



Gender Transformation & Empowerment



UWONET

2017 | ANNUAL REPORT

Building a culture that embraces diversity





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HERSTORY

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) was formed in 1993 as an advocacy network by 16 national women's organizations, institutions and 9 individuals. The network was formed out of the East African Preparatory Conference held in Kampala in 1993 to spearhead Uganda women's efforts that led to the participation in the UN World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. UWONET was formed to champion a united voice and create space to women to collectively address and take action on gender based discrimination in spheres of social economic and political life of women in Uganda at all levels.

VISION

A Ugandan Society free of all forms of gender-based discrimination.

MISSION

To coordinate action among UWONET membership and targeted stakeholders through networking, capacity building, resource mobilization, policy research and advocacy for the attainment of gender equality in Uganda.

OBJECTIVES

- To promote women's access to power and decision making positions in all sectors and at all levels;
- To improve the socio-economic conditions of women and other marginalized groups;
- To work towards the achievement of equal opportunities and rights to women in all sectors and increased access to and control of resources and benefits;
- To work towards the elimination of defilement, rape, violence against women and other forms of abuse against women and children in society; and;
- To collect and disseminate information on the priority issues of concern to women.

THEORY OF CHANGE

UWONET believes that women ought live a dignified life and for this to be attained, there must be equal opportunities; access to information and knowledge to enable them make informed decisions about their lives. We believe that eliminating gender based discrimination can be attained through unwavering individual and collective action, led by the women, and reinforced by unity, consistent rights-based alternatives and movements that address the structural causes and consequences of gender inequality. We pursue partnerships that contribute to enabling all people to live in a just and fair society.

This theory of change is based on:

1. The multifaceted, political, and dynamic nature of gender inequality
2. A rights based approach, rather than a development led approach, being crucial to realizing women's and girls' human rights
3. Women, and women's organizations in local communities and beyond as key participants and drivers of social change

UWONET has identified four key closely inter-related domains of change that must be impacted to achieve the UWONET's goal:

1. **Capacity:** Women need the knowledge, skills, self-confidence and conviction required to succeed in their roles as individuals and members of their households and communities.
2. **Access:** Women need access to, ownership and control over productive assets and services.
3. **Enabling Environment:** Both formal policies and informal cultural norms and expectations have significant impact on women's potential. Both must be acknowledged and addressed to achieve women's empowerment.
4. **Leadership and Decision Making:** Women's participation and influence in leadership and decision making right from the household to the community and national levels is crucial for inclusive and equitable household and policy decisions. Women need skills and knowledge to ably occupy their positions at the decision making table.



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THEMATIC AREAS

1. Women's Leadership and Democratic Governance
2. Women's Rights and Access to Justice
3. Women's Economic Justice and Empowerment
4. Institutional Development and Organizational Strengthening

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Thematic Area One: Women's Leadership and Democratic Governance

Strategic Objective 1: To build a cohort of women leaders at national and district levels to participate, engage and influence decision-making structures and processes at different levels and institutions for gender responsive leadership and democratic governance.

Strategic Objective 2: To advocate for implementation and reform of laws and policies for increased women's participation in leadership and democratic governance.

Strategic Objective 3: To strengthen capacity of civil society on social accountability and constitutionalism.





THEMATIC AREA TWO:

Women's Rights and Access to Justice

Strategic Objective 1: Advocate for the implementation, reform and enactment of laws, Policies, programmes and Regulations for the promotion and protection of women's human rights.

Strategic Objective 2: To reduce tolerance to VAW/G and GBV in the social-economic, legal, policy and political structures.

Strategic Objective 3: To influence promotion and protection of women and girl's reproductive health rights in government planning, implementation and monitoring processes.



THEMATIC AREA THREE:

Women's Economic Justice and Empowerment.

Strategic Objective 1: Advocate for the implementation, review, and formulation of gender responsive trade policies, laws and regulations at local, national, regional and international level.

Strategic Objective 2: Advocate for increased women's access, ownership, control and benefit from economic resources.

Strategic Objective 3: Strengthen capacity of civil society to engage, influence and demand for gender responsive policies and guidelines for equitable national resource allocation, distribution and management.



THEMATIC AREA FOUR:

Institutional Development and Organizational Strengthening.

Strategic Objective 1: To develop, implement and sustain policies and mechanisms for institutional governance.

Strategic Objective 2: To document and increase visibility of the network's interventions.

Strategic Objective 3: To strengthen institutional capacity to meet the mandate of the organization.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

...Through the regional women's week, UWONET reignited a process of building a culture that embraces diversity and thrives on synergy for the advancement of women's rights and the women's movement.

I take this opportunity to first of all acknowledge and thank the Almighty God for His hand in the work that we did in 2017. I would like to express my appreciation to the UWONET Board of Directors, staff and partners in the women's movement and civil society in general for their support to UWONET in 2017.

When I look back at the year 2017, I recall with a great sense of achievement of some important steps that were taken towards advancing the women's movement with great efforts to create an inclusive culture. UWONET has demonstrated time and gain that we possess the ability to connect nationally and at district level. One important example is the convening of the 1st Regional Women's Week in the Rwenzori region 4th – 8th September 2017. Through the regional women's week, UWONET reignited a process of building a culture that embraces diversity and thrives on synergy for the advancement of women's rights and the women's movement.

In 2017, there was a great demonstration of the critical role that activists play in development and the power of many voices speaking as one. Drawing momentum from grass-roots networks and forging coalitions across different divides, we saw a higher engagement and participation of the citizenry on the proposed Constitutional Amendment on Article 102(b) and Article 26. In meeting her mandate,

UWONET encouraged and provided spaces for women to speak out on their desires for the constitutional amendments.

At UWONET, women's movement building is more than a catchy phrase but an integrated approach to work across our programme interventions to catalyse change. In 2017, UWONET coordinated a number of initiatives calling for unity across the movement including generating a Uganda position paper ahead of the 61st Commission on the Status of Women, **#RetireTheHoe, International Women's Day press conference** and **televised land debate**. At all opportunities that women's movement and civil society in general deliberately put aside time to engage, reflect, and collectively raise voices on the challenges that continue to impede the empowerment of women and national development at large.

