



Gender Transformation & Empowerment

# UWONET

UGANDA WOMEN'S NETWORK **ANNUAL REPORT 2016**

IN UNISON: CONFRONTING THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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## Introduction

The Ugandan Constitution guarantees comprehensive rights for women. This was underpinned by the ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and is encoded in specific national laws to protect women from violence. The past several years have seen women's rights set back by the global economic crisis, the rise of religious fundamentalism, and a surge in political conservatism. Increasingly, women all over the world are denied access to power, resources, information, and basic rights. UWONET and her membership in their own institutional right work to improve the lives and status of women by advancing women's rights, equality, and participation in decision making, particularly in places where the forces rolling back these rights are most severe.



## UWONET Strategy 2014–2018

### Our Vision

***A Uganda Society free of all forms of gender-based discrimination***

### Our 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.***



### **UWONET's Theory of Change:**

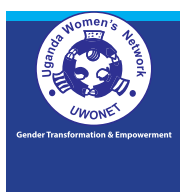
UWONET believes that women ought to live a dignified life and for this to be attained, there must be equal opportunities; access to information and knowledge to enable them make informed decisions about their lives. We believe that eliminating gender based discrimination can be attained through unwavering 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.

### **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.

# Table of Contents

|                                                                   |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Introduction                                                      | ii        |
| UWONET Strategy 2014–2018                                         | iii       |
| List of Acronyms                                                  | v         |
| Foreword                                                          | vi        |
| UWONET Localities of Work                                         | vii       |
| Chairperson’s Message                                             | viii      |
| Executive Director’s Overview                                     | ix        |
| <b>WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE</b>               | <b>xi</b> |
| Women Claiming Their Space in Democratic Elections                | xii       |
| Promoting Women’s Leadership and Good Governance                  | 4         |
| <b>WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE</b>                       | <b>8</b>  |
| Policy Advocacy                                                   | 9         |
| Gender Based Violence Service Delivery                            | 13        |
| <b>WOMEN’S ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT</b>                   | <b>18</b> |
| Framing Economic Justice for Women                                | 19        |
| Building Women’s Entrepreneurship                                 | 19        |
| Exposure for Economic Development                                 | 21        |
| <b>INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING</b> | <b>23</b> |
| Women’s Organizing and Movement Building                          | 24        |
| Information Management                                            | 29        |
| Audio Visual Documentation                                        | 29        |
| Financial Statement                                               | 35        |
| Board Members                                                     | 36        |
| Staff Members 2016                                                | 37        |
| UWONET District Partners                                          | 41        |
| UWONET Members and Allies Contributions                           | 42        |
| 2016 Pictorial                                                    | 43        |



## List of Acronyms

|        |                                                                            |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CEDAW  | Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| DCA    | Dan Church Aid                                                             |
| DP     | Democratic Party                                                           |
| FDC    | Forum for Democratic Change                                                |
| GBV    | Gender Based Violence                                                      |
| JEEMA  | Justice Forum                                                              |
| MGLSD  | Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development                           |
| ODOWOL | Organization for the Development of Women in Lamwo                         |
| PPP    | Peoples Progressive party                                                  |
| UNDAF  | United Nations Development Assistance Framework                            |
| UPC    | Uganda People's Congress                                                   |
| UWONET | Uganda Women's Network                                                     |
| WDG    | Women's Democracy Group                                                    |

# Foreword

The operating context of civil society is fast changing with political pressures restricting space for participation, technology shifting social engagement and economic power shifts. Underpinning all of this was the sense that civil society in 2016 was a vibrant, diverse and increasingly innovative in its attempts to solve societal challenges and support local, national and global governance. In the Uganda context, four key processes served as enabling factors towards the successful implementation of UWONET's interventions:

- ❖ **Right to vote and to be voted:** Through the promotion of civic and voter education, UWONET was able to promote the relevance of women's leadership among the citizenry and used the opportunity to engage with new leaders on the Women's Manifesto 2016–2021.
- ❖ **Uganda's Human Rights Accountability:** The Universal Periodic Review—a periodic review process of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States—enabled UWONET and 30 members of the women's rights and gender cluster to develop and present a situational analysis of women's rights in Uganda at the Human Rights Council.
- ❖ **Structural Adjustments for Access of Justice:** Government operationalized Sexual and Gender Based Violence desk within the structures of the Uganda Police Force countrywide. This enabled expeditious handling of cases and promoted improved access to justice for violence survivors including those attended to at the UWONET GBV Advisory Centers.
- ❖ **Women's Economic Empowerment on National Agenda:** The introduction of the Uganda Women's Entrepreneurship Program recognized the need to advance women's economic empowerment on a national level. It emphasized the importance of women's contribution towards the national economy and was a positive step towards improving the economic status of women countrywide.

# UWONET Localities of Work

In 2016, UWONET together with and through her members and partners operated in 74 districts representing 12 regions (Karamoja, Teso, Ankole, Buganda, Lango, West Nile, Rwenzori, Acholi, Busigu, Busoga, Bunyoro, Kigezi) across Uganda.



Source: Google Image

Throughout the 2016 programme implementation UWONET directly reached 18,060 people and indirectly reached 10,195,650 people. The public was informed through various communication means such as publications, Information and Communication Tools (ICT), posters, website, traditional media and social media.

# Chairperson's Message



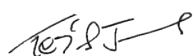
On behalf of the UWONET Board and membership, it is with great pleasure that I present to you the UWONET 2016 annual report. The annual report is a document that gives an account to our members, allies, partners, stakeholders and all the women of Uganda in terms of what we have been able to achieve, resources utilized, challenges encountered and lessons learnt. Over the years, UWONET has significantly contributed to the women's movement, engaged and participated in influencing policies, legislation and practices at international, regional, national and local levels for gender equality. This has been done through a number of interventions with different stakeholders. The strategies included evidence based policy advocacy, capacity building, networking and information sharing and coalition building among others.

2016 was a busy political year during which citizens exercised their civic rights through participating in the general election processes. UWONET, members and allies were at the forefront in the electoral processes through a number of engagements. UWONET in particular vigorously led the development of the Women's Manifesto 2016–2021 together with the membership of Women's Democracy Group (WDG). The Women's Manifesto is a political tool with aggregated concerns, views and aspirations of women across the country to influence political party manifestos with a gender agenda that fronts women's key concerns across social, economic and political divisions across the country.

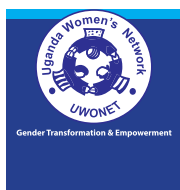
UWONET has continued to network with likeminded actors at national and subnational level to collectively steer the cause of women's rights and gender equality. This working relationship with different actors has fostered vibrancy in the communities with evidence of several local actions spearheaded by women leaders and change agents.

UWONET recognizes and appreciates the many diverse partnerships that have supported and informed our work. Strong partnerships have been built with Civil Society Organisations, Government Ministries and Institutions, Development Partners, the Private sectors, Religious affiliations, Cultural Leaders and the Citizenry at Large.

Finally, I would like to sincerely appreciate the Government and its Government Institutions both at National and Local Levels, our communities that we work with, UWONET membership, Development Partners, Members of the Board and the staff of the Network who remain passionate in advancing Gender Equality.



**Hon. Tezira Jamwa**  
Chairperson UWONET



# Executive Director's Overview



It is with great pleasure and honour that I take this opportunity to share with you **UWONET's 2016 annual report**. Through our annual report, we share with you steps towards attaining gender equality. The annual report highlights achievements, outcomes of our interventions, best practices documented, challenges encountered and mitigating strategies used to overcome the challenges. 2016 was a unique year which gave us an opportunity to proactively engage in a number of national processes for example; preparing women candidates for the general elections, finalisation and popularizing of the Women's Manifesto 2016–2021, engaging with the political parties for inclusion of the key gender concerns in their manifestos, capacity development for women's rights organisations, internal institutional strengthening and women's movement building climaxing with our 3rd National Women's Week.

Through our actions, we were able to mentor, support and influence processes and structures that incrementally enhanced women's participation in political leadership, advocacy for women's rights and empowerment at individual and collective levels.

The 3rd National Women's Week, a networking space which brought together over 2,000 women, men, boys and girls to discuss various pertinent issues of women's rights and empowerment was a highlight for 2016. This space has been an exciting opportunity for the last six consecutive years, UWONET has successfully coordinated and delivered the Women's Week every two years.

Like in the previous years, we have continued to partner and work closely with community based structures, local government and duty bearers to continue addressing and responding to the vice of gender based violence and violence against women and girls, promoting women's economic empowerment, strengthening women's influence in leadership, movement building and mentorship of young people in advancing women's rights and gender equality.

UWONET was also instrumental in promoting peace during the election period. We are grateful that our peace Candle Campaign not only amplified the women's voice for peace and unity during the 2016 election but also brought different parties together to address and adopt women's concerns in their political agenda. UWONET remained

central in coordination of action of women's issues across the country with different partners.

In the coming year, we will continue to build on the successes, minimize the weakness and challenges and above all make use of the lessons learnt. We will be having the first regional women's week, capacity enhancement of women in leadership, engaging at policy level on the social political concerns of women among others.

