



Gender Transformation & Empowerment



**UWONET**

Annual Report 2020

*The Uganda Women's  
Movement is alive & well.*





# UWONET

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*THE UGANDA WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IS ALIVE & WELL.*

# UWONET STRATEGY

## Vision

A Ugandan society free from gender discrimination.

## Mission

To transform the unequal gender relations through collective visioning and action.

## Core Values

**Unity in Diversity:** We acknowledge respect and celebrate diversity in the Women's Movement and strive to achieve unity amongst women and organizations and with likeminded actors.

**Women's dignity:** We recognize, respect, promote and protect women's inherent sense of self-worth and self-respect.

**Justice:** We uphold the principle of fairness in our operations and relations and we are opposed to discrimination.

**Equality:** In pursuing our endeavor, we treat men and women equally, without gender discrimination and we strive for the elimination of all forms of unequal relations.

**Accountability:** We hold ourselves accountable to go to the highest level of ethical behavior and responsibility in our actions, while mindful of integrity in our performance.

## The Theory of Change

UWONET believes that when women work collectively with a common vision and collective voice then transformation begins to happen. the enhancement of women's movement and employment of women and girls is central for this transformation. it will require a functional, fully operational, re-sourced, efficient organization that can adequately address the needs of her membership and the movement. that will result into promoting gender discrimination. Women and girls will know their rights, have voice and ability to act against gender discrimination and live a dignified life.

This will also increase the numbers and influence of women leaders across the sectors; the women's movement will influence the enforcement of gender responsive laws and policies; increased accessibility and affordability of public services including justice, employment opportunities, sexual and reproductive health, and improved working relations and support from Government and donors. Ultimately this will be achieved through building agency, capacity development , resource mobilization, deepening strategic engagement of stakeholders, advocacy for improved operating environment, collective visioning and action.

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## ACRONYMS

|                 |                                                         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ANT</b>      | Alliance For National Transformation                    |
| <b>CDO</b>      | Community Development Officer                           |
| <b>COVID-19</b> | Corona Virus                                            |
| <b>ECCD</b>     | Early Childhood Care Development's                      |
| <b>FDC</b>      | Forum For Democratic Change                             |
| <b>GEWE</b>     | Gender Equality and Women Empowerment                   |
| <b>IGG</b>      | Inspector General of Government                         |
| <b>LC</b>       | Local Council                                           |
| <b>LDU</b>      | Local Defence Unit                                      |
| <b>MP</b>       | Member of Parliament                                    |
| <b>NARWO</b>    | National Association of Women's Organizations in Uganda |
| <b>NDP</b>      | National Development Plan                               |
| <b>NRM</b>      | National Resistance Movement                            |
| <b>NUP</b>      | National Unity Platform                                 |
| <b>PSFU</b>     | Private Sector Foundation Uganda                        |
| <b>SACCO</b>    | Savings And Credit Co-Operatives                        |
| <b>SGBV</b>     | Sexual Gender Based Violence                            |
| <b>UCDW</b>     | Unpaid Care and Domestic Care                           |
| <b>UN</b>       | United Nations                                          |
| <b>UPC</b>      | Uganda People's Congress                                |
| <b>UWONET</b>   | Uganda Women's Network                                  |
| <b>UWOPA</b>    | Uganda Women's Parliamentary Association                |
| <b>VAW/G</b>    | Violence Against Women and Girls                        |
| <b>WORUDET</b>  | Women And Rural Development Network                     |

## STRONGER AND MORE STRATEGIC ADVOCACY.

### Word from the Executive Director-UWONET.



Dear sisters, friends and allies,

You will agree with me that 2020 was a year like no other. It was a year of great victories for us as a Network, and equally great challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic cast upon us unprecedented challenges that kept us all on our feet and compelled us to think out of the box. It revealed fundamental cracks in our system, brought inequality within and between communities into sharp relief, and severely tested our resilience as individuals, a nation and as an international community.

As a Civil Society Organisation, the pandemic brought several uncertainties and challenges in the implementation of our projects and our entire way of working. The preventive measures to control the spread adopted by the Government, including the national lock down and outlawing mass gatherings and events brought our work to a near standstill. This challenge was compounded by the shrinking civic space for women organizations to fully engage with communities.

Despite the crisis, there was a rare opportunity to rebuild in a way that creates new paradigms and values. A way that cares for all members of our society equally. COVID-19 also brought the much needed visibility and new recognition to the essential

***“The COVID -19 crisis gave us a rare opportunity to rebuild in a way that creates new paradigms and values”.***



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roles that women play in our social, political and economic systems as frontline healthcare workers, trusted leaders, and household masterminds through the care and unpaid work that sustained homes, communities and to a large extent the national economy.

It is my earnest hope that this new recognition of how essential women are to our country and economy is reflected in major shifts in the way our country treats women. That is; putting more women in leadership positions, providing women with equal pay for equal work, and making key investments in critical sectors and a gender-responsive national care system so that no one is forced to choose between their job and their family.

I also hope women will in new ways put themselves at the forefront of the recovery process and push for bold, transformative policies that will fundamentally reshape the way we work and live. Coupled with the challenge of the pandemic, UWONET found herself in the middle of unimaginable controversy which also affected its Bank accounts and access to funds, for a period of close to 4 months which situation was however later on reversed. It had untold impact on the institution as a whole especially the programs.

For UWONET, 2020 laid the foundation for stronger advocacy, new strategic organising and an opportunity to reorganise and reposition the Network to ensure that we advocate for the full breadth of issues that concern women and girls in Uganda.

Through this Annual report, we share some of our most significant moments, impact and lessons learned. Special thanks go to our board members, member organisations and individuals, Government partners, MDAs and allies and allies for the sustained support in our collective quest to build a Uganda free from gender discrimination.

In a very special way I would like to thank the UWONET secretariat staff and all who stood by us in the most trying times. Stronger we have been because of you all. Thank you all

United Women Can!

**Rita. H. Aciro-Lakor**

Executive Director-UWONET.

# WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEFINE A NEW AND INCLUSIVE FUTURE. WE MUST NOT LET IT SLIP BY.

## Remarks from the Board Chairperson-UWONET

Dear sisters, Members, Partners and Allies,



Since 1993 the fundamental belief that gender equality is a national imperative – not just for the betterment of the individual but for the health of our nation— has been at the centre of UWONET’s work. While we have never wavered in our commitment to this premise, 2020 has highlighted the urgency in dismantling systems of oppression that entrench gender inequality such as the 25th year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action that addresses gender equality and the empowerment of all women, everywhere.

For the past months, the world has been fundamentally altered by COVID-19. While the pandemic has left no person or country untouched, it is clear that women and girls have carried a disproportionate burden of the virus’s fallout. From rise in sex trafficking in to spiralling rates of sexual violence, to an increase in teen pregnancy and child marriage, it is clear that COVID-19 is a deeply gendered crisis. While these trends are shocking, it is important to remember that coronavirus did not create these harmful practices—it simply exacerbated them.

Long before the world knew what the coronavirus was, women and girls faced structural and systematic gender-based oppression. While child marriage has risen during the pandemic, the virus did not create societal conditions that judged a girl’s worth on her ability to be a wife.



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While domestic care-workers have been unable to receive paid sick leave, it did not create an economy that devalued reproductive labour. While government relief packages have excluded refugees, women in the informal sector and those living in rural areas, it did not create political institutions that preferenced the powerful and privileged at the expense of the marginalized. But what it did do, was force the world to acknowledge that women and girls continue to face both sex and gender-based discrimination.

The world will never be the same, and while it is difficult to see silver-linings, we can look to the future with hope. We have an opportunity to define a new and inclusive future and we must not let it slip by. Now is the time to build a world we want to live in – an equal world that works for our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, our friends, our communities.

2021 must be the year we change the game and embed equality in the running of our society once and for all. In doing so, we can ensure that women's rights cannot be trampled on by political trends and that every woman is represented and protected.

The good news is that we are not starting from scratch. Our foremothers have been doing this work for centuries and activists have been carrying on their work in every corner of the world. We are here, standing firm. Now is the time to join together and build on this legacy to create a more equal future.

For God and my Country.

**Hon. Tezira Jamwa**

Chairperson Board of Directors

# A REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

2020 was projected to be an auspicious year for women's rights and gender equality. It marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – the most progressive global blueprint for advancing women's rights, and 5 years of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Because of these milestones, it was dubbed the pivotal year for accelerating action for the realisation of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Unfortunately, what was predicted to be a year of accelerating action for gender equality quickly turned into the year where we had to work around the clock to safeguard gains towards gender equality from imminent reversal.

Two key dynamics shaped the environment in which we worked in 2020; The COVID-19 pandemic and the Election Mania preceding the 2021 General Elections.

## IMPLEMENTATION CONTEXT

### COVID-19 Pandemic

In different ways the COVID-19 Pandemic affected the implementation of development projects not only globally but also nationally and of which UWONET was no exception. As UWONET, the pandemic brought several uncertainties and challenges in the implementation of projects and affected the entire way of operation and working. The preventive measures adopted by Government to control the spread, including the national lock down and outlawing mass gatherings and events for example, brought our work to a near standstill however, this also created opportunity to find a new model of operation-working off site.

On the contrary, the issues that the Network worked on did not pause for the pandemic. As a matter of fact, they were heightened by the crisis. COVID-19 overlapped with already existing social-economic inequalities to aggravate the manifold social injustices, faced by women and girls. As public spaces closed, the pandemic turned back the clock on gender equality and women's empowerment. During the lockdown, record numbers of women and girls reported heavier care and domestic responsibilities, increased levels of sexual and domestic violence, online harassment and a spike in harmful traditional practices such as child marriages, forced marriages and female Genital Mutilation. Economic losses due to the lockdown further exposed women and girls to increased job insecurity and extreme forms of violence. Women in the informal sector became the face of violence during the prolonged COVID-19 lockdown.