UWONET as an institution witnessed growth during the year—growth in numbers but also in the improvement of our systems. 2017 saw the institutionalization of monitoring and evaluation processes and systems across all our programme areas. This has greatly improved our tracking of progress and management of our information.

2018 promises to be another great year for UWONET's engagement including celebrating UWONET@25, the 4th National Women's Week and the development of a new strategic plan 2019–2023. I invite you to continue walking the UWONET journey of passion through partnership at all levels. Thanks to all our stakeholders and supports, you are our strength.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY.

Rita Hope Aciro–Lakor
Executive Director UWONET



Gender Transformation & Empowerment



CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

On behalf of the entire membership of UWONET, Board of Directors and the secretariat team, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely appreciate our allies and partners for your commitment not only to the network but to the women's movement.

It is with great pleasure that I write as the Chairperson of the Board, a position I have served for the last three years. As our term comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to also thank fellow members of the Board with whom we have provided oversight and governance role to the Secretariat. Their commitment and passion has been inspiring, and it is because of their dedicated and committed efforts that we have been able to keep the organisation vibrant, visible and together, we have seen UWONET grow from strength to strength.

The year 2017 was such a rewarding year to the Secretariat and the network at large since we were able to achieve our set target in term of programme implementation, financial growth, human resource and overall institutional strengthening. Our programmes have continued to grow and expand through working with members, like minded organisations and government institutions, ministries, women groups, community groups, academia and others. Currently, UWONET is proud to have linkages in close to 74 districts as a result of working with different stakeholders mentioned above. These expansions are a means of movement building and advancing our cause of promoting women's rights and gender equality.

Despite our efforts to register successes in advancing women's rights and gender equality, we have witnessed with concern mysterious murders of women and children, kidnap of women for unclear and unknown reasons in the last few months. The mystery of these murders continue to remain unresolved and currently the girls and women are faced with unprecedented fears of kidnap and deaths. We call upon the government to make public their investigations if any on these murders as soon as possible. In the same spirit, we call upon all citizens especially women and girls to report any cases of abuse to government authority. As UWONET, we pledge to continue our vigilance and advocacy for the protection of women and girls rights.

In 2017, UWONET was able to set aside specific membership development activities i.e. capacity building on taxation and Labour laws for NGO compliance and international Human rights structures for monitoring purposes among others. I am proud to mention that with no doubt, UWONET stands out as a leading women's rights institution due to the relevant programming and leadership.

The year 2018 will be unique for UWONET because she has quite a number of important events including: Celebrating 25 years of active existence; the 4th National Women's Week; and the launch of the research on gender assessment.

I call upon all members and partners to actively engage in the preparations and participation in all the above and many more. United Women Can!

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Hon. Tezira Jamwa
Chairperson UWONET

2017–A YEAR IN REVIEW

2017 was an incredible year for UWONET, we convened spaces and facilitated processes for strategizing and alliance building with the women's movement and other human rights actors. Within our movements, organizing, resisting and responding to the challenging context is sharpening and the potential for collective action across diverse movements has dramatically grown.

2017 by Numbers



5698 direct beneficiaries reached



98% of planned activities completed (245 / 249)



25 national organisations (including members) and 20 district based organisations partnered with



16 projects implemented with support from 10 donors



74 districts (including those in partnership)



2,830 benefited from the GBV advocacy service

Who we work with

Members

- Center for Women in Governance (CEWIGO)
- Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE)
- Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP)
- Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Uganda)
- Action For Development (ACFODE)
- Uganda Women's Trust (UWT)
- Makerere University, School of Gender Studies
- Deborah Kaddu Serwadda, Judy Kamanyi, Sheila Kawamara, Dr. May Ssonko

Economic Empowerment Networks

- Civil Society Cluster on Women and Trade
- Trade Working Group coordinated by the SEATINI
- African Center for Trade and Development (ACTADE)
- Council for Economic Empowerment for Women of Africa Uganda Chapter (CEEWA-U)
- International Networks / Associations
- Platform For Labour Action (PLA)
- Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institutes (SEATINI)
- Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association Limited (UWEAL)

Democracy / Human and Gender Rights Networks

- Women's Democracy Group
- Women's Rights and Gender Cluster
- Institute for Social Transformation (IST)
- Women and Girl Child Development Association (WEGCDA)
- East African Sub-region Support Initiative for Women (EASSI)
- Women's Democracy Network Uganda Chapter (WDNU)
- ACODE

Political Parties / Government Organisations / Networks / Religious Institutions

- FDC, DP, NRM, UPC
- Uganda Local Government Association (ULGA)
- Uganda Episcopal Conference (UEC)
- Inter-Religious Council of Uganda

Academic Institutions

- School of Law, Makerere University
- Department of Food Science and Technology and College in Agriculture, Makerere University

ACHIEVEMENTS BY THEMATIC AREA

Thematic area	Achievements
01 Women's Leadership and Democratic Governance	1. Built a base for political parties to better understand and appreciate women's participation in leadership and acquisition of political posts through engendering policy and legal processes in political parties. 2. Over potential 750 women Local Council I and Local Council II candidates were equipped with resources and knowledge to aid their effective participation in the upcoming elections. 3. The internship programme was successfully extended to support the district women's networks across six (6) selected districts of operation. 4. Strengthen women's leadership at different levels including Local Council III to enhance their influence in the decentralized planning and budgeting processes. 5. Continued to change community perceptions and attitudes towards women's leadership through creating community support for women leaders in over 75 districts.
02 Women's Rights and Access to Justice	1. Contributed to the implementation of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region Kampala Declaration on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) through giving technical support to the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development for the set up and opening of the Mayuge District Gender Based Violence Advisory Center 2. Improved response and Gender Based Violence management – leading to secured commitment by 8 District Local Governments and in Busoga region to Gender Based Violence prevention and response through budget allocations for Gender Based Violence case management and provision of stationary to police 3. Built the capacity of a cohort of women rights advocates from 40 organizations on regional and international legal instruments and treaties on women's rights 4. Through sustained advocacy a number of policies and action plans were passed including the Gender Based Violence Policy and Action Plan on elimination of Gender Based Violence