Working at UWONET, I believe like in other similar institutions is no easy task to accomplish. To do this kind of work, we draw our strength from the support we receive in the course of our day to day work. Our sincere gratitude to Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments that are directly linked to our work. We do not take your support for granted.

To our target groups at various levels, we do enjoy working with you and we hope our work makes a difference. To all our development partners, volunteers and membership, UWONET's work would not be complete without you. Thank you for the support in 2016. To the Board, I am sincerely grateful for the continued support. To colleagues at the secretariat, your energy levels are amazing. Thank you for the team spirit and commitment, you are indeed the foot soldiers. Thank you for 2016. God Bless you.

For God and my Country



**Rita. H. Aciro-Lakor**  
Executive Director



## **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.

## Women Claiming Their Space in Democratic Elections

The right of every eligible citizen to determine who will represent them in government is a cornerstone of democracy and critical for social cohesion and solidarity. Since 1996 UWONET has participated in domestic election processes to observe with a gender lens by being part of the larger civil society election observation coalitions such as Democracy Monitoring Group (DEMG) in 2011 and Citizens Election Observation Network-Uganda (CEON-U) in 2016 where the UWONET Executive Director-Rita. H. Aciro Lakor serves as the Vice Chairperson. During the election period, UWONET undertook various measures to increase women's participation as detailed below:

**Generating Knowledge:** The election observation process which started in 2015 involved a number of processes including a partnership with the School of Women and Gender Studies to conduct a research on the status of women's participation in governance and democratic processes. The research entitled *"Women in Uganda's Electoral Processes; Mapping Positive Trends and Persistent Deficits in 2016 General Elections"* focused on the positioning of women in the electoral process, covering the period December 2015–February 2016. The research contextualized the political environment and aided public awareness on existing gender inequalities in electoral structures and processes including but not limited to intimidation of female candidates/ voters, sexualisation and commercialization of politics. On a positive note the research



Hon. Rhoda Kalema and Hon. Joyce Mpanga launching the research titled *"Women in Uganda's Electoral Processes"* besides Ms. Regina Bafaki, Exective Director ACFODE (left)

documented positive trends with more women interested in electoral process at various levels and women's organizing at the local level.

**Onsite Observation:** In 2016, the Women's Democracy Group (WDG) comprising of Action For Development (ACFODE), Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), Women's Democracy Network – Uganda Chapter (WDN-U) and Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) (as the coordinating agency) –were in 2016 accredited by the Uganda Electoral Commission as certified 2016 general election observers. The consortium availed 25 Long Term Observers (LTOs) in 25 districts out of the 200 observers deployed by CEON-U. WDG further deployed observers in 20 additional districts covering 38% of the country.

The participation of WDG in the onsite election observation process allowed for the consortium to gather data from a gender perspective. This was presented in a research report giving a critical analysis of women's participation in the election processes. The women's involvement in onsite observation contributed to providing an environment conducive for overall promotion and protection of women's rights and reduced prevalence of violence against women. The research and observation reports are envisioned to inform election reforms and programming to improve women's participation in politics in 2017 and beyond.



*As captured by the observer - voters lining up to check the voter register ahead of casting their vote*



*As captured by the observer - counting of vote cards by the Electoral Commission officers.*

**Peace Candle Campaign:** the political environment during the election period was characterized by fear and mistrust. In a process to encourage political parties to commit themselves to uphold and promote peace, WDG handed over 8 peace candles to the 8 presidential candidates. This Campaign underlined the notion that a lit candle is a symbol for peace and conflict resolution before, during and after elections.

The peace candle campaign contributed to the near peaceful election period with minimal violence country wide being reported in the media. The peace candle campaign showcased women having a significant role in facilitating peace.



*Lighting peace candles with the 2016 Presidential Candidates and/or their representatives. NRM (top), FDC (bottom left), Benon Biraaro (bottom middle left), Maureen Kyalya Walube (bottom middle right) and Go Forward (bottom right).*



## Promoting Women's Leadership and Good Governance

As parliamentarians, civil servants and at the helm of civil society organizations, women have moved into prominent leadership roles in a number of public structures and institutions thereby changing how decisions are made. Gender balance in leadership, however, remains elusive; just 34% representation in parliament and local councils. UWONET is an influential advocate for parity at all levels in political, economic and public life, equipping women with new leadership skills as potentially effective champions of change.

**Transferred Knowledge and Skills:** Through the election period starting 2015–January 2016, the Women's Democracy Group (WDG) embarked on a process to equip potential women leaders, from 71 districts across the country, with knowledge and skills essential for them to compete with their male counterparts from an informed perspective. As the WDG consortium, UWONET and partners conducted a candidates mapping exercise identifying 3,403 female aspirants from 5 political parties (NRM, FDC, DP, UPC and GOFOWARD) vying for positions at the local and national level. As a specific measure to overcome the barriers of gender discrimination, UWONET and partners equipped the identified women with skill and knowledge to compete favorably.



Betty Akullo (Executive Director - Women and Rural Development Network - WORUDET) inducting newly elected female councilors in Agago district on their roles, responsibilities and advancing the gender agenda in council.

Resultantly, 1,488 women were elected in 2016 under positions of Member of Parliament, Mayor, Local Council V Chairperson/ Councilors and Local Council III Chairpersons/ Councilors. Over the year, the WDG members continued to train, coach and mentor 800 Local Council V Councilors using tailor made programs that provided a blend of technical knowledge on local government processes and soft skills to enable the councilors address gender inequalities in their electoral roles.

**Positioning Women Leaders:** The efforts towards skilling women leaders have contributed to an increase in the number of women serving in key decision making positions at the district council level in the region where WDG operates, for instance: 2 Local Council V Chairpersons, 7 Local Council V Vice Chairpersons, 7 District Speakers, 26 Deputy District Speakers, and 21 women leaders have been elected into Council Committees. This celebratory increase is one of the progressive successes of the district women's caucuses. In 2012, UWONET started the initiative to form district women's caucuses as a non-partisan forum for women councilors to advocate with a unified voice for gender sensitivity within their local councils. Over the years the caucuses have worked towards gender sensitive budgeting and programming within their districts.

Feedback from the district women's caucuses also demonstrated the degree to which the women councilors, unprompted, went on to share the information gained during the various engagements within their communities. Building on from the previous caucus engagements, the 2016 constituted caucuses are focusing on advocacy for improved women's health and education – two of the priority areas of the women's manifesto.

**Women in Appointive Public Office:** In 2016, UWONET and members took deliberate measures to advocate for the increased appointment of women in public office. Petitions for the appointment of more women on to the Electoral Commission (EC) were submitted to the President of Uganda who makes the appointments and the Speaker of Parliament who chairs the Appointments Committee at Parliament. Accompanying the petition was a profile of 20 women leaders deemed capable for the task. Yielding from the petitions, an increase was registered from two to three women out of seven commissioners at the EC.

**Engaging Women in Political Parties:** The Women's Democracy Group (WDG) members recognize that political parties are the avenues through which women get into political leadership. Political parties in a multiparty dispensation are a very powerful tool for resource allocation, decision making for women. In 2016, the WDG took deliberate measures targeting 35 women in the women's leagues of four political parties. The political party women's leagues generally perform certain core functions



which include: promoting issues affecting women, deepening women's participation in internal party structures and processes, devising and advising on strategies and policies to support women, and mobilizing women for the party. The engagements between WDG and women's leagues revitalized the understanding of gender and women's rights and enabled understanding of women's movement as a support base for women in political mainstream activism. The engagements also built unity amongst the women leagues from different ideologies.

**Influencing the UWOPA Agenda:** Coordinated by Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), three national level women's rights organizations Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA-U), Action for Development (ACFODE), together with Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA) jointly organized a national women's conference on women's leadership to call upon women leaders particularly the women Members of Parliament elect of the 10th Parliament to take advantage of their position and numbers to influence the passing of gender sensitive legislations and adequate resource allocation particularly to Education, Health, Land, Justice Law and Order sector that have a direct impact on women.



*National Women's Conference on Women's Leadership*

Following the conference the 130 female Members of Parliament targeted from the 10th parliament developed a common gender agenda on women and gender equality to inform government policy and development agenda for the period 2016–2021 that holistically addresses the multi-dimensional factors that continue to impede the advancement gender equality and equity. UWOPA adopted over 90% of the issues into their 2016–2021 Common Women's Legislative Agenda (CWLA) to inform their Parliament advocacy agenda. The key issues adopted included women's economic empowerment, education, land and Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) resourcing.

**Conscientisation of Young people:** UWONET's engagement with young people in 2016 enhanced their awareness on pertinent gender issues. The engagements promoted critical thinking among the young people on the issues around them and in their environment. UWONET in partnership with the School of Women and Gender studies organized a series of pre and post-election dialogues with 130 young people from institutions of higher learning, including Makerere University, Kyambogo University and Kampala international university. The dialogues informed the young people on non-violent election and gender sensitivity in the 2016 elections thus providing the youth an opportunity to have more informed discussions on the elections.