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COVID-19's impact on our democracy was also far-reaching. The pandemic strained our democracy to a near breaking point. The pandemic compelled urgent political repositioning which saw media adopted as the primary mode of electioneering, with a prohibition of public campaigns. The 'digitalization of elections' combined with pre-existing inequalities to unduly disenfranchise women and youth from participating in elections, both as voters and candidates. While more women took to the digital space to connect with their constituents amidst the pandemic, they were faced with heightened cyberbullying. There was also push back against civil society, which led to a narrowing civic space.

These challenges notwithstanding, our resolve was strengthened, and our impact was manifest at all levels – from the subnational, to National and International levels, we made women's voices heard and their concerns visible.

The challenges UWONET experienced with the inability to access funds through her Bank Accounts affected our work, membership, and the staff in various ways such as psychologically and affected UWONET's image in public. Despite all these hindrances, the network pushed on with actions challenging negative social norms, practices and structures (in the political, social and economic) in the quest for women's rights and gender equality.

This report attempts to capture UWONET's story over the last year (2000). It provides insights into how UWONET, her members and partners overcame systemic impediments to push boundaries and chart a new course for gender equality and women's empowerment in Uganda through; deliberate investments in gender responsive policy advocacy, targeted technical trainings, deepening strategic engagement of stakeholders, strengthening coordination of the women's movement, networking, institutional capacity development and much more. This is our story.



*The Launch of African Women leaders Network (AWLN) Uganda chapter on 28th February 2020.*

## **PUTTING WOMEN LEFT, RIGHT AND CENTRE: OUR APPROACH TO WORK.**

### **Who we are:**

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) is an advocacy and lobbying coalition of 21 National Women's Rights Organisations, Professional Bodies, institutions and 9 individual members. The network exists to coordinate collective action among women's rights and gender equality stakeholders for the attainment of gender equality and equity in Uganda. Our vision is a Ugandan society free from gender discrimination, and our mission is to transform the unequal gender relations through collective visioning and action.

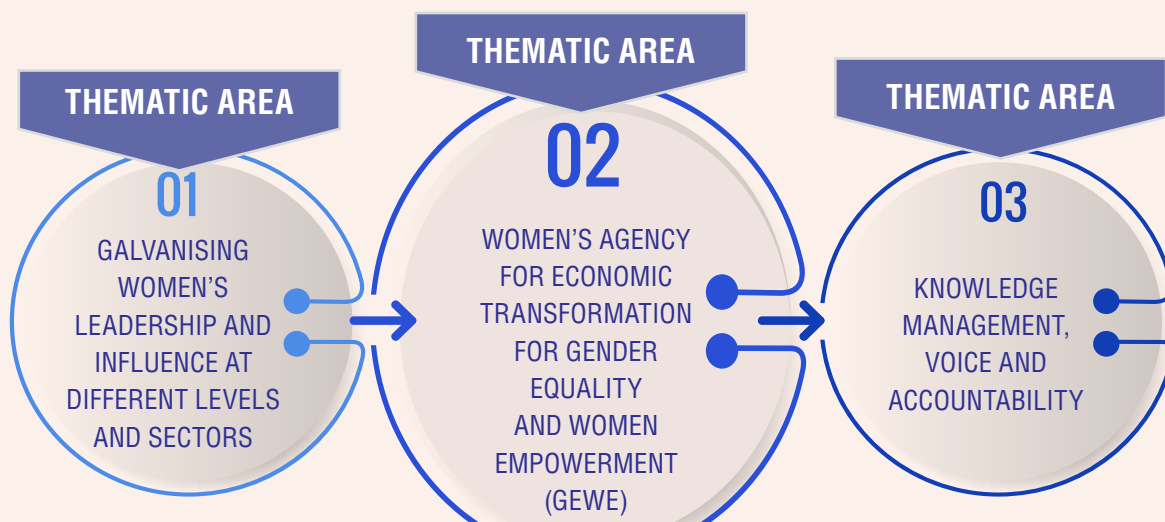
UWONET believes that gender inequality and the marginalisation of the needs, roles and potential of women and girls are key factors limiting advances in sustainable development outcomes for all. We believe that transforming gender and power relations, and the structures, norms and values that reinforce them, is critical to ending poverty and challenging inequality. We further believe that women taking control and taking collective action are the key drivers of sustained improvements in women's rights, UWONET works with all regardless of education, social status, gender and political affiliations. and are a powerful force to sustainable development not only for women and girls, but for all.

Our work is therefore focused on confronting and transforming prevailing negative social norms that reinforce the exclusion and abuse of women and girls through policy advocacy, enhancement of the women's movement and strengthening resilience and agency of women and girls to stand up and demand for their rights. We put women and girls at the centre of all that we do. Whether we are responding to emergencies, working on long terms projects with communities, or campaigning for lasting change, we tackle inequality and deep-seated discrimination that keep women at a disadvantage. We work closely with women's rights organisations at International, National and Sub National levels as partners and allies in order to address gender inequality effectively.

Notably, we understand that attaining gender equality requires multi-stakeholder commitments and engagement. We therefore work through strategic partnerships and collaboration with key actors in the Public, Civil Society and Private Sectors to build a united front for women's rights and gender equality. We also work with relevant government line ministries, departments and agencies, including; the National Planning Authority, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Parliament of Uganda, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Equal Opportunities Commission as well as, the Justice, Law and Order Sector, development partners, and district women networks.

*We put women and girls at the centre of all that we do. Whether we are responding to emergencies, working on long terms projects with communities, or campaigning for lasting change, we tackle inequality and deep-seated discrimination that keep women at a disadvantage.*

## UWONET WORK THEMATIC AREAS



## 6

## Strategic Objectives

- ➔ To coordinate strategic and programmatic actions that promote women's participation and influence in leadership and decision making in politics, civil service, private sector and selected civil society by 2023.
- ➔ To strengthen the capacity of UWONET's membership and the district women's networks for strategic, programmatic and administrative interventions by 2023.
- ➔ To strengthen UWONET's institutional capacity for strategic, programmatic and administrative interventions by 2023.
- ➔ To enhance collaboration and women's capacity to influence actions to advance economic reforms to promote GEWE by 2023.
- ➔ To challenge the negative cultural practices and advocate for the enforcement of laws and processes that protect women's rights and access to justice.
- ➔ To enhance networking and information sharing amongst stakeholders through women's spaces.



*The steering committee members of the WSR during the Launch of the 2020/2021 Women's situation Room in the month of October 2020*

## **THEMATIC AREA 1: GALVANIZING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND INFLUENCE AT DIFFERENT LEVEL AND SECTORS**

### **Objective 1.1**

To coordinate strategic and programmatic actions that promote women's participation and influence in leadership and decision making in politics, civil service, private sector and selected civil society by 2023.

### **Objective 1.2**

To strengthen the capacity of UWONET's membership and the district women's networks for strategic, programmatic and administrative interventions by 2023.

### **Objective 1.3**

To strengthen UWONET's institutional capacity for strategic, programmatic and administrative interventions by 2023.

## KEY ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

### Promoting inclusive political parties

As part of our commitment to influence women's leadership in politics, we engaged the leadership of all Political parties on the need to promote genuine internal democracy through institutionalizing comprehensive gender equality policies within their various political parties.



We also provided technical guidance and key considerations for developing political party manifestos, gender sensitive policies, plans and strategies to address thematic areas essential for the promotion of women rights and advancement of gender equality within political parties; This included leadership formation, internal decision making, internal oversight and institutional development, candidate

recruitment, party programmes and platform development, outreach to voters and campaigns.

We further enjoined the political parties to develop plans and strategies to support equal and effective participation of women in the 2020/21 general elections, and to prioritize specific concerns of women in their political party manifestos.



*UWONET ED, Rita. H. Aciro-Lakor takes more than 2000 women leaders from the NRM Women's League through a training on Women's Movement Building and gender responsive leadership in in political parties, Mbale March 2020.*

## Centering women's interests in politics through the National Women's Manifesto

Through national consultations, UWONET developed the National Women's Manifesto (2021-2026) themed "Her Voice, Your Mandate" to bring to the fore women's demands based on priority gender issues that continue to impede women of Uganda from attaining full dignity and equality with men in all spheres of life. The women's manifesto is a political and advocacy document that sets out the concerns of women in Uganda and the demands for accountability by political parties and elected leaders as custodians of public affairs and resources.



*Dr. Miria Rukoza  
Koburunga Matembe  
during the validation  
of the Women's  
Manifesto (Hotel  
Africana)*

From all the consultations, it emerged that the issues women raised and for which they demanded action and accountability in 2016 notably; women's health, land and property rights, education, economic empowerment and participation in decision making are still the priority matters of concern and distress. The persistence of the same issues equally points to the deep seated systemic, social and cultural impediments that women face in the quest for gender equity and equality. Worth noting is the dynamics of issues central to the advancement of the rights and welfare of women in Uganda which continue to evolve overtime based on a range of factors and most recently compounded with the advent of covid-19. While the broader issues cited by the women of Uganda as hindrances to their advancement are similar as those stated in 2016, the dynamics have changed hence the order of priority under each issue differ. This manifesto therefore focuses on the salient issues under each issue.

It sets out 5 critical areas of concern which are; women's health and wellbeing; equitable and quality education for women and girls'; women, work and economic agency; women, leadership and decision making; women, land and property rights. And cross cutting issues as catalysts of the five priority issues, including; women's access to information, communication and technology (ICT); negative social norms and cultural practices; climate change; corruption; and peace and security.