Thematic area	Achievements
03 Women's Economic Justice and Empowerment	Constituted and convened a coordination forum for women and trade civil society actors—Uganda Women and Trade Cluster that enhances coordination amongst organisations.
	Gained recognition and influence in the National Trade Policy 2007 review process through the development and presentation to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives of a position paper of gender considerations for the policy at national and district levels.
	Increased the awareness of women in the informal trade sector on the policy and legal frameworks for the purpose of increasing their protection from abuse, unfair taxes, and corruption at National and district level.
	Improved business operating environment in the market through sustained advocacy for availability of clean water, provision of security among others in districts.
	Increased partnership with actors for the promotion of women's economic empowerment for example Makerere University College of Agriculture who offered training for women's and supplied improved seeds.
04 Institutional Strengthening and Organisational Development	Increased partnership and membership building through coordination of working groups such as the Women's Democracy Group, Women's Rights and Gender Cluster, Uganda Women and Trade Cluster, Civil Society Coalition on the Marriage and Divorce Bill among others that created collective voice.
	The 1st Regional Women's Week was convened in the Rwenzori region extending the network's presence in the region, creating linkages between district and national level organisations and also reaching out to over 10 new districts that had no interface with.
	District women's networks remained active and visible thereby attracting funding beyond the support from UWONET for example, Nakere.
	Policies for institutional governance were developed securing institutional mechanisms and strengthen operations
	Sustained documentation and visibility of the network's interventions through internal and external communications platforms such as emailing lists, website, social media platforms. UWONET continues to publish a range of IEC materials hence increased visibility and a point of reference on GEWE by stakeholders.



THEMATIC AREA 1: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

UWONET believes that the future of leadership is inclusive and transformative leadership. In 2017, UWONET continued to promote women's leadership as an issue for national conversation. The Women's leadership and Democratic Governance thematic area is designed to strengthen, build capacities of women in leadership and advocate for legislative and constitutional reforms to ensure women's fair access to political spheres. To this end, UWONET believes in upholding women's right to participate in public life and removing barriers to equal participation. Some of the outstanding achievements registered during the year are detailed on the right:

SHARING STORIES

Beneficiary Voices - Building strong caucus members

"Before caucus intervention, I was not able to stand before people; I was an ordinary woman who feared to talk to people, scared of my low level of education. Now I can stand, articulate issues, lobby on issues. In my district, I worked for votes for the female chairperson LC V Kumi who finally got it. I am involved in savings, I move to schools to encourage girls to remain in school and complete it".

Achom Janet Leah Kumi district, Chairperson Women Caucus, Chair social services committee in Council.

1.1 Inclusion and Equality: Women's Leadership Matters

Promoting gender equality and women's active political, economic, and social participation has been central to UWONET's work for the last 25 years. UWONET has focused on promoting women's participation in leadership, decision-making, elected office, and public administration, in all of which there is still a considerable way to go nationally in advancing gender equality. UWONET believes that having a critical mass of women in leadership and decision-making positions is positive and is a catalyst for human development in Uganda. When there is a critical mass of women decision-makers, the issues that previously went unaddressed can become priorities.

It is based on this premise that UWONET Secretariat and her sister organisations under the Women's Democracy Group-WDG (Action For Development, Forum for Women in Democracy, Center for Women in Governance and Women's Democracy Network – Uganda Chapter) sought to demonstrate that it is not only at the national level that women's leadership is driving change of benefit to women.

As Ugandans prepared to elect leaders for the Local Council I and Local Council II positions, UWONET and the Women's Democracy Group members were cognizant of the realities that continued to affect women's participation in leadership and decision making including limited information on the electoral processes, existing laws and their political rights as women. Therefore, the Women's Democracy Group mapped and trained 1,210 women aspirants vying for the positions of Local Council I and Local Council II Chairperson from 15 districts across Uganda.

The capacity building of the women aspirants sought to demonstrate and put emphasis on the transformative role of women's political leadership and participation. Although the elections were postponed to 2018, the women candidates utilized the period to lay ground for the official campaign. Additionally, the move to foster civic consciousness in the communities has been taken on by the candidates who utilized the information material produced by the Women's Democracy group to create awareness on importance of women's participation in political leadership and decision-making.





Ms. Sarah Jesca Agwang, with women from district Networks during a practical training in Agriculture

UWONET believes that fair representation and participation of women in governance is one of the preconditions for achieving genuine democracy. There can be no real democracy if half the population is excluded from participation and power. Based on this principle, the Women's Democracy Group broadened their focus to include Local Council III women Councillors in their capacity building interventions. The decentralisation system places the Local Council III councillors in a critical influential position during the local government planning and budgeting process. In 2017, UWONET and the Women's Democracy Group members enhanced the capacities of 329 Local Council III women councilors in seven (7) districts of Moroto, Napak, Gulu, Kotido Kitgum, Kaberamaido and Kaabong, across 32 sub counties. The capacity building efforts demonstrate that advancing gender equality as not only an end in itself, but also as catalytic in development.

In the districts of Nebbi, Lamwo and Kotido, Namutumba and Buyende at least 80 women councillors and 10 strategic male councillors were engaged on a gender agenda that prioritised women's land rights and gender based violence prevention and response. The priorities were agreed upon due to the persistent land injustice and alarmingly high rates of GBV. While over 70% of women are employed in the agricultural sector, they do not control, own or benefit from the proceeds of the land, leaving them the most impoverished in communities. UWONET's work in these communities builds knowledge among champions who continue to educate communities about their rights and entitlements as enshrined in the laws and policies.

1.2 Caucuses in Action

It is said that the investments made in women and girls are great multipliers of development progress. Failing to make those investments, and failing to boost the status of women and girls, impedes the potential not only of individuals, but also of families, communities, and nations. It is on this basis that UWONET Secretariat and the Women's Democracy Group have invested in the District Women's Caucuses as advocacy and lobby groups in the districts of operation. One of the key points of investment has been in building their knowledge and skills to be effective in their positions of leadership. They continue to champion and demand for gender responsiveness across all sectors at the district and subnational level. The Programming recognises the importance of the soft skills including confidence, communication among others

which are often over looked and yet crucial to be an effective leader as demonstrated in the documented voice below:

Working with and through women caucuses has made ground breaking changes in the lives of women, men, boys and girls. A snapshot of the advocacy and lobby efforts of the women's caucuses include:

- In 2017, 27 motions were raised by the district women's caucuses compared to 4 motions raised in 2016, 12 actions were taken in the Acholi and Lango sub regions.
- In 2017, the UWONET secretariat and the Women's Democracy Group witnessed an increase in the number of women participating and being appointed in Council Standing Committees from 17 (2016)–19 (2017) and Executive members from 15 (2016)–21 (2017).
- A total of 12 district women caucuses were able to influence budget allocation for women and girls' specific concerns under education, health and economic empowerment during the budget approval process in May 2017.
- In Alebtong district, the caucus was influential in allocation for construction of a maternity ward in Amugo Health Center (HC) III.
- 13,000,000 shillings was allocated to construct one open room (labor ward) and work commenced in June 2017.
- The Local Council III caucuses moved 15 motions. For example, in December 2017, Bardege division women's caucus influenced the passage of a resolution on sanitation and hygiene, to enable all households to have at least a rubbish pit and a toilet. In February 2018, the enforcement committee will give a report to council on the status of the resolution.

