

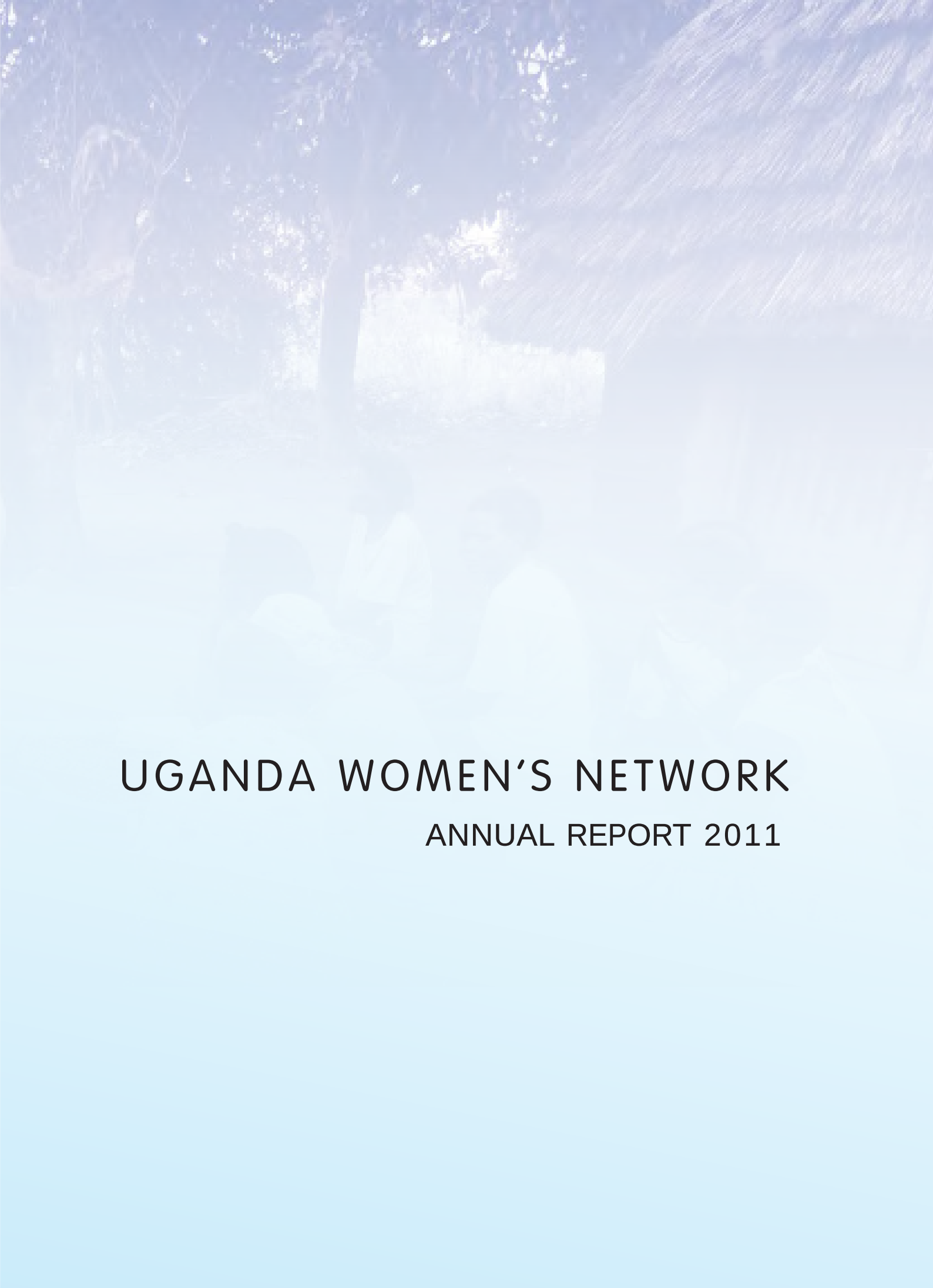


Gender Transformation & Empowerment

UGANDA WOMEN'S NETWORK



ANNUAL REPORT 2011



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACFODE	Action for Development
AMwA	Akina Mama wa Afrika
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against women
DVA	Domestic Violence Act
EAC	East African Community
FIDA-Uganda	Association of Uganda Women Lawyers
FORODE	Forum for Women in Democracy
FY	Financial Year
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GoU	Government of Uganda
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IRCU	Inter Religious Council of Uganda
JLOS	Justice Law and Order Sector
LC	Local Council
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PRDP	Peace Recovery and Development Plan
RR	Reproductive Rights
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SIP III	Strategic Investment Plan III
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UWONET	Uganda Women's Network
UWOPA	Uganda Women Parliamentarians Association
WDG	Women Democracy Group





WORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

It is with enthusiasm and excitement that I join the community of UWONET in celebrating our fresh accomplishments of 2011.

UWONET registered enormous achievements particularly in enhancing women's participation in politics and governance in the 2011. The network intensified its mandate of collaboration, networking and co-ordination with Government institutions, development partners, members and other strategic stakeholders in influencing policies and laws engaging with the citizens to actively participate in development processes.

With the support from our partners in development, the network played a crucial role of coordinating members and CSO actors on a number of initiatives such as Women's effective participation in politics and decision making (Women Democracy Group), Coalition for the Marriage and Divorce Bill, CSO on CEDAW to influence follow up of concluding observations of the CEDAW Committee, Joint Programme on Gender equality, GoU/ UNFPA 7th Country programme on GBV, Peace building fund funded by Norway under UNFPA. UWONET continues to strategically work with Government including joint programmes such as the Joint Programme on GBV in Busoga region supported by Irish aid

On the national political scene, UWONET in liaison with the Uganda Women Parliamentarians' Association (UWOPA) continued to work towards building consensus on pending gender legislations particularly the marriage and Divorce Bill.

As part of its mission to promote networking within the women's movement and civil society, UWONET organized skills development and knowledge building sessions at national and district level for various groups, exchange programs outside Uganda especially for women emerging from conflict were also organized, coalition meetings for harmonization of position and co-ordination were a very instrumental strategy that UWONET employed though out the year. UWONET participated in various regional and international fora to share experience and learn from other practitioners and advocates.

At the secretariat, UWONET has grown to face the new demands of effectively meeting its mandate. The Secretariat has staff that has the ability to co-ordinate members and programmes effectively, information generation, sharing and management capacity has been modernized. The network continues to produce regular newsletters, and several publications, on women's concerns and issues.

However, as we take pride in how far we have come, we acknowledge that these are just the first steps of a much longer journey. Despite the resounding victory, UWONET persists to grapple with numerous challenges especially the slow pace of legal reforms and implementations aimed at promoting women's rights. More

than ever, there is heightened need to step up advocacy for the Government to commit itself to the enactment of legislation for the protection of women's rights in Uganda particularly the Marriage and Divorce Bill. The attainment of gender equality, social transformation and national development is a pre requisite of Government, however, Government alone might not be able to deliver. It is therefore important that Government and non state actors like UWONET work together earnestly to make the changes that "we" all want to see in the citizens.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the staff, membership, allies, and our development partners who have believed in us and all the people and organizations that have supported UWONET to achieve its objectives. Together with the Sec-retariat, we pledge to continue being reliable partners in advancing women's rights and gender justice.

We look forward to a more fruitful 2012.

Hon. Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi
Chairperson



WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with great honor and pride that I present to you UWONET's Annual report for the year ended 2011. The report gives an account of the actions taken over the last year, the strides made and indicators to success, barriers that still exist and how some were overcome, strategies used and a brief on the focus for 2012. UWONET continues to grow in its policy engagement and programmes. Over the last year, the organization has registered achievement in various areas and these include, creating strong linkages with grassroots women's organization and the larger civil society, enhancing local community capacity for local advocacy in the promotion and protection of women's rights, better collaboration with Local Governments, line Ministries and Institutions at the national level and very importantly so, influencing policy and decision making both at district and national level for gender responsiveness.

UWONET continued to be the catalyst, center and voice on women's rights and issues of social justice, played a critical role of co-ordination and partnership in joint programmes use such as; Women in Democracy Group (WDG), UN Joint Programme on Gender equality, GoU/UNFPA 7th Country Programme, the Peace Building Fund-UNFPA and GOU/Irish Aid GBV programme in Busoga region. Through the various programmes and partners, UWONET reached over 23 districts through 10 member and partner organisations at national and district level with support from our partners who believe and have walked the journey with us. UNFPA, UN-WOMEN, IRISH AID, DIAKONIA and DANISH CHURCH AID.

The struggle to reach our desired goal is enormous but, a journey we are ready to travel. The carefully crafted intervention by UWONET over the year would not have made meaning without support from the numerous

stakeholders. Our special thanks to the UWONET family and allies, the district and national partners, our line Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Local Governments in our districts of operation. To our development partners, your support has gone a long way to empower communities and have duty bearers respond.

Last but not least, special appreciation to the UWONET governing body for the over sight and to the foot soldiers at the Secretariat, we can do better.

Thank you.

