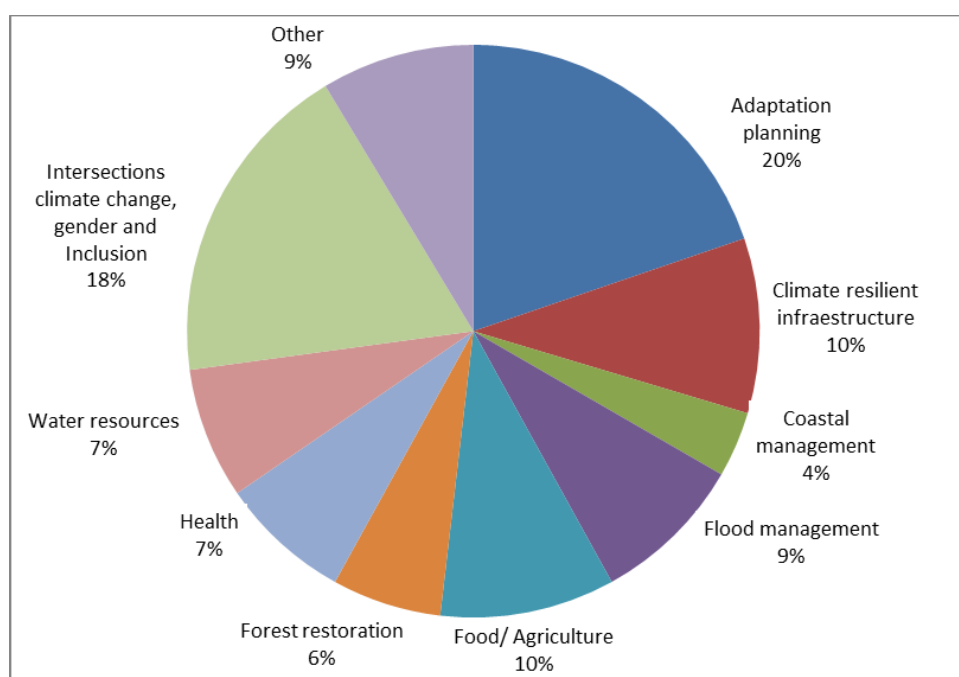
Within the regions, Adaptation planning and Intersections of climate change, gender, and inclusion continue to have the highest level of engagement across Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. However, certain regional disparities can be observed (see Table 2): In Africa, the thematic area that follows in importance is food and agriculture, where five (19%) micro-grants aim to foster advancements in this domain. Meanwhile, the Asia-Pacific region has the highest number of micro-grants targeting the health sector, with six (16%) micro-grants. This is followed by Flood management and Climate-resilient infrastructure, each of which is the focus of four micro-grants, collectively representing 22% of Asia-Pacific micro-grants. In the realm of Latin America and the Caribbean, four thematic areas have equal participation (Flood management, Forest restoration, water resources, and Intersections of climate change, gender, and inclusion), with two micro-grants each (12%).

**Table 2: Thematic focus of the micro-grant**

Region	Thematic focus																			
	Adaptation planning		Climate resilient infrastructure		Coastal management		Flood management		Food/Agriculture		Forest restoration		Health		Water resources		Intersections climate change, gender and Inclusion		Other	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Africa	6	23%	3	12%	1	4%	1	4%	5	19%	1	4%	0	0%	2	8%	6	23%	1	4%
Asia-Pacific	6	16%	4	11%	2	5%	4	11%	2	5%	2	5%	6	16%	2	5%	7	18%	3	8%
LAC and the Caribbean	4	24%	1	6%	0	0%	2	12%	1	6%	2	12%	0	0%	2	12%	2	12%	3	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9%</b>

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

Figure 2: Thematic focus of the ARA micro-grants



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

### 3.1.2. Overview of activities uptake among ARA micro

There are 7 categories of activities which were initially identified to be adopted by the grantees during the baseline assessment stage. These categories include:

- 1. Engagement of affected communities:** This involves actively engaging the impacted community in the process, fostering a collaborative approach towards the understanding of the issues.
- 2. Workshops, Trainings, Awareness Raising, Learning Exchanges, Meetings:** Activities within this category encompass a diverse range of exchange types, ranging from gatherings and events focused on launching and planning the project to follow-up meetings and presentations aimed at engaging stakeholders. Additionally, they involve co-diagnostic workshops, training sessions, awareness-raising campaigns, knowledge exchanges, as well as interviews and meetings designed for sharing and disseminating pertinent information during the engagement process of knowledge co-creation and engagement of involved stakeholders.
- 3. Knowledge co-produced with the affected community:** This entails collaborative efforts to generate knowledge and ideas alongside primary stakeholders or the local community regarding the identified burning issue to be addressed by the Project.
- 4. Co-production of adequate adaptation measures:** This activity includes the development of adaptation measures in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, ensuring their suitability and effectiveness in addressing the targeted climate-related impacts and identified challenges.
- 5. Research-oriented adaptation measures piloted with local communities.** Adaptation measures are tested and refined through research-oriented pilot projects, allowing for evidence-based improvements.
- 6. Knowledge products:** it involves generating tangible outputs such as reports, publications, or digital resources to document and share acquired knowledge
- 7. Advocacy and Policy Recommendations:** Insights gained from the activities are translated into actionable recommendations that advocate for informed policy decisions and changes

During the midline progress tracking in the e-Survey, grantees were requested to self-report the activities which were undertaken up to September, including an additional category of ‘other’ to capture additional activities, which might not be initially identified.

Results of the e-survey show that each project integrates activities from no less than two of the delineated activity categories, exhibiting an average of five distinct activities per micro-grant (see Figure 3). In particular, the common thread of the vast majority of the grants (29 of them, 97%) is the category "Engagement of Affected Community" and the implementation of activities covering a spectrum of initiatives such as "Workshops, Trainings, Awareness Raising, Learning Exchanges, Meetings".

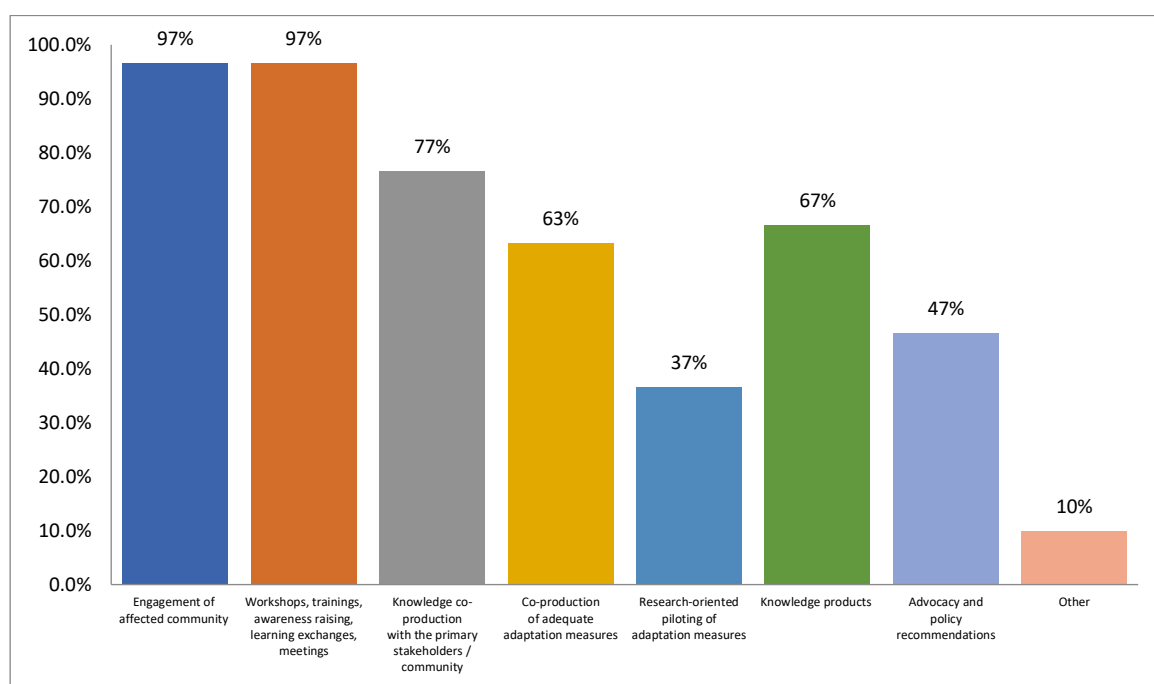
Moreover, 23 micro-grants (77%) incorporate the element of "Knowledge Co-Production with Primary Stakeholders/Community". Within this framework, 20 micro-grants (67%) have foreseen the development of "Knowledge Products". Among the 4 main categories, the distribution of these activities is harmonious across different regions, except "Knowledge Co-Production with Primary Stakeholders/Community" where Africa presents 5 projects while Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean present 9 projects each.

A total of 19 micro-grants (63%) reported undertaking "Co-Production of Adequate Adaptation Measures" (Latin America and the Caribbean reported 8 projects) and to a lesser extent the "Research-Oriented Piloting of Adaptation Measures" with 11 micro-grants (37%), where Asia-Pacific takes the lead with 6 projects, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean with 3 and Africa with 2 projects.

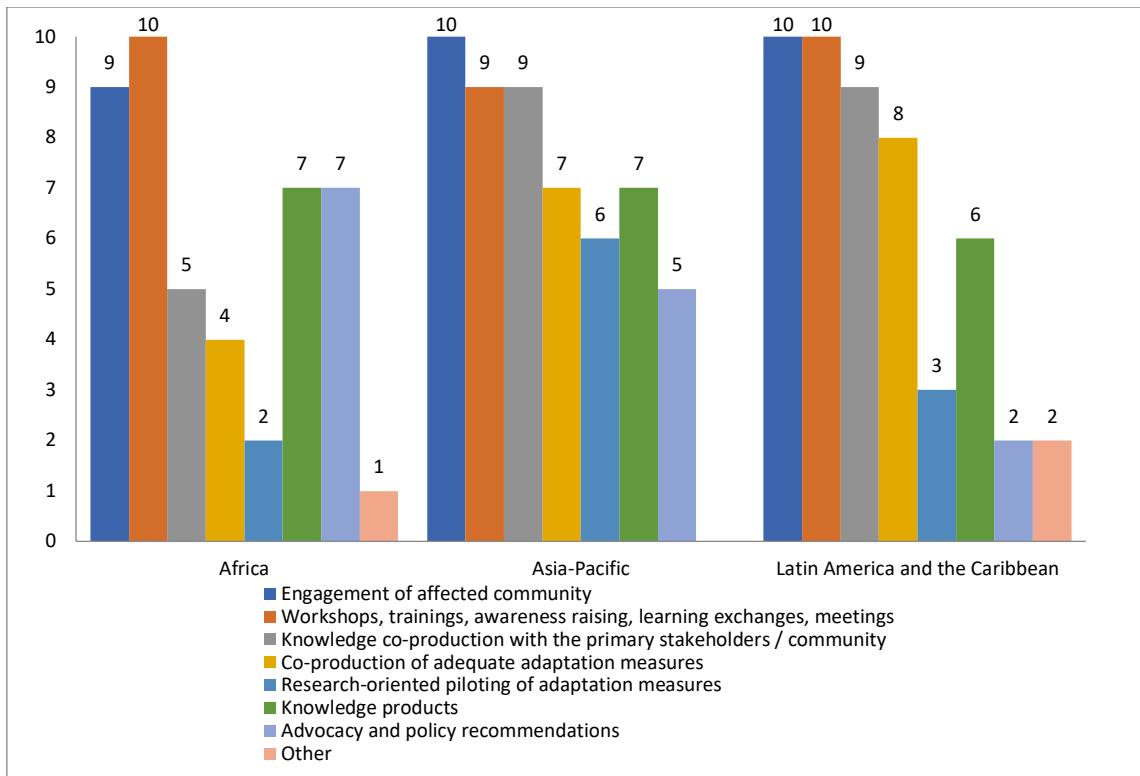
A total of 14 projects (47%) have also incorporated "Advocacy and Policy Recommendations" as part of their activities. The advocacy component is predominantly adopted in Africa, with seven projects, while the Asia-Pacific region has five such projects, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean with two cases.

Finally, 3 micro-grants from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (10%) have reported activities that did not fit into any category and these address topics such as network strengthening, stakeholder analysis, mapping of governance structures, laws, programs, plans and policies.

Figure 3: Activities Uptake - Total and Per region



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey



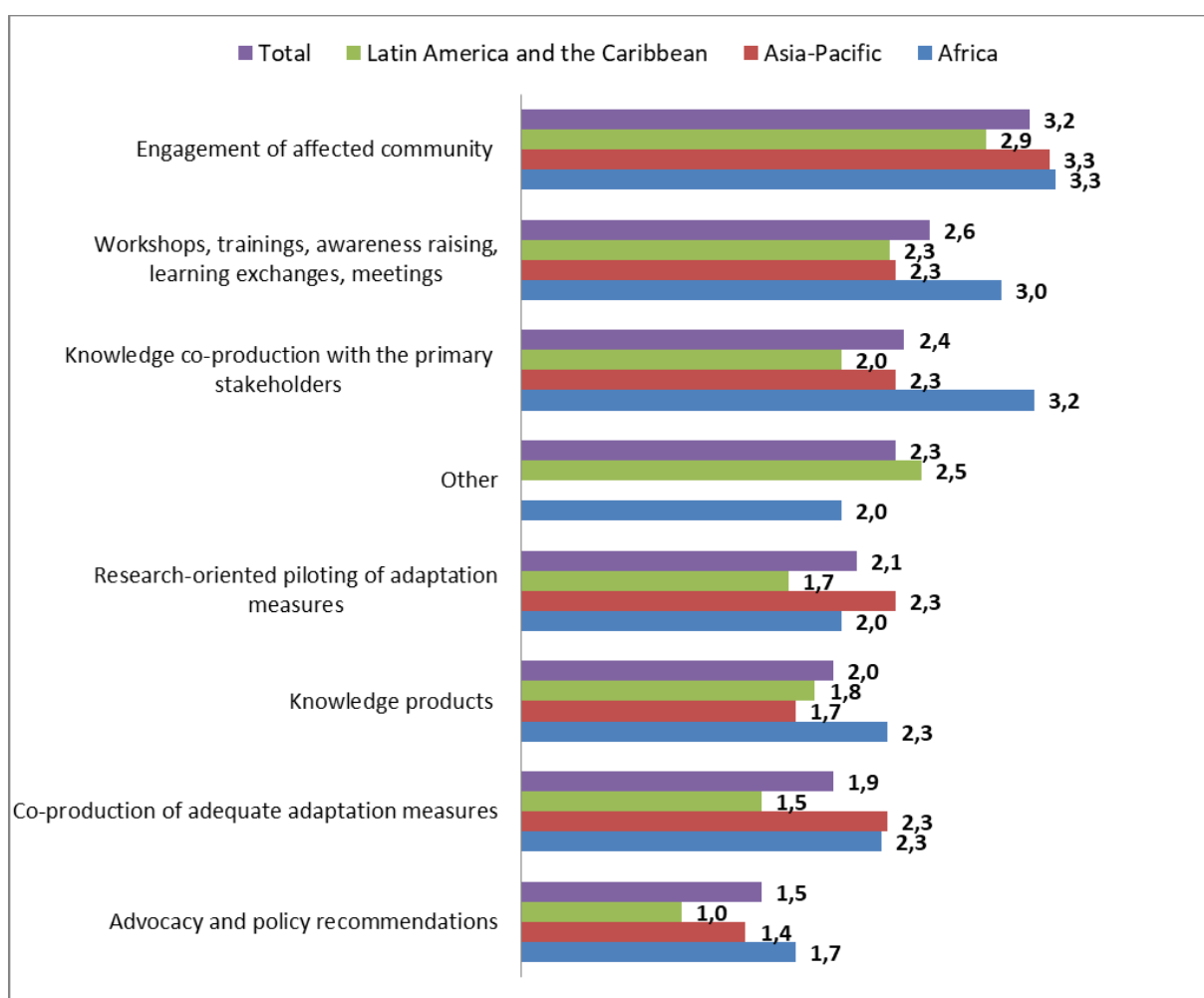
Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

### 3.1.3. Reported progress of activities

The e-survey requested grantees to indicate the degree of progress of each planned activity on a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 denotes no progress, and 4 indicates full completion (See [Annex 8: Progress overview per project](#)). As depicted in Figure 4, none of the activities have reached full completion on average. However, the most advanced activities are "Engagement of Affected Community," showing significant progress, and "Workshops, Trainings, Awareness Raising, Learning Exchanges, Meetings," along with "Knowledge Co-Production with Primary Stakeholders/Community," both demonstrating more than moderate progress. When assessed across regions, Africa has made significant progress in these three activities, while Latin America and the Caribbean exhibit the least progress among the three regions. As for the remaining activities, all exhibit, on average, only moderate progress, with Asia-Pacific and Africa leading in progress. The exception is the "Advocacy and Policy Recommendations" activity, which has little progress on average between the Africa and Asia-Pacific regions.