1.2 Women's Voice in Political Party Structures

Our societies will continue to be poorer if they fail to tap the full potential of half their population, and do not remove the obstacles, which so often prevent women from rising to leadership positions in political systems and elsewhere. Political parties shape the nature of women's participation in politics. Internal party policies, rules and structures, both formal and informal, can constrain or facilitate women's participation in political processes. As such, the Women's Democracy Group undertook a process to enhance the skills and knowledge of the leadership of four (4) political parties; Forum for Democratic Change, Democratic Party, National Resistance Movement and Uganda People's Congress (parties represented in Parliament). The skills enhancement initiative fostered the appreciation of gender equality and women's contribution to multi-party democracy and more importantly in each political party for gender sensitivity.

Resultantly, the Women's Democracy Group has seen general growth of gender awareness and mechanisms for women's empowerment established in the political parties. Particularly, the Uganda People's Congress and Democratic Party are in the process of developing gender responsive political party guidelines and policies. The Women's Leagues have adopted coordination mechanisms for example using WhatsApp.



THEMATIC AREA 2: WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

A Large Majority of Ugandan women particularly living in the rural areas do not have adequate access to justice. The barriers and limited access to justice is as a result of inadequate information on their rights and laws protecting them, social pressure, cost of procedures and lack of training of law enforcement personnel on women's rights. In the absence of access to justice, people and particularly women are unable to have their voices heard, exercise their rights, challenge discrimination or hold decision makers accountable. The access to justice programme area is anchored on a strong legal and policy framework that enforces rule of law as the foundation for justice and security, Uganda has signed and ratified a number of international and regional frameworks to promote and protect rights of women.

2.1 Coordination and Influencing using Global Treaty Processes and mechanisms

A cohort of women's rights advocates (members, allies, partners) comprised of 25 women's rights organizations have improved skills and understanding on regional and international processes and instruments for a joint advocacy, monitoring and programming on Universal Periodic Review Mechanism (UPRM); Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); Maputo Protocol; and the Commission on the Status of Women. As a result of the capacity enhanced, some of the organisations in the cohort such as Justice Centers Uganda has since institutionalized and set up an advocacy department and developed an advocacy strategy (functional from August 2017). UWONET believes this initiative will ensure sustainability for the gender commitments in the regional and global frameworks.

2.2 Judicial Activism and Accountability

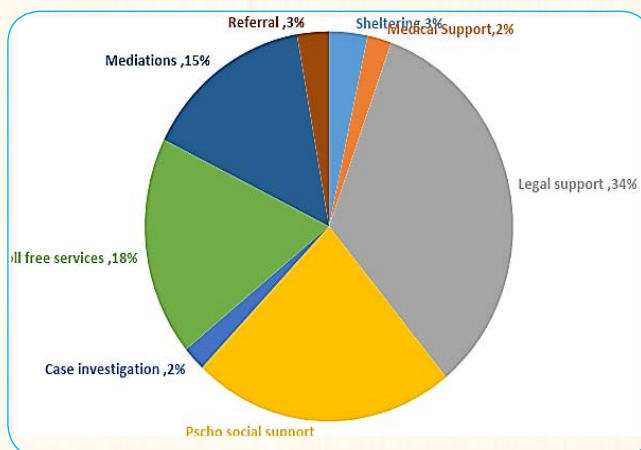
UWONET recognizes that Judicial Activism for women's rights and gender equality is important for a more gender responsive and sensitive judicial arm of government. In 2017 UWONET in partnership with FIDA-Uganda and Oxfam Uganda, took deliberate actions to engage female judicial officers such as judges and magistrates through their umbrella organization, the National Women's Judges Association. The engagement also targeted senior lawyers and discussed the persistent concerns that continue to constrain women's empowerment, gender equality and access to justice. This engagement has ignited for the first time conversations with Judicial officers on open and accessible courts, gender sensitive court rulings and processes. The documented recommendations included the need for Parliament to review current Laws for gender sensitivity e.g. Labour laws, Domestic Violence Act specifically on protection Orders, payments for remand to civil cases on family issues and other related issues. UWONET believes that a more gender sensitive judiciary will increase justice for women and girls in Uganda.



2.3 Increased GBV Service Delivery

A 13 percent increase in the number of cases received at GBV shelter / Advisory Centers in Kamuli and Namutumba district in 2017 was registered. While in 2016 2,500 survivors were supported, this number grew in 2017 to 2,830.

In 2017, UWONET continued to manage and successfully run two Gender Based Violence Advisory Centers and Shelters through a public- private partnership with the districts local governments in Kamuli and Namutumba districts since 2014 and 2015 respectively. The Advisory Centers and Shelters were instituted under the support of Government of Uganda and Irish Aid Joint Programme aims to reduce vulnerability of women and girls to Gender Based Violence in Busoga region. The Joint Programme coordinated by the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development has been greatly appreciated by the community and stakeholders including the District Local Governments. Building on her experience and expertise in managing the advisory center and shelters, UWONET was requested to manage a third and newly



established Gender Based Violence Advisory Center in Mayuge District effective November 2017.

The graph above shows that the Gender Based Violence Advisory Centers offered support to majority female survivors at 93% and male survivors at 7% from 5% in 2016. This is a positive indication that men are reporting GBV cases to the local authority. The centers continued to provide psychosocial services (100%) and legal aid services (34%), courtroom representation, mediations (15%) and supported case investigations (2%) and medical attention (2%). 2017, was the second

year that UWONET's legal officers provided free alternative dispute resolution and acted as court arbitrators, providing this service in Kamuli and Namutumba which was not the case before.