Rita Aciro Lakor
Executive Director, UWONET



Gender Transformation & Empowerment

**IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN, UWONET
HAS FOUR KEY PROGRAM AREAS THAT GUIDE
PRESENTATION OF THIS REPORT:**

PROGRAMMES

- 1.0. POLICY ADVOCACY PROGRAMME**
- 2.0. NETWORKING PROGRAMME**
- 3.0. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**
- 4.0. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING**

INTRODUCTION

This annual report provides information on the performance of UWONET in the year 2011; giving highlights of actions taken; outputs, outcomes and impact of the interventions on the lives of women and largely communities across regions and the country at large. It is a strategic report providing performance and results in the key program areas.

Context

The interventions of UWONET were informed and shaped by the prevailing socio-cultural, economic and political arena in the country vis-à-vis the position and performance of women in society across spheres. UWONET therefore sought to address the identified injustices mainly affecting women across the board. Some of the outstanding aspects that shaped our work in the course of the year included:

- Limited knowledge coupled with low implementation and utilization of recently passed laws and ratified international instruments for instance the Domestic Violence Act 2010, CEDAW, Maputo protocol, UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the Goma Declaration
- Delayed enactment of key gender Bills such as the Marriage and Divorce Bill, Sexual Offences Bill and the Moslem Personal Administration Law Bill which are pertinent in achieving gender equality and women empowerment.
- Low capacitated institutions and systems of government almost unable to deliver public services.
- Passivity and in some instances lack of interest/apathy of broader sections of citizens particularly women in social accountability and overall development processes.
- Gender based violence increasingly becoming endemic and insufficient mechanism to address it.
- Low delivery and declining quality of social services
- Growing concerns of an apparent stagnation of the women's movement and thus limited capacity to engage on democratization, governance and overall development
- Limited effort to engage women in post conflict recovery and reconstruction processes despite their key role in household livelihoods

However despite the enormous development challenges, the environment was fairly favourable for UWONET to execute its mandate. Outstanding among the enabling factors in 2011 were:

- A shared goal with the development partners and other stakeholders which helped UWONET to mobilize resources, coordinate several interventions and thus address the identified woman's rights violations and other development challenges
- Community support and thus participation across regions in the country where UWONET worked
- The political will at all levels: globally, regionally, nationally, district, lower local governments and even at village level to tackle the injustices and development challenges
- The synergies particularly created through joint programmes that facilitated both joint planning, implementation, coordination and monitoring for results.

1.0. POLICY ADVOCACY PROGRAMME:

This covers Strategic Objective 1 which is to advocate for enactment and monitor implementation of gender responsive laws, policies and programmes. The programme area is built on the notion that law and policy are arenas where change is slow in coming and yet to a large extent they contribute to the maintenance of traditional male dominance in society. It is however also recognized that law and policy are fertile grounds for the cultivation of rules that can provide a basis for great changes in undermining oppression and improving gender relations between women and men therefore if the position of women in society is to improve then it should be done through laws and policies. In working towards parity in the legislations in 2011, focus was on four core actions.

1.1. Building and supporting community and national structures to mitigate gender based violence and reproductive rights violations

Gender Based Violence (GBV) and abuse of reproductive rights as a reflection and reinforcement

of inequities between men and women was reechoed in 2011. GBV compromises the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims. According to the 2006 Uganda Demographic and Household Survey (UDHS), 60% of women aged between 15 and 49 have suffered physical violence, 39% of women have suffered sexual violence, while 16% have experienced violence during pregnancy. The most common violations experienced by women include; sexual assault, dowry related abuse, marital rape, selective malnourishment of female children, forced prostitution, female genital mutilation, and defilement among others.

UWONET undertook a number of activities to address GBV and advance reproductive rights in the districts of Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya, Lamwo, Kitgum, Agago and Pader in Acholi sub region; Katakwi, Moroto, Kotido and Kaabong in Teso and Karamoja Sub Regions; Kanungu, Mubende, Yumbe and Oyam representing the South west, central, west Nile and Lango sub regions; Jinja, Iganga, Mayuge, Kaliro, Kamuli, Namutumba, Buyende and Bugiri in Busoga Sub Region.

The activities were intended

to enhance capacity skills, initiate local activism, document availability and accessibility of GBV service delivery and spear head advocacy. The specific strategies involved include:

Facilitating establishment of district GBV alliances for social mobilization and to spearhead sensitization and advocacy against GBV:

Realizing the limited coordination of different actors engaged in GBV prevention and response at district level UWONET facilitated establishment of alliances of NGO/CBO actors to consolidate efforts and have a unified voice. It was intended to enhance coordination, advocacy, and networking of partners. A range of strategies to operationalize the structure were employed;

A Capacity skills development training for the alliance members:

The training focused on a range of relevant aspects such as understanding gender, gender based violence, relevant legislations including CEDAW, Maputo Protocol and Domestic Violence Act (DVA) as well as appreciating alliance building. Resultantly, NGO District GBV

alliances were established in 16 districts. The alliances have enhanced joint action for GBV prevention and advancement of reproductive rights through coordination, shared learning and networking at district and community level. The joint action has among others resulted into passage of at least 2 By-laws on GBV in Anaka and Nakapelemoru Sub Counties in Nwoya and Kotido districts respectively.

Capacity Building for duty bearers on Gender and GBV:

Duty bearers are the law enforcers and implementers who prevent, respond and handle GBV cases. Studies have shown a gap in service provision by duty bearers and a weak referral system. Therefore to strengthen the GBV service delivery and referral pathway to effectively address the GBV endemic, UWONET conducted capacity building for duty bearers' along the GBV referral pathway as stipulated in the DVA who include the Local Council I Chairpersons, Magistrates Courts, police, health workers and probation and welfare Officers. Skills of over 330 duty bearers in Busoga Sub Region were enhanced and resultantly, changes in attitudes and professional response to GBV cases is gradually being witnessed as demonstrated through some of the voices of the trainees quoted:

"I appreciate the legal awareness component in the training UWONET offered us. It has enabled me to do my work better". Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU) Officer of Police, Kaliro district.

"I'm happy to note that after the UWONET training the referral system in the district is now working. For example Nsango health Centre III in Buluguyi Sub County receives GBV referrals from Muwayo and Bugayi Police posts and on average the health centre now receives 5 GBV survivors/cases on a daily basis." A health worker, Nsango health Centre III, Bugiri District.

In addition, many police officers, health workers and LC's have attested to the fact that they did not have any knowledge of the DVA yet they are key duty bearers within this law and so this training was enlightening to them. The Police in Iganga district reported that they are utilizing internal systems such as Community policing to pass on GBV prevention messages to the community.

This has progressively reduced GBV cases as shown in the table below.

Analysis of district plans and budgets:

Budgets can make a positive difference in the fight against GBV. UWONET conducted a study to establish prioritization and budget allocation to GBV prevention and response in districts plans and budgets. This targeted districts of Kanungu, Oyam and Katakwi. The study indicated that Community based services department which caters for issues of gender, probation and GBV are allocated a minimum share of the budget for example Katakwi and Kanungu were

TABLE I: 2012Monthly Trends in GBV cases recorded at Central Police Station Iganga District

Violation	Month				
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Defilement	55	42	53	47	26
Rape	01	02	02	04	02
Assault	83	82	102	96	82
Economic Crimes	37	45	59	49	44

allocated 2% of the district FY 2010/2011 budget. Prioritisation of GBV prevention and response was further limited by the low local revenue below 2% of the total revenue sources for all the districts visited.

The study also highlighted key advocacy issues for UWONET such as the need to increase budget allocation to police for human resource and facilities to handle GBV cases. This is because the inadequacy of police as a key machinery impedes access to justice as illustrated in the voices below;

"It is very expensive to lodge a rape case with police...money....money all the time...money for fuel, forms, and examination... we do not have this kind of money in our villages"
Community member from Kanungu district.

"At times I sleep with the victims in my small house especially when a woman refuses to go back home in the fear of what her husband will do to her"
A female Police Officer from Kanungu district.

Capacity Building for Women Councilors on GBV, RR and Gender Budgeting:

For district Councils to prioritise and allocate resources towards addressing GBV and advancing reproductive rights, UWONET in collaboration with Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE)

trained women councilors in the districts of Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, Katakwi, Oyam, Yumbe, Mubende, Amuru, Agago and Kanungu. The training focused on gender responsive budgeting, understanding GBV, and strategic leadership skills for example sessions on how to move a motion, communication skills, and council procedures among others. A total of 100 women councilors were trained and as a result established women caucuses to advance GBV and RR. In addition Kanungu district allocated funds worth UGX 50 Million FY 2011/2012 towards maternity beds, construction of maternity wards and placenta pits. While in Katakwi district UGX 800,000 was allocated for every emergency delivery to reduce on the infant and Maternal Mortality rate.

Capacity Building for LC's on their roles and jurisdiction in GBV prevention and response;

LCs are the first courts of instance for GBV survivors at community level with a specified jurisdiction. However an assessment conducted by FIDA – Uganda in 2011 in Acholi Sub Region showed that over 80% of the LCs were aware of their powers but not sure how far to exercise it, 60% of the LCs lacked knowledge on the Local Council Courts Act, and only 50% had heard of the Domestic Violence Act. UWONET thus coordinated and facilitated FIDA- Uganda to undertake a capacity skills training for LC's

in the districts of Kitgum, Gulu and Nwoya. The trainings focused on basic legal principles in the settlement of disputes within the LC's jurisdiction.