## **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.

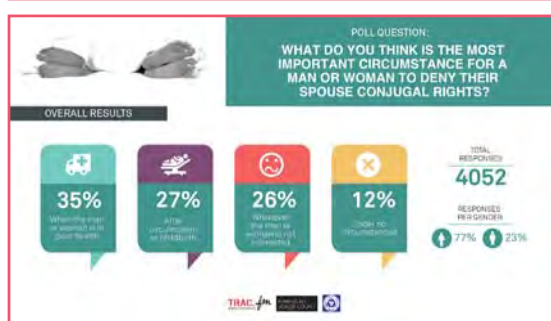
## Policy Advocacy

UWONET and her members are committed to effecting policy change to advance and protect women's rights under five broad priority areas stipulated in the Women's Manifesto 2016–2021. Often, policy debates, both locally and nationally, fail to take into account the real life experiences of men, women and their families. Yet, it is these everyday experiences that illustrate the impact of new policies on social, economic and political status of all persons. Through UWONET's sustained efforts to speak out, she has shaped government policy, influenced decision-makers and given women a voice.

**Making Care Work Count:** UWONET, Women and Rural Development Network (WORUDET) and OXFAM–Uganda broke new ground by providing evidence for the need to recognize care work provided by Ugandan women and girls. Following a pilot household survey in 2015 in Lamwo district highlighting the amount of unpaid care work, UWONET lobbied the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBoS) to include questions of women's work, time use and unpaid care work as part of the periodic surveys to inform the country's policy and development agenda. To date, UBoS has included several questions in the on-going countrywide surveys such as the Demographic Health Survey and the National Panel Survey. UBoS has also revised its data collection system/approaches, to collecting data on each individual within the household including women and girls and not only head of a household. With the strong pervasive patriarchal system in Uganda, interviewing the head of household, a man, did not provide correct data on time use, and unpaid care work. The lobby engagements have stirred a reflection process within the national statistics agency and Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development on the lost contribution to the National GDP when women's care work remains non-quantified and non-measured.

**Advocacy for the Marriage and Divorce Bill:** UWONET utilized numerous national and subnational forums and spaces to advocate for the enactment of the Bill in order to sustain and champion the advocacy voice for a just and fair family law. The Marriage and Divorce Bill (MDB) is one bill when passed into law will help domesticate some of the regional and international treaties. UWONET, as the coordinator of the MDB civil society coalition, facilitated reflection forums with the members of the coalition to review previous approaches and lessons learnt to guide new strategies.

One of the new innovative approaches included the partnership with TRAC FM. Over a two month campaigning period, public awareness was raised, public debate initiated and factual data collected through an interactive radio programmes and SMS polling. Reaching nine regions across the country, UWONET and TRAC FM facilitated a process for the citizens to engage on a government bill, share their opinions, views



*Poll results from the three poll questions asked to the public during the campaign*

and experiences with authorities and development practitioners in a well-structured and transparent manner. The documented community perceptions will be utilized in 2017 to design advocacy strategies that are issue and region specific to address the community concerns appropriately.

**Fronting Local Advocacy Concerns at a Global Stage:** In 2016, UWONET for the first time organized a side event at the 60<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) session, themed “Women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development”. This side event showcased experiences and learnings from Uganda Civil Society Organizations and Government to address the alarming prevalence of violence against women and economic injustices including land abuses faced by women. While interrogating the intersection between violence against women and women’s land rights, Uganda and representatives from other countries shared models and initiatives that have promoted and protected women’s rights. In a bid to create visibility of the efforts in Uganda, a CSW booklet was developed to strengthen Ugandan women’s voices.

**Linking Local Advocacy to Global Advocacy:** In spite of efforts to create cohesion among women's rights organizations for gender accountability, women's organizing continues to be hampered by several challenges. These include the limited capacity within organizations to effectively engage with the international and regional processes and to take advantage of these opportunities to enhance

gender transformation. UWONET facilitated a phased process to strengthen the capacity of 35 programme staff of UWONET members, allies and partners to create an understanding of the linkage between their programme work and regional/international treaties.

The reflective and capacity strengthening processes offered practical skills, deeper analysis and understanding on the opportunities, processes and working strategies for a more effective civil society engagement for gender equality and equity at the regional and international level. A communication and advocacy plan was drafted to guide the process to demand and secure accountability from government for women's rights and equitable service delivery at national and district level. UWONET hopes that the new knowledge will reawaken vigorous advocacy and activism.



*A team building exercise conducted during the capacity building sessions with UWONET members, allies and partners to promote team work and creativity.*

**Reawakening Government's International Commitments:**

In November 2016 Uganda was due for Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by Mongolia, Portugal, and Morocco. This therefore warranted coordination of CSOs to reflect on the status of human rights and produce the stakeholder's report. During the year, HURINET coordinated 12 clusters comprising of 167 human rights actors (individuals and organizations) under the loose

umbrella network called CSO National Stakeholders' Forum on the UPR.

UWONET coordinated the women's rights and gender cluster that produced a report focusing on 5 key concerns of the Women's Manifesto 2016–2016: health, leadership and governance, education, land and property rights and economic empowerment as part of the larger Uganda CSO report. Participation in the UPR process enabled

UWONET and women's rights organizations to document priority women's human rights concerns to inform the Human Rights Council (HRC) recommendations to Uganda for the 2016 UPR; and to influence questions for peer review for Uganda. As a result, the HRC working group report for Uganda was dominated by recommendations on gender and women's rights. Commitments were also secured by Government on priority issues including addressing violence against women and girls, and women's economic empowerment, specifically women's land rights and to eliminate harmful practices through policy.

**Strengthening Accountability of GBV Duty Bearers:** Applying a human rights based approach to Gender Based Violence service delivery, UWONET took deliberate efforts to strengthen the capacity of both rights holders and duty bearers in an effort to reduce GBV in Busoga region. In partnership with the Uganda Police Force and Ministry of Health, UWONET built the capacity of 40 police officers<sup>1</sup> and health workers<sup>2</sup> in the region. Taking into consideration the regular transfer of staff within these institutions within the region, the need for a training was critical to maintain and improve GBV case management and response. The sectors developed non-monetary practical action plans which have been integrated within existing structures, processes, and programs including police parades. The duty bearers were equipped with knowledge and skills on GBV which helped improve the quality of service delivery and fostered close collaboration and support of each other.



1 SGBV desk, CFPD and CID Officers

2 Trained and stationed at health center III, IV or hospital level

**Promoting GBV accountability:** is a challenging area and the progress towards change requires long-term sustained efforts and resources. An evaluation of the Government of Uganda–Irish Aid Joint Programme<sup>3</sup> (GoU–IA JP) to address Gender Based Violence (GBV) implemented from 2010–2015 was conducted in 2016 to assess the programmes performance in the eight districts<sup>4</sup> operation in Busoga region. The evaluation findings established that the Joint Programme was relevant, it was implemented within the framework of national and international frameworks for addressing gender based violence as well as promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment.

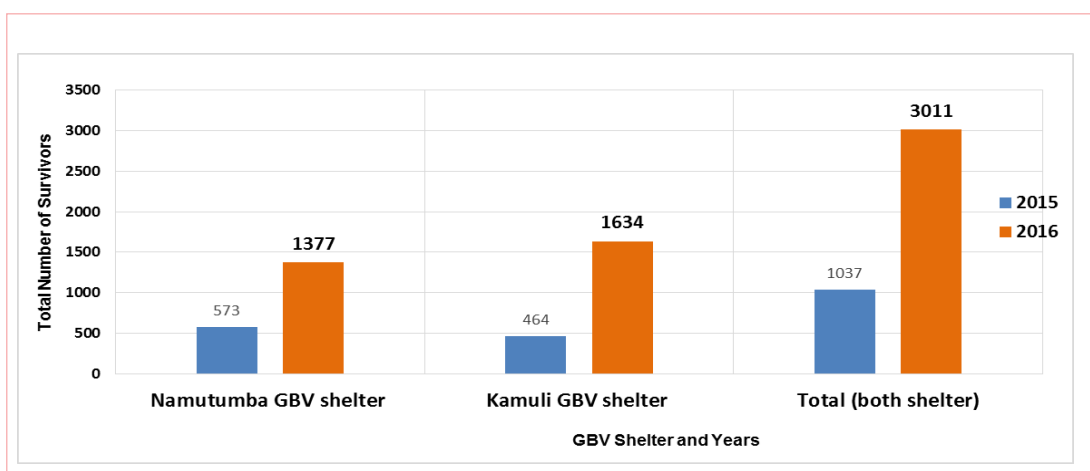
## Gender Based Violence Service Delivery

2016 marked two years since the establishment of the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Advisory Centers and Shelters in Kamuli and Namutumba districts of Busoga sub-region. UWONET provides holistic services to ensure access to justice and social/ psychological support for GBV survivors.

**GBV Advisory Centers and Shelters:** Countering violence means adopting a clear stance and condemning violence against women and girls in all its forms as well as holding the perpetrator accountable.