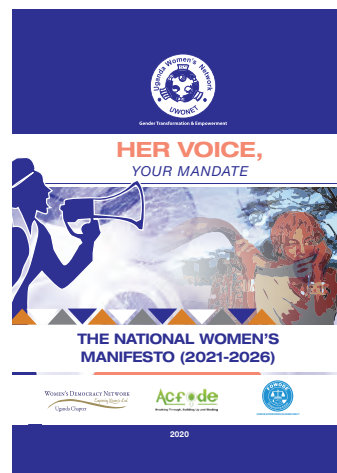
The manifesto will help political leaders particularly to: identify gender-based inequalities as a major inhibitor to equal participation; provide a clear and coherent direction and policy

measures for promoting gender equality in Uganda; integrate gender equality into the vision and strategic missions and plans of political parties and government; and establish measurable gender equality targets and implementation mechanisms to strengthen accountability on gender equality and women empowerment.

The main issues picked up were with regards to supporting female candidates aspiring for elective positions, capacity building for the female candidates and leaders. UWONET will conduct reflection spaces for the political parties as a follow up mechanism and an assessment of the implementation of issues in the women's manifesto 2021-2026 will be conducted.

### Strengthening competence of female candidates ahead of 2021 elections for elective positions

In 2020, UWONET galvanised her commitment towards increasing women's equal participation and influence in leadership. In the lead up to the 2021 Electoral processes, UWONET and members had 6000 potential women candidates from different political parties including; National Resistance Movement (NRM), Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), National Unity Platform (NUP), Uganda People's Congress (UPC), Alliance for National Transformation (ANT), Democratic Party (DP), and those who identified as independents. The potential women candidates were aspiring for political positions at Local Council III, V and Parliamentary levels. Out of the initial 6000, UWONET and members strengthened the competence of 5697 female candidates on how to manage campaigns in order to win elections. On average 68% of the trained candidates won elective positions.



*Training of Women Leaders  
in Kotido District*



*Training of Women Leaders  
in Agago District*

## Testimonies shared by participants during the training of women leaders ahead of 2021 Elections for Elective Positions.

### TESTIMONIES

"The trainers have opened my eyes on what I am supposed to do as a candidate".  
Aspirant - **Zombo District.**

"Thank you UWONET for the knowledge you have given us, I have learnt how to conduct issue-based campaigns, Thank you very very much". Aspirant LCIII level - Mpigi district.

"The training has been very informative and has gone a long way in boosting my confidence and competence as a woman leader. Bravo and God Bless You UWONET" – Aspirant for Woman Member of Parliament - Namutumba District.

"The training was so good to all women candidates whether new in system or not. It has strengthened women in successful campaigning".  
Aspirant at LCV level - Namutumba District.



Training of Women leaders in Amudat District

"Me I am happy and now equipped with all skills of looking for votes even when I don't have a lot of money. Thank you UWONET".  
Aspirant LCV level - Luweero District.

I thank the organization (UWONET) for organizing such a workshop, I feel am more empowered and now I do not fear elections and contesting on any post".  
Aspirant LCV level - Mpigi district.

## Enhanced Influence of Women Leaders for gender responsive service delivery

Besides strengthening competence of aspiring women candidates from all political parties and independent, targeted capacity development and peer learning programs were organized for women leaders holding leadership positions at Local Government level and Women Caucuses. These aimed to equip women leaders with knowledge and the skill set to effectively influence and advocate on the matters of policy / legislature and resource allocation for gender responsiveness and participating meaningfully in every facet of civic and political life.

The post training assessments revealed that through the trainings, women learnt how to question women's entitlements in the development projects of the districts like roads, water sources etc. With the capacity development and peer learning sessions, women leaders through the District and Sub County Women Caucuses have influenced budget / resource allocations for gender responsiveness in service delivery. Resolutions, ordinances and bye laws on child protection, Education, economic, infrastructure and health service delivery were also passed.

**“In a bid to address the issue of high school drop out of girls and Gender Based Violence, with the knowledge attained as women leaders in Lolwe Sub County we influenced and passed a bye law banning a traditional practice of a “Crocodile dance” as a means of ensuring better education service delivery in the Sub County. The practice was encouraging defilement”. Woman Councilor, Namayingo District.**

**“5 delivery beds for women living with disability were purchased for Alwa Health Center III. As the Women’s Caucus we shared with the Health Committee of the district on the situation at the facility following a monitoring visit conducted”. Woman Leader, Kaberamaido District.**

## Pushing for democracy, transparency and accountability during COVID-19

UWONET together with sister organizations urged the Electoral Commission to seek practicable solutions to ensure inclusivity of the proposed election roadmap, taking into consideration the gender, rural-urban and age dynamics as well as the existing social economic inequalities that hinder equal participation of women, youth and people in rural areas.

Furthermore, UWONET observed the election processes from a gender perspective, a process that started with political party primaries for National Resistance Movement (NRM) and Uganda People's Congress (UPC), nominations by the Electoral Commission and campaigns. UWONET together with other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) raised concerns highlighting emerging issues and the process including lining up as a method of voting which compromise the secrecy of the ballot and caused abstentions.

UWONET also advocated for appointment and meaningful engagement of more women leaders in the COVID-19 response and recovery process. While women were engaged on the frontline of healthcare delivery and other service providers, they remained under-represented in the political decision-making processes influencing pandemic management. UWONET engaged the National Response Fund to Covid-19 and District Task Forces on COVID-19 on the specific impacts of lack of transparency and accountability on women and girl's access to basic services such as food, shelter, family planning, health and education.

## Women movement building platform for effective leadership

UWONET provided women's movement building platforms, dialogues and organized at district and national level and targeted women in elective positions and women in the public sector. Ways and strategies for enhancing effective participation of women and youth in the 2021 general election process amidst COVID-19 pandemic were explored. Guidelines on the electoral process from the Electoral Commission were also discussed. In a bid to strengthen the women's movement in Uganda, UWONET also created a platform for women in the public sector and stakeholders reflected on challenges faced by women and best practices. Defined and agreed on strategies for improving women's participation in leadership in the public sector.

## Coping with New Methods to reach out to women

UWONET in partnership with the US Embassy Uganda office held a virtual dialogue via zoom and Facebook live under the theme: "Power Parity: Getting to a New Normal in Political Representation in Uganda. The speakers for the dialogue were: Nicholas Opio: Executive Director, Chapter Four Uganda, Sarah Bireete – Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Governance (CCG), Dr. Miria Matembe – Political Analyst, Otim Emmy – Consultant-Regional Manager - Christian Democratic International Centre and moderated by Sandra Komuhiimbo – Coordinator, Knowledge Management Voice and Accountability, Uganda Women's Network.

The engagement was viewed more than 5200 times on Facebook, while it trended on Twitter at numbers.

The second Engagement was held under the theme: “Campaign Strategy for Women Running for Office” This engagement featured one speaker, Dr. Patricia Russo Executive Director of the Women’s Campaign School at Yale University and was moderated by Perry Aritua the Executive Director WDN-Uganda chapter. The event had more than 2400 views on Facebook alone.



## Launch of African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Uganda Chapter

UWONET in partnership with UN WOMEN coordinated and launched the African Women leaders Network (AWLN) Uganda chapter on 28th February 2020. AWLN which was established in 2017, is a ground-breaking movement, initiated and directed by African women leaders under the overall leadership of African Union (AU) Commission Chairperson, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat and the United Nations Deputy Secretary General, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed. AWLN seeks to enhance the leadership of African women and serve as a platform to galvanize women’s leadership in the transformation of the African continent towards lasting peace and sustainable development, across sectors and levels.

The vision of AWLN is in line with the aspirations of the African Union Agenda 2063; and the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030. The initiative is directly facilitated by the office of the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security; and the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in collaboration with representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany based in New York and Addis Ababa.

The Steering Committee was put in place comprised of eminent women of Uganda and UWONET is the interim chair.



*The Launch of AWLN Uganda Chapter*

## Promoting Peaceful elections through the Women's Situation Room

The 2020 Women's Situation Room (WSR) was launched ahead of the 2021 electoral process. In partnership with the Women's International Peace Center (WIPC), UWONET hosted the WSR. The WSR is an early warning and rapid response mechanism aimed at identifying and mitigating election related conflict and violence. The initiative was acknowledged as an effective mechanism for promoting peaceful elections by the United Nations Security Council and the African Union.

*"I congratulate the women and I am confident of the success of AWLN in Uganda; as the country has made tremendous progress on Sustainable Development Goal 5, whose goal is to 'achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls' The United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango*

*"I appreciate the idea of AWLN Chapter in Uganda. Such a forum has potential to facilitate information sharing on how to advance women, especially those who for varied reasons are not able to participate in meetings such as the AWLN Launch. AWLN should amplify the voices of African women leaders at the grassroots."*  
*Honorable Florence Nakiwala Kiyingi, Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs at the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD)*



Through this mechanism, WIPC & UWONET worked closely with the electoral commission towards advocacy for peaceful elections was held through the eminent women of Uganda who engaged the candidates, voters, electoral commission, security operatives among others to ensure peace before, during and after elections. UWONET and other WSR CSO committee members trained election monitors who were facilitated to monitor elections in 35 districts. Physical rooms were set up regionally in Kabale, Arua, Soroti, Gulu, Mbarara and Kampala to monitor and receive election related incidents. This information was shared with the security operatives for response.



*Participants sharing during a stakeholder's meeting on active participation of women and youth on promotion of peaceful elections in Uganda.*



*Training of election observers in Soroti District, Dec 2020.*

A total of 3000 women and youth were identified to promote peaceful and democratic electoral processes and trained to detect and mitigate election related violence across 30 districts in Uganda by UWONET and 11 WSR Committee members<sup>1</sup>. Based on the findings from an assessment conducted on the political context / climate. The initiative promoted the full and active participation of women and youth in ensuring peaceful elections in Uganda.

## Promoted women's movement in the public sector

In 2019, UWONET under the WIPS consortium launched a pilot project targetting women in the public sector. Through this action, UWONET organised capacity building sessions, peer to peer learning sessions and reflection platforms for women in the public sector. As a result of these, there was increased activism and sisterhood in the public sector where women started voicing issues that affect them in public sector with one voice. The targeted beneficiaries in different institutions testify that this pilot project was the first of its kind in the public service and referred to it as an eye opener on gender issues. Testimonies indicated that this was the first gender awareness initiative held so far and as a result there is effort by many women and men who attended the various activities to advocate for gender equality at work place.