A total of 400 LC's from 16 sub counties in Acholi sub- region received training by FIDA-Uganda to ensure accountability and quality access to justice for SGBV survivors.

Makomere Radio drama Series:

As a mechanism to raise awareness on GBV, a popular radio drama series was aired by MIFUMI with support from UWONET. The drama series highlights women's rights abuses depicting traditional and contemporary manifestations of GBV. The radio drama series has been aired on national and local radio such as UBC FM, Veros FM and Mama FM. The radio drama series has fostered a platform for discussion and debate during radio call in's, and other structures such as the MIFUMI advice centers and the MIFUMI radio community listening groups in Tororo district. The series has provided a space to engage men who constitute majority of the radio listenership and callers, yet in most cases are the perpetrators. The series has further provoked open discussions on matters previously considered private. The information has been greatly appreciated and recommended by Her Royal Highness Sylvia Nagginda, Queen of Buganda to be aired on National TV.

Community Dialogues on gender and GBV:

Community dialogue is an approach to community development which emphasizes the voices in the community and how articulation of these voices can result into social change. It recognizes that dialogue is useful and the most appropriate model to tackle community issues for community decision/action. UWONET facilitated the district NGO alliances in 16 districts of Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya, Lamwo, Kitgum, Agago, Pader, Katakwi, Moroto, Kotido and Kaabong, Kanungu, Mubende, Yumbe and Oyam to conduct monthly community dialogues.

Resultantly, Luyam Village, Anaka Sub County in Nwoya district passed a village by-law against domestic violence which is being used to curb violence in the village. In Kotido district, Nakapelemoru Sub County, the elders reported that there had been no case of girls' school dropout in the months September and November this is attributed to the dialogues that emphasized girl child education. While Kaabong district boosts of community committees set up to monitor, report and refer GBV and reproductive rights violations to the relevant authority.

In addition district leaders in Oyam, Katakwi and Yumbe have made commitments/resolutions to monitor and reprimand the police and health workers who illegally charge GBV survivors



Community members in Kacheri Sub County in Kotido district during one of the community dialogue

for a Police Form 3 & 3A and examination after sexual violence has been reported. A case was recorded in Katakwi where a health worker was been suspended in connection to the illegal charges.

Findings of the community dialogues have informed UWONET's national level lobby and advocacy agenda for example the amendment of Police Form 3 & 3A with recommendations to include clinical officers and midwives as medical officers authorized to conduct examination after sexual violence.

Quarterly engagements on GBV and RR between duty bearers and NGO alliances:

These engagements were intended to provide a platform for district NGO alliances to

share information and engage duty bearers on the reproductive rights, GBV issues emerging from the community dialogues. The dialogues were also utilised as fora to disseminate international instruments which promote women's rights such as CEDAW and the Maputo Protocol. The engagements forged synergy, cohesion and collaboration among the various actors. Several issues/ priorities were identified for advocacy and these include the need for ;

- 1) District ordinance on GBV,
- 2) GBV centres/ shelters,
- 3) Strengthening capacities of lower level service providers i.e. LCs, and
- 4) Adequate funding for police.

It is important to note that these issues have informed national level policies and programmes such as establishment of GBV



centres/ Shelters as one of the response strategy to address GBV. The Government of Uganda in December 2011 at the 4th Ordinary Summit and Special Session on Sexual and Gender Based Violence under the theme “United to prevent, end impunity and provide support to the victims of SGBV” committed to provide support to victims/survivors of SGBV through fast tracking the establishment and scaling up “Recovery Centers” that provide comprehensive services of free medical, psychosocial, forensic, judicial/ prosecution services within the next two years. Development partners such as UNFPA and UNICEF have also supported districts to produce more copies of Police Form 3 & 3A.

Annual indexing of SGBV cases:

UWONET documented and undertook analysis of the sexual and gender based violence cases reported in the print media mainly the 3 dailies: The New Vision, The Daily Monitor and Bukedde Newspapers. This was aimed at generating information and statistics to be utilized in awareness creation and policy advocacy by clearly illustrating current trends as reported in the Newspapers. The print media was used because it is an effective

means of mass communication. It is awash with stories of violence against women such as rape, trafficking, battering, murder, defilement and, kidnap among others.

The media is a key ally in ending the silence surrounding violence against women due to the significant role played.

1.2.Lobbying and advocating for increased participation of women in politics and decision making

The participation of women at all levels of decision making in every sphere of society is crucial. Practical democracy cannot exist without the equal participation of women. Although there is a noticeable numerical increase in political participation by women, it is vital to highlight that this increase doesn't match demographic gender representation (the women representation in Parliament at 35% is way below the 51% women population in the country). In addition increase in numbers has not necessarily realized increase in articulation of women's concerns and with multi-partyism in its infancy; women's participation is constrained by unequal opportunities within the party structures and the social system, some of which underrate women's capacities. UWONET therefore works to ensure that

women representation both numerically and qualitatively in decision making is improved tremendously at all levels, focus in 2011 was put on the following:

Fostering a favourable environment for women's participation in leadership and decision making processes:

Prior to the 2011 elections, the election environment was marred with many forms of electoral violence. The women and specifically those vying for political office were faced with a new challenge of how to handle the prevailing violence that threatened them individually and women's participation as voters, party agents, electoral officers and observers of the electoral process. These events that kept on recurring necessitated an interface/fora for stakeholders in the electoral process to convene and agree on a common ground for having violence free elections. UWONET therefore initiated and held dialogues between duty bearers and right holders in a bid to foster a favorable environment for women in leadership and decision making. UWONET coordinating the Women Democracy Group (WDG) brought together 240 key stakeholders in electoral processes that included representatives from the police, Electoral Commission, women leaders, civil society and political parties. This was intended to deepen understanding of their different roles and responsibilities

in electoral processes and thus the importance for each party to play their role effectively and take both individual and institutional responsibility in order to minimize violence. The dialogues were held at national level in Kampala and at regional level in the districts of Kibaale, Mbarara, Lira, Luweero and Tororo. Some of the greatest dividends of these dialogues that resulted in signing of Codes of Conduct between the different stakeholders was inter-party communication in the selected districts, and enhanced adherence to electoral guidelines and procedures such as specified time and locations for conducting rallies which reduced clashes.

Election Monitoring:

Women's participation in elections is influenced and hampered by several elements in the election process, therefore, to ensure equal participation of women in leadership and decision making, it is important that these barriers are addressed. By October 2010, sights of manipulation, gender

based violence, intimidation of candidates and voters were evident. UWONET through the mechanism of the Women Democracy Group (WDG) thus took initiative to observe the 2011 elections focusing on 13 identified election hot spots across regions covering districts of Kampala, Wakiso, Jinja, Sembabule, Kayunga, Nakasongola, Masaka, Kabale, Gulu, Amuru, Mbale, Kamuli, and Kabarole.

The hotspots were selected basing on a set criterion that focused on pertinent issues such as: areas/districts prone to or with a history of election violence and areas where specific candidates had identified threats and manipulation. The Monitoring/observance which covered different levels that is Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Council elections sought to assess women's participation as voters, candidates, party agents, and electoral officers paying keen attention to implementation of rights as provided under the

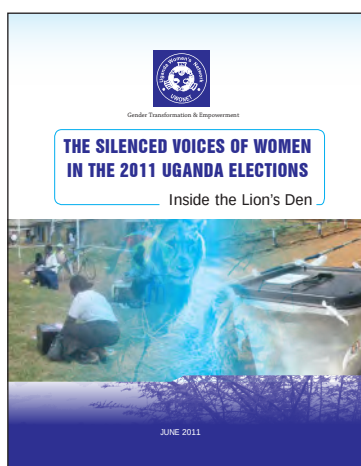
different electoral and civic laws. The monitoring contributed to reduction in manipulation of women and fraud specifically at the observed polling stations. It also highlighted issues for policy engagement to influence electoral reforms in the country.

It further offered WDG an insight regarding barriers to equal participation of women in politics and these findings provided recommendations to reduce discrimination and provide a more conducive election environment for women. Some of the recommendations include: i) reduction in the heavy deployment of security agencies that causes threat and drives away potential voters especially women; ii) To avoid the creation of new polling stations towards elections and related exchange of voters' names across the stations without prior communication which barred many women from voting because it was time wasting vis-a-vis their enormous household responsibilities.



Documentation of experiences of women political leaders:

Many women across the country have an urge to serve in politics and other decision making avenues but the picture before them is obscure and uncertain. There are several opportunities and challenges that women are faced with as they vie for political leadership. However these are



many times not documented yet would help those vying to learn key aspects and position themselves more strongly and strategically. UWONET in that regard thus documented voices of women who contested for political positions at the different levels in the 2011 elections mainly sharing their experiences in the entire process.

The documentary has been widely disseminated and it has continued to raise awareness and share lessons about the opportunities that exist as well as challenges and oppressions of women politicians for many of those contending to be abreast. The issues raised have also informed development of subsequent programmes and overall advocacy and policy engagement initiatives such as the Programme entitled Enhancing District Women Councillors' Leadership Role that is to focus on coaching and

mentoring women councillors.