In the subsequent section, the results pertaining to the progress of these activities will be discussed in greater detail.

Figure 4: Progress achieved per planned activity per region and total



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

### 3.1.4. Achieved Outputs

Beneficiaries of micro-grants were requested to outline the results achieved following the execution of various planned activities, encouraging them, as much as possible, to support their claims with evidence.

1. **Engagement of affected communities:** 27 out of 30 grantees (90%) reported to have already achieved the engagement of the climate-impacted community, which whom the burning issue is being explored.
2. **Workshops, Trainings, Awareness Raising, Learning Exchanges, Meetings**

Outputs achieved under these categories include:

- i. Events and meetings conducted: This category primarily involves interactions with various stakeholders, particularly within the community, encompassing workshops, focus group discussions, and interviews. However, to a lesser extent, these activities have been independently conducted (refer to Figure 6). In total, 99 events and meetings have been held among 24 micro-grants, of which 83% have provided evidence. The Latin America and the Caribbean region are the most active, hosting 39 events, followed by Africa and Asia-Pacific, each with 30 events. The events include various activities such as community meetings

[Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Malawi, Bangladesh, Philippines, and Thailand], meetings with primary stakeholders [Kenya, Ghana, India, Uruguay, Chile, Brazil, and Honduras], co-diagnostic workshops [Philippines, Argentina], training workshops [Nigeria], focus group discussions [Myanmar, India, and Haiti], virtual public events [Uruguay], master classes [Colombia], interviews [Argentina], among others.

- ii. Sessions conducted to raise awareness on climate change issues: This category comprises 88% of workshops with the community, aimed at presenting, disseminating, and validating the project, along with information from previous meetings and events, thereby enhancing awareness about climate change within the community. To a lesser extent, training sessions were reported under the category "Others". In total, 61 events were recorded among 26 micro-grants, with 85% providing evidence. Asia-Pacific leads in this category with a total of 28 events, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean with 17, and Africa with 16, although all micro-grants in this region conducted at least one of these events.
- iii. Other types of workshops, training and learning exchanges conducted: This category encompasses events that do not fit into the other classifications, primarily focused on capacity building [Zimbabwe, Myanmar, Philippines, Haiti, Argentina], although it also includes workshops [Thailand, Argentina], interviews [Uruguay], and community participation [Sri Lanka]. In total, 42 events were conducted among 10 micro-grants, with 67% providing evidence. Latin America and the Caribbean, along with Asia-Pacific, reported 19 events each, while Africa totalled 4 events.

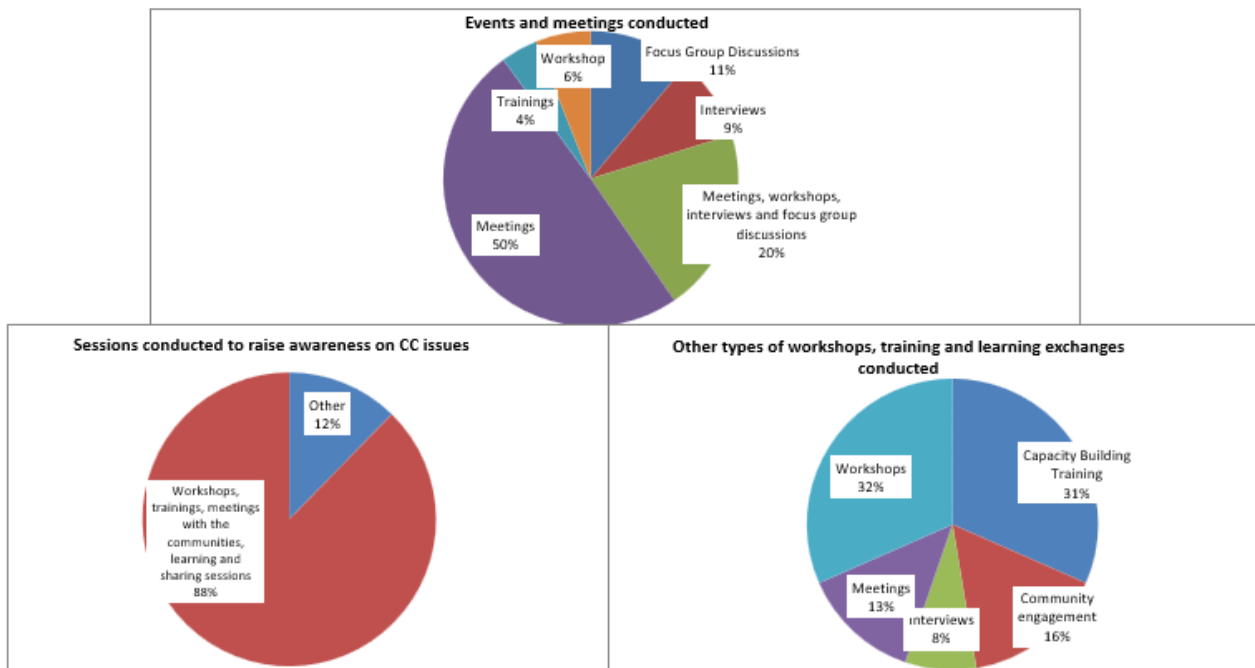
The following table includes a breakdown per region of the reported outputs under this category.

**Table 3: Number of workshops, trainings, awareness raising, learning exchanges, meetings per region and total**

Region	Workshops, trainings, awareness raising, learning exchanges, meetings								
	Events and meetings conducted			Sessions conducted to raise awareness on CC issues			Other types of workshops, training and learning exchanges or meetings conducted		
	# of total	# of grants	% of support evidence	# of total	# of grants	% of support evidence	# of total	# of grants	% of support evidence
Africa	30	8	88%	16	10	90%	4	1	100%
Asia-Pacific	30	7	100%	28	9	78%	19	4	75%
Latin America and the Caribbean	39	9	67%	17	7	86%	19	5	60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>70%</b>

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

**Figure 5: Type of outputs achieved for workshops, trainings, awareness raising, learning exchanges, meetings**



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

### 3. Knowledge co-produced with the affected community

Reported outputs under this activity include:

- i. Diagnostic analysis conducted: Primarily composed of climate risk assessments, vulnerability assessments, and scoping studies, constituting 57% of the total. These analyses were undertaken in countries such as Bangladesh, India, Philippines, Thailand, Brazil, Honduras, Haiti, and Argentina. Additionally, other contributions were categorised as "Others," such as prioritising impact chains, in-depth discussions, and problem-diagnosis matrices. In total, 47 diagnostic analyses were carried out as part of 12 micro-grants, of which 92% provided evidence. Latin America and the Caribbean led the contribution (23), followed by Asia-Pacific (22), while Africa only contributed 2 in Zimbabwe.
- ii. Methodologies, models, plans, or tools developed: This category primarily consists of tools developed (41%) in the Philippines, Myanmar, and Chile, followed by methodologies (29%) in India, Thailand, Honduras, and Haiti. Surveys (16%) from Zimbabwe, Zambia, and the Philippines were also included, along with plans (Bangladesh) and models (Argentina), each comprising 6%. In total, 17 initiatives were developed as part of 12 micro-grants, with 92% of these providing evidence. Asia-Pacific leads with 10 contributions, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean with 5, and Africa with only 2.
- iii. Publications on findings produced: This category primarily includes research papers, reports, and assessment reports. In total, 21 publications were generated as part of 12 micro-grants, with 85% providing evidence. Latin America and the Caribbean contributed 9 publications, followed by Asia-Pacific with 8, and Africa with 4.
- iv. Other types of co-produced knowledge: This category encompasses online blogs (Zimbabwe), tools for communities (Myanmar), and base maps for flood risk mapping (Philippines), which were not classified in the aforementioned groups.

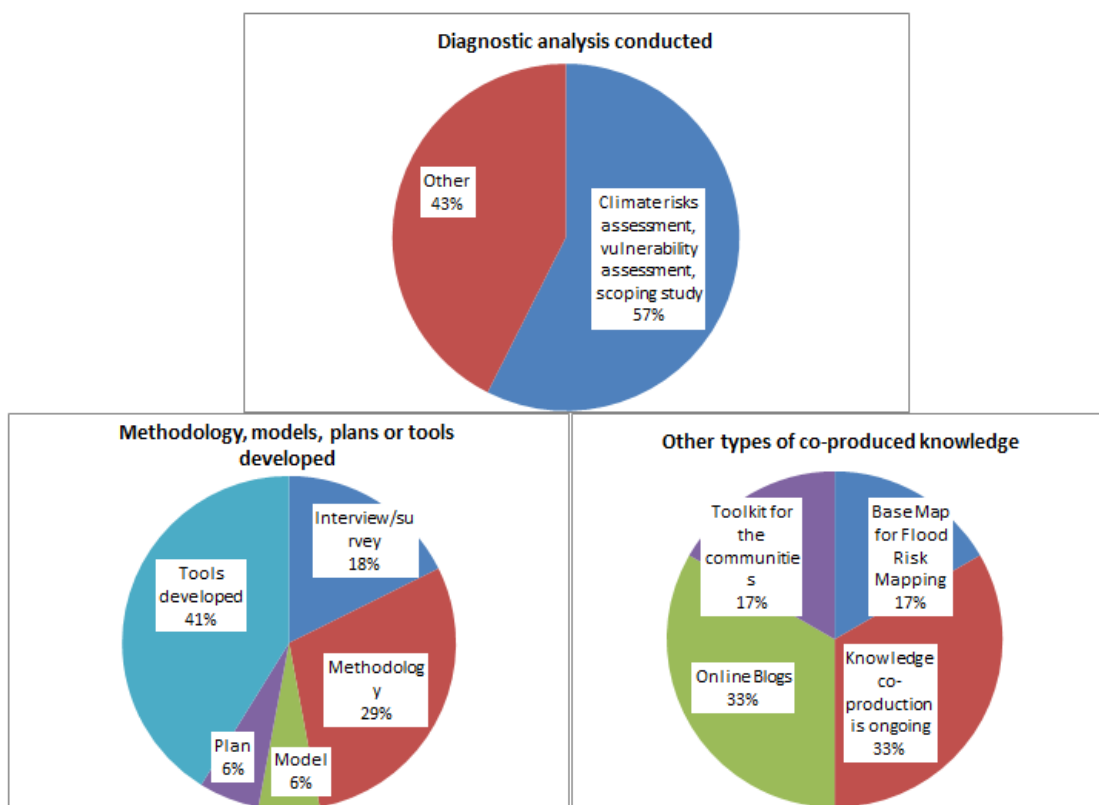
The following table includes a breakdown per region of the reported outputs under this category.

Table 4: Number of Knowledge co-produced with the affected community per region and total

Region	Knowledge co-produced with the affected community											
	Diagnostic analysis conducted			Methodology, models, plans or tools developed			Publications on findings produced			Other types of co-produced knowledge		
	# of total	# of grants	% of support evidence	# of total	# of grants	% of support evidence	# of total	# of grants	% of support evidence	# of total	# of grants	% of support evidence
Africa	2	1	100%	2	2	100%	4	4	75%	2	1	0%
Asia-Pacific	22	6	100%	10	6	83%	8	6	83%	4	3	67%
Latin America and the Caribbean	23	5	83%	5	4	100%	9	3	100%		0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>50%</b>

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

Figure 6: Type of Knowledge co-produced with the affected community



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

#### 4. Co-production of adequate adaptation measures

In total, 42 adaptation measures were reported to have been co-identified across six micro-grants, with 83% providing concrete evidence (see table 5).

The Asia-Pacific region led with 29 of these collaborations, primarily due to the introduction of 27 solution prototypes in Myanmar (ideas generated after thorough research), along with initiatives such as the Murta Plantation and the testing of a low-cost solar panel rotator called "Solar Achieve" in Bangladesh.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, two micro-grants contributed to the co-production of adaptive measures: in Argentina, measures developed include actions to prevent erosion, eradicate invasive exotic species, maintain soil quality, and promote the planting of native species. Meanwhile, in Uruguay, atmospheric variables and underground water wells were monitored across three levels. Additionally, the use of agroclimatic tools was promoted among small rural producers to address drought.

In Africa, Malawi spearheaded the development of community governance structures under CityRAP, as well as the planting of trees and vegetative cover along the Lilongwe and Mchesi rivers. Support was also provided for the development of community livelihoods, with special attention given to women and youth.

**Table 5: The number of Co-production of adequate adaptation measures per region and total**

Region	Co-production of adequate adaptation measures		
	Adaptation measures identified and co-designed		
	# of total	# of grants	% of supporting evidence
Africa	4	1	100%
Asia-Pacific	29	3	67%
Latin America and the Caribbean	9	2	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>83%</b>

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

## 5. Research-oriented adaptation measures piloted with local communities

In total, 26 pilot tests were conducted among 6 micro-grants, with 4 in the Asia-Pacific region and 2 in Latin America and the Caribbean and none in Africa. Of these, 67% provided supporting evidence (see Table 6).

The Asia-Pacific region led with 17 pilot tests, notably in Myanmar, reporting 12 social-based adaptation tests and technical-based adaptation trials. Additionally, within the same region, the Murta Plantation was established, and a study was conducted to reveal the impact of climate change on pregnancy outcomes, particularly concerning high saline water consumption in Bangladesh. Furthermore, in India, a baseline was developed through a survey involving 150 women with disabilities.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, two micro-grants contributed to piloted adaptation measures: in Argentina, where actions were taken to prevent erosion, eradicate invasive exotic species, maintain soil quality, and promote the planting of native species. Meanwhile, in Uruguay, four workshops were conducted in rural schools within the Mburucuyá Grouping focusing on weather and climate, observation methods, observation practices and the design of pluviometric measurement instruments.

**Table 6: Number of Research-oriented adaptation measures piloted with local communities per region and total**

Region	Research-oriented adaptation measures piloted with local communities
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	Piloted adaptation measures		
	# of total	# of grants	% of support evidence
Africa	0	0	0%
Asia-Pacific	17	4	50%
Latin America and the Caribbean	9	2	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>67%</b>

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

## 6. Knowledge products

In total, 23 knowledge products were developed across 11 micro-grants, with 82% providing supporting evidence (see Table 7).

The Asia-Pacific region led with 9 knowledge products, including brochures, multimedia materials, fact sheets, and blogs from countries such as the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, and Thailand. In Latin America and the Caribbean, periodic project publications were made through university channels, social media posts, and press releases in Argentina and Chile. Lastly, in Africa, flood model presentations were conducted in Kenya, online blogs, and banners in Zimbabwe and Ethiopia

**Table 7: Number of Knowledge products per region and total**

Region	Knowledge products		
	Communication products developed		% of support evidence
	# of total	# of grants	
Africa	6	3	67%
Asia-Pacific	9	4	80%
Latin America and the Caribbean	8	4	75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>82%</b>

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

## 7. Advocacy and Policy Recommendations

There is no related output achieved under this category.

## 8. Other activities:

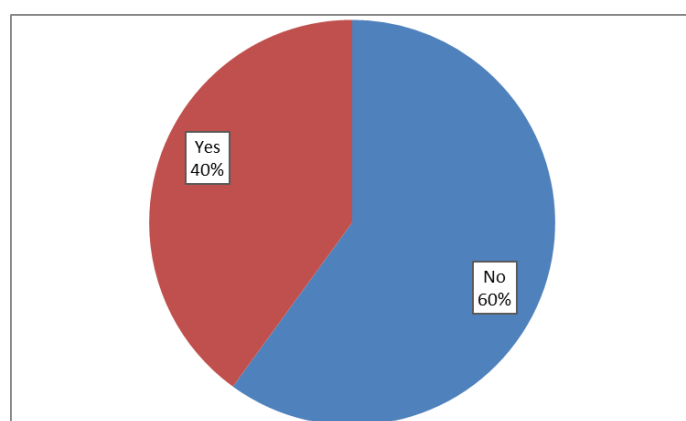
2 grants in Latin America and the Caribbean reported to have developed reports, proceedings, and documents in Colombia, as well as conducting Actor Analysis and mapping governance structures, laws, programs, plans, and policies in Chile, all supported by evidence.

### 3.1.5. Changes to original plans

A total of 12 (40%) ARA micro-grants have reported making changes to their original plans. The reported changes include:

- i. The alteration of schedules due to disbursement delays, impacting 5 micro-grants— one from Africa and the remaining from Latin America and the Caribbean;
- ii. The necessity to change or expand certain activities because the initial planning did not align with actual needs, as observed in 2 projects in Africa and one in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- iii. The requirement to expand activities due to the achievement of positive results, noted in two projects in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- iv. Changes in agendas or the implementation of activities due to political and security issues, in two projects in Asia-Pacific.