In 2016 the GBV Advisory Centers in Namutumba and Kamuli Districts supported 3,011 survivors as illustrated below.

**Chart 1: Number of survivors received at the GBV advisory centers**



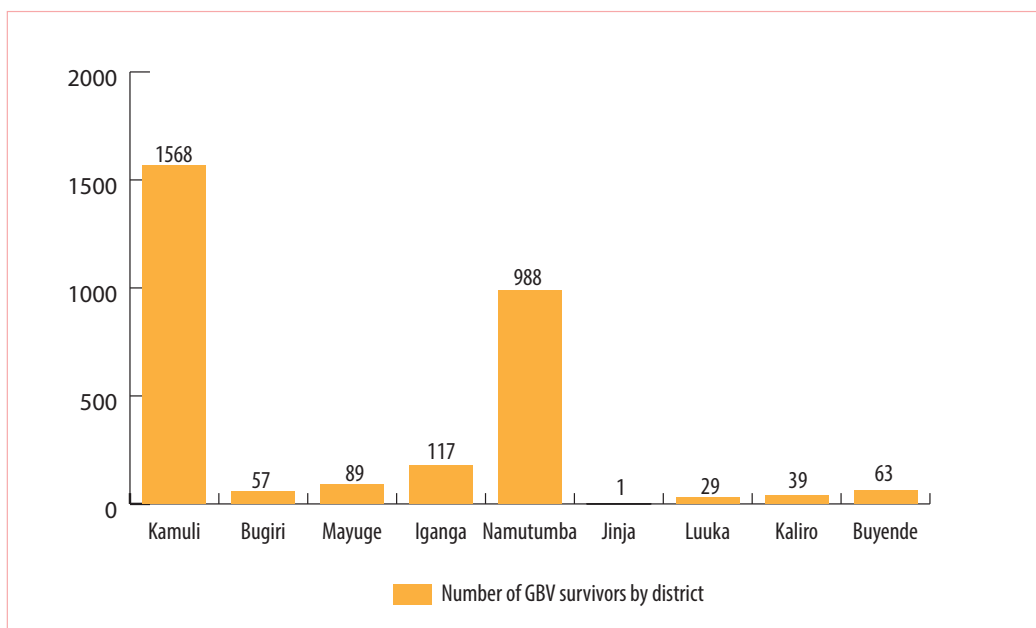
3 The Programme was implemented by: Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD), Uganda Women’s Network UWONET, Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) and Mystic Multimedia working in collaboration with local governments

4 Bugiri, Buyende, Jinja, Kaliro, Kamuli, Iganga, Mayuge and Namutumba

In 2016, the centers registered a significant increase among women who received services compared to the 2015. The increase is attributed to the higher demand for the services among the communities, awareness about services offered at the advisory centers created by the different platforms such as media interactions and outreaches conducted and referral by different stakeholders and institutions in the districts. However there was reduction among the men who reported GBV incidences as shown in the below table. The reduction among the some men is due to the stereotype that men can never suffer from violence inflicted on them by women.

**Geographical reach:** While UWONET has established two centers in two districts in the region, the centres received survivors from the neighboring districts such as Bugiri, Mayuge, Iganga, Jinja, Luuka, Kaliro and Buyende. The number of survivors from the neighboring districts increased in 2016 compared to the previous year. Contributing factors are an increased need of the services since women in Busoga suffer from similar challenges as well as awareness about the services from radio talk shows and referrals by people who have benefited from the program. Below is a graph showing the number of survivors reported in the different districts.

**Chart 2: Number of GBV incidence reported to the advisory center by district**

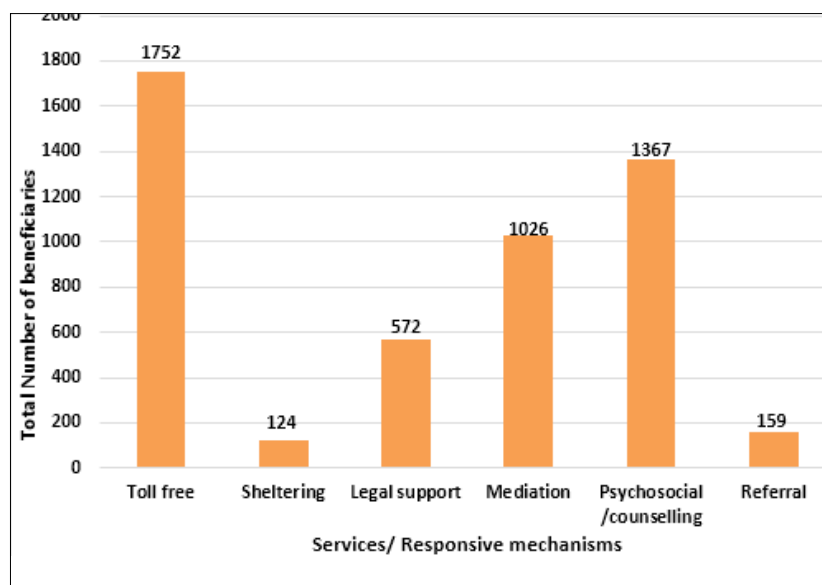


**Cases handled:** The GBV Advisory centers handled 15 types of cases. Child neglect was the leading type reported. Interactions with the communities revealed that there is an increasing number of men neglecting their domestic roles and responsibilities and have taken up alcoholism. Cases of aggravated violence continued to manifest

in the region for instance the Namutumba GBV advisory center handled a case of aggravated defilement of a four months old baby in 2016.

**Response mechanisms applied:** A number of response mechanisms were applied both at the advisory centers and in the communities to offer support to the survivors of GBV.

**Chart 3: A number of response mechanisms were applied both at the advisory centers**



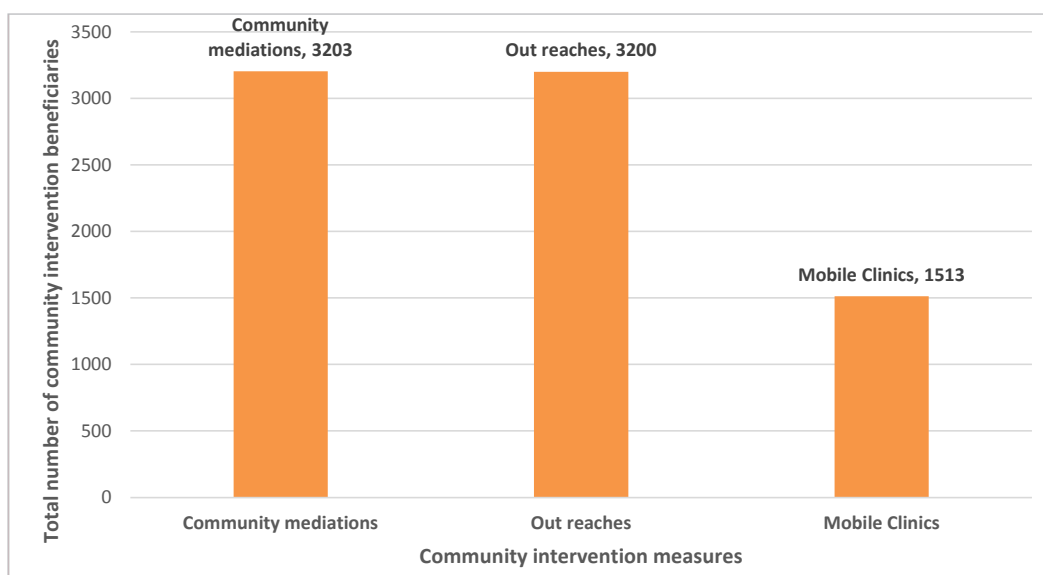
The toll-free service had the highest demand from the communities. Stationed at the GBV advisory centers are two toll-free telephone centers – Namutumba (08007222333) and Kamuli (0800722444). This toll free service enabled people from hard to reach areas to make consultations and follow the recommendations given by staff at the advisory centers. It also enabled men who fear to physically visit the advisory centers to seek for advise through toll free. It is a fast means for the community to acquire support, report cases and/or inquire about updated information information on the on-going going cases.

UWONET offered emergency crisis accommodation for women and children whose lives were at risk after violence had occurred. It provided refuge to 124 survivors protecting them from further harm and reduced stigma while they accessed other services such as medical, psychosocial, legal support and counseling.

**Preventing GBV:** The Advisory centers used a number of awareness approaches to reach out to the communities for prevention of GBV occurrences. They utilized such spaces to educate community members of GBV, its effect / impact at individual,

family and community level and GBV shelter services where over 7,916 community members were reached as illustrated below:

**Graph 4 : Number of awareness approaches to reach out to the communities for prevention of GBV occurrences**



The approaches used during the year were comprised of a range of outreach activities, i.e. monthly outreaches at community, school and hospital; quarterly mobile legal aid and counseling clinics; weekly community mediations; and radio talk shows. These have enabled a wide reach out to communities including the neighboring districts. As a result increase in reporting of GBV incidences has been realized in addition to behavioral change.