Gender analysis of political manifestoes:

A manifesto portrays a party's measures to the needs of the citizenry. It is therefore crucial that the needs of women are reflected in party manifestoes since manifestoes are documents with a long life and they direct the party's decisions. UWONET found it crucial to undertake a gender analysis and audit of 6 political party manifestoes vis-à-vis the Women's Agenda 2011.

The parties covered included Democratic Party, Uganda People's Congress, Uganda Federal Alliance, National Resistance Movement, Social Democratic Party and People's Progressive Party. Some of the findings of the analysis highlighted that most of the parties had not drafted their manifestoes with a gender lens although allusion was made to key issues in the Women's Agenda such as education for women and use of ICT.

General provisions for all people were provided and no specific provisions for gender sensitive actions. The findings were disseminated to the different parties and recommendations made. UWONET clutches onto the Parties' commitments to increase representation of women in all their structures

and to embrace gender equality by pursuing strategies like gender mainstreaming to ensure inclusion of women's concerns.

Simplification and translation of the revised Women's Agenda;

Women still remain vulnerable and women specific development concerns are often not fully integrated in development policies, plans and programmes. As Ugandans geared up for the 2011 elections, it was pertinent for women to present their concerns in what was termed as the Women's Agenda. This was to lay a basis for assessment of political parties' inclusion of issues significant to women. Forum for Women in Democracy took the lead in developing the Women's Agenda 2011 as a tool highlighting priorities and unique gender development dimensions for the incoming Government to address.

Due to an increasing demand for the Women's Agenda to be simplified and translated into local languages, to increase appreciation and articulation of the issues by grassroots women, UWONET coordinated the process and facilitated FOWODE to simplify, translate the agenda into 5 local languages of Luganda, Runyakitara, Lugbara, Luo and Ateso and produce 3000 copies.

1.3. Monitoring and tracking implementation of national, regional and international women's rights treaties and conventions

Women's rights are entitlements and freedoms claimed for women and girls of all ages in many societies. In some places these rights are institutionalized or supported by law, local custom, and behavior, whereas in others they may be ignored or suppressed. Conventions such as the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) establish an international bill of rights for protection of women.

Uganda ratified a number of these instruments and so as a state party; it is required to submit status reports on the implementation of the principles of the treaties geared to protect rights of women against oppression and marginalization. Although the Government of Uganda has committed to the various international instruments supporting women's rights, the measures necessary to ensure the implementation of these instruments are lacking. UWONET has therefore taken step to first of all popularize the commitments made and also track their implementation in a bid to ensure that government delivers on them and in turn protects the position of women in society. More specifically in 2011, UWONET undertook the following;

1.3.1. Simplification and popularization of the Maputo protocol:

Following the ratification of the Maputo protocol on people's rights and on the rights of women in Africa by the Uganda government in July 2010, UWONET in partnership with Akina Mama Wa Afrika implemented the Raising Her Voice Project (RHVP) in Kibaale and Luwero districts. Focus was on information sharing meetings and dialogues with key actors purposely to raise awareness and lobby support for implementation of the protocol. A total number of 60 participants were engaged during the dialogues in the two districts. These included civil society organisations, district councilors and local government officials among others. There was a great appreciation of the women's rights issues highlighted in the protocol and in Luweero, a pressure group/

taskforce to take forth advocacy for implementation of the protocol in the district and tracking specific articles to ensure that the council allocates budgets for such activities was subsequently formed while in Kibaale the civil society developed an action plan on their key identified priority articles to guide their engagement with key actors henceforth.

In addition, due to the high demand for the protocol to be packaged in an easy to understand version (popular version) particularly for the grassroots to appreciate and further disseminate at that level, UWONET produced simplified/ popular copies of the protocol. The popular copies were also translated in 6 languages which include Akaramojong, Runyakitara, Luganda, Luo, Lugbara and Ateso.

1.3.2. Dissemination

and Monitoring implementation of the CEDAW recommendations:

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, came into force on 3 September 1981. It is often described as an international bill of rights for women which sets up an agenda for national measures to protect women from all forms of discrimination. In 2010, Uganda presented its CEDAW Country Status report and the Alternative report to the Committee. The reports highlighted government's commitment towards implementing CEDAW.

While a lot of progress has been made, gaps continue to exist which the Committee picked up from the CSO Alternative report to inform their concluding observations/ recommendations.

UWONET therefore focused on implementing two of their recommendations; promoting the visibility of the Convention and lobbying the Justice Law and Order Sector to include gender indicators into the Strategic Investment Plan III to ensure it was responsive to the CEDAW recommendations. Resultantly, several gender indicators have been included into the SIP III such as a draft gender strategy and gender taskforce is in place, a number of gender related laws have been highlighted as priority for the sector for the next five years, among others and CEDAW has been disseminated at national and regional level targeting 16 districts.

1.3.3. Increasing women's visibility and efficiency in implementation and monitoring of the Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP)

Northern Uganda suffered immensely from the ravages of the war characterised by massacre, looting, abduction, rape, destruction of property and all its associated evil calms which left nearly 2 million people displaced. Following a cessation of hostilities in 2007, 90% of the communities have returned home. The Government of Uganda in a bid to rehabilitate the war affected region thus launched the Peace Recovery and Development Plan in 2007. This is the overarching

plan focused on peace recovery, reconstruction, rehabilitation and thus development of the region.

However similar to several other development interventions, anecdotal reports of early assessment of the PRDP implementation were already showing limited participation and involvement of women in the recovery despite women and children being the most affected by the war. UWONET saw therefore it fit to empower women to effectively participate in the peace recovery and rehabilitation processes in the framework of the PRDP so as to influence transparency and gender sensitivity during implementation and monitoring of PRDP. The Gender Capital project was in the same regard initiated in 2010 aimed at empowering women in Northern Uganda (Kitgum and Pader districts) to monitor implementation of the PRDP for gender responsiveness and where there are gaps hold the leaders accountable. Specific initiatives in 2011 involved the following:

Refresher capacity and skills development sessions on understanding the PRDP: An assessment of interventions implemented under the gender capital project in 2010 highlighted still existent knowledge and skills gaps among the project beneficiaries and stakeholders to effectively engage with the PRDP process. UWONET in 2011 therefore held refresher

capacity skills development sessions on understanding gender and women's rights; gender mainstreaming skills and strategies, gender budgeting, social accountability, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation in the context of the PRDP framework. The trainings primarily sought to further empower women with knowledge and skills to monitor the implementation of PRDP for transparency, participation and gender responsiveness. In total the refresher trainings benefited 125 district technical staff; 200 women civil society leaders; 300 councilors and 24 community watchdogs at district and Sub county levels in both Kitgum and Pader districts.

As a result of the trainings, District officials indicated in-depth understanding in gender mainstreaming and thus are applying it during planning, budgeting and implementation of programmes and projects. One specific measure undertaken under the NAADS programme was encouraging formation of women specific groups to access inputs like seeds, tools and animals. It was also made a requirement for women to be included on school management and water user committees in Pader and Agago districts. Specific water user committees that have included women were cited in the villages of Lajule owil, Ogole ongaro in Otok parish, Lwala in Paiula parish in Pajule sub county Pader district as well as Lapeka and Lapiliet

in Lanyirinyiri parish, Badmono in Omoo parish Lira palwo sub county in Agago district. This new initiative is largely attributed to UWONET's interventions. The women beneficiaries also attest to their self-esteem having been boosted to participate during planning, budgeting and monitoring implementation process at all levels for example the women councillors have been able to raise gender issues during council meetings and debates, a move which has increased active participation in support of the gender related motions such as the one on GBV and girl child education.

Feedback from the trainees illustrates relevance and timeliness of the knowledge acquired, for instance it was noted that the gender budgeting trainings conducted just after the budget conference in Pader district were on time and so the knowledge acquired was used to influence gender responsiveness of financial year budget 2011/12. Similarly in Kitgum the upcoming budget conference was an identified opportunity to engage more substantively.

Monitoring and Documentation of implementation of the PRDP at community level

A team of 24 community watchdogs charged with the responsibility of direct gender monitoring and documentation of implementation of the PRDP at community level produced periodic reports which highlighted

glaring gaps in service delivery across sectors of health, education, roads and water among others and also cited issues of limited knowledge among communities on government programs which limited their participation. These findings largely informed advocacy and engagements with leadership at district and national levels on service delivery in the region and consequently laid basis for development of Phase II. The proposed project will focus on wider information sharing on government processes, programmes, policies and financing geared towards steering social accountability, local activism and ultimately improvement in service delivery in the post conflict districts of Pader, Agago, Lamwo and Kitgum.

Radio Programmes

Radio Programmes on enhancing Community's understanding of the PRDP: To create awareness and build a strong knowledge base on PRDP among communities in northern Uganda, UWONET used radio as additional medium of information dissemination intended to reach out to a wider area. The radio program in form of radio spot messages was developed on themes that inform and empower women to get involved in the PRDP implementation and monitoring for improved service delivery. This program was aired on Mega FM in Gulu district. This radio station was selected looking at its wider listenership and coverage reaching all parts of

Northern Uganda and some PRDP districts like in Karamoja and West Nile. Eight different radio spot messages were developed. The radio programme was a continuation of 2010 spot messages. Through the call in programme Mega FM observed that the programme was well appreciated by the communities and extends a request for its continuity.