***"Am a senior lawyer holding a managerial position but never paid any attention to women's rights, thanks to this project that we can now talk about gender blindness in our institution as women" Opted to remain Unanimous***

<sup>1</sup> Center For Conflict Resolution, Institute for Social Transformation, Women Human Right's Defenders, Women's Democracy Group, Women's International Peace Center,

*“we now understand women’s movement after participating in different activities including the solidarity forum as compared to before when we thought that women’s movement was only for women in Women Rights organisations”* **Opted to remain Unanimous**

## A cohort of male champions built in the public sector.

It is widely recognized that women-only approaches to development have limited impacts on gender relations. In 2020, UWONET selected men holding managerial positions in public sector and trained them on gender and women’s leadership. UWONET also being Cognizant that men are the majority in leadership and decision- making positions in the public sector,



*Mr. Gideon Badagawa, ED-PSFU during the training of male champions*

it is paramount that they are engaged on women’s rights. The purpose of the different engagements with men from the public sector was to ensure that they, (1) Appreciate the role of women’s leadership and identify ways of addressing challenges women face in the public service, (2) Reflect on the role of positive male masculinities in creating a gender sensitive public sector and (3) Champion the role of men in ensuring that the public sector fully supports women leaders. Resultantly, a cohort of male champions who advocate for gender equality in the public sector was developed. This has led to more men advocating for gender equality in the different sectors they work and challenged gender inequalities’ as per the testimonies below.

*William, an administrator from Nwoya testified that gender issues had always been under looked, after our first training as male*

*champions, I shared our learning with the Technical Planning Committee and ensured that the budget for the community development department that deals with gender issues is increased.*

*“As male champions from Gulu district, we can now present issues affecting women in different fora without fear and this is attributed to the training and other activities we have participated in under WIPS Project”*

*“We are now gender sensitive when it comes to recruitment in Gulu district, before the training”.*  
Chairperson District service Commission.



## THEMATIC AREA 2:

### WOMEN'S AGENCY FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

#### Objective 2.1

To enhance collaboration and women's capacity to influence actions to advance economic reforms to promote GEWE by 2023.



## KEY ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

### **We kept the voice of small scale and informal traders alive and visible in public policy formulation.**

UWONET unswervingly worked with Kampala Capital City Council, Commercial Officers, Community Development Officers and Ministry of Trade Industries and Cooperatives to address concerns of women in the informal sector including markets. With IST taking lead to coordinate advocacy for the enactment of the Market bill 2019 to repeal the Market Act 1942, UWONET participated in this process and specifically provided input on gender issues to be considered in the bill such as composition of market committees to include at least a third of women, inclusion of specific committees on gender among others. In addition, UWONET developed a women and trade issue paper to influence gender responsive outcomes of the review process of National Trade Policy 2007. The issue paper provided a quick analysis of women and gender concerns in trade and economic context in Uganda and with recommendations for policy makers to consider during the policy review process and negotiation of trade agreements. The issue paper was shared with the Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC) and from the engagement it was clear that the National Trade Policy review process was halted and the government opted to extend the 2007 trade policy stating that the Policy Actions in the current Policy remained valid and relevant. The MTIC noted that the women and trade issue paper will inform review of implementing instruments of the Trade Policy, i.e. the National Export Development Strategy, and the National Trade Sector Development Plan. In addition, the concerns in the issues paper informed the development of the Women's Manifesto 2021 to 2026 particularly on priority area 3 on Women's Economic Empowerment.

### **We built resilience among women in the informal sector**

To build resilience of women in the informal sector, UWONET trained 32 women farmer and women business groups from Kitgum, Pader, Lamwo and Agago districts to enhance their knowledge and skills on entrepreneurship, improved farming practices, advocacy, gender and women's rights, marketing and strengthening linkages, group formation and governance among others. In total 800 women were reached. The training enabled participants to have a better understanding of the market demands and trends, learn how to apply improved farming production techniques and improve quality of goods and services. Women groups came up with action plans after the training, however, the current context of COVID-19 has greatly affected the businesses. The groups that were not registered with the sub county were taken through the process and encouraged to register because this enhanced their ability to benefit from government economic and wealth creation programs.

UWONET also carried out mentorship sessions in 4 markets of Wandegaya, Kalerwe, Konyopaco and Pabbo main market in Kampala and Amuru districts to enhance knowledge and skills of market women in business diversification and cooperatives in the light of COVID-19 changing business context. As a result of both training and mentorship, the market women have diversified businesses, which has improved their sustainability. For example, in Kalerwe market, a group

of 30 women have ventured into soap making, making of charcoal stoves and briquettes as a way to diversify their sources of earning. During the training, the women were encouraged to diversify into other business ventures to increase their income.

In all the 4 markets, the women have revived or initiated the savings groups as a way of facilitating savings and access to credit. In Kalerwe market, the women are registered and are in process of benefiting from a government economic grant through Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA). In December 2020, Benna Namugwanya, Minister of State for Kampala Capital City Authority together with the Commercial Officer Kawempe division Sarah Namugoya met 2 SACCO groups of market women in Kalerwe market to give them Emyooga funds for borrowing starting with effect from February 2021.

### **Enhanced awareness on the formal referral pathway to justice among market women**

UWONET facilitated an information session for market women in Konypaco and Pabbo main market, Kalerwe and Wandegeya markets in the month of October 2020 on GBV in domestic and public spheres such as the market place and available referral pathways to justice. The training highlighted the need to strengthen communication pathways between the women market vendors and the market owners, for responsive market policies that factor women's safety and security. The women confessed that sexual harassment is common in the market, however, they did not know where to report. "This is usually between the market leaders/ administrators and the vendors. In this case, when the market woman refuses to offer to the demand, she is denied market benefits" market vendors in Kalerwe market reported.

Communication pathway created between the women market vendors and the market owners, which has resulted in responsiveness from the side of the market owners towards the issues raised by the women which has resulted in a better operating environment for the women in markets. This was enhanced by the organized leadership structure among the women market vendors, in addition, being organized has increased their visibility with different private sector actors showing interest to partner with them.

### **Amplifying voices of market women at national level**

A Policy brief was developed titled: 'Surviving in a pandemic economy; First hand experiences of women in the informal economy during the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic'. This policy brief has key recommendations for the government to support women in the informal economy to be able to sustain their businesses in this current context. The concerns in the policy brief were also shared during a national level colloquium for women in the informal sector. In addition, a national colloquium was held under the theme 'the future of women informal traders.' This provided a platform for a results-oriented discussion on how the government can unlock full potential, strengthen resilience and secure the future of women informal traders in Uganda. It also explored strategies to hold the government accountable and accelerate implementation of its commitments in the Beijing Platform for Action, with a particular focus on women and the economy. This colloquium gave visibility to the tales of women in the informal economy

and a call to action. The women shared painful tales of how they survived at the peak of the pandemic up to now. The Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC) noted that the government is looking towards supporting the informal economy actors with initiatives such as the stimulus package, Emyooga fund, Uganda Women Entrepreneurship fund is still running among others. MTIC pledged to continue dialoguing with the women in the informal economy. Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) pledged to support women traders with the different products and programmes that they have, Kalerwe market was the first to benefit.

## **We built capacities of women working in markets to influence decision making processes in the markets for gender responsive operating environment**

A monitoring of service delivery in the markets of Wandegeya, Kalerwe, Konypaco and Pabbo was carried out by selected monitors (women vendors). The focus of the monitoring was on sanitation and hygiene with particular emphasis on the garbage disposal, security, and leadership administration. Kalerwe market reported improved sanitation and hygiene facilities in terms of clean and safe water and use of disinfectants in the latrines. On another note, Kalerwe market reported adequate garbage disposals except that some vendors used them irresponsibly. In terms of security there is the presence of police and security guards and lights in dark corners within the market to ensure property and people within the market are safe. The findings from the monitoring informed the dialogue platforms.

During the implementation of the COVID-19 SOPs in markets, some areas of advocacy by the women market vendors were achieved such as; Market structures were improved especially in Kalerwe market although this came with a higher cost of rent (now they have iron sheet roofs as opposed to the use of umbrella roofs before). In Wandegeya market, at the peak of the total countrywide lockdown water was reconnected to the market after 4 years of no water. The vendors were locked up for a one-day protest as a result of operating without water which was vital for handwashing and as a SOP for preventing COVID-19 and as a result water was released before the end of day.

In addition, in Wandegeya market, the leaders agreed to adjust time for opening and closing the toilets to cater for vendors who would come very early and those who would leave later, and thus agreed to engage the company that manages the tender to adjust to the new time. The Chairperson of Kalerwe market (Kajubi and Muluya markets) agreed to address the issues of limited number of toilets and general poor hygiene.

## **COVID-19 response in the markets**

UWONET further conducted a needs assessment in Kalerwe, Wandegeya, Kony Pacho and Pabbo markets to understand immediate needs for women in terms of protection from COVID-19 and to explore the impact of COVID-19 on women in the informal economy. From the findings it was clear that women needed face masks, sanitizers and soap to keep safe while serving customers in the market. In addition, the findings of the assessment were used to lobby key stakeholders to support women working in the informal sector. UWONET provided the COVID-19

PPEs (customised cloth face masks- 400, sanitizers-15 3litre jerricans and soap, 20 jerricans of liquid soap and 15 cartons of bar soap) to the women market vendors. The women were so appreciative because this will keep them protected in the markets. 'We are so grateful to UWONET for the support provided to us, this will ensure that the women are safe since they interact with customers from various places' Solomy Nakalema Women market leader Kalerwe market.