UWONET's recognition and appreciation in the provision of quality Gender Based Violence services is attributed to the unique model that has been instituted. UWONET not only provides legal aid but also psycho-social support and temporary sheltering when most needed in line with the Government GBV shelter guidelines. As a result of the great working relationship UWONET enjoys, Kamuli and Namutumba districts have created platforms for conversations and integration of Gender Based Violence prevention and response through the district led steering Committee. The steering committee acts as an accountability mechanism for duty bearers along the referral pathway. Most importantly the survivors, the women and girls appreciate the services and have continued to refer other abused women and girls and men.

2.4 Male Actions Groups Advanced Rights and Social Intolerance to GBV

Men have a crucial role to play — as fathers, brothers, husbands and public advocates (women's human rights defenders) — in both speaking out against violence against women and girls, and in defying the negative stereotypes that served to normalize gender inequality. UWONET took a deliberate effort to build the capacity of 105 men on Gender Based Violence response and

SHARING STORIES

Bringing back a smile to a 6 year old girl (Kamuli GBV Advisory Centre, 2017)

Mariam is 6 year old girl was tortured by the father (burning, tying her legs and hands with ropes, causing bruises and wounds, knocking her teeth out using a hammer). He later left her abandoned. A good Samaritan took her to hospital and reported the case to Probations Officer who later referred to UWONET.

UWONET worked with KBS, a local media house to trace relatives. While in the shelter, Mariam received psychosocial support to heal from the trauma and worked with stakeholders to find a living solution. UWONET's legal officer initiated the opening of a criminal case at the police and then supported the investigation, followed up on progress and observed the court case.

As a result of the intervention, Mariam was offered a bursary at Kamuli Girls Primary School from P.1 to P.7 and material support from other individuals and the perpetrator was later convicted and given a sentence of 7 months imprisonment and an order of compensation of 5 Million shillings.

SHARING STORIES

Attitude change of men

"I was shocked seeing my friend discouraging GBV. I learnt a lot from that dialogue. Before that I never took my wife as a friend and as somebody I could look to amidst problems because I had thought herself was already a problem to me since I felt I was the only one taking care of our family.

My brain opened immediately during the dialogue.

Now I call my wife my best friend because have realized that her presence and hard work that I was not seeing counts a lot in my daily life. Have also learnt to love my wife and listen patiently when she is talking or giving me a piece of advice".

(Karamoja Dialogue Participant, 2017)

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management and 40 male WE CARE role models in communities' popularizing the concept that unpaid care and domestic work is heavy and unequal. In addition, strategic male councilors in the districts of Nebbi, Kotido, Lamwo, Buyende and Namutumba were engaged to support gender sensitive and responsive motions in Council. Engagement of men in the gender justice led to positive developments for example; As a result, there is wider acceptance that beating women or girls for burning food is wrong, there is more social intolerance towards GBV and VAW/G. During the 16 days of activism campaign 2017, the male champions conducted four (4) community awareness actions that have promoted positive mind-change on Gender Based Violence and appreciation of women decision making and in family spaces.

2.5 Advocated for Allocation of resources for GBV / VAW/G interventions

At district level a number of local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and WRO's have integrated gender and GBV / VAWG programming in their organisations as a result of the mentorships and continued engagement with the District Women's Network. District Local Governments have also incorporated GBV in their District Development Plans and allocated budget votes / resources for GBV initiatives. Attributed to the continued engagement with the district leadership and technical persons through coordination mechanisms by UWONET and partners.

For example Bugiri district approved 2,000,000/=, Kaliro district 1,000,000/=, Namutumba sub county 600,000/=, and Kamuli district 3,000,000/=. For FY2018/2019, some districts have prioritized GBV case management like Namutumba district and Kapyanga sub county which have allocated 7,000,000/= and 1,000,000/= respectively. The Chief Administrative Officers office of Namutumba also committed to providing stationary (Paper) to police.

The Government of Uganda- Irish Aid Joint Programme partners who included MGLSD, UWONET Secretariat, CEDOVIP, Inter Religious Council of Uganda and Uganda Episcopal Conference have worked in the Busoga region for eight (8) years. While there is reduced funding, they pledge to continue raising resources. Important to note is that the programme partners have received support from the District Local Governments for sustainability through allocation of land, buildings for office premises, assignment of community development officers to the advisory centers among others.



THEMATIC AREA 3: WOMEN'S ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

Research has demonstrated that when women are economically empowered, entire communities benefit. Yet until now, there has been a crucial knowledge gap regarding the most effective interventions to advance women's economic opportunities. Since 2015, UWONET embarked on a journey to gather evidence to guide advocacy, learning and innovation. UWONET is aware that systemic change is needed beyond the impact in community boundaries to influence broader social change. The programme thematic area seeks to empower women economically by establishing lasting change through the following: providing women with skills and/ or funding to start their own enterprises and advocating for policy changes needed for women to become economically independent.

3.1 Policy Advocacy for Women's Economic Justice

Evidence based lobbying and skill development contributes to improved economic participation and uptake of opportunities. In 2016, UWONET initiated and formed the Civil Society Cluster on Women and Trade comprising of 12 member organisations/institutions. During 2017, the cluster reviewed the National Trade Policy 2007 for the inclusion of gender considerations in the policy. This process has amplified women's voice and concerns in the trade sector in Uganda. The Trade Policy 2007 seeks to develop and nurture private sector competitiveness, and to support the productive sectors of the economy to trade at both domestic and international levels, with the ultimate objective of creating wealth, employment, enhancing social welfare and transforming Uganda from a poor peasant society into a modern and prosperous society. During an engagement with the Ministry of Trade, Industries and Cooperatives, the Civil Society Cluster on Women and Trade expressed concern that majority of women are employed in the

informal economy, yet the trade and economic policies are not explicit on how to protect and propel their activities. Their contribution to national development is not recognized because they are not captured in national statistics, hence restraining the planning and allocation of resources to support them. A position paper highlighting the gender gaps in the National Trade policy 2017 was developed and presented to the Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives for consideration during the review process. UWONET will continue to work with coalitions to influence the sectors.