**Figure 7: Changes to the original plan**

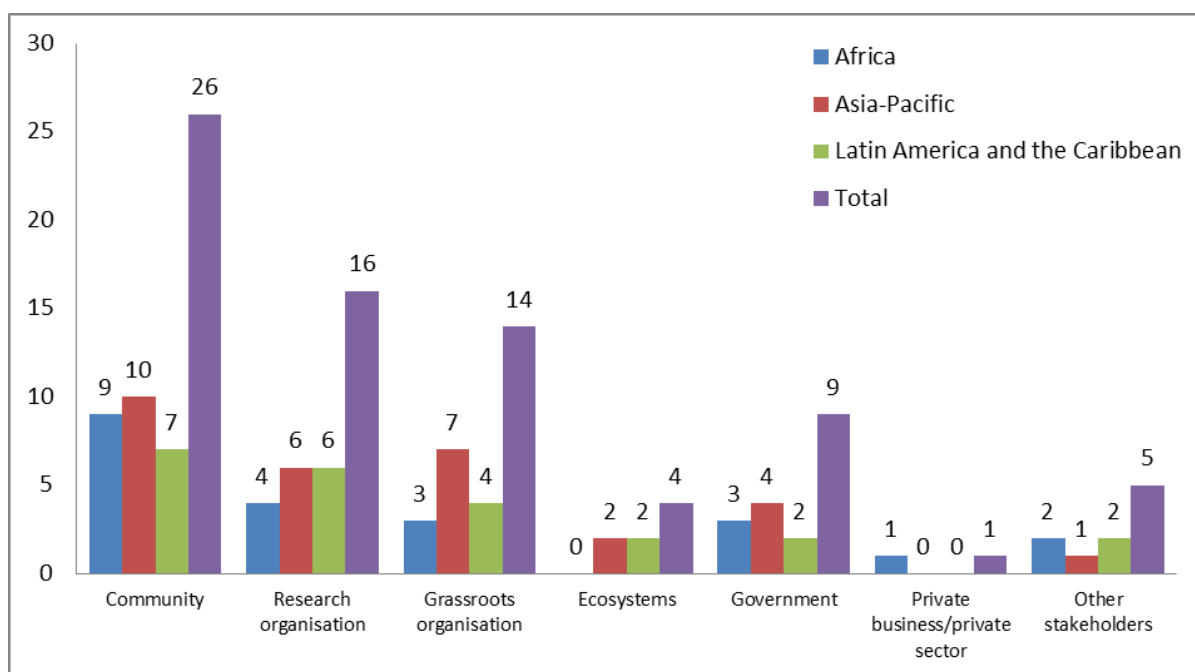


Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

### 3.1.6. Who has benefited from the implementation of the ARA-micro grants?

Up to the mid-term of the implementation of the micro-grants, the benefits of the actions of the project have been distributed across various groups and sectors (see [Annex 9](#) for an overview of the beneficiaries by project). The projects have broadly impacted the communities (26 micro-grants), research, and grassroots organizations (16 and 14 micro-grants respectively), and the support of ecosystems (4 micro-grants) government institutions (9 micro-grants), private businesses (1 micro-grant), among others (see Figure 8).

**Figure 8: Beneficiaries per region and total**



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

Table 8 shows the key benefits reported per the grantees by type of sectors and stakeholder.

**Table 8: Reported benefits**

Community	Research organisations	Grassroots organisations	Ecosystems	Government	Private business/private sector
Sectoral climate change awareness	Research methodology development	Capacity building and trainings	Restoration and preservation of ecosystems	Technical support	Showcase of green products
Involvement in local governance	Enhanced learning and Knowledge generation in sustainability	Climate change awareness	Enhanced biodiversity	Trainings	
Collaborative knowledge	Data collection for further studies in climate change	Recognition of intersectionalities	More sustainable ecosystems	New data for Risk Reduction Plans	
Risk management	Collaboration between academia and public organisations	Financial support assessment	Increased resilience	Potential to inform government policy planning	
Involvement of women in conservation	New generation of agricultural extension agents	Community engagement	Protection of endangered plants	Local governments collaborations	
Gender inclusion and empowerment	Dissemination	Empowerment		Engagement between government officials and communities	
Research is underway to understand the impact of climate events on women's menstrual health and to develop integrated solutions for climate justice and sustainability	Involvement of students	Knowledge Sharing			

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

**Communities** have benefited greatly from the project's activities to promote gender inclusion and empowerment. Awareness-raising initiatives have had a significant impact on communities' understanding of climate change and its impact on natural ecosystems. Examples of ARA micro-grants show women have been empowered through access to local seed varieties and knowledge, enabling

them to face the challenges of climate change. The ARA micro-grants projects have also played a key role in disseminating knowledge on disaster risk reduction frameworks and preparing communities to effectively respond to and mitigate climate-related disasters. In addition, women's active participation in local species conservation and men's involvement in plantations have contributed to biodiversity conservation and stimulated economic growth. Through projects such as the **Climate Adaptation Championship** (Myanmar), communities have acquired practical tools and skills to adapt to climate change. Furthermore, involving community members in local governance, particularly water and flood management, has ensured that local adaptation strategies are comprehensive and include community voices, especially those of women. These efforts are complemented by collaborative knowledge-sharing and risk management initiatives that enable communities to proactively identify and manage climate risks.

Among the reported contributions, **research organisations** have benefited extensively from micro-grant initiatives, and universities have improved their knowledge of climate change, for example through agricultural extension programmes. Field studies have provided new data, catalysing new research on climate change adaptation, and fostering collaboration between academia and the public sector. They have also been instrumental in promoting youth engagement in sustainability. Research organisations have been enriched with practical knowledge, access to data and networking that has strengthened their research and application in climate adaptation. They have also been innovative in developing and testing new community assessment methodologies (**Donde hubo fuego, habrá bosques. Soluciones basadas en la naturaleza para adaptación en bosques de montaña-Argentina**), that contributed to the refinement of research methods. Another highlight has been the involvement of students, who have participated in various analysis and planning activities, such as creating land-use change maps and facilitating workshops, which has particularly benefited women, girls, and youth (**Percepciones y acciones para reducir el impacto de inundaciones sobre la comunidad de Durazno, Uruguay**). Educational initiatives, such as Master Classes, have further extended learning by providing university students with practical knowledge on how to adapt to climate risks in urban planning.

**Grassroots organisations** have substantially benefited from the projects, reinforcing their contribution to climate change adaptation, and bolstering their role in community development. These organisations have been instrumental in creating and strengthening networks with universities and professional associations, particularly in Nigeria, leading to improved knowledge and a collaborative approach to climate change adaptation. Volunteer groups, including community fire brigades, have also benefited from training and support, enhancing their capacity to carry out restoration and climate change adaptation activities. In terms of organisational development, these entities have been supported to reorganise and refocus their activities to better meet community needs, as demonstrated by the mobilisation of 13 grassroots organisations for project-related discussions (**City-level Climate Information and Citizen Resilience and Adaptation Actions in Informal Settlements of Lilongwe, Malawi**). Capacity building has been a key focus, with an emphasis on nature-based solutions, value-added production and navigating premium markets. Training initiatives have been particularly beneficial for women leaders of rural community associations, equipping them with the necessary skills to disseminate climate change knowledge within their communities.

Four micro-grants, 2 from Asia-Pacific "**Piloting and knowledge co-creation on nature-based solution to protect wave erosion in haor areas of Bangladesh**"; "**Community Climate Adaptation for Local Infrastructure – Myanmar**"; and 2 from Latin America and the Caribbean "**Where there was fire, there will be forests. Nature-based solutions for adaptation in mountain forests-Argentina**" and "**Co-researching climate change adaptation opportunities in Uruguay's artisanal fishing sector**" reported ecosystem benefits through the activities conducted until midterm. The projects have contributed to the revitalization and protection of endangered flora and promoted practices that enhance the sustainability and resilience of diverse ecosystems by implementing restoration practices and promoting the preservation of endangered ecosystems.

The activities of the micro-grants have strengthened the human resource capacity of **government** agencies but have also laid the groundwork for more informed policy decisions and community-inclusive

action plans. For example, the micro-grant in Nigeria “**Strengthening Rural Women resilience to climate change through targeted advisory service and knowledge building**” has informed that “*The project has helped the government in tackling the severe problem of shortage of agricultural extension agents. Through the trainings conducted in this project, successive extension agents have been developed. Also, the climate change knowledge and capacity of the agricultural extension agents who are the individuals under the Agricultural Development Programme- the government arm with the primary responsibility of agricultural information dissemination has been enhanced. The extension agents were part of the trainees in this project, and they also had the opportunity to guide the students during the village outreach*”. The micro-grants have strengthened the capability of government staff in managing climate and health challenges, prompting an interdisciplinary approach to climate initiatives. In terms of disaster risk management for example, the provision of real-time data is set to enhance Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction plans (**Project FRESH: Flood Risk, Environmental Sanitation and Health Research in Riverine Communities in Iloilo, Philippines**). Urban planning has also seen advancements, with local governments benefiting from comparative urban planning exercises that integrate sustainable development principles (**Construyendo resiliencia con las personas y la naturaleza desde un enfoque de Adaptación basada en Ecosistemas-Colombia**).

### 3.1.7. Who has been involved in driving the changes?

The 30 ARA micro-grants reported a total of 86 stakeholders being involved in the implementation of the micro-grants. Of these, 37 (43%) being new collaborations and 49 (57%) previous collaborations (see table 9).

The total of 37 new collaborations represents a proactive engagement and expansion across the three regions and illustrates a strategic initiative to bring new perspectives and partnerships to the projects. The following is an overview of the new stakeholders and their involvement until midterm:

Across all regions, there are 49 collaborations that have continued to develop pre-existing partnerships. This indicates a focus to enhance and leverage the scope of existing networks and expertise.

The regional distribution of the reported stakeholders involved depicts 33 located in Asia-Pacific, 29 in Africa and 24 in Latin America and the Caribbean. Asia-Pacific has the highest number of new collaborators (20) and the highest overall stakeholder involvement (33). Africa shows a significant number of collaborations being further developed (24), with shows a solid foundation of ongoing relationships that continue to strengthen with the micro-grants. The micro-grants in this region have at the same time reported the fewest new collaborations being undertaken with the micro-grants. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the involvement of 24 stakeholders indicates consistent engagement, with an equal focus on exploring new relationships and enhancing established ones.

**Table 9: Number of stakeholders actually involved in the projects**

How many stakeholders have actually been involved in the project?				
Was this a new collaboration or an existing one that developed further with the project?	Africa	Asia-Pacific	Latin America and the Caribbean	Total
New collaborations	5	20	12	<b>37</b>
Previous collaboration	24	13	12	<b>49</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>86</b>

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

In terms of type of stakeholders engaged and key roles played up to mid-term, it consists mainly in:

- **Grassroots organisations/NGOs/Associations:** They helped to establish links with the community and are key actors in micro-grants implementation, providing support and actively participating in various aspects of the projects. They have been involved in community training and communication and are an integral part of the co-research teams.
- **Local communities and community leaders:** Community members have shared their experiences and contributed ideas and solutions to their problems. They have played an active role in suggesting practical issues and solutions, particularly in raising awareness among women and children. The leaders have raised community awareness of climate change and empowered the community to develop mitigation strategies.
- **Research organisations/Key experts:** They have been involved in disseminating findings and facilitating sessions at conferences, such as the Adaptation Futures Conference, to share knowledge on climate change adaptation.
- **State or local government organisations/agencies:** These entities have been actively involved throughout the study processes, supporting project management, monitoring, and measuring results. They have also been instrumental in modifying policies for vulnerable groups and in establishing and maintaining early warning systems.
- **International development agencies:** One international agency has collaborated with one of the ARA micro-grants by providing technical support and tools for integrating risk analysis and disaster resilience at the local level.

Table 10 provides an overview of stakeholder collaborations categorized by their previous and new engagements and region. Examining the stakeholder collaboration table reveals interesting patterns across types and regions.

Among **grassroots organisations/NGOs/associations**, Latin America and the Caribbean exhibit the highest total count with 8 collaborations, whereas Asia-Pacific has the lowest at 6. Notably, Latin America and the Caribbean also have the highest count of new collaborations at 3.

For **local community/community leaders**, Asia-Pacific stands out with the highest count of 11, including 7 new collaborations, while Latin America and the Caribbean report the lowest at 1 new collaboration. In the category of Research organisations, Africa leads with 13 collaborations, of which 11 are new, and Asia-Pacific follows closely with 6 collaborations, of which 3 are new and 3 are previous. Latin American and the Caribbean account for 5 collaborations, of which 3 are new and 2 are previous.

State or **local Government organisations/agencies** have the highest count of involvement and witness a significant presence in Africa, totalling 9 collaborations, of which 8 are previous collaborations and 1 is new. Asia-Pacific accounts for 9 collaborators, of which 6 are new, and Latin America and the Caribbean report a total of 7, of which 4 are new.

The **private sector** category shows minimal involvement, with Asia-Pacific having no involvement at all, and Latin America and the Caribbean reporting 2 and 1, respectively. Only one **international development agency** has been reported to be engaged in the ARA micro-grants by a grantee in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Table 10: Types of stakeholders with previous or new collaborations during micro-grant implementation

	Previous Collaborations	New Collaborations	Total
<b>Grassroots organisations/NGOs/Associations</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>
Africa	3	1	4
Asia-Pacific	3	3	6
Latin America and the Caribbean	5	3	8
<b>Local Community/ Community leaders</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>
Africa	1	1	2
Asia-Pacific	4	7	11
Latin America and the Caribbean	1	0	1
<b>Research organisations</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>24</b>
Africa	11	2	13
Asia-Pacific	3	3	6
Latin America and the Caribbean	2	3	5
<b>State or local Government organisations/agencies</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>25</b>
Africa	8	1	9
Asia-Pacific	3	6	9
Latin America and the Caribbean	3	4	7
<b>Private Sector</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
Africa	1	0	1
Asia-Pacific	0	0	0
Latin America and the Caribbean	1	1	2
<b>International Development Agencies</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Africa	0	0	0
Asia-Pacific	0	0	0
Latin America and the Caribbean	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>86</b>

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

The success achieved so far by the ARA micro-grants is attributed by the grantees to a combination of **strong relationships**, proactive **community engagement**, supportive **government involvement**, **strategic planning for climate challenges**, and the **commitment** of everyone involved, from local leaders to volunteers. There are pre-existing relationships, previous work, and continuity of collaborating institutions, that have been mentioned as fundamental to the successful implementation of the activities. Similarly, the involvement of the government has been crucial in providing support and legitimacy to some projects.

### 3.1.8. Challenges experienced during implementation

At mid-term, 18 micro-grants across all regions reported a range of challenges in implementing the micro-grants. The challenges identified fall into two main categories: external and internal (see Table 11). External challenges include political, economic, and social instability and climate-related threads which have impacted the work of the ARA micro-grants.

Internally, the main difficulties relate to the management and operational aspects of projects, with administrative inefficiencies and resource constraints, mainly due to delayed disbursement of funds, being the latter the most commonly reported obstacles in all regions.

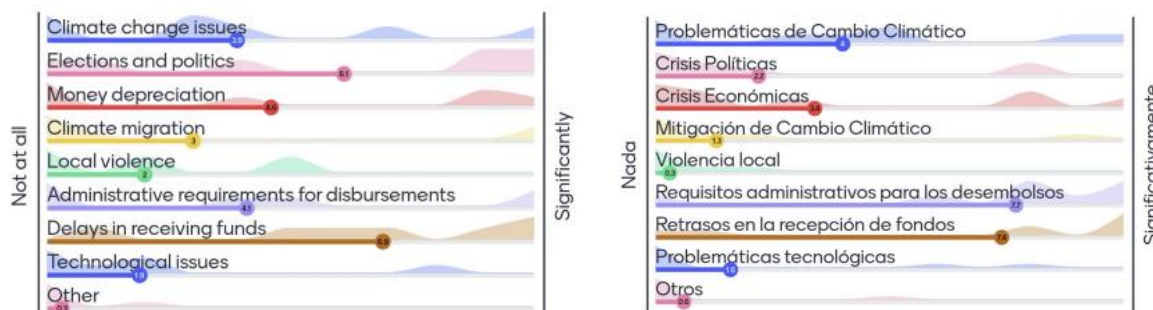
Challenges were further consulted during the interviews and validating during the learning workshops where a session on challenges and strategies to overcome them was conducted (see Figure 9).

Table 11: Challenges faced by grantees during implementation

Internal	External
<p>⇒ <b>Management and implementation of the micro-grant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative requirements for disbursements</li> <li>• Delays in receiving the funds</li> <li>• Project timeline</li> <li>• Technological issues</li> </ul>	<p>⇒ <b>Impact of Climate Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate migration</li> <li>• Intense Rainfall and flooding</li> </ul> <p>⇒ <b>Political, economic, and social unrest of the countries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political crisis</li> <li>• Local violence</li> <li>• Economic crisis</li> </ul>

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey and the interviews

Figure 9: Answers to the question of have you experienced any of these challenges in your project? during the learning workshops



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey and the interviews

### Administrative requirements for disbursement- and delays in receiving funds

The e-survey results indicate that over 30% of respondents of the e-Survey identified **administrative requirements for disbursement**, which results in a significant delay in the disbursement and access to funds as a key barrier. It is noteworthy that these issues were a recurrent theme across **all interviews**, and the most self-reported challenge mentioned during both sessions of the learning workshops, thus highlights its widespread impact across grantees.