*Sarah Jesca Agwang  
Programme Coordinator-  
handing out COVID-19 PPEs  
to the vendors in Kalerwe  
market, 2020*

## **We built a collective voice for advocacy on Unpaid Care and Domestic Work (UCDW)**

### **Influencing care work in the National Budget**

An issue paper was developed from the review of the Uganda National Budget Framework paper 2020/2021 from which policy asks related to UCDW were drawn up. The WE CARE project's contribution to the paper highlighted concerns on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), as well as investing in alternative water harvesting techniques which could be used to broaden the scope of water service delivery. Alternatives to piped water were considered as an option to address hurdles related to inaccessibility in hilly terrains. This review was done in collaboration with Civil Society Budget Access Group which heads a group of organizations advocating for citizen-centered responsive budgeting. The paper, which also raises gender concerns, provided evidence for influencing in different platforms, including with legislators and government technocrats for planning and budgeting. The success of the influencing was only determined in June 2021 after the reading of the budget for the FY 2021/2022.

### **Using social media to influence public discourse on Unpaid Care and Domestic Work (UCDW)**

UWONET led efforts to shift public knowledge, narratives and mindsets on Unpaid Care and Domestic Work (UCDW) using social media campaigns under the hashtags #HowIcare and #FreeWomensHands. The campaigns on Twitter and Facebook revealed that there exists a critical mass of the citizenry that is aware of UCDW, its effects on women who shoulder the biggest responsibility, and the need to have it recognized, reduced and redistributed.

557,109 people were reached directly and the campaign garnered 70% positive mentions of unpaid care.

The numerical reach and positive discussion of unpaid care indicates a shift in the willingness of society to openly receive and engage in discussions of a subject that was, and is still quite highly controversial (due to its implications on gender roles and patriarchy). While not immediately quantifiable, this points to a promising mind set and attitudinal change that can only be attributed to community engagement undertaken in the previous phases to grow public knowledge. It also signifies a positive shift in the narrative around unpaid care.

An analysis of the interaction during this campaign pointed to a notable improvement in male involvement as compared to the digital campaign conducted in 2018 under the same hashtag #FreeWomensHands. Male social media users on Twitter and Facebook showed more support for advocacy, and better articulation of issues on UCDW. Of note was the number of personal stories by men about how they share and/or redistribute unpaid care work; there was an improvement from 2018.

## **Building gender responsive and sustainable water management to reduce UCDW**

Women as the major users of water need to be involved in the management of their care roles within a home, it's paramount that they are part of the water management and maintenance committees and they understand their roles and responsibilities. In Kitgum, Pader, Lamwo and Agago, 320 women in the Water User Committees were trained in areas of leadership, management, sanitation and environmental protection. These groups were tasked to monitor the water service delivery in their community, UWONET recruited a cohort of community watchdogs that are supported to move around to monitor. The reports they compile informed the dialogue platforms on water service delivery.

Training was also held for the water department technical staff. The training focused on how to mainstream gender in water and sanitation programme design, implementation and monitoring. Through these training, action plans were developed with key targets on how to cooperate gender issues in guidelines and programmes. 60 duty bearers in the water sector were trained.

In addition, UWONET trained 48 community monitors of service delivery in the water sector (men and women) on how to collect information regarding water service delivery. UWONET developed a monitoring tool which was provided to each monitor. The monitors are key in documenting gaps in terms of access and maintenance of water sources. The issues identified informed the dialogues platforms and advocacy meetings with duty bearers on water service delivery. Through these engagements, the Water User Committees were revived to take up their roles in management of water points.



## THEMATIC AREA 3:

### KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, VOICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

#### Objective 3.1

To challenge the negative cultural practices and advocate for the enforcement of laws and processes that protect women's rights and access to justice.

## KEY ACTION ITEMS

### We put gender on the national agenda for COVID-19 response and recovery

At the height of the COVID-19 crisis, our efforts to ensure that the plight of the Ugandan woman is not forgotten during the pandemic were prominent. From the moment H.E the president of Uganda declared a lockdown, UWONET was at the forefront of advocacy efforts to ensure that the rights and needs of women are protected and catered to in National and Sub National Response to COVID-19. These were some of our interventions in pushing for a gender responsive COVID -19 response.

### Coordinated other WROs during times of COVID-19

At the onset of the National lockdown, UWONET instituted a National CSO task force with the overarching objective of coordinating and strengthening gender-sensitive and human rights-based response to COVID-19. The Task Force, which constituted of 24 national Level CSOs collected and synthesized information for key actors on the gendered impacts of COVID—19 in Uganda; The task force also enhanced CSO coordination to provide critical COVID-19 prevention and response services and rallied for inclusion of women and women-led organisations for meaningful participation in decision-making processes addressing the COVID-19 outbreak. The Task Force additionally coordinated community systems and referrals for the continuity of integrated SGBV services. It worked as a coalition to provide legal and psychosocial support and shelter to survivors of GBV.

### Influenced response to gender based violence in times of COVID-19

To influence health, and human rights-based measures in curbing the spread of COVID-19, UWONET released spot messages condemning GBV. As a result of these efforts, there were quick responses by Civil Society Organizations, Police, and Government, and as a result rapid response lines were set up, motorcycle transport was allowed to operate in the movement of patients, and temporary GBV shelters set up. Throughout 2020, UWONET spearheaded efforts to address the heightened Gender-Based Violence through targeted interventions and advocacy at Sub-National and National Levels. These interventions included; dialogues with key stakeholders such as Government MDAs, women in the informal sector, and media to ensure that the cases of SGBV were mitigated, addressed and that the justice pathways were effective and accessible for those who needed them.

### Built a body of knowledge to inform gender sensitive COVID-19 response

UWONET was also at the centre of efforts to generate and synthesize information and gender disaggregated data on the gender dimensions of COVID-19 in Uganda to inform advocacy and programmatic interventions that are gender-sensitive and responsive. The information was disseminated to stakeholders, most specifically the line Ministries, COVID-19 National Taskforce, Local Governments and women at the district level, to build their knowledge and

capacity to influence budgets and response that catered to needs of women at the district level. The information also used by UWONET to engage the relevant Ministries, Agencies and Departments on the need to strengthen gender sensitive service delivery, and to shine the spotlight on the emerging gender issues, such as the surge in VAW/G, Teenage pregnancies, inadequate access to health services for expectant mothers, etc. UWONET held strategic policy dialogues with key stakeholders including the Minister of Gender, Leaders from Civil society and Opposition to discuss the need to strengthen gender responsive service delivery during and post COVID 19. The Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Hon. Frank Tumwebaze, Hon. Winnie Kiiza, the Woman Member of Parliament, Kasese, Hon. Norbert Mao, President of Democratic Party and Ms Bireete Sarah, the Executive Director Centre for Constitutional Governance participated in the meeting.

## Online and media engagements on COVID-19



In 2020, at the peak of the lockdown, UWONET responded to the gender social implications of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). The cases of GBV were on the increase country wide with the women and girls affected most. In the move to create awareness, UWONET held media engagements including; DJ mentions, radio and television talk shows, social media posts/messages and webinars in response to the rising GBV reported during the countrywide lock

down. Over 3000 people were reached out via different media platforms with messages on prevention of GBV in the communities.

## Philanthropy in the times of COVID-19

The UWONET Secretariat coordinated members of the Women's Movement to support the COVID-19 response. As a result a total of UGX15 million (\$4,050) towards the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment for health workers in the district of Kasese which had just experienced flooding during lockdown. Items donated included: Gloves (medium) - 90 packets (4,500 pairs), gloves (large) - 90 packets (4,500 pairs), thermometers – 10, face masks - 60 packets (3,000 masks), and sanitizers (500ml) - 100 bottles. This contribution by UWONET was acknowledged by the government when UWONET was awarded a Donor Certificate of Appreciation from H.E the President of Uganda.



*Some of the Representatives of the National CSO task force handing over COVID-19 PPEs to Hon. Mary Karoro Okurut*



*UWONET received a certificate of appreciation from the President of the Republic of Uganda for her contribution towards COVID-19 response efforts.*

## Influenced response to gender responsive legal and policy frameworks at national and international level

### National Development Plan III (NDP III) engagement

To influence gender responsiveness of the NDP III and advancing leaving no one behind, UWONET commissioned regional consultations to identify key concerns for women and girls to include in NDP III. Consultations were held in Soroti, Gulu, Arua, Kampala and Kampala. The consultations were narrowed to sectors of;

Key sectors consulted were;

1. Minerals, Oil and Gas
2. Agriculture including agro-industrialisation
3. Urbanisation
4. Climate Change
5. Health
6. Education

The issues generated inform the CSO gender issues paper for NDP III which was submitted to the National Planning Authority as an input to the NDP 3 development process. NPA further acknowledged that the input will inform Sector Development Plans (SDPs) and Local Government Development Plans (LGDPs)- UWONET will monitor this to see how gender responsive the SDPs and LGDPs. The gender issues paper for the NDP 3 informed the development of the Women's Manifesto 2021 to 2026.

## **Renewal of commitments and revamping advocacy to accelerate Government action for implementation of Beijing +25 commitments**

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted at the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, 1995. It aims at removing all the obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through ensuring women's full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making. The governments, the international community and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, were called upon to take strategic action in the following 12 critical areas of concern for women globally; Women and poverty, Education and training of women, Women and health, Violence against women, Women and armed conflict, Women and the economy, Women in power and decision-making, Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, Human rights of women, Women and the media, Women and the environment, and The girl-child. 2019 Marked 25 years since the establishment of the BPFA thus the name Beijing+ 25.

In 2019, a CSO parallel report was developed showing progress so far towards realizing commitments in addressing the issues of women and girls in the 12 critical areas. To revamp the commitments by government and other stakeholders, a national engagement of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies through lobby meetings and dialogues were held. And there was a renewal of commitments to accelerate Government action for implementation of Beijing +25 commitments. The two lobby meetings and dialogues on BPFA were attended by representatives from local government, government MDAs and key stakeholders, including women in the informal sector and CSOs. Government institutions represented included; Equal Opportunities Commission, Ministry of Gender, National Planning Authority, Ministry of Trade, Industries and Cooperatives, Ministry of Water and Environment, among others. This also paved the way for creation of stronger multi-sectoral partnerships for advocacy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. The National Planning Authority noted that the government through NDP III is committed to realizing the 12 critical pillars of BPFA, the Ministry of Trade Industries and Cooperatives and the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development re-echoed government commitments through various programmes such as UWEP.