SHARING STORIES

Economically empower Lamwo Women Group

15 women came together and formed a group - St. Augustine in Lamwo District. The group planted 3 acres in a joint Sunflower commercial farming project. At the end of the season they harvested 30 bags and earned 3,000,000 Ugx. Coming together as a group has enhanced their bargaining power and opened up possibilities of inter-district business operation.

SHARING STORIES

Economic Empowerment

"Last month (July 2017) my husband bought land and we both signed as owners, this is different from the first two plots he bought where I signed as a witness."

"The sensitization from this group transformed him a lot; we now discuss issues affecting our family as a couple. Together we as a couple we have built our new home. I feel empowered to be part of the development in our family"

Jennifer Akong - group member of Anti-Violence women Group.



3.2 Pathway to Economic Opportunities at Local Level for women

To improve the socioeconomic situation of rural women as a way of key learning for advocacy, UWONET sought to provide sustainable livelihoods for women. In 2016, UWONET piloted the Seed Fund Initiative in three (3) districts, which has in turn enhanced income generation capabilities and opened the members to economic opportunities.

Important to note is that the seed fund was initiated to support individual women and has evolved over the year to supporting group/collective initiatives. The seed fund project serves as learning for UWONET to understand the empowerment cycle. The pilot project sought to study the link between economic empowerment and human rights. It sought to assess whether if women are economically empowered they will be able to demand for their women's rights and participate more in public life.



3.3 Market vending sustaining livelihood

One of the members from Kaabong market vendors (Alima Naburio 36 years) testifies to having started her own business, something she never dreamt of before. She is engaged in slaughtering goats and vegetable selling in the market. As a result, she has been able to purchase a piece of land to build for her family. She also pays school fees for her children, medical care and feeding the family.

3.4 Skilling the youth on entrepreneurship

Uganda currently has the second youngest population in the world with over 78% below 30 years, second only to Niger's 83%¹. The youth population in Uganda comprises of both the educated/skilled and the unskilled living in the rural and urban areas. According to the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, about 40,000 youth are released annually into the job market to compete for about 9,000 jobs². To counter the challenge of unemployment, UWONET in partnership with Makerere College of Agriculture (Kabanyolo) supported the skilling of 10 selected youth (2 female and 8 male)³ to undertake an agri-business skilling programme for 3 months training. The knowledge gained has enabled them open up enterprises like



1 [http://www.undp.org/content/dam/uganda/docs/Brochure%20for%20Youth%20Engagement%20and%20Employment%20\(YEE\)%20Convergence%20of%20the%20United%20Nations%20in%20Uganda.pdf](http://www.undp.org/content/dam/uganda/docs/Brochure%20for%20Youth%20Engagement%20and%20Employment%20(YEE)%20Convergence%20of%20the%20United%20Nations%20in%20Uganda.pdf)

2 https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1480478/increased-investment-tourism-ease-jobs

3 The youth are from the East and northern Uganda



mushroom growing, piggery, poultry, and goat rearing among others. They offer extension services to farmer groups and women groups as well.

3.5 Better business environment created for women

With the knowledge and confidence gained overtime, local activism is yielding fruits in silent places like the market. The women have challenged the unfair treatment and operating conditions in the market. The women leaders within the markets, have championed accountability platforms which have led to the women's issues being made visible and consequently addressed by the duty bearers. As a result of the dialogues, in Kotido district, two water points were connected to Kotido town market to ease access to water by the women vendors, which has given women more time to attend to their businesses other than looking for water. The sanitation within the market has improved with proper garbage collection, the latrine was emptied enhancing usage by the vendors, and garbage collection is done twice weekly. The market access roads blocked were opened, this has increased the number of customers accessing the market, and a police post was established in the market to provide security to the vendors and their merchandise. Similar advocacy efforts have been noted in the other districts like, Lamwo, Kaabong and Kabarole.



THEMATIC AREA 4: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Institutional Strengthening

In a move to build member engagements, the UWONET secretariat convened several Members' Forums to enhance the capacity of the staff and strengthen the institutions. The key forums were convened on NGO compliance (Taxation and Labour Laws); Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE Hybrid Model); Advocacy on monitoring Universal Periodic Review; and Capacity Assessment on Policy Dialogue.

UWONET sought to create an understanding and appreciation of the current legislative framework among her members. The engagements lead to the review of internal policies and enhanced the documentation and filing to the Non-Governmental Organisations Bureau.

In 2017, six (6) district based organisations underwent a process of organizational development mentorship. The organisations set up institutional structures (board and organogram); developed constitutions; complied with registration requirements; and the organisations gained skills for resource mobilization. This process was based on the realisation that a number of the community based organisations were not complying with the legal requirement.

4.2 Young People's Initiative

Since 2017, UWONET has extended her mentorship to young people based in the districts. The interns were placed at six (6) district based women's rights organisations that are coordinating the district women's networks at district level. This initiative has widened and built a body of new knowledge for sustaining the women's movement. The extension of the internship to the district partners was aimed at addressing staffing and capacity gaps at the coordinators of the district women's networks. In addition, the internship programme sought to improve employability and interest young people to work in the districts.

SHARING STORIES

Youth Mentorship

"I have also learnt how to perform my duties with minimal supervision, networking with other CBOs in the district and, working under pressure. As a result of the work and active participation in a number of coalitions at the district, I was named a Gender Based Violence Prevention champion in 2017.
Grace Acheng, Abim district

Grace Acheng was named the champion by the district local government. She serves as an ambassador who initiates local activism and further extends the women's rights and gender equality agenda.

SHARING STORIES

Internship

"One of the main values that I would take back from this internship is that, the glass ceiling can be broken, an organization run almost entirely under the leadership of women is plausible and not just a far distant goal"
Vidhatri Pattapu, Student, Simon Fraser University.



4.3 UWONET as a Learning Hub

UWONET hosted 12 women legislators from South Sudan on a fact-finding mission. The legislators sought to understand efforts taken by women in Civil Society in supporting women leaders in political leadership; the strategies Ugandan women are undertaking to strengthen women's participation in leaders; challenges encountered and how they have been overcome; and tips on women's movement building.



Ms. Rita Dradrimyo, Programme Officer, Networking and Capacity Development.