Respondents detailed various specific administrative hurdles, including additional requirements compared to previous years – for an organisations benefiting for the second time from the ARA micro-grants-, unclear and shifting conditions, and bank-related challenges, such as language barriers and documents requirement which were not available locally. Additionally, difficulties with the platform used for reporting expenditures were frequently mentioned, underlining the breadth and complexity of the administrative challenges encountered. These issues were discussed at length in the interview held with

the project in Argentina "**Incorporation of the climate perspective into community strategies**", which faced significant challenges due to delays in funding, interrupting the execution of planned activities and scheduled engagements with the indigenous community. It is important to note that this delay adversely affected the development of trust-based relationships with the community. In this scenario, the organization's financial resources were sufficiently robust to initially underwrite the operations of the research team but could only partially solve the issue at hand.

### **Impacts on the project timeline caused by the delays in receiving the funds**

Micro-grantees have expressed concerns about being able to complete all their planned activities by 31 December this year as a result of the above-mentioned delays in disbursements. Grantees requesting their second disbursement and complying with all the requirements also mentioned the delay in receiving funds, even though the documents were cleared.

These concerns were echoed in an interview with the micro-grant from Brazil "**Autonomy, Sustainability and Peoples' Buen Vivir: catalysing the power of community-led adaptation and nature-based alternatives in the Atlantic Rainforest!**", where one of the issues expressed was the mismatch between the organisation's operational schedules and the donor's deadlines. This mismatch created significant challenges which were solved by a revised prioritization of activities to implement and comply with the expected timeframes.

### **Technological issues**

Only a few grantees mentioned to have experienced technological issues while using slack or KoboToolbox during the implementation of the ARA micro-grants. As alternative, they suggested the use of WhatsApp or e-mails.

### **Impacts of climate change**

In the Asia-Pacific region, specifically in India and Sri Lanka, two projects faced operational challenges due to extreme weather conditions, notably heavy rainfall that led to flooding and rendered areas inaccessible. The Sri Lanka project "**Cloud Forest Restoration at Bopaththalawa**" encountered a significant setback when a batch of planted seeds suffered from over-dampening caused by the excessive rains, resulting in plant death due to heightened soil moisture and fungal attacks. In response, the team implemented corrective actions by restarting the planting process and relocating some plants to community houses with partial shelter to provide protection. In addition, soil fungicides were introduced to the planting pots as a preventive measure against future fungal problems, necessitating a repeat of the planting activity. These measures demonstrate the project's responsiveness to climate change and its commitment to adapting its strategies in challenging conditions.

### **Political, economic, and social unrest in the countries**

The "**Climate Adaptation Championship (Community-Led Climate Adaptation Research)**" micro-grant in Myanmar encountered significant political challenges that required a revision of its initial strategy. The project was originally designed to conduct surveys with 500 individuals and collaborate with five Yangon Neighbourhood Network (YNN) groups, which are all small neighbourhood groups that are deeply embedded in their local communities, to create five toolkits centred in community-based solutions but had to reduce its scope due to security issues following the military coup. In response to these circumstances, and adhering to the advice of YNN members, the project scaled down its survey target to 200 respondents and the collaboration scope was narrowed to four YNN groups, as one community group had to withdraw from the project due to safety concerns in their area. These changes reflect the projects need to adapt to the evolving political and security landscape in the country.

In Haiti, the micro-grant "**Building strong and sustainable communities for girls at Dame Marie, Grand'Anse Department**" encountered significant obstacles caused by the prevailing socio-political environment, which adversely affected its implementation. Political instability, characterised by frequent

local protests leading to blockades, resulted in considerable delays in the project schedule. In response to these challenges, the project team demonstrated its resilience by moving to online consultations. This strategic shift was critical to ensure the continuation of project activities, mitigating the impact of restrictions on physical meetings. In addition, the project faced logistical challenges due to the terrain. Access to remote communal areas was often hampered by impassable roads, requiring long journeys on foot to reach certain destinations.

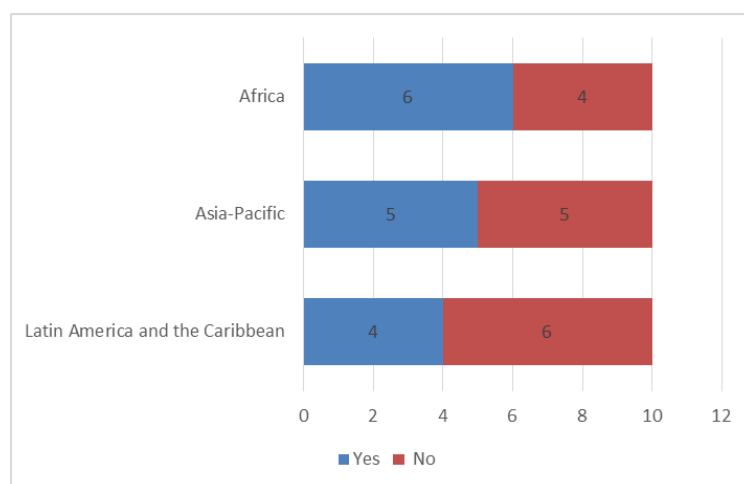
### Economic crisis

For the micro-grants in Argentina and Malawi, funding delays combined with prevailing economic conditions had a significant impact on project implementation. The impact of these financial constraints is twofold: they directly affect project budgets and disrupt the schedule of activities due to the ripple effects of inflation and currency devaluation. The Malawi project titled **“City-level Climate Information and Citizen Resilience and Adaptation Actions in Informal Settlements of Lilongwe”** provided insights in the e.-survey revealing that *“The weak economy is affecting designing and implementation of project activities. The Malawi Kwacha keeping getting weaker against its major trading partners and since the project started the currency has depreciated by more than 31%. To ensure that activities have been implemented as indicated in the contract the project has is making sure that other activities are being combined and in other cases going for cheaper venues”*. It is important to note that both countries expressed concerns about their capacity to fulfil the projects activities within these constraints. Despite these uncertainties, they are proactively streamlining and intensifying their efforts to mitigate the impacts of these economic challenges.

### Unintended effects

In terms of unintended effects, both in the surveys and in the interviews, positive effects were mentioned more frequently than negative ones. The unexpected effects have exceeded the original objectives of the micro-grants and have enhanced community development across all regions, with the highest count in Africa with 6 (60%) grants, followed by Asia-Pacific with 5 (50%) and Latin America and the Caribbean with 4 (40%) (see figure 10).

Figure 10: Number of ARA micro-grants reporting unintended effects



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

Figure 11: Positive and Negative reported unintended effects



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the e-survey

### Positive unintended effects

Among the positive effects of the implementation of the projects, the grantees mentioned **new economic prospects** that empower individuals and the communities. Also, the **attraction of external expertise**, enriching the projects with specialised knowledge and skills. An **enhancement of the dynamics of group work** has been observed, with an increase in **solidarity** among the members of the communities. An **ethos of sharing resources** has emerged in some micro-grants, upholding the values of sustainable development, and strengthening community ties.

**Local government actors**, whose **participation** was unexpected, have become crucial to some projects, providing essential support for local-level planning, and enabling a wider impact. Additionally, the **revalorisation of ancestral practices** has arisen as a cultural benefit, as traditional knowledge is incorporated into modern practices, thus preserving heritage, and promoting sustainable practices.

Among these positive unintended results, one of the micro-grants highlighted the change in men's perceptions regarding adaptation technologies introduced in the project from **Zambia 'Exploring Farmer Managed Seed Systems as an Adaptation Method'**. This initiative was designed with a focus on women, who constitute the majority of smallholder farmers in the country, and initially faced scepticism from the male community members. This perception changed over the course of the project as male farmers observed first-hand the benefits of using locally sourced seeds and traditional indigenous varieties. These practices not only increased crop resilience, but also significantly reduced the financial burden associated with purchasing commercial seeds and fertilisers. This practical demonstration of the project's benefits led to a significant change in the men's attitudes, fostering wider community acceptance and participation.

In the **Philippines**, the project "**Building climate-resilient health systems in the Philippines**" has provided the following positive insights on the key involvement of state actors *"Increased awareness on climate change and its impacts on health Increased visibility of health in climate action, and strengthened the role of the Municipal Health Office as an actor in climate initiatives Broadened the municipalities' climate resilience beyond disaster preparedness and response to include considerations for health-focused climate adaptation Convened relevant sectors to collaborate on a health-focused climate initiative and leveraging each sector's role in this initiative, which would have otherwise been led and mobilized by the Disaster Risk*

*Resilience and Management Office*". An example from Latin America and the Caribbean, in **Haiti** the micro-grant identified that *"the unexpected positive results are the involvement of state actors at the local level in the project, meaning they are engaged to facilitate the implementation of the project for better local-level planning and impact."*

### Negative unintended effects

The unintended negative effects include a significant increase in the workload of the municipal staff and the heavy reliance on the contribution of volunteers' work. The emergence of this issues underscores the need for more strategic planning and development of equitable strategies to fulfil the objectives of the micro-grants. Such measures will ensure that the willingness to participate is matched with a fair distribution of responsibilities and resources, leading to a more sustainable and effective outcomes.

## 3.2. Gender and Social Inclusion

The ARA's Grassroots Action Research micro-grants programme has a strong focus on GESI. 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)<sup>1</sup>.

Gender and Social Inclusion is a cross-cutting issue in the micro-grant TLS strategy and how micro-grants include this approach is analysed at baseline, midline and endline phases. During this midline analysis stage, the examination focused on how micro-grants are incorporating the GESI approach into their activities and interventions, along with identifying the primary challenges they face in doing so. To collect this information, two specific questions addressing GESI were included in the e-survey. Additionally, the GESI dimension was an integral part of the interviews, aiming to gain in-depth knowledge about the specific strategies, actions, decisions, and activities being implemented to mainstream GESI within the micro-grants' implementation.

### Tracking - Inclusion of GESI in micro-grants during implementation

In the baseline analysis, the number of micro-grants per region that included relevant intersections and other identities as part of the issues to be explored, and how these intersectionalities were targeted in activities to be implemented, was observed. During the midline stage, attention shifted to observing the considerations taken to ensure a GESI approach as part of micro-grants' activities. Since this was an open question included in the e-survey, the considerations explained by each grantee have been grouped to provide some initial conclusions that can be compared in the endline analysis (see Table 12).

**Table 12: Type of considerations have been taken by micro-grants to ensure a gender and social inclusion approach, per region.**

Type of consideration	N° of micro-grants				
	Region				
	Africa	Asia-Pacific	Latin America and the Caribbean	Total	
				#	%

<sup>1</sup> Adaptation Research Alliance Concept Note, July 2021

Women targeted in project activities*	2	3	2	7	23.3%
Women targeted in adaptation measures	1	1		2	6.6%
Women targeted in adaptation measures/project activities		3		3	10%
Disaggregated data/analysis	2	4	1	7	23.3%
Support women in decision making		1		1	3.3%
Safeguarding GbV		1		1	3.3%
Partnership and collaboration		1		1	3.3%
Inclusive language/Reaching out specifically			3	3	10%
Child care spaces			1	1	3.3%
Project composition			2	2	6.6%
General description		1	1	2	6.6%
No description	3		3	6	20%

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on midline e-survey

\*1 project disaggregated women and youth targets in project activities

In an initial overview, it is apparent that among the various considerations and measures implemented by the micro-grants, the most prevalent ones include the specific **inclusion of women in project activities and/or adaptation measures** (39.9% of micro-grants) and the **use of disaggregated data or disaggregated data analysis** (23.3% of micro-grants). Another frequently adopted practice is the use of **inclusive language** or other relevant criteria to specifically engage with women (23.3% of micro-grants). For instance, the micro-grant "**Co-researching climate change adaptation opportunities in Uruguay's artisanal fishing sector,**" led by the South American Institute for Studies on Resilience and Sustainability (SARAS), Uruguay, emphasized in the e-survey that they paid particular attention to reaching out to both fishermen and fisherwomen when disseminating project activities. During visits to fishing communities, they interacted with men and women, youth and adults involved in land-based activities. Although not employing a specific strategy, the micro-grant team always endeavoured to include women and young people, considering it essential to showcase artisanal fishing as an integral part of Uruguayan society from a social inclusion perspective.<sup>2</sup>

Other relevant measures or considerations included by the ARA micro-grants are to support women in decision making, safeguarding gender-based violence, or including childcare facilities during micro-grants workshops. Although not many micro-grants have chosen to work with these considerations, it is worthwhile to elaborate on them, as they may be considered more explicit or effective measures to include women, youth, or other identities.

The ARA micro-grant in Asia-Pacific led by the faculty of Graduate Studies of Daffodil International University, "**Saving Mothers, Protecting the Womb**" (Bangladesh) indicated in the midline survey that "*Given the potential for increased vulnerability due to changing environmental conditions, we have implemented measures to prevent and respond to gender-based violence effectively. This includes creating safe spaces and raising awareness about reporting mechanisms. Our project is firmly rooted in a gender and social inclusion approach that seeks to address the specific challenges faced by women in the context of climate change and drinking water salinity. By integrating these considerations into every aspect of our project, we aim to empower women, enhance their resilience, and contribute to more equitable and sustainable communities. Our commitment to gender and social inclusion is not just a requirement but a fundamental principle guiding our project's success and long-term impact.*"

<sup>2</sup> Interviewed conducted on November 1st, 2023.

Another micro-grant, situated in Uruguay and spearheaded by Vida Silvestre, titled "**Perceptions and actions to reduce the impact of floods on the community of Durazno**," emphasized in both the e-survey and the interview that they made deliberate efforts to ensure the active involvement of women in meetings. To achieve this, they strategically scheduled meetings and workshops based not only on women's availability but also sought venues equipped with games or recreational facilities for children. Additionally, they looked for spaces conducive for children, allowing them to participate alongside their parents. The micro-grant team, using a WhatsApp contact list, engaged with women to determine the most convenient days and times for organizing workshops and meetings. This approach, highlighted during the interview, has been successfully employed in previous initiatives and was maintained in the current project.<sup>3</sup>

Only 2 micro-grants did not provide specific details about the considerations, measures, or actions they included to ensure a GESI approach in the e-Survey but during the interview, one of the projects further elaborated on the micro-strategies they were implementing. The micro-grant in India, titled "**Finding Adaptation Solutions to Menstrual Health Risks Induced by Climate Change through Knowledge Co-creation**," explained that the research "focuses on the principle of sustainability over time" and emphasizes "building local capacity and knowledge sharing so that more effective solutions for adaptation can emerge over time." They highlighted the interconnectedness of impact principles, advocating for a holistic approach.

The other micro-grant, based in Argentina, titled "**Incorporation of the Climate Perspective into Community Strategies**," outlined in the e-survey that "during the work in the community, the team prioritises staying in enterprises and contracting services provided by women in the community." However, insights gained during the interview provided additional depth to this response. The micro-grant team clarified that considering the community's social organization, which is primarily based on male and adult representation, they strategically selected lodgings and enterprises run by women. This choice served as a "micro-strategy" to connect with these women, gather their opinions, and incorporate their perspectives into the micro-grant's actions. This approach was deemed essential due to existing limitations that would have otherwise made it nearly impossible to involve the voices of these women. During the initial research team trip, they opted to stay in a hotel owned by a woman with a wine cellar, fostering a closer bond of trust to capture her unique perspective and insights.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, 6 micro-grants did not complete this section of the e-survey so there are no details about how they are working to ensure a GESI approach<sup>5</sup>. Comparing these micro-grants with the baseline report, it is observed that 3 of them provided specifications about GESI and how relevant intersectionalities and invisible voices are targeted in their activities and/or initiatives in the application form. These 3 micro-grants are in Latin America and 3 in Africa.

In the case of Latin America, one example is the micro-grant "**Local water governance: institutional and operational complexity of Water Management Boards (JAA) in Honduras**" which detailed in the application form that *"due to the role that women play in rural areas; they are the most affected by water scarcity because it implies greater effort to obtain this resource (...) Women's participation in water governance is vital to achieving universal and equitable access to safe drinking water at an affordable price for all and to promote better living conditions for women. More and more women are members of the JAA, so it is important to continue empowering them to improve water and sanitation management at a local level. Because this is a highly participatory process, this proposal will seek to highlight the specific needs of women, youth, children and indigenous Lenca populations around JAA's performance. As a result, this will be reflected in proposals for regulatory change and how the integration of more women and youth could strengthen local governance structures such as JAAs"*. Clear actions related to how the project addresses the specific needs of women, youth, children, and indigenous populations were not reported in the e-survey.