**GBV Response Coordination:** Recognizing that no one body can effectively address the myriad elements of a comprehensive GBV prevention and response strategy alone, UWONET facilitated the convening of GBV Shelter Steering Committee meetings in Kamuli and Namutumba districts. The quarterly steering committee meetings are premised on the understanding that all actors (government, civil society and private sector) can and must take action to address GBV. The committee has promoted a coherent, comprehensive, standardized and coordinated approach to GBV at the field level, including prevention, care, support, recovery, and holding perpetrators accountable.

## Snapshot of programme activities



*Group photo after capacity building session*



*Beneficiary who started a poultry business*



*Press conference at the UWONET secretariat*



*Water Walk procession during the women's week*



## **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.

## Framing Economic Justice for Women

In 2016, UWONET commissioned feminist research, analysis, and documentation of the ways in which the economy particularly trade is affecting women's lives, while amplifying and pressing for recognition of women's struggles, knowledge, propositions and aspirations. The study titled "Women's Participation in Trade in Uganda" focused on understanding the economic environment in which women operate in Uganda, providing a situational analysis on trade in Busia, Lamwo and Kampala districts. The findings indicated that majority of women engaged in trade in Uganda are involved in informal trade in areas such as: market vending; hawking and operating roadside kiosks. In addition, it was learnt that the women traders have very limited understanding of the legal and policy frameworks governing trade such as the tax administration policies, Uganda Trade Policy (2007) and the East African Community trade protocols. These gaps in information negatively impact on the growth of their businesses. The findings from the research have informed the capacity building areas of targeted beneficiaries and the identification of advocacy issues to enhance accountability for women's economic justice and empowerment. For example, the review process of the Trade Policy 2007 was identified as an opportunity for non-state actors to input gender equality considerations for the planned revision of the National Trade Policy.

**Market Dialogues for Economic Justice:** Markets are important avenues for women's social organizing and mobilizing to advocate for women's economic justice. Yet evidence shows that a majority of women are focused on their individual business and expressed less interest in galvanizing a common voice to channel their concerns. A number of injustices against women have been registered including a gender insensitive and unconducive operating business environment. To address this, UWONET undertook a process of mobilizing and organizing market women for social justice, facilitating a series of dialogues in selected markets in Kaabong and Kotido districts. The market dialogues served as accountability interfaces between the users and the duty bearers. Resultantly, Two key outcomes were achieved; two representatives of Kaabong Women Market Vendors Association were included in the town council market committee; a security guard was recruited to guard the market daily to address security concerns and a fence for the market, is planned for Financial Year 2017/2018.

## Building Women's Entrepreneurship

Studies from 2014 and 2015 by UWONET revealed that the inadequate knowledge and skills required to start, run and manage businesses was still an immense challenge for women in business in Uganda, affecting their participation and resulting in persistent poverty levels. Following these results, UWONET piloted an initiative to build women's

entrepreneurial skills in the districts of Lamwo, Kaabong and Kitgum. In 2016, 430 women and 20 men benefited from the entrepreneurial skills development, mentorship and coaching to support them in business identification and planning, marketing, value addition, savings and investment among others. By the end of December 2016, 45 businesses had been set up by beneficiaries. Through the enhanced business managerial skills such as record keeping, the income inflow and purchasing power among women increased resulting into improved livelihoods. Women are also breaking through barriers imposed by gender stereotypes and have ventured into male bastions of business such as riding motorcycles as a taxi (Boda boda) and slaughtering of live animals. Another outcome of this initiative was the intensified participation of women in the private sector (markets) and political leadership, for example, 25 beneficiaries contested for Local Council I leadership positions in villages across Kaabong, Kotido and Lamwo districts.

**Tailoring Entrepreneurship Development for Women Leaders:** Low economic empowerment and status perpetuates abuse of women and limits women's participation in leadership and decision making. According to a report by the Women's Democracy Group (WDG) on Women and Uganda's Electoral process, Ugandan politics and elections are increasingly becoming expensive. In 2016, UWONET selected 72 women councilors from Busoga sub region who were given additional tailored sessions on entrepreneurial skills, savings and investment as a way to identify

*A beneficiary  
of the economic  
empowerment  
training  
operating her  
beauty center  
(salon) business*



opportunities and alternative sources of income to build a strong economic base for women leaders. Economic empowerment of an individual enhances confidence and reduces vulnerability. The economic viability enables women leaders hold interfaces with the electorate; provide feedback and collect information that will inform council engagement.

**Tailoring Entrepreneurship Development for GBV Survivors:** Economic empowerment among women is central to combating GBV. The low economic status among women perpetuates GBV because their entire lives depend on their spouses. In addition, the inability of women to support themselves financially increases their tolerance to a lot of injustices from their spouses. In an attempt to address this, UWONET in partnership with Uganda Women's Trust (UWT) supported the Survivor Support Groups, comprising of survivors of GBV supported at Kamuli and Namutumba districts centers, with entrepreneurial knowledge and skills.

As a result, 95% of GBV survivors trained and mentored are engaged in income generating activities such as operating bakeries, animal rearing, poultry, hawking, vegetable growing, market vending, running road side kiosks and salons among other business ventures, using available resource within their reach.

**Seed Fund for Women's Economic Empowerment:** Monitoring the progress of the beneficiaries of entrepreneurship capacity building revealed that the main limitation to applying the acquired skills related to lack of financial resources. Most of them had no collateral security to access loans from the banks and other financial institutions. UWONET therefore piloted a rotational seed fund among selected women's groups to support business initiatives. In 2016, 18 women received the seed fund in the districts of Lamwo and Kotido. UWONET identified a number of individual women's success stories which encapsulate evidence of change, good practice, challenges and overcoming challenges that demonstrate the resilience of women. The seed fund however should not be viewed as a panacea to all the challenges faced by the women. Banks and other financial institutions as a catalyst towards enabling them realize some of their immediate goals through supporting their business interests. The critical reflection highlighted that while the women acknowledged that the seed fund had supported their business aspirations, it is a first step that has given them a boost but the road ahead is not devoid of challenges.

## Exposure for Economic Development

In 2016, UWONET facilitated exposure visits for selected women from the UWONET target beneficiaries. The visits to the model farming village supported by Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns (VEDCO) in Luweero district and Source of the

Nile, Agricultural and Trade show in Jinja district promoted first-hand learning about effective approaches for supporting smallholder farmers. The exchange of knowledge and sharing on-the-ground experience built on previous capacity development efforts by UWONET. The participants learnt different farming methods such as basin planting to increase productivity and processes such as value addition to increase income. A number of the participating women adopted new farming methods like use of manure and they also started growing different crops such as passion fruits and vegetables that they did not grow before the exposure visit.



*Beneficiaries at the Source of the Nile, Agricultural and Trade show in Jinja*

**Private Sector Intergenerational Initiatives:** Balancing work and gender roles has been identified as a key factor affecting women's economic performance. UWONET offered expertise at the Lioness Empowerment Seminar organized for 70 female staff of United Bank of Africa (UBA) was a space to share experiences on effective strategies to balance work and gender roles. The Bank found it crucial to address this issue considering that 51% of their staff are female and as half the branches are led by women with the best performing branches. It was identified from this interaction that, management of personal finances was still a big challenge for women and yet this was crucial for economic empowerment. A savings scheme for all the females in the bank was initiated at this seminar. The seminar provided UWONET an opportunity to learn about women's concerns in the private sector.



## 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.

## Women's Organizing and Movement Building

Women's rights organizations play a central role in spearheading change in support of gender equality. The women's movement is the most significant factor in influencing progressive policy. Women's rights organizations have a unique ability to reach women in marginalized communities, and bring them together to analyze their situation and have them realize that the structural inequalities are can be changed. Cognizant of this significant role, UWONET works to strengthen the women's rights movement, including next generation leadership development.

**Women's Working Groups:** In 2016, UWONET coordinated and facilitated the collaboration between four of thematic working groups on a quarterly basis including: Women's Democracy Group, Women's Rights and Gender Cluster, Women and Trade Cluster and Women and Natural Resource Governance Working Group. The working groups provided a well-coordinated collective voice for the women's concerns under the different themes. The main focus of the working groups has been on identifying, promoting and exchanging views on good practices related to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. The groups are also tasked with developing dialogue with government and other actors on laws that have a discriminatory impact where women are concerned. UWONET envisions the working groups as avenues for overcoming the social, economic and political inequalities. Working groups provided UWONET an opportunity to play her coordination role securing a common voice on women's rights concerns.