4.4 Advocacy and Campaigning

UWONET's advocacy in 2017 comprised of concerted efforts to amplify principles of a justice, equality and equity for all citizens across Uganda. The advocacy and campaigning efforts were built onto the importance of coalition building and collaboration across actors. In 2017, UWONET continued to build on her efforts on bringing advocacy to global platforms such as Commission on the Status of Women and Universal Periodic Review, and development of CSO position papers and coordination of organizations.

4.5 Commission on the Status of Women – WE Care

UWONET in partnership with OXFAM and Dan Church Aid participated in the 61st session of Commission on the Status of Women under the theme; Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work". UWONET utilized this opportunity to share learning's as well as learn from other countries strategies, approaches, and methodology that aim at advancing women's rights. UWONET held a side event under the theme making care work visible for women's economic progression and empowerment; the role of civil society and women politician in advancing gender equality and women's rights. The event profiled UWONET's strategies of addressing gender inequality; specifically, on women caucusing, unpaid care work, and organizing of women during Constituency Assembly. UWONET also participated in the development of an African position paper in Addis, which was presented and disseminated during the Commission on the Status of Women among government delegates to influence their in-country priorities on women's rights.

4.6 Online and Media Engagement

In 2017, UWONET continued to inform and encourage open communication with members, individuals and partners. The communications engagements included:

- i. Twitter followers grew in number by 1,276 (individuals and organisations)
- ii. Facebook followers grew in number by 681 (individuals and organisations)
- iii. Facebook organic reach was at 5,518
- iv. 1 Live Debate - #RetireTheHoe
- v. 3 Press Conference
- vi. 7 Media Appearances
- vii. 6 Print Articles
- viii. 3 News Reports



Kamuli's safe haven for violence survivors

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 28 2017

[f](#) [G+](#) [in](#) [e](#) [m](#)



4.7 Movement Building – 1st Regional Women’s Week

The 1st Regional Women’s Week 2017 was organized under the theme: “Advancing a Women’s Movement: Creating an Inclusive Culture”. Through the regional women’s week UWONET initiated a process of building a culture that embraces diversity and thrives on synergy for the advancement of women’s rights. The proceedings of the regional women’s week confirmed that building an inclusive culture will require exploring new perspectives and strategies that will inspire women to participate more substantively in formal and informal government policy making and programme processes at a regional level. The overall goal of the women’s week is to achieve “A vibrant and influential women’s movement advocating for gender equality and equity”.

The first ever Regional Women’s Week brought together 600 people participating in and attending various activities over a period of five days from 4th – 8th September 2017. The participating individuals represented twenty-four (24) districts from seven (7) regions of Uganda (Rwenzori, Bunyoro, Buganda, Acholi, Ankole, Teso and Busoga). The participating individuals and organizations interacted with leaders from the national and district levels, political parties, cultural and religious institutions, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to identify region specific concerns for women and girls.

Regional specific challenges were documented and these informed dialogue with duty bearers at the district level for instance during the market dialogue between the women market vendors and the municipality authorities. Peace building and solidarity dialogue with women emerging from conflict led to the identification and discussion of critical advocacy issues. Relatedly discussions with refugee women on conflict and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) opened a platform for the silent voices of women to be heard and points of intervention discussed with CSOs, district authorities and UN agencies. Establishment of networks, collaborations and partnerships between national and district CSOs, traditional/cultural institutions was initiated and follow up meetings have since been organized.

Young people’s voices were documented and areas for future interventions by local and national partners like UWONET identified. Skills and solidarity developed for women in incarceration/prison. The need for skills development for inmates that they become productive citizens after their release is an issue UWONET will advance with the JLOS sector. The low participation of women in natural resource governance and management spaces was documented and its impact on women identified. This has informed the formation of a coalition and programme intervention to advance women’s engagement and participation. The need for awareness creation on land rights, food security and access to clean and safe water was documented. Local organizations appreciated the platform to create linkages and build synergies. The participating organizations are taking up the initiative to convene an annual Rwenzori Regional Women’s Week.

The Regional Women’s Week was born out of the 3rd National Women’s Week and a Rwenzori Women in Leadership forum, where bridging the regional gap was identified as a key element to strengthen women’s organizing and movement building. The first Regional Women’s Week served as a platform to create linkages, build synergies, network, share knowledge and experiences with an aim of holistically addressing the regional specific multi-dimensional factors that continue to impede gender transformation and equality in the Rwenzori Region.

4.8 UWONET Team

Name	Role
Board of Directors	
Tezira Jamwa	Chairperson
Christine Birabwa Nsubuga	Vice Chairperson
Juliet Were	Treasurer
Peace Musimenta	Secretary
Sheila Kawamara Mishambi	Ex-Officio
Hellen Twongyeire	Secretary
Rita Aciro Lakor	Executive Director
Secretariat Staff	
Rita Aciro Lakor	Executive Director
Walter Andama	Finance and Administration Manager
Laureen Karayi	Coordinator, Women's Rights and Access to Justice
Sarah Jesca Agwang	Coordinator, Women's Economic Justice and Empowerment
Susan Labwot	Coordinator, Women's Leadership and Democratic Governance
Ramadhan Muweleza	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
Edith Nabuzana	Finance Officer
Anthony Nakhaima	Accounts Assistant
Sayda Nankwanga	Administrator
Anita Langthaller	Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Advisor (HORIZONT3000)
Flavia Ajok	Programme Officer, Women's Leadership and Democratic Governance
Rita Dradrimiyo	Program Assistant Networking and Capacity Building
John Kazibwe	Information Technology Officer
Alfred Rwamirego	Communications and Advocacy Officer (Until October 2017)
Paul Okula	Procurement Assistant
Justine Najore	Administrative Assistant
Sandra Komuhimbo	Coordinator – Research, Knowledge Management and Advocacy
Alex Dralega	Officer Assistant
Samuel Butele	Security Officer
Jude Okesya	Driver
Twalibu Kagwa	Driver
Madina Nabossa	Welfare Officer
Cynthia Norah Nakanjako	Volunteer, Women's Rights and Access to Justice