*To show progress in some of the 12 critical areas, a photo gallery was set up for the commemoration of Beijing +25*

## Treaty Alternative Reporting/CEDAW

In 2020, UWONET led CSO shadow reporting on the CEDAW, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, all key International Legal frameworks for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment to inform decisions of Government. The alternative reports were used by UWONET as a mechanism for monitoring and raising awareness of government compliance with international treaties, and to chart the path forward for the policy agenda for gender equality in Uganda. UWONET also utilised shadow reporting as a strategic tool to hold the government accountable on GEWE, and to advocate for enhancement of public service delivery and strengthening of laws and policies addressing the gender and women related issues.



## Strategic engagements with cultural leaders on the Marriage and Divorce Bill, 2009

UWONET used policy dialogue as a key approach for engagement of stakeholders to influence gender responsive legislation, resource allocation and service delivery and ultimately, the improvement of women's rights, empowerment and gender equality in the country. Working

closely with its partners, UWONET facilitated various engagements aimed at influencing gender equality. These included lobbying and influencing engagements with stakeholders such as Members of Parliament, District Councillors, government technocrats, civil society actors including the academia, faith-based institutions and media. As gatekeepers of tradition and customary norms, a cross-section of cultural leaders were engaged in a dialogue to discuss the on-going marriage reform process. The dialogues brought together ministers from the cultural institutions of Buganda, Acholi, Alur, Teso, Bugisu, Toro and Bamba to discuss the question of legal reforms on marriage. They were also attended by members of the Civil Society Marriage and Divorce Bill Coalition as well as other advocates of the Bill.

The dialogues were aimed at improving the understanding of advocates for the marriage legal reform process, of Ugandan cultural practices which are largely perceived as 40 oppressive to the exclusion of any protections offered by tradition to parties in marriage. They discussions focused on finding complementarity between the Marriage and Divorce Bill, 2009 and Uganda's diverse cultural practices on marriage. The intention was to find points of convergence between Uganda's marriage legal regime, and positive traditional practices on marriage that provide protection to parties in a marriage. This was critical to creating a shared appreciation of the need for legal reform and foster support for legal reform amongst cultural leaders and institutions for the enactment of the Marriage and Divorce Bill.

Despite some obvious divergent opinions from the cultural leaders, the policy dialogues showed an indication of increased support by both cultural leaders and Members of Parliament due to more commitment in supporting the legislative process for the enactment of the Marriage and Divorce Bill.

## **We built a bottom up movement against Gender Based Violence**

### **Community policy dialogues**

UWONET held community policy dialogues at the district level to provide platforms for women leaders to meet and reflect on the gender situation within their respective districts. Through the coordination of the district-based partners, Women leader's forums were held which congregated members of the respective Women Caucuses and other councillors, women in civil society (District Women's Network, business women), Local Councils, the Police, government technocrats especially from the Department of Community Based Services (Community Development Office). The forums were used to bring attentions to key gender issues, including: violation of women's economic rights (control and access to resources and proceedings from business or agriculture); continued Violence Against Women and Girls (VAW/G) in spite of several sustained projects to prevent the vice. This was largely blamed on communities' protection of perpetrators and deeply entrenched negative cultural norms; teenage pregnancy, child marriage and girl child education; and the persistent poor resourcing of the Department of Community-Based Services (CDO) which bears the huge responsibility of addressing gender concerns.

## Accountability platforms provided

The Community dialogues provided accountability platforms for local communities to interface with duty bearers on different issues of concern within their communities. The dialogues were tailored to be context specific, targeting key stakeholders such as; cultural and religious leaders. The discussions focused on harmful traditional practices such as child marriage, widow inheritance and rape (courtship rape - marriage by abduction), child trafficking which are common in the district.

Stories of change from these engagements show that community consciousness and social accountability for substantive promotion and protection of women's rights has grown. The duty bearers and civil society were also able to collaborate with communities on a number of cases to prevent and respond to VAW/G. This can be partly attributed to the capacity enhancement engagements, as well as to the use of the vehicles like the District Women's Networks and Women's Caucuses. The collaboration between the District Women's Networks and the Women's Caucuses (body of elected female councillors) has been strengthened and this has had a positive impact on responsiveness and accountability of the Gender Based Violence referral pathways.

UWONET's facilitated the creation of GBV prevention and response coordination spaces in different districts which provided a mechanism for the state and non-state GBV stakeholders to strategise on GBV management. Through this, linkages for prevention and response have been strengthened through collective action and responsibility, consolidation of resources (technical, logistical) and accountability. These structures, commonly called GBV Steering Committees are composed of district Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) actors, government technocrats and select Women's Rights Organisations, religious and cultural leaders. These coordination meetings played a pivotal part in increasing the responsiveness of the referral pathway to the needs of communities. In Kotido, for example, 27 girls were rescued from trafficking through the joint action of the members of this structure. The girls were being taken to the neighbouring Kapelebyong District as domestic workers.

At the sub-national level, UWONET worked with district networks to conduct community dialogue activities aimed at increasing knowledge and consciousness of populations around Gender-Based Violence to reduce social tolerance to GBV. The dialogues mainly tackled the issue of community response to violence during COVID-19 pandemic with focus on enhancing communities' ability to navigate the referral pathways which were constrained by the pandemic lockdown measures, and provide support to survivors. During the dialogues many women discussed openly about the different forms of violence they experience, some had very painful stories of violence. In both districts, female survivors expressed fear of seeking support or reporting as this could lead to their being banished from their homes and/or separation from their children.

To strengthen GBV management at community level, UWONET conducted leadership coaching for Duty Bearers, Women Caucuses and District Women Networks to use their mandate to address GBV issues within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the new NDP III and the

electoral season. The participants were politicians, civil society and government technical wing reflected on their effectiveness as gender justice advocates, legislators and service providers. They brainstormed on how both the government and non-government actors) can position themselves in the next 5 years to build on gains made and also utilize lessons learnt. The districts also came up with areas they would like to focus on in the next five years. Common to all the districts were enhancing women's leadership and girl child education, access to justice and management of GBV particularly VAW/G and improving health service delivery.

## Neighborhood assembling

Neighbourhood assemblies were held to create awareness about women's rights and GBV in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This generated community dialogue and conversations on how to protect women from abuse. Action points reached were tagged to informal justice actors to embrace protecting women against abuse through awareness creation during community gatherings and referral of capital cases to police.

## USHERING ACTIVITIES INTO THE NEW YEAR

As we are planning for 2022, we have to be cognizant of COVID-19, Shrinking civic space, patriarchal and negative social norms, strengthening the network, issues of women's leadership beyond 2021 general elections, women's agency for economic empowerment.

## TWO DISTRICTS OF OPERATION BY UWONET

| S. No | Region         | District     |
|-------|----------------|--------------|
| 1     | Central Region | Buikwe       |
| 2     | Central Region | Bukomansimbi |
| 6     | Central Region | Kalangala    |
| 7     | Central Region | Kalungu      |
| 8     | Central Region | Kampala      |
| 10    | Central Region | Kiboga       |
| 12    | Central Region | Luweero      |
| 13    | Central Region | Lwengo       |
| 15    | Central Region | Masaka       |
| 16    | Central Region | Mityana      |
| 17    | Central Region | Mpigi        |
| 18    | Central Region | Mukono       |
| 19    | Central Region | Nakaseke     |
| 20    | Central Region | Rakai        |
| 22    | Central Region | Wakiso       |
| 24    | Eastern Region | Amuria       |
| 25    | Eastern Region | Bugiri       |
| 28    | Eastern Region | Bukedea      |
| 29    | Eastern Region | Busia        |
| 32    | Eastern Region | Butaleja     |
| 33    | Eastern Region | Kaberamaido  |
| 37    | Eastern Region | Kamuli       |
| 39    | Eastern Region | Katakwi      |
| 41    | Eastern Region | Kibuku       |
| 42    | Eastern Region | Kumi         |
| 43    | Eastern Region | Luuka        |
| 45    | Eastern Region | Mayuge       |
| 47    | Eastern Region | Mbale        |
| 48    | Eastern Region | Namayingo    |
| 49    | Eastern Region | Namutumba    |
| 50    | Eastern Region | Ngora        |
| 51    | Eastern Region | Serere       |
| 53    | Eastern Region | Soroti       |
| 55    | Eastern Region | Tororo       |

| S. No | Region          | District      |
|-------|-----------------|---------------|
| 56    | Northern Region | Abim          |
| 57    | Northern Region | Adjumani      |
| 58    | Northern Region | Agago         |
| 59    | Northern Region | Amolatar      |
| 61    | Northern Region | Amudat        |
| 62    | Northern Region | Amuru         |
| 63    | Northern Region | Apac          |
| 64    | Northern Region | Arua          |
| 65    | Northern Region | Gulu          |
| 67    | Northern Region | Kaabong       |
| 68    | Northern Region | Kitgum        |
| 69    | Northern Region | Koboko        |
| 70    | Northern Region | Kotido        |
| 72    | Northern Region | Lamwo         |
| 73    | Northern Region | Moyo          |
| 77    | Northern Region | Nakapiripirit |
| 78    | Northern Region | Nebbi         |
| 80    | Northern Region | Pakwach       |
| 81    | Northern Region | Nwoya         |
| 82    | Northern Region | Omoro         |
| 83    | Northern Region | Oyam          |
| 84    | Northern Region | Pader         |
| 85    | Northern Region | Yumbe         |
| 86    | Northern Region | Zombo         |
| 87    | Western Region  | Buhweju       |
| 88    | Western Region  | Bushenyi      |
| 91    | Western Region  | Ibanda        |
| 93    | Western Region  | Kabale        |
| 95    | Western Region  | Kanungu       |
| 98    | Western Region  | Kasese        |
| 99    | Western Region  | Kibaale       |
| 100   | Western Region  | Kyegegwa      |