**Strengthening Institutional Governance of District Women's Rights Organizations:** In 2010, UWONET introduced the approach of working with and through 20 district women's networks. The district women's networks are coordinated by a selected women's rights organization in each district for collective advocacy initiatives and a collective voice for women's rights. It is through the district women's networks that local specific evidence is gathered to support national level advocacy. During establishing the district women's networks, UWONET has over the years facilitated organizational development sessions to strengthen their institutional capacity and systems to effectively deliver on promoting women's rights in their respective districts. In 2016, UWONET provided technical support to enhance the institutional governance of four district based women's organizations coordinating the networks, that is, Abim Women Together in Development (AWOTID) in Abim district, Forum for Kalongo Parish Women Association (FOKAPAWA) in Agago district, Atasioma Women's Group in Kaabong district and Kakres Women's Group in Amudat district. Guided by an

institutional assessment audit, UWONET examined the leadership composition of the organization and financial systems. Following this intervention ATASIOMA, AWOTID and KAKRES have introduced and instituted financial documentation to ensure transparency and accountability. The women groups – ATASIOMA and KAKRES have designed logos in a bid to enhance their identity and visibility. ATASIOMA and KAKRES have also developed strategic plans to provide strategic direction for their interventions.

**Social Accountability for Gender Responsive Post Conflict Service Delivery:** Since 2014, UWONET has promoted social accountability processes as a remedy for the governance challenge of gender responsive post conflict service delivery. In 2016, UWONET continued to provide platforms of rights holders and duty bearers, aimed at empowering citizens to demand for their rights in service provision in the sectors education, health, water and justice for improved gender responsive service delivery. To enhance social accountability UWONET has employed various community based approaches such as community out reaches, community led monitoring at service points, community dialogues, radio programmes, sector coordination meetings and CSO advocacy coordination platforms. Over the years, several success stories have been documented which highlight improvements in service delivery. Community members provided the evidence of service gaps, presented these to duty bearers and led to community and Government initiatives towards changes.

**Growing Our Ranks:** The youth bulge is a common phenomenon in many developing countries, and Uganda is no exception. With a youth unemployment rate of 64 %), the high number of youth is feared to become a demographic bomb. Alternative options are to be found to enable youth being part of Uganda's progress. With the right investments and continued progress through the demographic transition, large youth population can become large, economically-productive populations that can drive economic and social gains. Having been in existence for almost a century now, the women's movement in Uganda has been at the forefront of challenging patriarchy and gender inequality. The women's movement has identified the need to target young people to take up leadership in steering the movement. Over the past few years, UWONET has targeted the youth,



*Ms Joanita Kawalya performing UG Women Rock at the 3rd National Women's Week*

she nurtures young people and empowers them to take up leadership in advocating for gender equality.

**The Young Professionals Initiative and Mentorship:** In 2012, UWONET began a long term internship programme, to equip fresh graduates with leadership skills and practical work experience. The programme is one avenue to build their knowledge on women's rights. Over the past 3 years, UWONET's internship programme has grown on popularity as noticed in the increased volume of applications each year from 58 in 2015 to 102 in 2016. During the year, UWONET engaged seven young professionals; young professional from various educational backgrounds. They were attached to the different departments and thus grounded in programme work for various projects. The internship facilitated learning about gender issues and the given context, programme planning, implementation and monitoring. The interns gained valuable work experience and personal growth and at least 80 % of participants were able to get gainful employment in Non-Governmental Organisations and Government institutions as a result of the experience from UWONET.

It's important to note that it is too soon to measure the contribution of these young professionals to the women's movement, nevertheless this experience builds a foundation and facilitates appreciation of women's rights and the advocacy on gender equality.



*Mentorship session for secondary school students*

**2nd Girls Arise Conference:** Themed “Growing Our Ranks, Inspiring the Next Generation”, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Girls Arise Conference was convened by UWONET in collaboration with Action for Development, Uganda Youth Network and Solidarity for youth Empowerment during the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Women's Week. The conference was attended by 125 students (70 female: 30 male representation) from four institutions of higher learning and nine secondary schools from Kampala and Kapchorwa districts. The dynamic presentations at the conference helped the girls and boys in attendance to celebrate girls' abilities and initiated a process where they appreciate young women's leadership and their role in the women's movement. The speakers at the conference emphasized voluntarism, self-awareness and self-care in reference to reproductive

health, individual potential to influence social change and the importance of girl's self-confidence. Feedback from this conference demonstrated new knowledge gain and commitment to share the gained knowledge and information with peers in their schools.

**3rd National Women's Week:** The 2016 National Women's Week was hosted by Uganda Women's Network and UN Women under the theme: "In Unison: Confronting the Unfinished Business!". The long week events run between 14th – 21st October 2016 and incorporated various approaches and topics, including advocacy, lobbying, mentorship, charity, dialogue, spirituality and networking activities, with many of these in cooperation with member or implementing partner organizations. The 3rd National Women's Week was kicked off with pre-week activities including the 2nd Girls Arise Conference as mentioned above and the national prayers for women at the Bahai Temple. The main week activities included the 'Water walk', 'Charity visit to the Uganda Cancer Institute', 'Fireplace Networking Evening', 'Grand Opening Ceremony', 'Parallel Sessions' and a 'Closing Dinner where unsung heroines and heroes were recognized'. The Women's Week attracted more than 2,000 participants from different parts of Uganda representing different constituencies including policy makers, district leaders and networks, local leaders, the youths, the private sector, CSOs, security forces, secondary school students among others.



*Cake cutting by the UWONET Membership and H.E Ambassador of Sweden at the commemoration of the 3rd National Women's Week*

The Women's Week gathering has grown in size with representation of 43 districts in 2016 compared to 25 in 2014 and scope from 20 topics in 2014 to 35 topics in 2016 discussed across the week's activities.

The #UGWomensWeek social media engagements managed to reach over 3.1 million Twitter accounts from all around the world. UWONET's Facebook page alone, reached over 81,900 Facebook users over a period of 8 days (15th – 22nd October 2016). The onsite and online participation results made the 2016 women's week the largest engagement space in Uganda that focus on gender equality and women's rights in the past decade.

Another strength of the women's week is that it served as an accountability forum providing an opportunity for government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to inform the public on government's progress and plans to improve the status of women and girls.

**Women's Mobilization Song:** Feminist music has featured on the world's music charts since the first wave of feminism. Feminist songs all have in common is a decidedly pro-woman message to uplift, empower, and inspire women. In the same spirit UWONET and Joanita Kawalya, a renowned female musician, composed and produced 'UG Women Rock' – a unifying song celebrating womanhood, sisterhood and the contribution women have made to the social, economic, cultural and political development of Uganda. The women's mobilization song is a uniquely powerful mode of expression and chosen a strategy for empowerment of women of Uganda. The song is sang in three languages English, Luganda and Swahili.



*Ms Joanita  
Kawalya  
performing UG  
Women Rock at  
the 3rd National  
Women's Week*

## Information Management

As civil society continues to be an important agent for promotion of citizen's rights and good governance, UWONET and her allies used the informational, educational, communication and various media tools to amplify the women's voices, build coalitions, policy analysis and advocacy, information sharing; and mobilization of women to participate more fully in politics and public affairs at national and grassroots level.

### Audio Visual Documentation

#### **"In the Shadows" – Stories of Hope in the Shadows of GBV in Busoga Region:**

UWONET developed this documentary film titled "In the Shadows" to profile and raise awareness about the positive changes and persistent challenges faced by UWONET and her partners Center for Domestic Violence Prevention and Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Busoga region and the country at large. The five minute series aired during the 9 O'clock news bulletin on NTV raised awareness about the impact of GBV in the lives of women, men, girls and boys across Uganda and its effects on service delivery. The series focused on four key areas namely health, education, Women's Land Rights and Women's Economic Empowerment. These themes are in line with the Women's Manifesto 2016 – 2021 which spells out the key demands of women to government. In the documentary, survivors of GBV who had risen above the abuse were profiled and their testimonies shared with the public to rally other oppressed women and girls



*Screenshot of the film (available on YouTube) on the project that promotes the sharing of care work*

to speak up against GBV. Information on where to report in case one experienced violence was also shared with the public.

**“Invisible Barriers”:** This film highlighted the positive change that happen within families and communities when men engage more in care work at the household level. Filmed in Lamwo district, the documentary highlighted the work done by UWONET in partnership with Women and Rural Development Network (WORUDET) with support from OXFAM to change traditional norms and attitudes towards men engaging in care work. This ground breaking film captured community voices and male champions who have experienced the transformation and how it impacted their household in areas of increased income, reduction in GBV, increased harmony and love within the home.

**Making herstory – 3rd National Women’s Week:** The events of women’s week were captured and documented in photography and videography. The photos and videos present the week as it was and serves as record of the engagements and participation of all the attendees at the various events.

**Print Documentation:** UWONET values the production of new knowledge and information and in 2016 produced 16 publications taking various forms as detailed in the table:

| Cover Page                                                                          | Title                                                                                                   | Brief                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Building a Women's Movement With an Economic Base                                                       | The publication tells the story of the formation of district women's networks to serve as an avenue for women's mobilization and organizing in Lamwo, Kaabong and Kotido districts. |
|  | Final Evaluation Of The Gou-Irish Aid Joint Programme to Address Gender Based Violence in Busoga Region | This evaluation covered the implementation period between December 2010 and June 2015 and assessed the Joint Programme's performance in addressing GBV in Busoga Region.            |



Strengthening the Voice and Participation of Uganda Women's Rights Organisations at the United Nations Commission On The Status Of Women (CSW)

This booklet was developed by women's rights organizations in Uganda as one of the efforts to strengthen their voice and participation at the 60th CSW.