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<sup>3</sup> Interview conducted on October 16th, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> Interview conducted on October 17th, 2023.

<sup>5</sup> They answered No to the question "Does the micro-grant implement and include a specific gender and social inclusion strategy?"

Another one in Argentina, **“Where there was fire, there will be forests. Nature-based solutions for adaptation in mountain forests”** included in the application form that as gender considerations, *“inclusive language will be used in the communication products that are developed. 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. Several of the nurseries of the Network of Native Growers of Punilla Sur (CuNaPuSur -its initials in Spanish) are run by women and will be empowered with training and inputs”*. They also detailed age considerations (*“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”*) and religion considerations, to avoid any references to any religion. As it is possible to verified in some of the evidence attached to the survey that women and men are participating in activities, the micro-grant did not describe any strategies or specific considerations been taken to guarantee this inclusion. This micro-grant was initially categorized as part of the group of micro-grants that targeted relevant intersectionalities and other identities with specific activities as part of the project (see Baseline report). At the end line stage, more explorations could be done to understand the effective inclusion of a GESI approach<sup>6</sup>

An example from Africa region can be illustrated through a micro-grant in Madagascar, **“Unpacking the needs of Boeny coastal cities for adapting to climate change and building resilience”**. In the application form it was explained that *“(…) we will make sure to include and promote the participation of women, first and foremost, in every action. We will make sure that their voices are not only listened but also considered to leave no one behind. We are also convinced that youth participation in such project is crucial so they will also be included in the delegate selection process. However, we will not make difference in religion and caste as this is a very sensible subject in Madagascar culture.”* While this section of the e-survey was not completed, it was mentioned during the interview that gender and social inclusion is something to still work on, especially engaging women and include more women in decision-making. They recognize that usually differentiated impacts of climate change are household focused but not gender focused. Actually, the methodology the micro-grant is applying is more focused on households. But it is expected that during next phase information is disaggregated by gender and age. They also explained during the interview that significant cultural barriers exist in this regard, and they are observing that the participation of men in micro-grants activities is massive rather than women participation. They already identified women associations and they expect to engage with them during the next stages of the implementation of the micro-grant to boost women participation. They also recognize the importance of sharing with women information and knowledge on climate change, so they have the real possibility of expressed their opinions and point of views<sup>7</sup>.

Given the findings from the Baseline report, the table below compares the percentage of micro-grants per region that included relevant intersectionalities and other identities in the description of proposed activities. This includes both general and detailed descriptions. It also indicates the percentage of micro-grants, at the midline stage, that either did or did not have specific considerations for incorporating the GESI perspective during the implementation of activities. This involves making reference to relevant intersections and other identities.

**Table 13: Comparison of inclusion of the GESI approach (or relevant intersections) in the baseline and midline**

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<sup>6</sup> The following sentence was included in the Baseline report: “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”*.

<sup>7</sup> Interview conducted on November 2nd, 2023.

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants application forms and midline e-survey

Region	Activities description mentions relevant intersections and other identities				General or specific description on how intersectionalities are targeted				Considerations taken to ensure a GESI approach			
	Baseline				Baseline				Midline			
	No		Yes		General		Specific		No		Yes	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Africa	4	40.0%	6	60.0%	3	30.0%	7	70.0%	3	30%	7	70%
Asia-Pacific	4	40.0%	6	60.0%	2	20.0%	8	80.0%	0	0%	10	100%
Latin America and the Caribbean	6	60.0%	4	40.0%	2	20.0%	8	80.0%	3	30%	7	70%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>46.7%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>53.3%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>23.3%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>76.7%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>80%</b>

The information presented in the table indicates that the proportion of micro-grants initially providing a general description of relevant intersectionalities but later offering detailed information in activities' descriptions is similar to the proportion of micro-grants that did not specify the considerations taken to ensure a GESI approach. The Asia-Pacific micro-grants, however, stand out, as all of them explicitly outlined considerations or specifications about GESI in activities implementation in the midline e-survey. Conversely, a comparable pattern is observed in reverse, where the proportion of micro-grants that detailed how relevant intersectionalities were planned to be targeted ('Specific' column) at the baseline level, and subsequently explained at the midline level which considerations are being considered to ensure a GESI approach in micro-grants (these were compiled in the previous analysis). (these were compiled in the previous Table 12).

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 mentioned in the application form 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. In the midline e-survey they specified *"Identify and select women and men workshop participants and ensuring that discussions are gender sensitive"* as a specific consideration been taken to ensure a gender and social inclusion approach.

The micro-grant **"Building Climate-resilient Local Health Systems in the Philippines"** described in the application form 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. At the midline level, they informed that *"In diagnosing the climate-health issues, special attention is given to identify the vulnerable*

groups and how the co-designed interventions could target them as beneficiaries (ex: farmers, elderly, pregnant women, and children are more vulnerable to extreme heat). Special attention is also given to climate-sensitive health concerns that affect women and children such as reproductive health issues. Since the project's onset, a cross-sectoral approach was deliberately implemented to ensure that the co-developed PSF proposal involves and mobilizes all relevant sectors to implement a health-focused climate-adaptation initiative". We understand and grouped this detail as using disaggregated data as a GESI strategy of the micro-grant, as they disaggregate women and children climate-sensitive health concerns, and they specify climate health issues of vulnerable groups at the diagnosis stage.

Learning – Main challenges on GESI implementation as part of micro-grants' activities

Challenges and barriers to gender equality and social inclusion can vary and be interconnected depending on the context. These challenges may manifest as structural barriers, social challenges, fund allocation issues, lack of capacity or knowledge, among others. Micro-grants were queried about the primary challenge(s) encountered in incorporating a gender and social inclusion perspective into the project implementation. Since it was an open-ended question, the responses have been categorized into different groups and organized by region. It is noteworthy that in some instances, micro-grants identified more than one challenge. Additionally, 10 micro-grants indicated that they did not face any challenges in this regard.

**Table 14: Type of GESI challenges indicated by micro-grants, per region.**

Type of GESI Challenges	Region			
	Africa	Asia-Pacific	Latin America and the Caribbean	Total
Cultural resistances/Patriarchal culture	2	5	3	10
Lack of awareness	1	1	1	3
Limited funds	1	1		2
Getting females keynote speakers	1			1
Lack of disaggregated data/Data collection		2	4	6
Local language		1		1
Reaching out		1		1
Stakeholder's collaboration		1		1
No challenges	5	1	4	10

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on midline e-survey

From the 10 micro-grants that expressed having no challenge, 6 of them did not provide information about specific considerations or strategies to include a GESI approach. These are presented in the following table.

**Table 15: Micro-grants that did not express any GESI challenge in the midline e-survey, per region.**

Region	Name of the micro-grant
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Africa	Strengthening Rural Women resilience to climate change through targeted advisory service and knowledge building
Africa	Unpacking the needs of Boeny coastal cities for adapting to climate change and building resilience
Africa	City-level Climate Information and Citizen Resilience and Adaptation Actions in Informal Settlements of Lilongwe
Latin America and the Caribbean	Local water governance: institutional and operational complexity of Water Management Boards (JAA) in Honduras.
Latin America and the Caribbean	San Jacinto prepares itself. Local Leadership and Community Resilience towards a Global Impact: Water Scarcity
Latin America and the Caribbean	Where there was fire, there will be forests. Nature-based solutions for adaptation in mountain forests

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on midline e-survey

While the micro-grant **“Unpacking the needs of Boeny coastal cities for adapting to climate change and building resilience”** did not detail challenges around the application of a GESI approach, this dimension was expressed during the interview, as mentioned above. The main challenge is about cultural barriers related to equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes, and also with the possibility of young people expressing their opinions. As part of the community culture, the voice of the elder is highly valued, and it is an authority that from time-to-time conditions younger grassroots voices.

The main **challenges** reported by micro-grants concerning the inclusion of a GESI approach indicate that cultural resistance or a patriarchal culture is the most widespread (10 micro-grants), particularly for those micro-grants in the Asia-Pacific region. The second most prominent challenge is the lack of disaggregated data or disaggregated data collection (6 micro-grants), with a higher frequency among micro-grants implemented in the Latin America and Caribbean Region (4 micro-grants).

Regarding the first challenge, cultural resistance and social barriers are often difficult to modify within the scope of the ARA micro-grants. However, in the case of challenges related to data collection and analysis, micro-grants can influence actions to address these issues, given their connection to the research field of action. During the endline analysis, the Consulting Team may ascertain whether micro-grants were able to identify ways to overcome data-related barriers, providing valuable insights for learning and exchange within the ARA community.

The table below illustrates some of the challenges or barriers grouped as cultural or related to a patriarchal culture, with examples drawn from micro-grant responses in the survey.

**Table 16: Description of GESI challenges “Cultural resistances/Patriarchal culture”, by micro-grant, country, and region.**

Region	Country	Project name	Cultural resistances/Patriarchal culture
Africa	Somalia	Enhancing Inclusive Community Resilience and Adaptation to Climate change induced shocks in Somalia Project	“Community leaders resistant in involving women in discussions dominated by male groups including adaptation and community resilience.”

	Zambia	Interrogating Farmer managed seed as an adaptation strategy	"The patriarchal nature or culture in the area as women are not allowed to speak freely with men around so we tend to have a challenge when we call for meetings, it is also a challenge to call for a woman alone meeting because whatever decisions are made there will be disregarded by the larger community."
Asia-Pacific	Bangladesh	Piloting and knowledge co-creation on nature-based solution to protect wave erosion in haor areas of Bangladesh	"Being a religious conservative country, women involvement in market-oriented activities is tough for rural women. We have faced challenge in this activity. To overcome this challenge, we have ensured participation of male in the market-oriented activity."
	India	Finding Adaptation solutions to Menstrual Health Risks induced by Climate change through knowledge cocreation	"The complex social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the people of Sundarbans which include traditional beliefs, poverty, ignorance, and low literacy level do pose a major problem in convincing the people about the importance of sharing their experiences and finding proper solutions for their menstrual problems."
Latin America and the Caribbean	Brazil	Autonomy, Sustainability and Peoples' Buen Vivir: catalysing the power of community-led adaptation and nature-based alternatives in the Atlantic Rainforest, Brazil	"The overload of female work and the lack of time are some of the biggest challenges for the development of the activities related to the project which we seek to overcome with the support of the youth."
	Argentina	Incorporation of the climate perspective into community strategies	"At the time of determining the interviews with key actors in the value chains of economic productive activities and community governance, these people are men. Priority is given to interviewing women if they exist as key actors, as has been the case of women owners of wine enterprises at this stage of the research <sup>8</sup> ."

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on midline e-survey

Challenges that can be grouped under the category of "Lack of disaggregated data or disaggregated data collection" are presented in the following table, accompanied by examples extracted from the e-survey.

Table 17: Description of GESI challenges "Lack of disaggregated data", by micro-grant, country, and region.

Region	Country	Project name	Lack of disaggregated data or disaggregated data collection
Asia-Pacific	Philippines	Building climate-resilient health systems in the Philippines	"Identifying the number of vulnerable people due to the lack of municipal data (e.g. number of farmers, fisherfolk)"

<sup>8</sup> The original answer provided in the e-survey is in Spanish, but it has been translated only for the Midline report.

	Bangladesh	Saving Mothers, Protecting the Womb	"Collecting and analyzing gender-disaggregated data can be resource-intensive and time-consuming. Additionally, there may be challenges in ensuring that the data collected accurately reflects the experiences and perspectives of women, as they may be less likely to speak out in mixed-gender settings".
Latin America and the Caribbean	Uruguay	Perceptions and actions to reduce the impact of floods on the community of Durazno, Uruguay.	"In order to have a representative sample of the population of the city of Durazno, we needed 400 people to carry out perception surveys. Here we could not ensure fairness as the surveys are conducted by telephone, using databases that do not discriminate by gender" <sup>9</sup> .
	Chile	Local Urban Planning for Climate Change Adaptation in Chile	"The main challenge we have found is that the methodologies and diagnostic tools for hazard identification and the identification of vulnerability indicators include a focus on "social inclusion", incorporating in the analysis how hazards differentially affect vulnerable populations (in informal settlements), young people and older adults, but not incorporating a gender perspective in the analysis to understand how "hazards" differentially affect women". <sup>10</sup>

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on midline e-survey

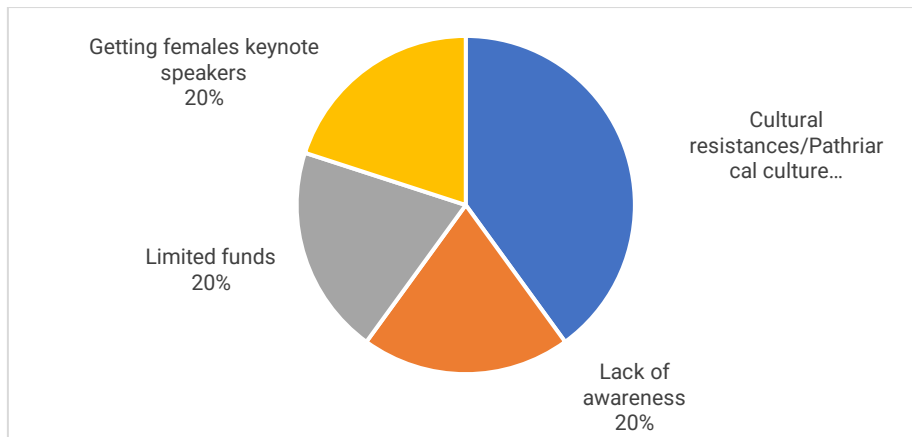
Less frequent challenges mentioned included lack of awareness, limited funds, difficulty in securing females as keynote speakers, and challenges in stakeholders' collaboration. The following figures illustrate the distribution of these challenges in each region, with micro-grants from Asia-Pacific indicating more challenges compared to Africa and the Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

Figure 12: GESI challenges identified in African micro-grants.

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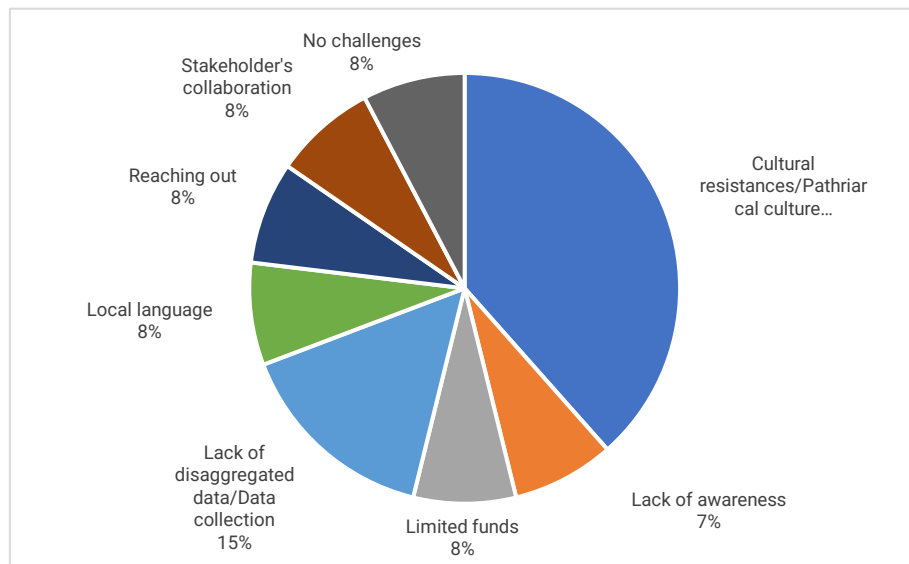
<sup>9</sup> The original answer provided in the e-survey is in Spanish, but it has been translated only for the Midline report.

<sup>10</sup> The original answer provided in the e-survey is in Spanish, but it has been translated only for the Midline report.



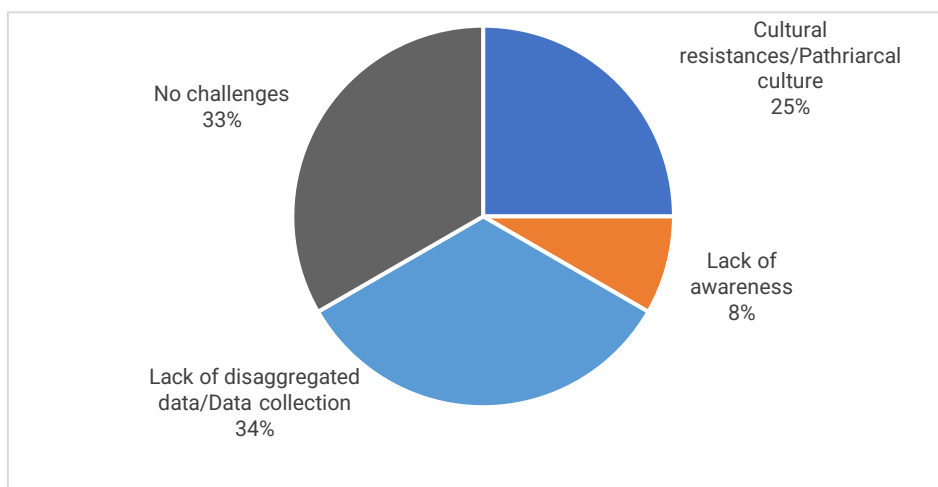
Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on midline e-survey

Figure 13: GESI challenges identified in Asia-Pacific micro-grants.



Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on midline e-survey

Figure 14: GESI challenges identified in Latin-America and the Caribbean micro-grants.



Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on midline e-survey

GESI challenges related to cultural resistances and/or patriarchal culture are not only the most frequently mentioned in total by all micro-grants but also the most common when examining each of the regions (40% of micro-grants in Africa, 38% of micro-grants in Asia-Pacific, and 25% in Latin America and the Caribbean Region). Some differences appear regarding other challenges, such as local language, limited funds, or securing females as keynote speakers.

The micro-grant in Asia Pacific "**Cloud Forest Restoration at Bopaththalawa, Central highlands of Sri Lanka**" led by EarthLanka expressed in the e-survey that "*Local language barrier and locals not understanding the importance of restoration projects*" as the main challenge in including GESI in implementation.

In Africa, the micro-grant led by New Millennium Women Empowerment Organization "**Women Empowerment and Local Climate Adaptation Through Climate Smart Agriculture**" indicated in the e-survey that "*The first and most challenging thing was the limited amount of funding. Because there are a lot of vulnerable people around the project area, we have faced a challenge in selecting our target groups.*" And another micro-grant, but in Asia Pacific, "**Saving Mothers, Protecting the Womb**", also expressed challenges related to funds and resources: "*Allocating resources to address the specific needs of women and marginalised groups can be challenging, especially when there are limited resources available. Balancing the allocation of resources between gender-sensitive interventions and broader project activities requires careful planning and advocacy*".

Another micro-grant in Africa, "**You Sustain (Sustaining Sub-Saharan African Cities Through Youth Leadership)**" led by Green Africa Youth Organization indicated that the main challenge experienced to include a gender and social inclusion perspective in the implementation is related to getting females as keynote speakers: "*The challenge would be getting female keynote speakers who are knowledgeable in the themes of the conference to deliver keynote speeches*".

### 3.3. Required support in the remaining time of the grant period

More than 80% of the micro-grantees have expressed the need for additional support from the ARA Secretariat or other grantees to finalise the grant process, with only a minority of 14% indicating that no further support is required.

The most frequently mentioned areas where ongoing support is needed are **project management and administrative assistance**. Grantees have highlighted the urgent need for more timely disbursements to meet ARA deadlines and efficiently progress through the final stages of their projects. They have emphasized the importance of a more agile approach to budget management, given the dynamic nature of their initiatives. Specific requests include standardized templates for financial receipts, prompt administrative support, and a clear understanding of administrative protocols.

Grantees across all regions have encountered common administrative and disbursement challenges, as reflected in similar requirements arising from both e-surveys and interviews. Examples of these challenges include statements such as: "We will need flexibility with the budget, since the amount in each category may change depending on the activities we get to develop"; "It is of vital importance to receive the funds from the ARA secretariat to implement the project, with only 3 out of 7 months left to carry out the activities - considering the actual start of activities in June - and with 70% of the budget still to be executed. We also consider it essential to be predictable regarding the administrative requirements to be fulfilled"; and "Accelerating disbursement processes."

Another significant area of interest is **learning and expanding global outreach**. Grantees seek support in creating a broader range of knowledge products that go beyond traditional reports to increase the visibility of their projects. They have also expressed a strong interest in promoting peer learning and exchanging best practices, demonstrating eagerness to engage in meaningful knowledge exchange and benefit from collective experiences.

In this context, the project "**Unpacking the needs of Boeny coastal cities for adapting to climate change and building resilience**" from Madagascar has specifically requested further exchanges with participants in Eastern Africa, as climate change effects are likely similar, expressing a desire to learn from others. Thailand's micro-grant "**Engagement of vulnerable and marginalized coastal communities for empowerment and climate adaptation**" emphasizes the importance of promoting and leveraging research findings and impacts for international outreach. The project "**Exploring 'Community Responsive Adaptation' to flooding in Kenya and Regional Cities**" aims for global dissemination of knowledge products developed within the micro-grant and seeks support to participate in global events such as COP 28 to have a broader impact and forge alliances between micro-grants and organizations and institutions"<sup>11</sup>.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

The ARA micro-grant initiative, encompassing 30 grants distributed across Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, reveals a comprehensive, cross-sectoral approach, with 73% of grants

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<sup>11</sup> Interview conducted on October 24th, 2023.

addressing multiple thematic focuses. Adaptation planning and intersections of climate change, gender, and inclusion emerge as predominant themes, constituting 39% of total grants. Regional analyses showcase nuanced priority distributions, such as an emphasis on food and agriculture in Africa (19% of grants) and a focus on the health sector in Asia-Pacific (16% of grants). Latin America and the Caribbean demonstrate balanced participation across four thematic areas.

The ARA micro-grant portfolio demonstrates a robust and multifaceted approach across seven identified activity categories. Grantees exhibit a strong commitment to community engagement, with 97% of projects incorporating activities like workshops and awareness-raising. Additionally, 77% of projects emphasize "Knowledge Co-Production with Primary Stakeholders/Community," showcasing collaborative efforts in generating and sharing knowledge. The varied activities, including adaptation measures, research-oriented pilots, and advocacy initiatives, reflect adaptability and commitment to addressing climate-related challenges comprehensively. Regional activity distributions highlight shared priorities and region-specific emphases, illustrating a nuanced and contextually tailored approach to sustainability.

Midline progress tracking e-surveys show an average of five distinct activities per micro-grant, indicating integration of varied strategies. While community engagement and knowledge co-creation are prioritized, unique activities reported in the 'Other' category demonstrate a tailored approach to regional needs.

The reported progress of ARA micro-grant activities reveals that, on average, none have reached full completion, with notable advancements observed in "Engagement of Affected Community" and "Workshops, Trainings, Awareness Raising, Learning Exchanges, Meetings." A regional breakdown indicates substantial strides in these areas in Africa, with Asia-Pacific leading in overall average progress. Notably, the "Advocacy and Policy Recommendations" activity shows limited progress on average.

ARA micro-grants have significantly impacted community engagement and awareness. Ninety percent of grantees reported successful engagement with climate-impacted communities. A total of 99 events and meetings were conducted among 24 micro-grants under "Workshops, Trainings, Awareness Raising, Learning Exchanges, Meetings." Latin America and the Caribbean emerged as the most active region, hosting 39 events. The sessions, covering diverse activities, underscore the program's success in executing planned activities and creating meaningful engagement.

Knowledge co-production activities yielded outputs such as climate risk assessments, vulnerability assessments, and scoping studies, with Latin America and the Caribbean leading. Twenty-six research-oriented adaptation measures were piloted across six micro-grants, and 42 measures were identified and implemented. Twenty-three knowledge products were produced across 11 micro-grants, with the Asia-Pacific region leading in diverse outputs.

**Forty percent of micro-grants underwent changes to original plans, reflecting adaptability** in response to factors such as delayed disbursement, positive results, and political/security issues. These adjustments highlight the program's flexibility in addressing challenges and ensuring effective climate adaptation.

The ARA micro-grants program has demonstrated **substantial positive benefits**, promoting gender inclusion and empowerment, enhancing biodiversity conservation, and contributing to economic growth. It has prepared communities for climate-related disasters, fostered inclusive local adaptation strategies, and benefited research organizations and universities. Grassroots organizations played a pivotal role, contributing to community development, and capacity-building initiatives enhanced skills among women leaders. The program contributed to ecosystem benefits, revitalizing endangered flora and promoting sustainable practices, and strengthened the human resource capacity of government agencies.

In terms of collaborations, **the highest count of previous collaborations** (49) compared to the new collaborations established (37) **shows the importance and focus to enhance and leverage the scope of existing networks and expertise to foster action-research** for adaptation. Establishing 37 new collaborations reflects a proactive approach, with Asia-Pacific leading in new collaborators. Africa exhibits a robust foundation of ongoing relationships, and Latin America and the Caribbean engage consistently with new partners. Stakeholders, including grassroots organisations, local communities, research organisations, and government agencies, play critical roles. However, limited private sector and

international development agency involvement suggests potential areas for expansion and diversification of partnerships.

Success in the ARA micro-grants program is attributed to **strong relationships, proactive community engagement, supportive government involvement**, strategic climate planning, and unwavering commitment. Pre-existing relationships and continuous collaboration prove fundamental, with government support providing crucial legitimacy. Challenges, including external factors like instability and internal issues such as delayed funds, require ongoing efforts for resolution to ensure continued success.

**Positive unintended effects surpass negatives**, contributing to enhanced community development across all regions. Africa leads with 60% of grants reporting positive outcomes, followed by Asia-Pacific with 50% and Latin America and the Caribbean with 40%. Unintended positive outcomes include new economic opportunities, attraction of external expertise, strengthened community ties, and the revalorisation of ancestral practices. Local government actors, initially unexpected, played crucial roles in some projects.

GESI efforts show varied practices, with explicit inclusion of women in 39.9% of micro-grants and the use of disaggregated data in 23.3%. While some implement explicit measures, six micro-grants lack specific details on GESI considerations, emphasizing the need for more strategic planning. A subset of micro-grants implemented more explicit and potentially effective measures to strengthen the inclusion of women, youth, and other identities. This includes supporting women in decision-making roles, implementing safeguards against gender-based violence, and providing childcare facilities during workshops. While these measures are not as widely reported in the micro-grants, their significance lies in their direct approach to addressing inclusivity and equity. Taken together, these practices serve as evidence of the potential of micro-grants to create environments that are not only sensitive to gender dynamics, but also inherently inclusive, thereby increasing the social impact and success of such initiatives.

The challenges reported by micro-grants regarding the GESI approach reveal that **cultural resistance or patriarchal culture is a predominant and widespread issue**, with ten micro-grants identifying it as a significant challenge. This challenge is particularly pronounced in the Asia-Pacific region, emphasizing the impact of deeply ingrained cultural norms on efforts to promote gender equality and social inclusion. The second most prominent challenge is the lack of disaggregated data or disaggregated data collection, reported by six micro-grants. Notably, this challenge is more frequently encountered by micro-grants in the Latin America and Caribbean Region, where four micro-grants emphasized the importance of improving data disaggregation. These findings underscore the importance of addressing cultural factors and enhancing data collection methods to effectively integrate GESI considerations into micro-grant initiatives, with region-specific strategies required for more targeted interventions.

The micro-grantees have overwhelmingly expressed the need for additional support to conclude the grant process, with more than 80% seeking assistance from the ARA Secretariat or fellow grantees. The primary area identified for ongoing support is project management and administrative assistance, with a particular emphasis on timely disbursements and flexible budget management. Grantees have consistently stressed the importance of standardized templates, administrative support, and clear protocols to navigate the final stages of their projects efficiently.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and assessments presented in the report, the following key recommendations are proposed:

1. **Enhance GESI support to strengthen the capacities of grantees:** Given the prevalence of challenges related to cultural resistance and patriarchal norms, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, there is a need to strengthen efforts to address these barriers. Implementing targeted

support to grantees, awareness programs, and capacity-building initiatives can help strengthen organisations taking part in the ARA micro-grant programme to better implement strategies to address this. A specific demand for further advice on how to include GESI approaches in the implementation of micro-grants was expressed in the interviews. Possible support could be a GESI toolkit or guidance on GESI for planning, implementing, and monitoring micro-grants. Additionally, micro-grants should prioritize the collection and reporting of sex-disaggregated data, and the ARA Secretariat could contribute to providing standardized tools to do this while fostering gender differentiated analysis of the products of the ARA micro-grants, to ensure a more comprehensive understanding of the impacts on diverse identities.

2. **Streamline administrative processes:** The report highlights challenges related to administrative inefficiencies, delayed fund disbursements, and resource constraints. To ensure effective project implementation, it is essential to improve the efficiency of the administrative protocols used to disburse funds. Disbursement schedules set by the ARA need to be better aligned with the complex needs of field operations, particularly in regions with unstable socio-political and economic environments. The current mismatch between administrative timelines and field needs puts undue pressure on operational resources of implementing organisations. It is recommended that disbursement mechanisms be re-evaluated and adapted to reflect the nuanced and variable nature of project environments, ensuring that organisational efforts are supported rather than hampered by procedural requirements. Furthermore, the ARA Secretariat could consider offering targeted support, including translation costs coverage from the onboarding stage so grantees can better prepare themselves to the administrative requirements for disbursements.
3. **Facilitate ongoing support:** Since more than 80% of micro-grantees express a need for additional support, the ARA Secretariat should continue assisting in project management and administrative tasks. This support can include clear communication of administrative protocols, prompt assistance, and flexibility in budget management, contributing to the successful conclusion of the grant process.
4. **Strengthen tracking, learning and sharing capacities across grantees.** The current culture of tracking and reporting within the projects needs to be significantly strengthened. Though, indeed, there was not a specific requirement set before the approval of the micro-grants, the information submitted by grantees shows differentiated capacities across organisations. In this regard, it would be instrumental to provide grantees with minimum requirements, and related tools and strengthen their monitoring and reporting capacities to improve the TLS results. In addition to ensuring greater accountability and transparency, strengthening the monitoring and reporting capacities of grantees. This will help them strengthen a pivotal skill for adaptive management and focused impact while contributing to the overall effectiveness and impact of the micro-grants Programme.
5. **Promote peer learning and knowledge exchange:** Responding to the grantees' interest in expanding global outreach and learning from others, the ARA Secretariat could facilitate a platform for peer learning and knowledge exchange. This can involve creating opportunities for micro-grantees to share best practices, experiences, and knowledge products. Collaborative initiatives, such as regional workshops or online forums, can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of successful strategies and challenges.
6. **Address regional variances in progress:** The report indicates variations in progress across regions and activities. Tailored strategies should be developed to address specific challenges in each region. Understanding and addressing these regional nuances will contribute to more balanced progress across all activities.

7. **Support adaptability and flexibility:** Acknowledging that 40% of micro-grants changed to their original plans. These changes reflect the dynamic nature of project implementation and the need for flexibility in response to emerging circumstances. The ARA Secretariat should continue fostering an adaptable and flexible approach. Encouraging grantees to adapt activities based on actual needs, positive results, or unforeseen challenges contributes to the overall effectiveness of climate adaptation initiatives. The mid-term assessment identified challenges related to external factors, such as political and economic instability, and internal issues like administrative constraints. Conducting periodic checks with the grantees and supporting them in addressing these challenges will contribute to the program's effectiveness. Strategies for risk mitigation and response planning might also be a tool to allow for flexibility during implementation.
8. **Diversify and strengthen collaborations:** While the report highlights success in establishing collaborations, there is room to diversify partnerships further. Efforts should be made to involve the private sector and international development agencies in climate adaptation initiatives. Strengthening existing relationships and exploring new collaborations will enhance the program's impact and sustainability.
9. **Continue emphasizing community engagement:** As community engagement emerges as a significant strength of the ARA micro-grants program, there should be a continued emphasis on inclusive practices. Encouraging activities that involve affected communities, workshops, and awareness campaigns will contribute to sustained positive impacts and enhanced community resilience.
10. **Leverage unintended positive effects:** Recognizing the numerous unintended positive effects reported, the ARA Secretariat should actively leverage these outcomes. Incorporating successful strategies into program planning, disseminating these positive stories, and encouraging similar practices in future initiatives will contribute to maximizing the program's positive impact.