## 2020 UWONET Team

| No.                       | Name                 | Role                                                                        |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Board of Directors</b> |                      |                                                                             |
| 01                        | Tezira Jamwa         | Chairperson                                                                 |
| 02                        | Perry Arituwa        | Vice Chairperson                                                            |
| 03                        | Juliet Were          | Treasurer                                                                   |
| 04                        | Debbie Serwadda      | Secretary                                                                   |
| 05                        | Peace Musimenta      | Secretary                                                                   |
| 06                        | Rita. H. Aciro-Lakor | Executive Director                                                          |
| <b>Secretariat Staff</b>  |                      |                                                                             |
| 07                        | Rita. H. Aciro-Lakor | Executive Director                                                          |
| 08                        | Walter Andama        | Finance and Administration Manager                                          |
| 09                        | Sarah Jesca Agwang   | Program Coordinator – Women's Economic Agency                               |
| 10                        | Sandra Komuhiimbo    | Program Coordinator – Knowledge Management Voice and Accountability         |
| 11                        | Susan Labwot         | Program Coordinator – Women's Leadership                                    |
| 12                        | Ramadhan Muweleza    | Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer                                 |
| 13                        | Edith Nabuzana       | Finance Officer                                                             |
| 14                        | Anthony Nakhaima     | Finance Officer                                                             |
| 15                        | Sayda Nankwanga      | Administration and Executive Assistant                                      |
| 16                        | Paul Okula           | Procurement Assistant                                                       |
| 17                        | Julian Naluwooza     | Program Officer – Women's Leadership                                        |
| 18                        | Flavia Ajok          | Program Officer – Women's Leadership (until October 2020)                   |
| 19                        | Susan Achen          | Program Officer – Access to Justice                                         |
| 20                        | Yvonne Komuhendo     | Program Officer – Networking and Capacity Development (until February 2021) |
| 21                        | Racheal Wanyana      | Policy and Advocacy Officer                                                 |
|                           | Hilda .K. Nattyaba   | Research and Information Officer                                            |
| 18                        | John Kazibwe         | Information Technology Officer                                              |

|                                            |                      |                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 19                                         | Justine Najore       | Administrative Assistant                               |
| 20                                         | Pereth Niwahereza    | Volunteer - Women's Agency for Economic Transformation |
| 21                                         | Roland Musasizi      | Volunteer Monitoring and Evaluation                    |
| 22                                         | Alex Dralega         | Administrative Assistant                               |
| 23                                         | Samuel Butele        | Office Assistant                                       |
| 24                                         | Jude Okesya          | Driver (Until August 2020)                             |
| 25                                         | Twalibu Kagwa        | Driver                                                 |
| 26                                         | Madina Nabossa       | Welfare Officer                                        |
| 27                                         | Polly Sylvia         | Hygiene Officer                                        |
| <b>SPOTLIGHT TEAM (PROJECT ASSISTANTS)</b> |                      |                                                        |
| 28                                         | Nyasenya Evelyn      | Project Assistant Tororo                               |
| 29                                         | Biira Winnie         | Project Assistant Kasese                               |
| 30                                         | Munduru Alice        | Project Assistant Arua                                 |
| 31                                         | Cheruto Proscovia    | Project Assistant Amudat                               |
| 32                                         | Nyemera Racheal      | Project Assistant Kampala                              |
| 33                                         | Tinner Areeba        | Project Assistant Kyegegwa                             |
| 34                                         | Diana Tigar          | Project Assistant Kyegegwa                             |
| 35                                         | Cheruto Pauline      | Project Assistant Amudat                               |
| 36                                         | Oketayot George Bush | Project Assistant Kitgum                               |

## UWONET MEMBERSHIP



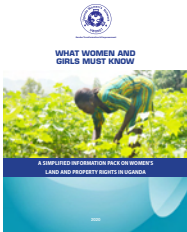
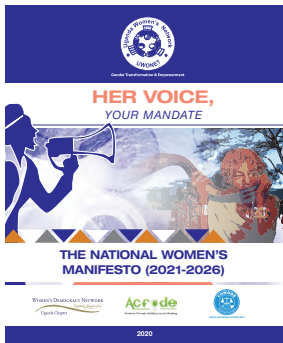
Department of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University (WGS)

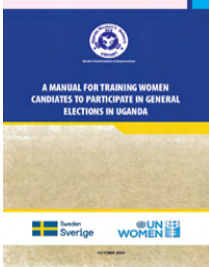
1. National Bahai Committee for Advancement of Women
2. Women Engineers, Technicians and Scientists of Uganda (WETSU)
3. Disabled Women's Network and Resource Organisation (DWNRO)

### The Individual Members are:

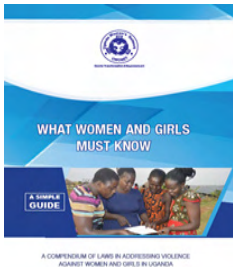
- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Ms. Annette Tumwijukye.    | 6. Dr. Mary Nabachwa Ssonko.      |
| 2. Ms. Debbie Kaddu Serwadda. | 7. Ms. Maude Mugisha.             |
| 3. Ms. Hope Kabuchu.          | 8. Ms. Veronica Namagembe.        |
| 4. Dr. Alice Kagoda.          | 9. Hon. Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi. |
| 5. Ms. Judy Kamanyi.          |                                   |

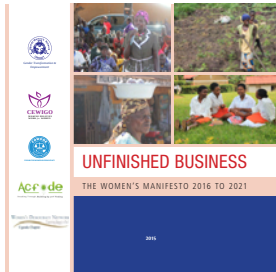
## PUBLICATIONS OF YEAR 2020

| COVER PAGE & TITLE                                                                                                                                                                                          | BRIEF SUMMARY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>What Women And Girls Must Know.</b> A Simplified Information Pack On Women's Land And Property Rights In Uganda</p> | <p>The information pack on women's land and property rights in Uganda was developed by UWONET with support from the Austrian Development Cooperation, as a response to the persistent violation of women's land and property rights. The information pack was to inform UWONET's capacity building and awareness initiatives in Kitgum, Pader, Lamwo and Agago districts with specific objectives including; providing knowledge on the legal basis of women's land and property rights, proving a quick reference guide for community members when dealing with matters related to women's land and property rights, creating awareness and social tolerance to women's land and property rights. The information pack has 3 sections, section one describes the prevailing land tenure systems in Uganda, section two describes the pertinent laws and pulling out specific provisions on women's land and property rights and section three highlights the land dispute resolution institutions (formal and informal intuitions)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|  <p><b>Her Voice, Your Mandate.</b> The National Women's Manifesto (2021-2026)</p>                                        | <p>The National Women's Manifesto (2021-2026) brings to the fore women's demands based on priority gender issues that continue to impede women of Uganda from attaining full dignity and equality with men in all spheres of life. The Women's Manifesto aims to clarify and augment what women of Uganda want political parties, leaders and the government of Uganda to prioritize in the period 2021-2026. It is consequently a political document that sets out the concerns of women in Uganda and the demands for accountability by political parties and elected leaders as custodians of public affairs and resources. The political party that will eventually emerge as the victor in the 2021 elections and will form government takes greater responsibility to address the demands. While the issues may seem the same from the previous manifesto of 2016-2021, gender inequality keeps changing in form and the dynamics. During the consultations, a number of gender and women's rights challenges were raised from all the 60 districts (16 regions). This manifesto is a synthesis of the key priority issues that cut across and the demands made to political parties, Government and elected leaders.</p> |

| COVER PAGE & TITLE                                                                                                                                                                                                           | BRIEF SUMMARY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Political Leadership<br/>&amp; Candidate Training<br/>Workbook For Women<br/>Candidates</p>                                             | <p>This Work Hand book was intended to be used by aspiring experienced women leaders as part of UN Women's and WDG's political Leadership and Candidate Training program. It was to be used during the training for doing training exercises and keeping a record of notes and plans. It was to serve trainees subsequent campaign planning after the training.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|  <p>A Manual For Training<br/>Women Candidates To<br/>Participate In General<br/>Elections In Uganda</p>                                    | <p>This manual was developed to enhance the capacity of women candidates aspiring to take up political positions from the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Council levels in Uganda. It was designed for capacity strengthening of prospective women candidates intending to run for elective positions and those in office. The manual can also be used by any woman/person in a leadership position that may not necessarily belong to a party or hold elective positions.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|  <p>A Training Manual For<br/>Women In Entrepreneurs.<br/>Strengthening women's<br/>competitiveness and<br/>inclusiveness in Business</p> | <p>This training manual was developed as an effort towards enhancing entrepreneurial, leadership and advocacy capacity among women in business and women framers. The purpose of this manual was to enable female entrepreneurs to learn and improve their knowledge and skills, change their attitudes from subsistence to commercial (business) farming, from market vending to establishing MSMEs. In addition, the Leadership, Basic Business Management and Advocacy skills would allow the women to run profitable and sustainable businesses and also build their leadership and advocacy capacity to participate in effective decision making to improve their business operating environment.</p> |

| COVER PAGE & TITLE                                                                                                                                                      | BRIEF SUMMARY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Investigating The Factors Hindering Access To Justice For Women And Children</p>   | <p>This report presents findings of UWONET national research study that interrogated the factors hindering access to justice for women and children. The report is divided into four main sections including: Section 1) that provides the introduction and background, rationale, and objectives and scope of the study; Section 2) presents key findings of the study on access to justice in the formal and informal justice systems; Section 3) presents assorted relevant data and identified best practices to guide programming on women and children justice and; Section 4) presents the study conclusions and recommendations to address some of the identified gaps as well as guidance for more realistic and holistic programming to enhance women's and children's meaningful access to justice. The report is as a result of a highly participatory and consultative process including various key stakeholders involved in the provision and regulation of justice for women and children at national and sub national levels.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|  <p>A Policy Brief On Democratic Leadership, Partisan Versus Nonpartisan Politics</p> | <p>This document is developed after discussion held over time as to whether individuals who work with NGO and be partisan and how this would affect their work or how they are perceived. The document is also intended to create understanding amongst pollution on the matters here discussed. This document therefore, focuses on drawing the thin line and understanding and the balance between Partisan versus and Non-Partisan Politics, a notion that has led to many to disengage with serious socio-economic and political matters of livelihood and development in the matters of national governance. This notion of being "Political" is even more difficult for Non-Government Organizations (NGO) in context of a "young" democracy or misunderstanding/ lack of it. This misunderstanding often times has led to tension and suspicion in society and between government and NGO's. The intention of this policy brief is to make an attempt to clarify and draw the difference and relations between no partisan politics and partisan politics, discuss and analyse whether non-government organisations can be partisan or non-partisan and whether they should remain in the latter positions if at all. This is to help organizations, staff and Board members of Non-Governmental rise above their partisan and individual level opinions while exercising Non-Government Organisational work. The policy brief gives tips and recommendation and draws conclusions.</p> |