Name	Role
Daphine Vicky Ekinamushabire	Volunteer, Research, Knowledge Management and Advocacy
Gender Based Violence Advisory Center and Shelter in Namutumba District	
Justine Nabwire	Coordinator and Legal Officer
Rachael Nyemera	Programme and administrative Assistant
Harriet Namukenge	Legal Officer
Julian Naluwoza	Social Worker and Counsellor
Tracy Nabugoda	Matron
Sharleen Kabajungu	Assistant Social Worker
Henry Kisikwe	Driver
Sanyu Rita	Assistant Matron
Waiswa Charles	Security
Malanga Emmauel	Security
Namabanda Brenda	Welfare Officer
Gender Based Violence Advisory Center and Shelter in Kamuli District	
Sandra Namudiba	Coordinator and Legal Officer
Yvonne Komuhendo	Social Worker and counsellor
Hellen Aliwayatya	Administrative Assistant
Harriet Nabirye	Assistant Social Worker
Prossy Timugibwa	Hygiene Officer
Ivan Sajabi	Driver
Eriki Moses	Security
Kabale Samuel	Security
Nabuyondo Cissy	Volunteer
Olive Zimba	shelter Matron

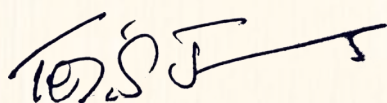
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017 Ushs	2016 Ushs
INCOME			
Grants	3	5,956,708,522	5,385,221,920
Other Income	4	172,350,586	58,771,572
TOTAL INCOME		6,129,059,108	5,443,993,492
Less: Refunds to donor	14	(4,725,643)	(66,884,017)
Total Income Net of refunds		6,124,333,465	5,377,109,475
EXPENDITURE			
Women's Leadership & Democratic Governance	I	1,996,719,551	2,252,679,506
Women's Rights and Access TO Justice	II	1,235,520,215	661,563,240
Women's and Economic Justice and Empowerment	III		
Organisational Strengthening	IV	2,488,728,996	1,921,781,181
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		6,119,797,781	5,174,449,927
(DEFICIT) SURPLUS BEFORE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE		4,535,684	202,659,548
Less: Capital Expenditure		(25,655,400)	(50,375,136)
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		(21,119,716)	152,284,412

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017 Ushs	2016 Ushs
Non-current assets			
Property and equipment	6	290,127,714	358,418,117
Operating Lease	6	350,000,000	362,500,000
Total non-current assets		640,127,174	720,918,117
Current assets			
Debtors and prepayments	7	984,529,466	854,143,720
Cash & Bank Balances	8	1,648,919,008	1,794,363,870
Total current assets		2,633,448,474	2,648,507,590
TOTAL ASSETS		3,273,576,188	3,369,425,707
Accumulated funds			
Restricted Fund	9	2,380,195,190	2,613,183,700
Capital Fund	10	640,127,714	720,918,117
General reserve	11	205,800,684	(6,068,110)
Total Accumulated Funds		3,226,123,588	3,328,033,707
Current Liabilities			
Payables & Accruals	12	47,452,600	41,392,000
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUND AND LIABILITIES		3,273,576,188	3,369,425,707

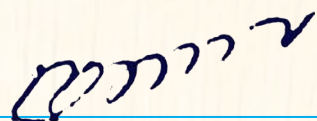
The financial statement on page 23 to 48 were approved by the management on 25 May 2018 and signed on its behalf by:



Chairperson



Treasurer



Executive Director



Gender Transformation & Empowerment



Contact;

The Executive Director

Uganda Women's Network

Plot 710, Block 216, Mirembe Close

Bbuye-Kigowa, Ntinda, Kampala

P. O. Box 27991-Kampala, Uganda

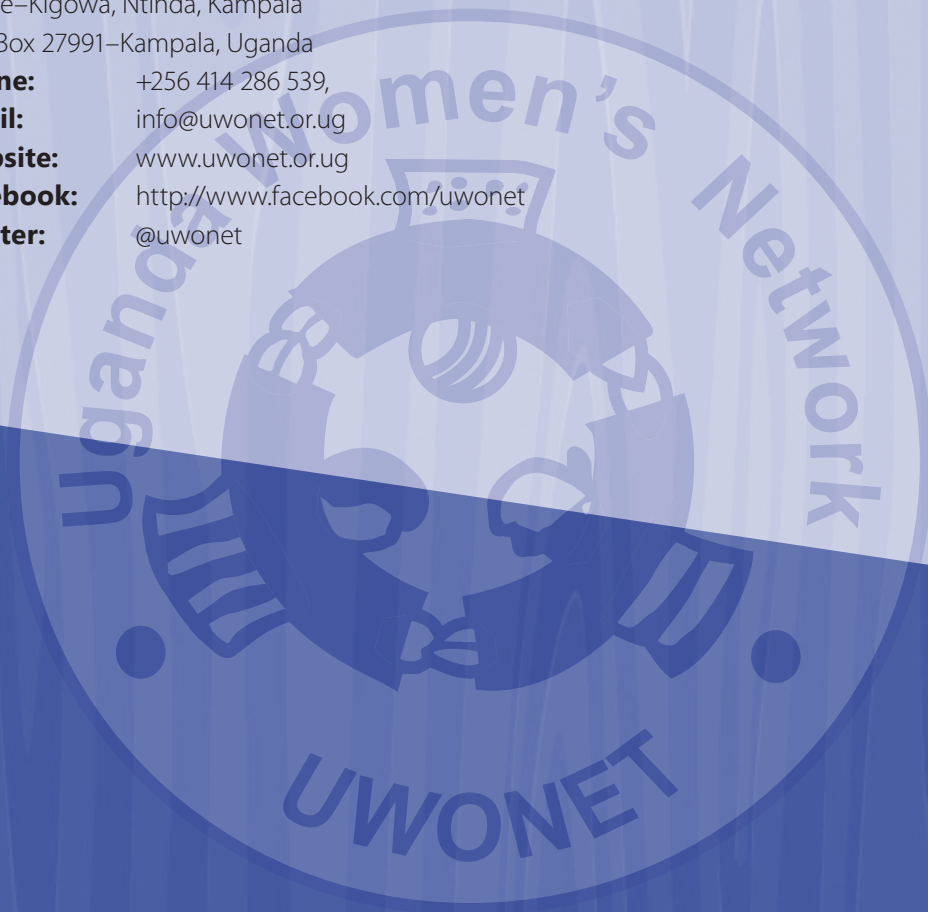
Phone: +256 414 286 539,

Email: info@uwonet.or.ug

Website: www.uwonet.or.ug

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

Twitter: @uwonet



Gender Transformation & Empowerment