A sample of the radio spot messages is below;

Voice 1: *Women do you know the projects in your community under PRDP? You have a duty to play. (This message is intended to create awareness on the PRDP interventions among women, such that they take responsibility to get involved in the monitoring of PRDP implementation in their communities).*

Voice 2: *On realizing gender based disparities in access to information, education, justice, health services and economic opportunities, in the planning, implementation and monitoring of PRDP, UWONET initiated a project to enhance women's oversight capabilities in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of PRDP activities at community level in a participatory, transparent and gender sensitive manner. It's every ones responsibility to advocate for a gender responsive rehabilitation of Northern Uganda.*

Announcer: *This message is brought to you by Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) with support from Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC).*

1.4. Advocating for the enactment and reform of key laws, Bills and policies with discriminatory clauses on women

For a long time many of the laws in the country's statute books have been blind to the concerns of women attributable to the patriarchy and male dominance in the judicial system. UWONET has thus over the years championed causes for reform of laws with discriminatory clauses on women and where necessary enactment of new gender responsive laws that protect the rights and position of women. Focus in 2011 was put on:

Advocacy for the enactment of the Marriage and Divorce Bill:

There are complexities about rights in marriage resulting from the co-existence of different legal systems that is customary law, statutory law, constitutional provisions, and religious law in the regulation of rights. The co-existence of plural systems of law regulating Marriage in Uganda has presented special difficulties for both men and women alike but most especially for the more vulnerable sections of society including rural women and the urban poor. Generally, rural people, majority of who are women, rarely have access to formal legal procedures due

to the complexity and cost of procedures involved and the lack of awareness of legal provisions which places them in a position of considerable insecurity with regard to their rights in marriage.

The Marriage and Divorce Bill is thus an attempt at having a comprehensive piece of legislation on matters pertaining to marriage that upholds international standards and constitutional guarantees. It is also an attempt to consolidate all the laws relating to the celebration and dissolution of marriage under one Law that would serve the purpose of increasing accessibility to the law among its users. However there have been several challenges since 1964 following the Kalema Commission that have impeded passage of the Bill into law.

In 2011, a lot of concerted effort was again made by several partners spearheaded by the Civil Society coalition on the Marriage and Divorce Bill chaired by UWONET to ensure enactment of this Bill. These involved regular coalition strategizing and targeted lobby meetings with key identified stakeholders such as the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, the Religious leaders under the IRCU umbrella, the Uganda Women Parliamentarians Association (UWOPA), identified 'power horses' such as Rt. Hon Edward Ssekandi, Speaker of

Parliament; and the Media; and development of IECs to demystify several myths around the Bill. Several achievements were registered during the engagement with the 8th Parliament:

- UWONET's Memorandum and subsequent discussions in the lobby meetings largely informed the report of the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee of the 8th Parliament which was saved to the 9th Parliament.
- The Marriage and Divorce Bill was identified as one of the key priority areas on UWOPA's Common Women's Legislative Agenda (CWLA) and subsequently a round table (a model of work by UWOPA) on the Bill was established to further lobby for support and enactment of the Bill among Parliamentarians.
- The Bill in 2011 appeared on the Order Paper of Parliament for discussion after six years of lobbying.
- Increased consideration of the Bill among civil society, community members, some religious leader and the public. It is now evident that the MGLSD and a number of civil society organizations (including UWOPA) have included advocacy and lobby for the Bill in their strategic plans.

2.0. NETWORKING PROGRAMME

This addresses strategic objective 2 geared towards increasing networking at all levels to effectively engage institutions and governance structures for gender equality. The recognition that effective networking, strong coalitions and partnerships must be continually nurtured in order for advocacy to be effective and achieve the desired impact, is the major driver of this programme. In 2011 key actions undertaken to foster networking and partnerships included:

2.1. Social movement building

Women's vigil for justice and peace;

Following the February 2011 elections, there were episodes of brutality by police and other state security agencies in response to public demonstrations and other civil initiatives such as Walk to Work which were organized to demand for government action to address key economic concerns including increasing fuel and food prices, the high cost of living, poverty, inequality in distribution of resources, corruption and the apparent disregard of pressing priorities in allocation of government expenditure. The excessive use of force mainly by police mostly affected women and children as is the case in many strives and conflict situations. Some of the key notable cases were the shooting to death of two year old Juliana Nalwanga in

Masaka district and a seven months pregnant woman, Ms. Nalwendo who was shot in the stomach.

UWONET therefore spearheaded a women's social movement procession to condemn the use of excessive force by the police and other state security agencies and subsequent escalating violence. The women of Uganda made strong appeals to government to take critical action to address the key issues / concerns raised by the public so as to avert the national crisis. They called upon the government to 1) respect, promote, protect and fulfill the rights of its citizens as enshrined in the 1995 constitution; 2) exercise restraint in fulfilling its obligations and take proactive measures to address broader social justice issues, reduce excessive government expenditure and ensure that key concerns voiced by various sections of the public are addressed. They also called upon the public to remain peaceful in the pursuit of various rights and to desist from violent actions. The women of Uganda further submitted a formal appeal to the International Community through the United Nations Special Rapporteur on



The women of Uganda reading out the statement which they handed over to the UN special rapporteur on human rights Ms. Margaret Sekagya

the situation of Human Rights defenders (UNSR) requesting for thorough, prompt and impartial investigations into the human rights violations committed by the security agencies.



Some of the reforms later implemented by police such as the orders by the IGP to stop use of live bullets during public rallies and inhumane treatment of arrested suspects during transportation to police stations as well as the government hand to reduce inflation are attributable to UWONET's initiative.

The Mentoring and Young people's initiative:

The initiative was developed on the realization of the fact that the women's movement in Uganda is suffering a burn out syndrome with lack of interest and apathy from the young people. It therefore seeks to mentor young people to bridge the intergenerational gap and also have them identify with the women's movement. This was implemented through offering student internship placements and regular intergenerational dialogues with female university students' leaders.

The internship intended to provide young professionals with the opportunity to gain hands on experiences in working within a women's organization and for women's rights, with the aim of empowering and preparing them to support the women's movement. In 2011, four interns from different universities across the country such as Kumi University, Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), Makerere University and Uganda Christian University in Mukono were placed at the organization. During this time, the interns were involved in indexing SGBV cases in the print media, field activities such as trainings, community outreaches; report writing; attending meetings on behalf of the organization; research and documentation, website maintenance and resource center management. The interns attested to have grown on a personal and

professional level, through the exposure that they had during their work at UWONET as the case documented below.

In addition, two intergenerational dialogues were held for the young university leaders from Makerere University, Makerere University Business School, Uganda Christian University, Kyambogo University and Kampala International University, to facilitate the sharing of experiences and challenges between seasoned senior women activists and the young upcoming leaders to mentor them as effective leaders. The themes for the dialogues were 'Importance of Young Women's Involvement and Participation in Leadership and Decision Making Processes' and 'How to balance professional work and family life as a woman',

The guest speakers during the two dialogues were Hon. Jackie Amongin, Woman MP Ngora District in Eastern Uganda and Hon. Miria Matembe former Minister of Ethics and Integrity respectively. The young women attested to the sessions being inspirational and having learnt so many useful aspects from the speakers. One young lady was quoted, "I have learnt that unmarried women can also fully participate and hold key positions of leadership in society like being Members of Parliament. I was scared about the fact I had to be officially married before I could assume a high public office". They also learnt important aspects like public conduct of women leaders among others.

2.2. Peer review and shared learning sessions

MEMBERS' FORUM

As a network, regular dialogue interfaces amongst member organisations termed as members' fora are organised to facilitate peer review, reflection, debate and learning on pertinent issues regarding the network as well as general development challenges. In 2011, the member forum focused on knowledge building on the East African Community integration process. It is important to note that women in the East African community face several challenges in the cross border activities ranging from employment, trade and mere travel.

Building on from a conference held in Rwanda on women's participation in the East African Community attended by UWONET where various prospects for women in the EAC process were highlighted, it was important for UWONET members and allies to share the vast opportunities in a dialogue. Maggie Kigozi an expert in the area of regional integration, trade and investment and Dora Byamukama a legislator with the East African Legislative Assembly were invited to present at the forum. The dialogue was highly appreciated by members and there were pledges of strengthening initiatives by women organisations to engage with the EAC integration process and address the documented challenges that impede women effective participation and engagement in the process.

Exchange Visit to Burundi:

As a strategy to promote and enhance peer exchange learning, UWONET organized an exchange visit to Burundi for 20 women from the two project districts of Kitgum and Pader together with other PRDP districts of Kotido, Apac, Lira, Gulu Yumbe and Soroti among others. This was focused on women peace and security issues. The exchange visit took a form of field trips and workshops where various issues were discussed including; 1) how women in post conflict situations can engage and benefit from reconstruction processes. 2) Women peace and security in the East African Community, 3) conflict early warning; 4) dealing with conflict spill-overs and 5) Land conflict in post conflict recovery communities. This helped in further building synergies and collaboration between Ugandan and Burundi women peace activists. It also provided an opportunity for sharing good practices from both Uganda and Burundi on post war recovery and reconstruction. Many lessons were learnt by the Uganda team who recommended that PRDP II learns from the Burundi government recovery program particularly on:

- 1) Targeting all victims/survivors and ex-combatants and addressing recovery with focus on:
 - Aid to the drought-stricken population;
 - Rehabilitation of social infrastructures;

- Improvement of health care;
 - Repatriation of refugees;
 - Resettlement of vulnerable people and overall ensuring good governance and restoration of rule of law
- 2) Post conflict resettlement programs must include women from the onset to enable them benefit and participate effectively as this brings about equality, ownership and sustainability of the programs.