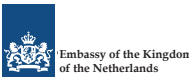
| COVER PAGE & TITLE                                                                                                                                                                                                      | BRIEF SUMMARY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Pocketbook For Women Candidates. For The Presidential, Parliamentary And Local Government Elections In 2020/2021</p>               | <p>The content of the handbook is based on the training needs analysis conducted. The Pocketbook contains the following modules that have been summarized for quick reference by the women candidates aspiring to take up political positions from Presidential to Parliamentary and Local Council levels in Uganda. The pocketbook is designed for capacity strengthening of prospective women candidates intending to run for elective positions and those already in office. It can also be used by any woman/person in a leadership position that may not necessarily belong to a party or hold an elective position. The Pocketbook summaries the following modules Module 1: The Legal Framework Supporting Women in Decision Making and Politics. Module 2: Gender and Leadership, Module 3: Communication Skills, Module 4: Women in Politics &amp; Political Participation, Module 5: Offices Available for Women Candidates., Module 6: Understanding The Polling or Election Process, Module 7: Women and ICT, Module 8: Handling Election Complaints</p> |
|  <p>What Women And Girls Must Know. A Simple Guide. A Compendium Of Laws In Addressing Violence Against Women And Girls In Uganda</p> | <p>The compendium of laws on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAW/G) in Uganda has been developed by UWONET with support from the Austrian Development Cooperation, as a response to the persistent prevalence and social tolerance towards VAW/G in communities. The compendium will inform UWONET's capacity building and awareness initiatives in Kitgum, Pader, Lamwo and Agago districts.</p> <p>Specific objectives include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide knowledge on the legal basis in addressing VAW/G in Uganda.</li> <li>To prove a quick reference guide for community members when dealing with matters related to VAW/G.</li> <li>To create awareness and social intolerance to VAW/G.</li> </ol> <p>The compendium has 3 sections, section one describes what VAW/G is and the different forms, section two describes the laws for addressing VAW/G in Uganda and section three highlights the roles of different duty bearers in ending VAW/G in Uganda.</p>                                                              |

| COVER PAGE & TITLE                                                                                                                               | BRIEF SUMMARY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Information Pack On Gender, Culture And Religion</p>        | <p>UWONET commissioned a study to identify the positive cultural, religious practices and principles that promote equality, women's rights and participation in Teso and Karamoja that will inform an Info pack on culture, religion and gender to be used by development practitioners. The study was conducted in the districts of Soroti, Serere (Teso) and Napak, Moroto (Karamoja) and was mainly a qualitative study based on literature review and key informant interviews with the custodians of culture and religion.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|  <p>Unfinished Business. The Women's Manifesto 2016 To 2021</p> | <p>The Women's Manifesto sets out the concerns of women in Uganda and the demands for accountability by political parties and candidates. It builds on similar processes undertaken by women and women's rights organizations in previous elections since 2000, when the first women's first manifesto was developed. The Women's Manifesto build on efforts, synergies and gaps documented during previous initiatives that need prioritization to advance women's rights and gender equality. The Women's Manifesto aims at: contributing to the legacy of good governance through providing a guide for voters, candidates and political actors towards prioritizing women's concerns, interests and aspirations, persuading government, political parties and organizations as well as all stakeholders to prioritize people-centred democracy and the interests of women in the development process, raising awareness about gender issues among the various political players, mobilizing the electorate to actively participate in all processes that promote democracy and providing a platform for negotiation between women and the various political candidates, parties and organizations.</p> |

## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

In 2020, through the generosity of our funding partners: ADC, DCA, OXFAM, UN WOMEN, US Embassy, GIZ, UAF, Robert Bosch, Horizont3000, DGF and Netherlands Embassy, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) was able to protect and empower thousands of women and girls to live in dignity.

It is worth noting that 2020 was a very difficult year for UWONET given the fact that COVID-19 affected the operating environment which halted implementation of certain activities causing delays. In addition, a freeze order placed on UWONET's bank accounts by the Finance Intelligence Authority on false allegations of financing terrorism activities paralyzed UWONET's operations. Despite all the challenges, a number of activities were successfully implemented thanks to the support of partners.

| FUNDING PARTNER                                                                     | LOGO                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
|    | HORIZONT3000                                |
|    | DKA AUSTRIA                                 |
|    | AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (ADC)      |
|   | THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE FACILITY (DGF)    |
|  | OXFAM                                       |
|  | DAN CHURCH AID                              |
|  | EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF NETHERLANDS       |
|  | URGENT ACTION FUND AFRICA                   |
|  | UNITED STATES EMBASSY. KAMPALA              |
|  | ROBERT BOSCH STIFTUNG                       |
|  | GERMAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION |
|  | UN WOMEN                                    |

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

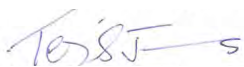
## INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

|                                                                             | Note | 2020<br>UGX               | 2019<br>UGX                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                                                               |      |                           |                               |
| Grants                                                                      | 3    | 5,240,043,477             | 4,291,026,904                 |
| Other income                                                                | 4    | <u>132,124,385</u>        | <u>51,873,871</u>             |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                                         |      | 5,372,167,862             | 4,342,900,775                 |
| Less: Refunds to donor                                                      | 16   | <u>91,391,131</u>         | <u>3,916,877</u>              |
| <b>Total Income Net of refunds</b>                                          |      | 5,280,776,731             | 4,338,983,898                 |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                                                          | 5    |                           |                               |
| Galvanize women's leadership and influence at different levels and sectors. | I    | (1,729,202,586)           | (2,190,319,538)               |
| Knowledge management, voice and accountability                              | II   | (114,738,150)             | (751,901,186)                 |
| Women's agency for economic transformation for GEWE.                        | III  | (506,076,623)             | (713,682,018)                 |
| Institutional development and organizational strengthening                  | IV   | (1,882,229,546)           | (2,425,162,385)               |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>                                                    |      | <u>(4,232,246,905)</u>    | <u>(6,081,065,127)</u>        |
| <b>SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) BEFORE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>                        |      | 1,048,529,826             | (1,742,081,229)               |
| Capital expenditure                                                         |      | <u>(135,578,000)</u>      | <u>(44,725,000)</u>           |
| <b>SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>                                      |      | <u><u>912,951,826</u></u> | <u><u>(1,786,806,229)</u></u> |

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

|                                                   | Note | 2020<br>UGX                 | 2019<br>UGX                 |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Non-current assets</b>                         |      |                             |                             |
| Equipment                                         | 6    | 233,401,975                 | 198,589,465                 |
| Leasehold prepayments                             | 7    | 312,500,000                 | 325,000,000                 |
| Intangible asset                                  | 8    | 6,859,615                   | 8,490,484                   |
| <b>Total non- current assets</b>                  |      | <u>552,761,590</u>          | <u>532,079,949</u>          |
| <b>Current assets</b>                             |      |                             |                             |
| Receivables                                       | 9    | 117,719,855                 | 51,106,421                  |
| Cash and bank balances                            | 10   | <u>2,138,977,916</u>        | <u>721,042,066</u>          |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                       |      | <u>2,256,697,771</u>        | <u>772,148,487</u>          |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                               |      | <u><b>2,809,459,361</b></u> | <u><b>1,304,228,436</b></u> |
| <b>Accumulated fund</b>                           |      |                             |                             |
| Restricted fund                                   | 11   | 1,668,730,492               | 743,376,108                 |
| Capital fund                                      | 12   | 552,761,590                 | 532,079,949                 |
| General fund                                      | 13   | <u>(246,344,210)</u>        | <u>(233,941,652)</u>        |
| <b>Total accumulated fund</b>                     |      | <u>1,975,147,872</u>        | <u>1,041,514,405</u>        |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>                        |      |                             |                             |
| Payables and accruals                             | 14   | <u>834,311,489</u>          | <u>262,714,031</u>          |
| <b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUND<br/>AND LIABILITIES</b> |      | <u><b>2,809,459,361</b></u> | <u><b>1,304,228,436</b></u> |

The financial statements on pages 26 to 54 were approved by the Directors  
on..... 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Chairperson



Treasurer



Executive Director



**Uganda Women's Network (UWONET),**

Plot 710, Block 216, Mirembe Close,

Buuye Kigowa, Ntinda–Kampala, Uganda

Phone: +256 414 286 539,

Email: [info@uwonet.or.ug](mailto:info@uwonet.or.ug)

Website: [www.uwonet.or.ug](http://www.uwonet.or.ug)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uwonet>

Twitter: [@uwonet](https://twitter.com/uwonet)