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

Region	Country	Project Name	Applicant organisation	Partner organisations
Asia-Pacific	Philippines	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 Jayewardenepura
	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 flooding in Kenya and regional cities	Kounkuey Design Initiative Inc.	The Technical University of Kenya 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)

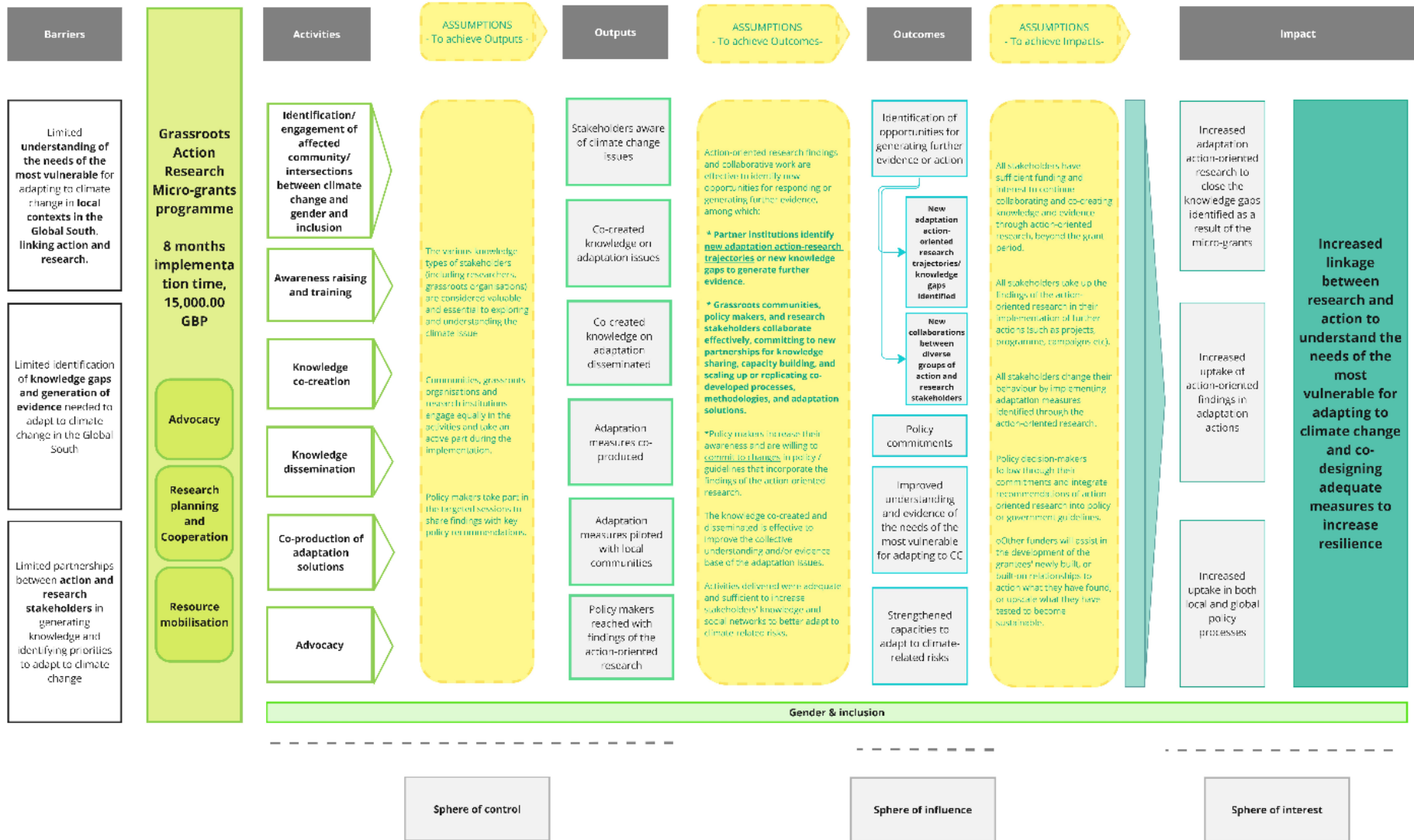
	Malawi	City-level Climate Information and Citizen Resilience and Adaptation Actions in Informal Settlements of Lilongwe	Centre for Community Organisation and Development (CCODE)	Equip Consulting Group Lilongwe City Council
Latin America and the Caribbean	Uruguay	Perceptions and actions to reduce the 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)	Single National Union of Sea and Allied Workers (SUNTMA) Municipality of Salinas Universidad de la Republica (University of the Republic), Central Service of Extension and Activities in the Environment (SCEAM -its initials in Spanish) Regional University Centre of the East (CURE -its initials in Spanish) - Udelar, Department of Statistical Data Modelling and Artificial Intelligence (MEDIA) Universidad San Francisco de Quito Humedal La Conejera Foundation (Colombia) En Comunidad y con los Ecosistemas, Grupo Ciudadano Universidad Tecnologica Metropolitana
	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	Associação Territorial de Agroecologia dos Povos da Cabruca e da Mata Atlântica	Grupo de Pesquisa Governança, Ambiente, Políticas Públicas, Inclusão e Sustentabilidade (GAPIS),

		alternatives in the Atlantic Rainforest, Brazil		Instituto de Psicologia (IP), Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). They mention 25 potential additional partners from the Network
	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

## Annex 2: TLS assessment matrix

Assessment criteria question	Key questions	Assessment categories	Data Analysis
<b>Effectiveness:</b>			
To what extent are the grants achieving its stated objectives?	What were the initial plans and how are grant activities progressing?	Activities and targets planned, progress and deliverables achieved	E-survey processing Qualitative analysis from interviews Desk-review of secondary information submitted by grantees
	Have there been any changes to the original grant aims and plans? If so, what are they and for what reason have they changed?	Changes experienced in the reported period including but not limited to: changes in activities, deliverables, engaged stakeholders, implementation strategy, partners, context.	E-survey processing Qualitative analysis from interviews Desk-review of secondary information submitted by grantees
	Who has benefited and how?	Beneficiaries of the micro-grants, disaggregated by sex and age	E-survey processing Qualitative analysis from interviews Desk-review of secondary information submitted by grantees
	Who has been involved in driving the changes? How?	Key stakeholders	E-survey processing Qualitative analysis from interviews Desk-review of secondary information submitted by grantees
	What enablers or challenges/barriers have grantees experienced during implementation?	Enablers, challenges/ barriers implementation	E-survey processing Qualitative analysis from interviews Desk-review of secondary information submitted by grantees
	What are the unintended effects? Positive and negative?	Unintended effects (positive) Unintended effects (negative)	E-survey processing Qualitative analysis from interviews Desk-review of secondary information submitted by grantees
	What strategies / support could be needed in the future to overcome potential / experienced challenges?  What support would micro-grantees like to receive throughout the grant period from the funder or from other grantees?	Support required	E-survey processing Qualitative analysis from interviews Desk-review of secondary information submitted by grantees
<b>Gender, equity and social inclusion</b>			
What has been achieved in terms of gender, equity, and social inclusion?	What considerations have been taken to ensure a gender equity and inclusion approach? Are there any support needs to do this appropriately in the second half of the grant period?	Activities and targets planned, progress and deliverables achieved Challenges found to include gender and social approach Lessons learned	E-survey processing Qualitative analysis from interviews Desk-review of secondary information submitted by grantees

**Annex 3: Draft Theory of Change**



## ARA Micro-grant: E-Survey Reporting

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### GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE MICRO-GRANT

COUNTRY: \*

PROJECT NAME: \*

ORGANISATION: \*

NAME OF THE RESPONDENT: \*

ROLE IN THE PROJECT: \*

THEMATIC FOCUS: \*

Please click all that apply

- Climate change planning
- Climate resilient infrastructure
- Coastal management
  - Flood management
  - Food/Agriculture
  - Forest restoration
  - Health
  - Water resources
  - Intersections climate change, gender and Inclusion

Other

PLEASE SPECIFY \*

## SECTION 1: PROGRESS TRACKING

1.1 COULD YOU IDENTIFY THE PLANNED ACTIVITIES RELEVANT FOR YOUR PROJECT \*

Please select all that apply

- Identification/ engagement of affected community
- Workshops, trainings, awareness raising, learning exchanges, meetings
- Knowledge co-produced with the primary stakeholders / community  Co-production of adequate adaptation measures
- Research-oriented piloting of adaptation measures
- Knowledge products
  - Advocacy and policy recommendations

Others

PLEASE SPECIFY AS MANY AS YOU NEEDED \*

1.2 COULD YOU PLEASE INDICATE IN THE SCALE FROM 1 TO 4 THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLANNED ACTIVITIES RELEVANT FOR YOUR PROJECT

1 No progress

2 Moderate

3 Significant

4 Fully completed

1 (no progress) / 2 (moderate) / 3 (significant) / 4 (fully completed)

IDENTIFICATION/ ENGAGEMENT OF AFFECTED COMMUNITY



WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS, AWARENESS RAISING, LEARNING EXCHANGES, MEETINGS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
KNOWLEDGE CO-PRODUCED WITH THE PRIMARY STAKEHOLDERS / COMMUNITY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CO-PRODUCTION OF ADEQUATE ADAPTATION MEASURES	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
RESEARCH-ORIENTED PILOTING OF ADAPTATION MEASURES	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ADVOCACY AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OTHERS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1.3.1 HAVE THERE BEEN ANY CHANGES IN THE ACTIVITIES OR STRATEGY OF THE PROJECT COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL PLAN?				*
<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No				
IF YES, PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL PLAN AND EXPLAIN THE REASONS WHY CHANGES HAD TO BE MADE				*
<p>.....</p>				

**» 1.4 What has been achieved as a result of the activities? (Outputs will be visible if previously selected in the activities section)**

1.4.1 AFFECTED COMMUNITY ENGAGED IN THE PROJECT.	*
<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	

**» » 1.4.2 Workshops, training and learning exchanges, meetings conducted with the affected communities.**

**» » » Events and meetings conducted**

NUMBER	*
<p>.....</p>	
TYPE	*
<p>.....</p>	

TOPICS OF THE EVENTS \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)

» » » **Events conducted to raise awareness on CC issues**

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

Workshops, trainings, meetings with the communities, learning and sharing sessions

Other

PLEASE, SPECIFY \*

TOPICS OF THE EVENTS \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)

» » » **Other types of workshops, training and learning exchanges or meetings conducted**

SPECIFY \*

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

TOPICS OF THE EVENTS \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)

» » » **Participants reached through the event**

TOTAL, OF WHICH \*

FEMALE UP TO 35 YEARS OLD

FEMALE MORE THAN 35 YEARS OLD

MALE UP TO 35 YEARS OLD

MALE MORE THAN 35 YEARS OLD

NON-BINARY UP TO 35 YEARS OLD

NON-BINARY MORE THAN 35 YEARS OLD

I PREFER NOT TO SAY

» » **1.4.3 Knowledge co-produced with the affected community**

» » » **Diagnostic analysis conducted (climate risks assessment, vulnerability assessment, studies)**

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

Climate risks assessment, vulnerability assessment, scoping study  Other

*PLEASE SPECIFY* \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

*Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)*

» » » **Methodology, models, plans or tools developed (i.e., flood models, methodology of climate proofing)**

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)

» » » **Publications on findings produced (written reports, etc)**

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

Research papers, reports, assessment report  Other

PLEASE SPECIFY \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)

» » » **Other types of co-produced knowledge**

SPECIFY \*

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

» » **1.4.4 Co-production of adequate adaptation measures**

» » » **Adaptation measures identified and co-designed**

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)

» » » **Other types of co-productions of adaptation measures.**

SPECIFY \*

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)

» .....  
» **1.4.5 Research-oriented adaptation measures piloted with local communities.**

» » » **Piloted adaptation measures**

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

Ecosystem based adaptation /ecosystem restoration practices / climate change planning instruments  Other

PLEASE, SPECIFY \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)

.....» » » **Other types of research-oriented adaptation measures**

SPECIFY \*

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)

» » » **Participants in the piloted adaptation actions**

TOTAL, OF WHICH \*

FEMALE UP TO 35 YEARS OLD

FEMALE MORE THAN 35 YEARS OLD

MALE UP TO 35 YEARS OLD

MALE MORE THAN 35 YEARS OLD

NON-BINARY UP TO 35 YEARS OLD

NON-BINARY MORE THAN 35 YEARS OLD

I PREFER NOT TO SAY

» » **1.4.6 Knowledge products**

» » » **Communication products developed**

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*  
 Brochures, Multimedia materials, Fact sheets, blogs  Other

PLEASE, SPECIFY \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)

» » » **Other types of knowledge products**

SPECIFY \*

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

» » 1.4.7 Policy makers engaged with findings of the action-oriented research.

» » » Recommendations made to national or local decision making bodies, as a result of the micro-grant activities

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)

» » » **Advocacy plans or strategies developed**

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)

» » » **Advocacy actions undertaken**

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

*Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)*

»  
» » **Another type of engaged**

SPECIFY \*

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

*Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)*

» » » **Policy makers reached with the key findings.**

TOTAL, OF WHICH \*

*FEMALE UP TO 35 YEARS OLD*

*FEMALE MORE THAN 35 YEARS OLD*

*MALE UP TO 35 YEARS OLD*

*MALE MORE THAN 35 YEARS OLD*

*NON-BINARY UP TO 35 YEARS OLD*

NON-BINARY MORE THAN 35 YEARS OLD

I PREFER NOT TO SAY

» » **1.4.8 Other products or services delivered as a result of activities**

PLEASE SPECIFY \*

NUMBER \*

TYPE \*

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Haga clic aquí para subir el archivo. (<5MB)

» **1.5 Who has benefited from the actions of the projects and how? Describe (short answer)**

WHO BENEFITED? \*

*Please select all that apply*

- Community
- Research organisation
- Grassroots organisation
- Ecosystems
- Government
- Private business/private sector  Other stakeholders

HOW? DESCRIPTION OF THE BENEFITS \*

*Please ensure disaggregation of benefits by gender and other relevant invisible / vulnerable groups – disaggregation apply to all categories*

HOW? DESCRIPTION OF THE BENEFITS \*

*Please ensure disaggregation of benefits by gender and other relevant invisible / vulnerable groups – disaggregation apply to all categories*

HOW? DESCRIPTION OF THE BENEFITS \*

*Please ensure disaggregation of benefits by gender and other relevant invisible / vulnerable groups – disaggregation apply to all categories*

HOW? DESCRIPTION OF THE BENEFITS \*

*Please ensure disaggregation of benefits by gender and other relevant invisible / vulnerable groups – disaggregation apply to all categories*

HOW? DESCRIPTION OF THE BENEFITS \*

Please ensure disaggregation of benefits by gender and other relevant invisible / vulnerable groups – disaggregation apply to all categories

HOW? DESCRIPTION OF THE BENEFITS \*

Please ensure disaggregation of benefits by gender and other relevant invisible / vulnerable groups – disaggregation apply to all categories

HOW? DESCRIPTION OF THE BENEFITS \*

Please ensure disaggregation of benefits by gender and other relevant invisible / vulnerable groups – disaggregation apply to all categories

1.6 COULD YOU PLEASE DESCRIBE ANY ADDITIONAL UNINTENDED EFFECTS AND/OR RESULTS THAT WERE NOT PLANNED? \*

Positive and negative

1.7 WHICH FACTORS – PLANNED OR UNPLANNED – PLAYED A KEY ROLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING THE BENEFITS? \*

Please mention all the key stakeholders, organisational, previous work, contextual factors, among others, which you think were key to achieving success.

**» 1.8 Which stakeholders have actually been involved in the project and what has their role been? Was this a new collaboration or an existing one, which was further developed with the project?**

**» » 1**

STAKEHOLDER \*

ROLE AND INVOLVEMENT DURING THE GRANT IMPLEMENTATION \*

RELATIONSHIP \*

Previous collaboration  New collaboration

**» » 2**

STAKEHOLDER \*

ROLE AND INVOLVEMENT DURING THE GRANT IMPLEMENTATION \*

RELATIONSHIP \*

Previous collaboration  New collaboration

» » 3

STAKEHOLDER

ROLE AND INVOLVEMENT DURING THE GRANT IMPLEMENTATION

RELATIONSHIP

Previous collaboration  New collaboration

» » 4

STAKEHOLDER

ROLE AND INVOLVEMENT DURING THE GRANT IMPLEMENTATION

RELATIONSHIP

Previous collaboration  New collaboration

1.9.1 HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY OBSTACLES DURING THE ONBOARDING OF THE GRANT AND/OR DURING ITS IMPLEMENTATION? \*

Yes  No

IF YES, PLEASE DESCRIBE THE OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED AND EXPLAIN THE MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM. \*

1.10 WHAT SUPPORT WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE IN THE REMAINING TIME OF THE GRANT PERIOD FROM THE ARA SECRETARIAT OR OTHER GRANTEES? \*

## SECTION 2: GENDER AND INCLUSION

2.1 DOES THE MICRO-GRANT IMPLEMENT AND INCLUDE A SPECIFIC GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY?

Yes  
 No

2.2 WHAT CONSIDERATIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE A GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION APPROACH? (SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES AS PART OF THE GRANT, DISAGGREGATED DATA COLLECTION, INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE, CROSS-CUTTING APPROACH, ETC.)

2.3 WHAT IS THE MAIN CHALLENGE(S) YOU EXPERIENCED TO INCLUDE A GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION PERSPECTIVE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT?

2.4 PLEASE LIST THE GENDER AND NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE MICRO-GRANT PROJECT TEAM  
(you may prefer not to disclose gender information)

2.5 PLEASE LIST ANY OTHER INTERSECTION YOU HAVE FOCUSED ON IN YOUR PROJECT AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED  
(e.g., women with disabilities, elderly -all genders-, youth, migrants)

### SECTION 3: FEEDBACK

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT! PLEASE HELP US IMPROVE BY SHARING YOUR IDEAS ABOUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.