The booklet highlights some of the parallel events that will discuss critical contemporary issues in Uganda that continue to re-enforce discrimination against women



Gender Based Violence Service Provision – A Case Of Managing Safe Shelters

The booklet was developed to share the programmes' experiences with running and managing two GBV shelters in Busoga Region. It also documents best practices, approaches and strategies in case management to change the situation.



Gender and Women's Rights Cluster Report in response to the National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21

This report is in response to the National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21\* on Uganda. This report was compiled on behalf of the women and gender rights cluster under the leadership of Uganda Women's Network.



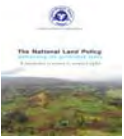
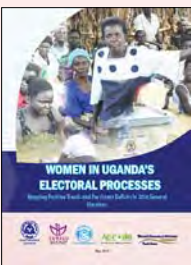
Journey of Passion – Two Decades of Advocacy for Gender Equality and Women's Rights (1993–2013)

This documentation is a collection of UWONET's journey in Advocacy for women's rights and Gender Equality. It gives an account of the strides made by UWONET in the socio-economic and political development of Uganda.



Knowing The Law: Easing Your Work – A Basic Compendium Of Laws And Standard Procedures For Local Councilors

This handbook in the form of a compendium of laws is aimed at informing councilors especially women on provision for women's rights and gender equality to justice under the international and national legislation.

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | The National Land Policy – Addressing The Unfinished Tasks                                                                                   | This publication is an abridged version of the National Land Policy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|    | National Mechanisms For Reporting And Follow-Up – A Practical Guide To Effective State Engagement With International Human Rights Mechanisms | This Guide seeks to provide practical advice on the critical elements that States need to consider when establishing or strengthening their national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, and illustrates this advice with examples of State practice                                                   |
|    | Phenomenal Woman –UWONET Newsletter (Jan–Feb)                                                                                                | The Phenomenal Woman Newsletter is a publication that covers interventions by Uganda Women's Network, members and partners                                                                                                                                                                                |
|    | Phenomenal Woman – UWONET Newsletter (March–April)                                                                                           | The Phenomenal Woman Newsletter is a publication that covers interventions by Uganda Women's Network, members and partners.                                                                                                                                                                               |
|  | Women Candidates Hand Book–2016 General Elections In Uganda                                                                                  | The handbook looks at the role women play as: candidates, voters, political party members and supporters, and political activists, in respect to the: importance of women taking up leadership roles; the challenges they face in doing so; and the ways through which they can overcome these challenges |
|  | Women In Uganda's Electoral Processes – Mapping Positive Trends and Persistent Deficits in 2016 General Election PROCESSES                   | This report provides findings of a study conducted under the ambit of the Women's Democracy Group (WDG) on the positioning of women in the electoral process from December 2015 – February 2016 and proposes recommendations for addressing critical challenges affecting women's engagement.             |

**Media Engagements:** In the year, UWONET used print media to profile success stories of women achievers in various fields and also bring to the fore key concerns of women. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Women's Week, UWONET influenced the New Vision to profile one of the outstanding women in Nakere Women's Group, one of UWONET's district networks established in Kotido district. Rosemary Napio, a mother of seven

from Kotido district and her struggles to make ends meet was profiled in Her Vision on November 1, 2016 under the headline ‘Fleeing Poverty One Woman at a Time.’ The article was written to recognize the role of rural women in enhancing agricultural and rural development worldwide.

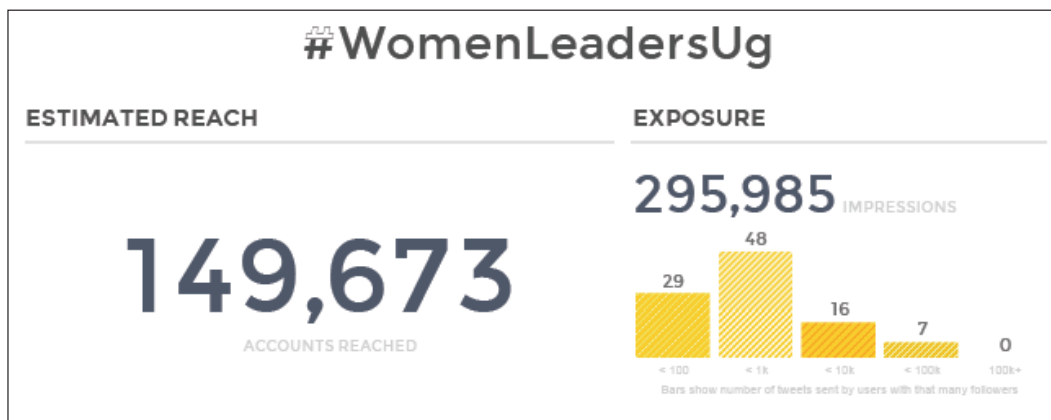
As part of activities to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, UWONET published a statement in the Daily Monitor condemning the increasing levels of GBV in the country. The statement was also published in Flair Magazine to raise awareness about the plight of women and girls and rally stakeholders to do more to prevent and respond to GBV.



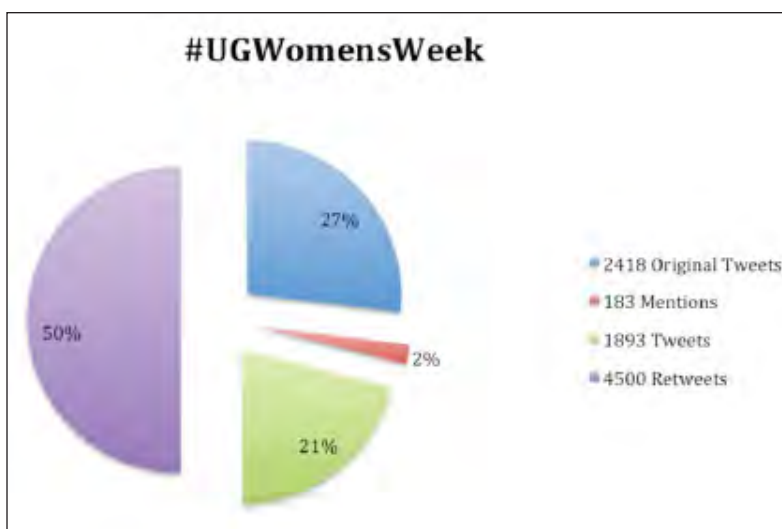
UWONET also used the print media to mobilize and galvanize support of the women's movement for the candidature of the Hon. Rebecca Kadaga as Speaker of Parliament. At the height of the contest between Hon. Rebecca Kadaga and the Deputy Speaker Jacob Oulanyah for the position of Speaker of Parliament in May 2016, UWONET with support from OXFAM organized a Women's Conference bringing together all newly elected Women MPs to agree and chart a way forward for the women's agenda. The conference endorsed the candidature of the Speaker and she retained her position.

**Engaging Online:** Social media has become an essential tool for social change and for NGO influence, advocacy, campaigning and communication. Over the years UWONET scaled up the use of social media primarily Facebook and Twitter to disseminate information and influence online discussions on gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2016, UWONET utilized her social media pages to profile and provide a platform for online participation during key events of the network including the National Women Leaders conference ([#WomenLeadersUg](#)) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Women's Week ([#UGWomensWeek](#)).

Conversations under **#WomenLeaderUg** reached an estimated **149,673 Twitter accounts** with most contributors discuss key topical issues of the conference including, climate change, refugee crisis, and the balance between political and family life.



The hashtag **#UGWomensWeek** was used in **2418 original tweets** and **4500 retweets** between **15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016**. In addition, 183 people responded to tweets using the same hashtag. The hashtag **#UGWomensWeek** was used alongside other hashtags such as **#MyShero**, **#Uganda**, **#Women**, **#NGOAct16**, **#WaterWalk**, **#GBV** etc. This shows that **Twitter/Facebook users** and other partners who participated in the Women's Week not only used the official hashtag of the event, they also took ownership of it and used it to highlight issues related to their work and the topical issues of the week.