Networking events

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) continued to establish strong linkages with the different women in the communities in form of networking events. These aim at networking, synergy and movement building in order to sustain and build a strong women's movement in Uganda. They also provide opportunities for information and experience sharing amongst women across regions. In 2011 a number of events were held as detailed below:

A Networking meeting:

UWONET held 2 networking meetings in Kampala and Soroti, one bringing together women from the Gender Capital project districts of Pader, Lamwo, Agago and Kitgum including other PRDP districts such as Kotido, Gulu, Lira, Soroti, Yumbe and another for the women in leadership in Amuri, Abim, Katakwi and Moroto among others. These were intended to share learning experiences, review

activities implemented under the projects and suggest strategies to inform future interventions. The meetings provided opportunity for synergy building, sharing of good practices, challenges and opportunities for phase II of the projects. Good practices by women groups have been replicated and a critical mass of women engaged in leadership

and advocacy for women rights was born out of these meetings.

2.3. Strategic partnerships/ engagements at national, regional and international levels

UWONET continued to seize various spaces at the different levels in a bid to influence

inclusion of women's issues into laws, policies, and programmes at national regional and international levels. These spaces also provided opportunity for shared learning, peer review and generally informing UWONET's planning and interventions. Some of the key strategic spaces/platforms UWONET actively engaged in included:

No	Space/ Meeting	Organized by	Relevance	Place	Date
1.	Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)	UN	This was an opportunity to learn strategies employed by other countries in addressing discrimination. For instance, best practices on how to integrate support for women farmers and programming holistically. It was also a space to meet women across the world, meet development partners, influence their agenda and seek funding opportunities.	New York	February 2011
2.	Developing the East African Gender Strategy	Trade Mark East Africa	There was a shared learning on informing and influencing the EAC integration processes from a gender perspective particularly focusing on women's economic empowerment	Nairobi, Kenya	Mar 2011
3.	Women, Peace and Security conference	IGAD	The meeting provided an opportunity to share and learn from other countries on issues of women peace and security. During the conference Uganda shared with other countries on the process of development of the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the Goma declaration as well the status of implementation. The shared experience was a learning for other IGAD countries like Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia among others that had not yet developed NAPs.	Addis Ababa	May 2011

No	Space/ Meeting	Organized by	Relevance	Place	Date
4.	Women's Land Rights Conference	ACCORD, OXFAM	The African Women's Land Rights Conference was an opportunity for stakeholders across Africa to discuss issues on "The Right to land and justice for women in Africa" This created a platform for information sharing and to and re-energize the struggle for women's land rights as a fundamental human right and the basis for women's empowerment and protection in Africa.	Nairobi, Kenya	May 2011
5.	National Action Planning on addressing GBV		The National Conference brought together participants from Government, donor agencies, UN agencies, traditional leaders, media practitioners and partner organizations to learn and share on gender issues in Southern and Eastern Africa. UWONET shared her experiences on Masculinities and the intersectionality of GBV and HIV/AIDS.	Kampala, Uganda	December 2011
6.	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Summit. United to Prevent, End Impunity and Provide Support to the Victims of SGBV in the Great Lakes Region	CSO Coordination Committee for the ICGLR Special Session on SGBV	The CSO Engagement aimed at promoting clear and consistent messaging on SGBV experiences and demands to Heads of State for immediate commitment and tangible action, empowering local and national women's rights groups in the region to speak for themselves and ensure their voices are heard at high level decision making platforms and ensuring Regional decision making structures take into consideration the human rights of women and children in their agreements which reinforce national commitments to women's and children's rights, in line with international and regional treaties and agreements. The ICGLR therefore was a good opportunity for our leaders to provide a lasting solution to the problem of SGBV.		





2.4. Capacity building focusing on developing skills and expertise amongst members and district women networks to influence policy for gender equality.

Effort was made to strengthen the capacities of a range of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) through continuous mentoring, nurturing and regular skills development sessions. This targeted about 60 CBOs in the districts of Moroto, Abim, Katakwi and Amuria and focused mainly on aspects of organizational development covering project planning; organizational and financial management. Several results have been registered through this initiative such as formal registration (legalisation) of a number of CBOs/ women's groups which earlier on operated informally. The legality in addition to more technical capacity support provided by UWONET helped to build their confidence to strategically engage with the local government leadership on a range of pertinent women's issues. For instance Omigen Concerned Parents Organisation in Abim district developed a proposal on Women's Economic Empowerment and received funding worth UGX 5 million from the District Local Government.

The achievements are further reflected through some of the documented voices quoted below:

"UWONET opened our eyes, we now have a constitution and are in the process of registering with the Sub County " **Otingite Ba Women's Group, palam village, Ngariam Sub County, Katakwi district**

"After the UWONET training, we are now amending our constitution since we found it restricting." **Chairperson – Toroma Women in Struggle Alliance, Toroma Sub County, Katakwi district**

3.0. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME:

Similar to the above two, this programme is in line with strategic objective 3 of UWONET which seeks to increase knowledge and articulation on women rights and gender through information sharing amongst members and stakeholders. It is built on the basis that information is necessary for effective networking and advocacy. There is appreciation of the significance of well researched and packaged information in providing facts and thus facilitating effective advocacy. This programme area therefore serves the two core programmes above. The different actions taken during the year to ensure achievement of the specific aim of the programme area ranged from the following:

3.1. Maintain the UWONET website and gender portal to readily provide up-to-date information on women and gender issues at national, regional and international levels.

3.1.1. Social Media and the Internet:

The enhanced use of ICTs in the network has been an initiative that has filled us with much hope and excitement. UWONET is excited

because the Secretariat shared information with her members and partners through updating the website, daily information sharing through mailing list serves and Social Media tools such as Facebook, Twitter and the UWONET blog. UWONET has fostered web conversation and not top down delivery of information or messages. This has resulted into increased knowledge and articulation of women rights and gender. It has also enhanced the ability to quickly and easily share documents via an online workspace which as a priceless tool has increased efficiency. The UWONET Facebook and Twitter fan based has also grown to 150 likes and 100 followers respectively since beginning of the year. These platforms allow for extensive dissemination of information and debate on pertinent issues with a wider audience outside the UWONET membership.

3.2. Organise monthly updates in order to sustain women's concerns on the national agenda but also give the membership visibility.

Regular programme updates:
Articles with updates on key

programme activities are regularly uploaded on the website following implementation. The interactive website allows for engagement with our members and allies on the articles posted. Taking knowledge/information, turning it into web content and publishing it has made it tangible and available to partners, stakeholders and the public at large. Providing valuable content regularly has kept many people consulting with UWONET on a number of issues. It has also, increased trust in the organisation illustrated through the created links to the UWONET site. Some of the messages received show great appreciation of the information shared.

"On behalf of the civil society Organization, community, leadership of Kitgum and on my own behalf I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your concerns, solidarity and kind heart as inspired citizen who are responsible and God/Allah loving people. May God bless you all. Thank you".

GLADYS FADDY AKELLO
faddyga2006@yahoo.com

"Thanks for sharing with EASSI. And again thank you so much for the publications that you shared with us recently. They were well received". Best,
Sylvia Namale -
EASSI.sylvia@eassi.org

"Thanks a lot for the updates I do appreciate whatever you do towards improving lives of the voiceless".

Muhammad Miriam
muhammadmariam@gmail.com

Daily News Updates: UWONET on a daily basis summarises the key stories on gender and women's rights particularly from the English Dailies-The New Vision and The Monitor. These are shared for information to our members, partners and allies via e-mail. Many of the recipients have expressed their appreciation for the daily news updates code named 'A Glance at the News', particularly the partners in hard to reach districts where Newspapers are received late in the evening or a date after the release.

"I want to thank you for sharing with us news at a glance, this information has really helped us up country since it difficult for us to get newspapers. We have started printing this information and we send them to our women groups in the villages besides putting in the resource center for our own reading and for visitors. Thank you and May you continue with this good work". Betty Akullo WORUDET- Pader worudet network worudet2@yahoo.com

"This is great news indeed thank you so much UWONET for this daily update. We who live abroad and UWONET members we are real enjoying the news. Good work!" Grace Musoke gmusoken@yahoo.com

Thank you so much for this information. I needed it so much to prepare a concept paper on the same issue. Regards-Josephine Kalule josephinekalule@yahoo.com

3.3. Develop and update a women's directory to provide useful information on the skills and expertise of Uganda women working in the different fields.

UWONET published a bi-annual newsletter, "A women's issue: Harnessing women's rights advancement initiatives across Uganda. This documents and showcases the contribution of the various member and partner organisations' work/efforts in advancing the rights, socioeconomic and political empowerment and development of marginalized women across the country. The Newsletters produced in 2011 helped in raising the profiles of a range of the national, district and community organisations that contributed articles highlighting success stories and best practices of the initiatives they have implemented in the different sectors.