3.1.A. ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 4, HOW DID YOU FIND THIS E-SURVEY?  
*1: I completely disagree with the proposed statement and 4: I completely agree with the proposed statement*

1 I completely disagree with the proposed

2

3

4 I completely agree with the proposed

THE E-SURVEY WAS TOO DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND

\*

THE E-SURVEY WAS TOO LONG

\*

I PREFER OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS (NARRATIVE)

\*

I PREFER CLOSED-ENDED QUESTION (TICK BOXES AND PROVIDE DATA)

\*

3.1.B: WHICH SPECIFIC QUESTIONS DID YOU FIND THE MOST CHALLENGING?

*Please provide any feedback or suggestion so we can improve the endline e-survey*

## Annex 5: Interview Guide

Region:		Country:	
Participants (gender):	<i>List all the participants attending the call, their gender and affiliation.</i>		
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Project name:			

### Introduction

Viridia Projects has been hired by ARA to conduct a Tracking, Learning and Sharing Plan for its Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants programme. As part of this Plan, we are collecting information to identify barriers and opportunities, themes, knowledges gaps and emergent topics that can be used to compile lessons learned during the implementation of the projects funded by ARA for future interventions.

This interview should not take more than an hour. Although we will be taking some notes during the session, we also ask you for your consent to record it so we can capture all the information required.

All responses, comments and opinions will be kept confidential. This interview will only be shared with the consultant team members supporting the TLS of the second round of the micro-grants programme. We will ensure that all the information included in the report will be anonymised so as not to identify individual opinions.

If you have any question before starting, please let us know. Likewise, you can interrupt us or comment whatever you consider in any moment during the interview. You can also choose to give your feedback of the process at the end. Thank you very much for your participation.

### Guiding questions

#### 1. What happened so far?

- Could you please tell us about the planned activities of your project and what actions have been implemented so far?
- Have there been any changes to the original grant aims and plans? If so, what are they and for what reason have they changed?
- Who has benefited from the action of the project and how? [ask about differences between women, men, other vulnerable groups]
- What other achievements or successes, if any, do you think the project had? [In terms of relationships or networks built, research underway or emerging opportunities] Was it something you expected?

#### 2. How did achievements / successes occur?

- What do you think are the reasons that explained the success achieved during implementation? [enablers]

#### 3. What difference does the intervention make?

- What purpose do you think the Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants programme serve in the longer term? [What do you think success of the project would look like in one year from now? In two years?]
- Could you please describe any additional unintended effects and/or results that was not planned? [positive and negative including gender and social inclusion aspects]

#### **4. Challenges – Lessons learned**

- Which challenges/barriers did you experience during implementation? How did you overcome the barrier(s)?
- What risks have you identified, which might hinder the implementation of the project? [administrative, operation, environmental & social]
- What kind of support might be necessary in the future to address potential or encountered challenges?

#### **5. Gender and social inclusion**

- What considerations have been taken to ensure a gender equity and inclusion approach?
- What is the main challenge(s) you could identify to include a gender and social inclusion perspective in the implementation of the project?
- Do you believe the project/program has been successful in promoting gender and social inclusion? If so, could you please explain how.

## Annex 6: List of grants interviewed for the midline report

Region	Country	Project Name	Organization	Date
Asia-Pacific	Phillippines	Flood Risks, Environmental Sanitation and Health Research in Riverine Communities in Iloilo, Philippines (Project FRESH)	Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment, Inc. (TAMPEI)	31/Oct
	Myanmar	Community Climate Adaptation for Local Infrastructure	Doh Eain	31/Oct
	Sri Lanka	Cloud Forest Restoration at Bopaththalawa, Central highlands of Sri Lanka	Earthlanka Youth Network	02/Nov
	India	Climate Change, Women with Disabilities, Invisibility and Networking Response (ccwdinr)	Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation centre	30/Oct
Africa	Kenya	Exploring "Community Responsive Adaptation" to flooding in Kenya and regional cities	Kounkuey Design Initiative Inc.	31/Oct
	Madagascar	Unpacking the needs of Boeny coastal cities for adapting to climate change and building resilience	Tanjona Association	02/Nov
	Ethiopia	Women Empowerment and Local Climate Adaptation through Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)	New Millennium Women Empowerment Organization (NMWEO)	03/Nov
	Ghana	You Sustain (Sustaining Sub-Saharan African Cities Through Youth Leadership)	Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO)	03/Nov
	Zambia	Exploring Farmer Managed Seed Systems as an adaptation method	Women's Life and Wellness Foundation - WLWF	29/Oct
Latin America and the Caribbean	Uruguay	Perceptions and actions to reduce the impact of floods on the community of Durazno, Uruguay.	Vida Silvestre Uruguay	16/Oct
		Co-researching climate change adaptation opportunities in Uruguay's artisanal fishing sector	South American Institute for Studies on Resilience and Sustainability (SARAS)	01/Nov

	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	06/Nov
	Colombia	Building resilience with people and nature: from an ecosystem based adaptation approach	ICLEI Colombia	29/Oct
	Argentina	Incorporation of the climate perspective into community strategies.	Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO)	17/Oct
	Chile	Local Urban Planning for Climate Change Adaptation in Chile.	ICLEI Argentina	23/Oct

## Annex 7: List of attendees of the Learning Workshops

### English session

Name	Organization	Country
Muhammad Abdur Rahaman	New Millennium Women Empowerment Organization (NMWEO)	Bangladesh
Khalid Md. Bahauddin	Institute of Sustainable Innovation for Communities - ISIC	Bangladesh
Abdrohman Ebrahim	New Millennium Women Empowerment Organization (NMWEO)	Ethiopia
Tesfaye Zewdu	New Millennium Women Empowerment Organization (NMWEO)	Ethiopia
Asha Hans	Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation centre	India
Reena Mohanty	Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation centre	India
Aprajita Singh	Gujarat Mahila Housing SEWA Trust	India
Allan Ouko	Kounkuey Design Initiative Inc.	Kenya
RAZANAJATOVO Kanto Ingotiana	Tanjona Association	Madagascar
Felix Khoviwa	Centre for Community Organisation and Development (CCODE)	Malawi
Cho Cho Shwe	Doh Eain	Myanmar
Dr Cynthia Nwobodo	Society for Climate Action in Nigeria (SCAN)	Nigeria
Dr Uche Chima	Society for Climate Action in Nigeria (SCAN)	Nigeria
Roberta G. Sison	Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment, Inc. (TAMPEI)	Philippines
Sherilyn Fenete	Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment, Inc. (TAMPEI)	Philippines
Ruel Orcajada	Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment, Inc. (TAMPEI)	Philippines
Katrina Ceballos	St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine	Philippines
Sudarsha De Silva	Earthlanka Youth Network	Sri Lanka
Palinda Perera	Earthlanka Youth Network	Sri Lanka
Natasha Sakala	Women's Life and Wellness Foundation - WLWF	Zambia
Pakamas Thinphanga	Songkhla Community Foundation (SCF)	Thailand
Ananya Bhatia		
Matthew James		
Jesse de Maria-Kinney	ARA	

## Spanish session

Name	Organization	Country
Diego Soria	Asociación Civil APU KUNTUR	Argentina
María Cecilia Eynard	Asociación Civil APU KUNTUR	Argentina
Maria Jose Pacha	Asociación Civil APU KUNTUR	Argentina
Sol Saliva	FLACSO Argentina	Argentina
Rocio Pascual	Asociación Civil ICLEI Argentina	Chile
Andrea Niampira	ICLEI Colombia	Colombia
Carlos Rey	ICLEI Colombia	Colombia
Catalina Montoya	ICLEI Colombia	Colombia
Melissa Velazquez	ICLEI Colombia	Colombia
Jonathan Lewis	Centre d'Innovation Technologique et d'Entrepreneuriat (CITE)	Haiti
Kindy Vereus	Centre d'Innovation Technologique et d'Entrepreneuriat (CITE)	Haiti
Julissa Briceño	Fundación VIDA Hondureña de Ambiente y Desarrollo VIDA	Honduras
Olga Servellon	Fundación VIDA Hondureña de Ambiente y Desarrollo VIDA	Honduras
Jayati Chourey	SaciWATERs	India
Judith Judith	SaciWATERs	India
Elizabeth Nyibol Deng	HDC Africa	Sudán
Anahir Cenoz	Amigos del Viento meteorología ambiente desarrollo	Uruguay
Gastón Cingia	Vida Silvestre Uruguay	Uruguay
Graciela Salaberri	Amigos del Viento meteorología ambiente desarrollo	Uruguay
Luisa Galindo	Instituto Sudamericano para Estudios sobre Resiliencia y Sostenibilidad (SARAS)	Uruguay
Micaela Trimble	Instituto Sudamericano para Estudios sobre Resiliencia y Sostenibilidad (SARAS)	Uruguay
Sofia Cortizas	Vida Silvestre Uruguay	Uruguay
David Thon		
Florencia Diano Borghini		
Sydney church	ARA	
Jesse de Maria-Kinney	ARA	

## Annex 8: Progress overview per project

		Engagement of affected community	Workshops, trainings, awareness raising, learning exchanges, meetings	Knowledge co-production with the primary stakeholders	Co-production of adequate adaptation measures	Research-oriented piloting of adaptation measures	Knowledge products	Advocacy and policy recommendations	Other
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Women Empowerment and Local Climate Adaptation through Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)		■ ■ ■				■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	
<b>Ghana</b>	You Sustain (Sustaining Sub-Saharan African Cities Through Youth Leadership)	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■						
<b>Kenya</b>	Exploring "Community Responsive Adaptation" to flooding in Kenya and regional cities	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■						
<b>Madagascar</b>	Unpacking the needs of Boeny coastal cities for adapting to climate change and building resilience	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■			■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	
<b>Malawi</b>	City-level Climate Information and Citizen Resilience and Adaptation Actions in Informal Settlements of Lilongwe	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■				■ ■ ■		
<b>Nigeria</b>	Strengthening Rural Women resilience to climate change through targeted advisory service and knowledge building	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	
<b>Somalia</b>	Enhancing Inclusive Community Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change induced shocks in Somalia	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■			■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■
<b>South Sudan</b>	Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to adapt with Climate Change in Jonglei state-South Sudan	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	
<b>Zambia</b>	Exploring Farmer Managed Seed Systems as an adaptation method	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■		■ ■ ■			■ ■ ■	
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Community adaptation to climate change through diverse and sustainable livelihood portfolios of nature-based enterprises	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■		■ ■ ■		■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Piloting and knowledge co-creation on nature-based solution to protect wave erosion in haor areas of Bangladesh	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■			■ ■ ■		
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Saving Mothers, Protecting the Womb	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	
<b>India</b>	Supporting India's national disaster management guidelines by developing community led templates for managing urban flood	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■		
<b>India</b>	Finding Adaptation solutions to Menstrual Health Risks induced by Climate change through knowledge cocreation	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■			

		Engagement of affected community	Workshops, trainings, awareness raising, learning exchanges, meetings	Knowledge co-production with the primary stakeholders	Co-production of adequate adaptation measures	Research-oriented piloting of adaptation measures	Knowledge products	Advocacy and policy recommendations	Other
<b>India</b>	Climate Change, Women with Disabilities, Invisibility and Networking Response	all	all	all			all	all	
<b>Myanmar</b>	Climate Adaptation Championship (Community-Led Climate Adaptation Research)	all	all	all	all		all		
<b>Philippines</b>	Building climate-resilient health systems in the Philippines	all	all			all		all	
<b>Philippines</b>	Project FRESH: Flood Risk, Environmental Sanitation and Health Research in Riverine Communities in Iloilo, Philippines	all		all	all	all			
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Cloud Forest Restoration at Bopaththalawa, Central highlands of Sri Lanka	all	all	all	all	all	all	all	
<b>Thailand</b>	Engagement of vulnerable and marginalised coastal communities for empowerment and climate adaptation	all	all	all	all		all	all	
<b>Argentina</b>	Incorporación de la perspectiva climática en las estrategias comunitarias	all	all	all	all				
<b>Argentina</b>	Donde hubo fuego, habrá bosques. Soluciones basadas en la naturaleza para adaptación en bosques de montaña	all	all	all					
<b>Brazil</b>	Autonomy, Sustainability and Peoples' Buen Vivir: catalysing the power of community-led adaptation and nature-based alternatives in the Atlantic Rainforest, Brazil	all	all	all	all		all		
<b>Chile</b>	La Planificación urbana local de la adaptación al Cambio Climático en Chile.	all	all	all			all	all	all
<b>Colombia</b>	Construyendo resiliencia con las personas y la naturaleza desde un enfoque de Adaptación basada en Ecosistemas	all	all	all	all	all	all	all	
<b>Haiti</b>	Building strong and sustainable communities for girls at Dame Marie, Grand Anse Department.	all	all	all	all		all		
<b>Honduras</b>	Gobernanza hídrica local complejidad institucional y operativa de Juntas Administradoras de Agua (JAA) en Honduras.	all	all	all	all				
<b>Uruguay</b>	Percepciones y acciones para reducir el impacto de inundaciones sobre la comunidad de Durazno, Uruguay	all	all	all	all		all		all
<b>Uruguay</b>	Co-researching climate change adaptation opportunities in Uruguay's artisanal fishing sector	all	all	all	all	all	all		
<b>Uruguay</b>	"San Jacinto se prepara. Liderazgo local y resiliencia comunitaria ante un Impacto Global: la escasez de agua"	all	all		all	all			

## Annex 9: Beneficiaries impacted by the micro-grants

Country	Project	Community	Research organisations	Grassroots organisations	Ecosystems	Government	Private business/private sector	Other
Kenya	Exploring "Community Responsive Adaptation" to flooding in Kenya and regional cities	✓	✓					
Somalia	Enhancing Inclusive Community Resilience and Adaptation to Climate change induced shocks in Somalia Project	✓	✓					
Nigeria	Strengthening Rural Women resilience to climate change through targeted advisory service and knowledge building	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Zimbabwe	Community adaptation to climate change through diverse and sustainable livelihood portfolios of nature-based enterprises (NBEs)	✓						
Madagascar	Unpacking the needs of Boeny coastal cities for adapting to climate change and building resilience	✓				✓		
Ethiopia	Women Empowerment and Local Climate Adaptation Through Climate Smart Agriculture	✓		✓				
Ghana	YouSustain Conference	✓	✓				✓	✓
Zambia	Interrogating Farmer managed seed as an adaptation strategy	✓						
South Sudan	Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to adapt with Climate Change in Jonglei state-South Sudan	✓						
Malawi	City-level Climate Information and Citizen Resilience and Adaptation Actions in Informal Settlements of Lilongwe	✓		✓		✓		
Philippines	Building climate-resilient health systems in the Philippines	✓	✓			✓		
Bangladesh	Piloting and knowledge co-creation on nature-based solution to protect wave erosion in haor areas of Bangladesh	✓		✓	✓			
Myanmar	Climate Adaptation Championship (Community-Led Climate Adaptation Research)	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Sri Lanka	Cloud Forest Restoration at Bopaththalawa, Central highlands of Sri Lanka	✓						

Country	Project	Community	Research organisations	Grassroots organisations	Ecosystems	Government	Private business/private sector	Other
India	Supporting India's national disaster management guidelines by developing community led templates for managing urban flood	✓	✓	✓		✓		
India	Finding Adaptation solutions to Menstrual Health Risks induced by Climate change through knowledge cocreation	✓	✓	✓				
India	Climate Change, Women with Disabilities, Invisibility and Networking Response	✓		✓				
Bangladesh	Saving Mothers, Protecting the Womb	✓	✓	✓				
Philippines	Project FRESH: Flood Risk, Environmental Sanitation and Health Research in Riverine Communities in Iloilo, Philippines	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Thailand	Engagement of vulnerable and marginalised coastal communities for empowerment and climate adaptation	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Uruguay	Perceptions and actions to reduce the impact of floods on the community of Durazno, Uruguay.		✓					
Brazil	Autonomy, Sustainability and Peoples' Buen Vivir: catalysing the power of community-led adaptation and nature-based alternatives in the Atlantic Rainforest, Brazil	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Uruguay	Co-researching climate change adaptation opportunities in Uruguay's artisanal fishing sector	✓						
Colombia	Building resilience with people and nature: from an ecosystem based adaptation approach		✓			✓	✓	
Honduras	Local water governance: institutional and operational complexity of Water Management Boards (JAA) in Honduras.	✓		✓				
Argentina	Incorporation of the climate perspective into community strategies.	✓	✓					
Haiti	Building strong and sustainable communities for girls at Dame Marie, Grand'Anse Department	✓		✓				
Chile	Local Urban Planning for Climate Change Adaptation in Chile.					✓		
Argentina	Donde hubo fuego, habrá bosques. Soluciones basadas en la naturaleza para adaptación en bosques de montaña	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Uruguay	San Jacinto prepares itself. Local Leadership and Community Resilience towards a Global Impact: Water Scarcity	✓	✓					