# Financial Statement

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

31 DECEMBER 2016

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

|                                            | Note | 2016<br>Ushs.        | 2015<br>Ushs.        |
|--------------------------------------------|------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>                  |      |                      |                      |
| Property and equipment                     | 7    | 358,418,118          | 432,642,546          |
| Operating lease                            | 7    | 362,500,000          | 375,000,000          |
|                                            |      | <u>720,918,118</u>   | <u>807,642,546</u>   |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                      |      |                      |                      |
| Debtors & Prepayments                      | 8    | 854,143,720          | 102,018,784          |
| Cash and Bank Balances                     | 9    | 1,794,363,870        | 2,406,815,710        |
|                                            |      | 2,648,507,590        | 2,508,834,494        |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                        |      | <u>3,369,425,708</u> | <u>3,316,477,040</u> |
| <b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS &amp; LIABILITIES</b> |      |                      |                      |
| <b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>                   |      |                      |                      |
| Restricted fund                            | 10   | 2,613,183,700        | 2,461,288,727        |
| Capital fund                               | 11   | 720,918,118          | 809,642,546          |
| General fund                               | 12   | (6,068,110)          | (30,481,041)         |
|                                            |      | <u>3,328,033,708</u> | <u>3,238,450,232</u> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                         |      |                      |                      |
| Creditors and Accruals                     | 13   | 41,392,000           | 78,026,808           |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                   |      | <u>41,392,000</u>    | <u>78,026,808</u>    |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS &amp; LIABILITIES</b>       |      | <u>3,369,425,708</u> | <u>3,316,477,040</u> |

The financial statements were approved by the Board  
on.....25/4.....2016

and were signed on its behalf by:

..... Chairperson  
..... Treasurer  
..... Executive Director

# Board Members



**Tezira Jamwa**  
(FOWODE)  
Chairperson



**Christine Birabwa  
Nsubuga (UWT)**  
Vice Chairperson



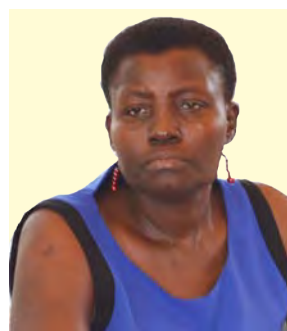
**Juliet Were**  
(ISIS-WICCE)  
Treasurer



**Helen Twongyeirwe**  
(ACFODE)  
Secretary



**Sheila Kawamara**  
(Individual Member)  
Ex-Officio



**Peace Musiimenta**  
(SWGS-MUK)  
Committee Member



**Rita. H. Aciro-Lakor**  
(UWONET)  
– Executive Director

# Staff Members 2016



Rita. H. Aciro-Lakor  
Executive Director

## Programme team



Laureen Karayi  
Programme Coordinator,  
Women's Rights and Access  
to Justice



Sarah Agwang  
Programme Coordinator, Women  
Economic Empowerment and  
Justice



Susan Labwot  
Programme Coordinator, Women's  
Leadership and Democratic  
Governance



Flavia Ajok  
Programme Assistant



Alfred Rwamirego  
Asst Communications  
and Information Officer



John Kazibwe  
Information Technology  
Officer



Rita Dradrimiyo  
Programme Assistant,  
Networking and Capacity  
building (Mentorship and  
Young People's Programme)

## Finance team



Walter Adama  
Finance and Administrative  
Manager



Edith Nabuzaana  
Finance Officer



Anthony Nakhaima  
Accounts Assistant

## Administrative team



Sayda Nankwanga  
Administrator



Alex Dralega  
Office Assistant



Kaggwa Twalibu  
Driver



Jude Okesya  
Driver



Madina Nabosa  
Welfare



Samuel Butale  
Security Officer

## Young Professionals Team



Paul Okulla  
Intern - Procurement



Justine Najore  
Intern - Administration



Juliana Asimwe  
Intern - Women's Economic Justice and  
Empowerment (Until September 2016)



Solomon Lukyamuzi  
Intern - Monitoring and Evaluation  
(until October 2016)



Regina Ilado  
Intern - Women's Rights And Access to Justice  
(Until April 2016)



Moira Imong  
Intern - Women's Leadership and Democratic  
Governance (Until November 2016)



Joan Nagujja  
Intern - Women's Economic Justice and  
Empowerment

## Kamuli GBV Advisory Center and Shelter



Nakalembe Judith  
Coordinator and Legal Officer Kamuli  
(Until March 2016)



Namudiba Sandra Agnes  
Coordinator/Legal Officer (Since June 2016)



Komuhendo Yvonne  
Social worker and Counsellor



Nabirye Harriet  
Assistant social worker



Aliwayatya Hellen  
Administrator



Timugibwa Prossy  
Hygiene Officer



Olive Zimba  
Shelter Matron



Nabuyondo Cissy  
Volunteer



Sajjabi Ivan  
Driver



Eriki Moses  
Security Guard



Samwiri Kabbale  
Security Guard

## Namutumba GBV Advisory Center and Shelter



Nabwire Justine,  
Legal Officer Coordinator GBV  
Shelter



Julian Naluwooza  
Social worker and Counsellor



Namukenge Harriet  
Legal Assistant



Kabajungu Sharleen, Assistant  
Social Worker (Since October  
2016)



Nyemera Racheal  
Programme & Administrative  
Assistant



Kasiko Eric Joel  
Volunteer (Until October 2016)



Nabugoda Ellen Tracy  
Matron



Sanyu Rita  
Assistant Matron



Namabanda Brenda  
Welfare Officer



Kisikwe Henry  
Driver



Waiswa Charles  
Volunteer - Security



Malanga Emmanuel  
Volunteer - Security

## UWONET District Partners

| No. | District      | Organization                                                                                                 |
|-----|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Abim          | Abim Women together in Development (AWOTID)                                                                  |
| 2.  | Agago         | Forum for Karong Parish Women Association (FOKAPAWA)                                                         |
| 3.  | Amudat        | Kakres Women Development Initiative                                                                          |
| 4.  | Amuria        | Teso Women Peace Activist (TEWPA)                                                                            |
| 5.  | Bugiri,       | Community Participation for improved service delivery                                                        |
| 6.  | Buyende       | Buyende OVC Care Foundation                                                                                  |
| 7.  | Gulu          | Gulu Women Economic empowerment, development and globalization                                               |
| 8.  | Iganga        | African Network for Prevention Against Child Abuse and Neglect Uganda                                        |
| 9.  | Jinja         | Anti Domestic Violence Coalition                                                                             |
| 10. | Kaabong       | Atasioma Women's Group                                                                                       |
| 11. | Kaliro        | KEODHC                                                                                                       |
| 12. | Kamuli        | Kamuli Paralegal (Coordinator of the Kamuli GBV CSO Coalition)                                               |
| 13. | Katakwi       | Katakwi District Development Actors Network (KADDAN)                                                         |
| 14. | Kitgum        | Kitgum Women Peace Initiative (KIWEPI)                                                                       |
| 15. | Kotido        | Nakere Rural women activists (NAKERE )                                                                       |
| 16. | Lamwo         | Women and Rural Development Network (WORUDET)                                                                |
| 17. | Mayuge        | Mayuge District AIDS Service Organization (MADNASO)                                                          |
| 18. | Moroto        | Karamoja Women's Umbrella Organization (KAWOU)                                                               |
| 19. | Nakapiripirit | Women's Initiative for Development Nakapiripirit                                                             |
| 20. | Namutumba     | National Community of Women Living with AIDS (NACWOLA)<br>(Coordinator of the Namutumba GBV CSO Coalition)   |
| 21. | Napak         | Women's Initiative for Development Napak                                                                     |
| 22. | Pader         | Women and Rural Development Network (WORUDET)                                                                |
| 23. | Pallisa       | Women of Purpose                                                                                             |
| 24. | Soroti        | Soroti Catholic Diocese Integrated Development Organization (SOCADIDO)<br>Teso Women Peace Activists (TEWPA) |

# UWONET Members and Allies Contributions

The UWONET membership continued to serve as a valuable resource. The membership facilitated access to tools, information, and peer networks that enriched the implementation of activities over the year. The following members and allies aided the successful implementation:

| Members                                                  | Allies                                                   | Working Groups                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Action For Development (ACFODE)                          | 17 District Women's Networks                             | Women's Democracy Group                                                            |
| Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE)                    | 57 District Women's Caucuses                             | Women and Trade Cluster                                                            |
| Ugandan Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Uganda)       | Center for Women in Governance (CEWIGO)                  | Women and Natural Resource Working Group                                           |
| Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP)        | Women's Democracy Network Uganda Chapter (WDN-U)         | Marriage and Divorce Bill Coalition                                                |
| Slum Aid Project (SAP)                                   | Political Party Women's Leagues                          | Women's Rights and Gender Cluster                                                  |
| School of Women and Gender Studies – Makerere University | Child and Family Protection Unit at Uganda Police Force  | Civil Society Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Steering Committee                   |
| Uganda Women's Trust                                     | Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs           | Citizen's Elections Observers Network – Uganda (CEON-U)                            |
| Uganda Media Women's Association                         | Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) | Citizen's Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU)                      |
| Isis – Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange     | Ministry of Local Government                             | Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) Human Rights and Accountability Working Group |
| Send A Cow Uganda                                        | District Local Governments                               |                                                                                    |
| National Bahai Committee on the advancement of women     | Ministry of Water and Environment                        |                                                                                    |
| Hon. Sheila Kawamara Mishambi                            | Uganda Women's Parliamentary Association                 |                                                                                    |
| Deborah Kaddu Serwadda                                   | Uganda Law Reform Commission                             |                                                                                    |
| Maude Mugisha                                            | Uganda Bureau of Statistics                              |                                                                                    |
| Dr. Mary Ssonko                                          |                                                          |                                                                                    |

# 2016 Pictorial







Contact:

**The Executive Director**

Uganda Women's Network

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Bbuye-Kigowa, Ntinda, Kampala

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

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

**Twitter:** @uwonet