3.4. Conduct public education and awareness on women's rights and gender through the media, exhibitions and outreaches.

Exhibitions and Outreaches:

In an effort to conduct public education and awareness on women's rights and gender, UWONET participated in four exhibitions in 2011 including; the National CSO fair held at Hotel Africana, People's space;

World Peace Day celebrations: Unveiling of the World Population Report; and the national launch to commemorate 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence organized by the Uganda NGO Forum, Action for Development (ACFODE), the Population Secretariat and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development respectively. The Executive Director, UWONET-Rita Aciro Lakor made a speech on behalf of civil society during the launch of the 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. In her remarks she made strong appeals to government to address GBV by prioritizing the following:

- Expediting the passing of key gender laws such as the Marriage and Divorce Bill
- Effective implementation of policies that will protect women, girls, boys and men against gender based violence (GBV).
- Allocation of adequate resources towards combating violence against women to institutions such as police, the health sector, local council courts and the various conflict resolution centers across the country
- Establishment of safety shelters as a key response mechanism to GBV

She called upon everyone to take a moment to remember our sisters and brothers who lost their lives to violence and celebrate the strong voices and communities

who have stood up and said NO to violence, the survivors who have had the courage to seek justice and redress by reporting GBV cases to the police, local leaders, family members and religious leaders to realize the end to this endemic. The Executive Director further advised citizens to respect one another if the country is to achieve zero tolerance to GBV and this should start with the smallest unit of the society which is the family. She also noted that the citizens need to demystify gender attitudes that perpetuate GBV, provide sufficient education for both boys and girls and report GBV cases.

Media Releases: UWONET widely engages media for public awareness on key pertinent issues and influencing policy and programmes. UWONET released two major press statements in 2011 focusing on:

1) Protecting women's leadership; promoting good governance – There were allegations of misappropriation of funds by the Board of FIDA-Uganda during the reign of Hon Kadaga's as Chairperson. The allegations were targeted to tarnish reputation and credibility of the first Female Speaker of Ugandan Parliament but also derail her initiative to uphold rule of law and restore integrity and independence of Parliament. UWONET in collaboration with UWOPA therefore released a press statement to applaud the Speaker and Members of

the 9th Parliament who stood to protect the institution of Parliament.

2) Uganda Women's Civil Society Organizations Statement on the use of Excessive force –As part of women's justice and peace vigil, the women in civil society released a press statement to register their deep concern and condemnation of the use of excessive force by the police and other security agencies and to call upon the state to take critical measures to address the key issues/concerns raised by the public so as to avert a national crisis. This sought to bring to light a series of disturbing events in which the state law enforcement agencies responded in a brutal and often excessive manner to citizens' demands for government action to address public concerns such as increasing prices, the high cost of living, poverty, inequality in distribution of resources, corruption and the apparent disregard of pressing priorities in allocation of government expenditure.

3) Reconsider Public Spending To Address Urgent Needs Of The Nation: A Call For Action – In recognition of the Government's responsibility in ensuring human security of its citizens, the women of Uganda expressed their great concern about the proposed expenditure worth 1.7 trillion on a seemingly

less urgent purchase of fighter jets while other pressing and crucial needs of the people and vulnerable women in particular go unattended. Despite the enormous social economic development concerns, there seemed to be lack of government prioritization that takes into consideration the needs of its citizens. In the statement, women of Uganda noted alternative urgent and worthwhile social development investments that can be made with the 1.7 trillion to yield greater human development benefit for the country such as:

- Meet treatment and care costs of 1,770,833 women with fistula
- Construct and fully equip 29,116 health centre IIs
- Pay an annual salary for 236,111 doctors
- Pay an annual salary for 472,222 teachers
- Sponsor 404,762 students for university education-three-year courses
- Meet extra primary schooling costs in a government aided school for 12,142,857 pupils for seven years
- Fully fund budgets of crucial government institutions and machineries

The women of Uganda therefore called upon Government to rethink and reconsider the government expenditure planning and priorities to those that address the urgent and pressing

needs of millions of Ugandans particularly women who die every day due to delayed medical intervention; suffer the brunt of abject poverty in this country; high school drop outs due to increasing costs of education; die of hunger due to the increasing food and fuel prices as well as volatile climatic changes with very minimal government support and protection

3.5. Produce and disseminate timely information.

Documentation: In a bid to reach out, educate the public and share experiences, UWONET developed publications under the different focus areas as illustrated below. The publications are a source of knowledge and provide evidence for effective advocacy. In addition to the hard copies, the publications have been uploaded to the website to allow for easy access by online users and some of the top downloads for the year include;

1. Advocacy Skills Training Manual – 267 downloads
2. CSO Alternative report on Uganda's Implementation of CEDAW – 175 downloads
3. Making Women Politically Relevant in Uganda's Politics and Electoral Process – 168 downloads

The readers have greatly appreciated both the relevant content, style of writing and the good layout that attracts reading.

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED IN 2011



A training guide for building the capacities of duty bearers to prevent and manage gender based violence

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) developed this training guide for use to train GBV duty bearers under the Joint Program on GBV in Busoga Region. The guide is a resource for facilitating trainings on GBV response and prevention.

The purpose of this manual is to make the users understand key concepts related to GBV and apply basic engagement skills that promote the safety and well being of survivors.

It is designed to be used by facilitators for training duty bearers as per the Domestic Violence Act i.e. Police, health workers, Community Development Officers and Local Council Courts II. The training guide is self explanatory and easy to use.

The training guide was developed following a systematic approach to gather information required for a comprehensive training for GBV service providers.



Duty bearers' handbook for prevention and response to gender based violence

This handbook has been prepared for use by GBV duty bearers (Services Providers) established under the Domestic Violence Act 2010 i.e. Police officers, health workers, Community Development Officers and Local Council II Courts to expand and improve their actions in handling GBV cases in support of legal provisions on addressing GBV.

The handbook may also be used by other actors for information to prevent and refer GBV cases to relevant authorities. The primary purpose of the handbook is to provide information for duty bearers on how to prevent and respond to all forms of GBV. The handbook was developed basing on the findings from a needs assessment.

Thus the handbook seeks to create awareness and familiarise all users and trainers on the various issues concerning GBV. Secondly, provide guidance on the best approach to respond to cases of GBV. The handbook emphasises the importance of GBV preventers' active involvement in addressing GBV.

"We are impressed with the beautiful layout of the publications and indeed the content therein. The UWONET publica



Reproductive Rights Survey Report

Reproductive Rights (RR) are a basic freedom and are part and parcel of reproductive health which is a fundamental human right. Reproductive rights are basic for gender equality in the society which encompasses a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of infirmity of disease, in all matters relating to the reproductive system, its functions and process.

The reproductive rights survey explores the many forms of RR violations investigated such as; the availability and supply of ARV, access to quality ARVs by women of reproductive age, teenage pregnancy, quality and availability of Female Genital Mutilation, availability and access to family planning services, abortion, obstetric fistula, availability and access to Post Exposure Prophylaxis, antenatal care services and gender based violence.



Gender based violence: assessment of GBV in lamwo and pader districts

In November 2011, UWONET commissioned a study on gender based violence in Pader and Lamwo districts to examine the magnitude of GBV, available services, accessibility of the services and possible interventions.

The study aimed at; assessing the magnitude and common forms of GBV in the two districts; assessing the knowledge levels of communities and service providers in preventing and responding to GBV; identifying current services being offered by CSOs and Government agencies in addressing GBV, constraints that impede accessibility of GBV services and how cases are handled; and identifying possible interventions mechanisms to reduce or prevent GBV and other gender inequalities.



The Silenced Voices Of Women In The 2011 Uganda Elections: Inside The Lion's Den

After the 'steam' of the general elections 2011 settled, UWONET undertook a quick scan of the experiences of women contesting for various political positions from district to national level. Many were hurt and a number emerged victorious, all in all, there are lessons to learn and it is these lessons that UWONET would like to share. The documentation provides real life experiences from which one can pick a few lessons before daring the space that has been predominately occupied by men.

Despite the relatively conducive environment for women to participate in politics, leadership and decision making positions in Uganda, it is evidently true that many hurdles still exist and need to be overcome for effective women's representation and participation. The hurdles that hinder women's participation are so deeply rooted in society and thus continue to manifest in very complex ways.

This documentation is a representation of the challenges women generally continue to face as they claim their space in the public sphere.



Politics For A Purpose: Changing The Face Of Uganda's Politics 2011 And Beyond.

A report on rapid Gender Audit of Political Party Manifestos for 2011 General Elections
As Uganda prepared for the 2011 Presidential and Parliamentary elections, political parties and aspiring candidates had pledges and promises to deliver to the people of Uganda. UWONET then embarked on an audit of gender considerations of the political party manifestos for the 2011 - 2016. This involved an analysis of the political party manifestos vis-a-vis the women's concerns and critical issues as spelt out in the Women's Agenda.

The gender audit highlights the opportunities and challenges to women's participation in politics, the comparative analysis of 2006 and 2011 political party manifestos, a gender audit of the political party manifestos and a monitoring tool for further engagement with political parties, a tool that will monitor the gender sensitivity and implementation of the women's concerns committed to in the manifestos.



Organization Development (OD) Manual For NGOs / CBOs

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play a critical role in empowering communities for self determination to claim rights and to work to lift themselves out of poverty. CSOs which include Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), professional associations and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) play a critical role in service delivery and community empowerment. While the work of CSO is sometimes complementary and supportive to government efforts, its role is largely to empower citizens as right holders to claim rights and services.

This manual is intended to address the organizational needs of CBOs to be able to deliver on their intentions and mandates. It is a simplified training guide to organizational development aimed at: strengthening overall capacities of CBOs at grassroots levels to be able to work with communities; and providing appropriate knowledge and skills to CSOs in general to improve their operations and performance.

Policy Brief: Observing Our Commitment To Addressing Gender Based Violence and Reproductive Rights in Uganda

The brief is drawn from the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) based on the combined fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh report of Uganda (CEDAW/C/UGA/4-7). It is intended to highlight the Committee's specific concluding observations and recommendations on gender based violence (GBV) and reproductive rights (RR) so as to draw policy attention and action. Uganda ratified CEDAW in 1985.

Gender Capital Project For Peace Recovery And Development Plan (PRDP) Newsletter

This is a documentation of the Gender Capital Project which was implemented in Kitgum and Pader Districts. It is an overview of the need to involve women in recovery and development programmes and clearly indicating how women can participate and tap these resources and further ably monitor the implementation of the various interventions.



A WOMAN'S ISSUE: Harnessing women's Rights Advancement Initiatives across Uganda. Issue 1

A newsletter showcasing the contribution of the district Partners such as women networks, grassroots, CBOs and NGOs to Human Rights, women's empowerment and development.

WHERE IS THE MONEY FOR GBV Initiatives in Uganda's National Budget?

Versions in English, Luganda, Ateso, Lugbara, Runyakitara and Akaramojong.

A simplified Version of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. The Maputo Protocol; A new era for women's rights in Africa The simplified Version



of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa provides a summary of the provisions in the Protocol and is a quick reference on women's rights. This Version also presents a link between the Protocol and other international, regional as well as national legal framework on the rights of women and is intended to popularise and summarise the provisions of the protocol using simplified and reader friendly language. The popular copies were also translated in 6 languages which include Akaramojong, Runyakitara, Luganda, Luo, Lugbara and Ateso.



The Women's Agenda

As Ugandans geared up for the 2011 elections, it was pertinent for women to present their concerns in what was termed as the Women's Agenda. This was to lay a basis for assessment of political parties' inclusion of issues significant to women. The Women's Agenda was simplified and translated into local languages of Luganda Runyakitara, Lugbara, Luo and Ateso.



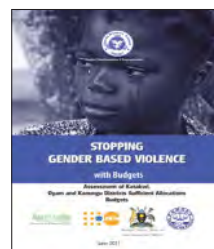
Stopping Gender Based Violence with Budgets; Assessment of Katakwi, Oyam, Kanungu districts Sufficient Allocations Budgets

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) an advocacy and lobby Network in collaboration with three of its members; Center for Domestic Violence Prevention, Action for Development and Forum for Women in Democracy under the 7th GOU/UNFPA country programme has undertaken a study whose overall objective is to establish the extent to which

Kanungu, Katakwi and Oyam Districts budgets have responded to Gender Based Violence Initiatives. Specific objectives of the study; Determine the structures for preventing and responding to GBV; Assess the extent to which government commits resources towards GBV initiatives in the selected districts; and Identity strategies to assist the existing structures.

End of Project Report: The Gender Capital for Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) In Northern Uganda

This report draws upon the consolidated reports of the Gender Capital for Peace project for the implementation of Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) in Kitgum and Pader districts in Northern Uganda undertaken in 2010 to 2011. It focuses on issues from those activities implemented which offer most insight into the results of the project and which offer the best opportunities for learning. Based on this analysis the report tries to balance the success which emerged as a result of the project implementation.



4.0. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

This is intended to bolster the institutional capacity of the network so that it can be effective in networking, lobby and advocacy aimed at improving the status of the Ugandan woman. This therefore seeks to build a secretariat that will make the network effective and sustainable with strong governance, appropriate policies, systems and procedures. For 2011 key actions fell within the following plans:

4.1. Build the capacity of the secretariat to adopt the dynamic work methods that enhance coordination and implementation of the network's activities:

To enhance the secretariat's coordination role of the network members, a working framework/method of thematic groups continued to guide implementation and overall interventions in 2011.

The key thematic groups that enabled joint implementation/consortia include:

1. The Women Democracy Group (DWG) comprised of the following member and partner organisations:

Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), Action for Development (ACFODE), National Women Organisations Union (NAWOU) and Centre for Women in Governance (CEWIGO). The group was particularly very instrumental in engaging with the electoral process throughout 2011.

2. The Women Peace and Security Group comprised of ISIS WICCE, Centre for Women in Governance, Centre for Conflict Resolution, National Union of Women with Disabilities in Uganda, EASSI, RACI and CEDOVIP among others. These focused on the Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) through the PRDP taskforce, UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 to ensure inclusion and active engagement of women with the peace building and reconstruction process.

3. The GBV and VAW prevention and response group comprised of Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP), Action for Development (ACFODE), Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE),

MIFUMI, Association of Women Lawyer FIDA-U and ICON Women and Young people's Academy who steered the campaign against GBV at national and district levels, facilitated implementation of the relevant laws particularly the Domestic Violence Act and as well as advocacy for enactment of key pending gender Bills including the Marriage and Divorce Bill and the Sexual Offences Bill which are crucial in the fight against violence.

The secretariat also continued to spearhead and work through loose and adhoc groupings/coalitions to put up a strong case for women's rights and inclusion in various policy arenas such as the Marriage and Divorce Bill coalition

4.2. Develop internal systems for continuous reflection and learning that promote and maintain dynamism as well as a sense of direction and continuity

Several internal systems for reflection do exist and were employed throughout 2011.

These include among others;

- 1) Weekly programme meetings as a mechanism for review and reflection on programme activities planned and implemented during the weeks.
- 2) Fortnight joint programme and finance meetings which further foster activity based budget tracking and cross learning between finance and programme teams
- 3) Monthly staff meetings.
- 4) programme/project specific quarterly reviews
- 5) Annual programme and finance reviews 6) annual Board reflection retreat
- 7) annual Board-staff reflection retreat. All these mechanisms foster continuous reflection and strategic review for a good sense of direction of the network.

4.3. Develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation tool to enable UWONET to capture and document the effect, impact of the strategy as well as lessons learnt and best practices

A Comprehensive monitoring and evaluation strategy was developed during the year. Clear tools to guide monitoring and

evaluation of specific projects and programmes within the organisation are embedded. The strategy henceforth guides overall M&E within the organisation and consequently, internal results based reporting and management has been enhanced.

4.4. Mobilise resources for implementation of the strategic plan and sustaining the network beyond the strategy

The key resource mobilisation strategies employed in 2011 involved,

- 1) Development of a number of project/programme proposals and concept notes including:
 - a) Sustaining Women's Leadership and building the Women's Movement to enhance social accountability processes developed and shared with the European Union
 - b) Peace Building Fund proposal to UNFPA
 - c) Action Aid proposal
 - d) A proposal on Sustaining Women's Leadership and Building the Women's Movement to enhance Social Accountability shared with UN WOMEN
 - e) A Concept note on Quick Advocacy Initiatives to address GBV in Pader District shared with Diakonia

- f) A proposal on Facilitating Networking and Coalition Building amongst Women's Organisations at Local, National and Regional level shared with the Common Wealth Foundation.
- g) Women's peace and justice vigil concept note to Urgent Action Fund

Out of the seven (7) proposals/ concepts developed during the year, four (4) were successful and earned the organisation a total of 1,163,728 USD

- 2) Development of consultancy proposals; in addition to the project proposals, the organisation was also able to bid for relevant consultancies at national, regional and international level and one of the successful consultancies earned during the year was the World Bank Comprehensive Country Gender Assessment for the South Sudan (CGA) worth 250,000USD. The consultancy enhanced profile of the organisation, widened experience, knowledge and skills (both technical programme and financial/ grant management) of the staff that were directly involved and boosted the organisation's income. It further helped in building networks with other women organisations and agencies in South Sudan for further collaborations

The consultancy enhanced profile of the organisation, widened experience, knowledge and skills (both technical programme and financial/grant management) of the staff that were directly involved and boosted the organisation's income. It further helped in building networks with other women organisations and agencies in South Sudan for further collaborations.

4.5. Develop capacity of staff and executive committee for increased effectiveness,

efficiency and pro-activeness in executing their roles

There was opportunity for both internal and external skills and capacity enhancement sessions for staff. Internally, a three day training on writing skills was held as well as a two day inspirational session on effective communication facilitated by Janet Nyeko a reknown writer and Ethan Mussolin, reknown Motivational Speaker respectively. The voices of staff quoted below reflect great value of the sessions

"Beyond the figures I'm accustomed to; I can now write a narrative report" Alice Ndyabawe, Finance and Administration Manager

"I now edit my work with ease and pay attention to detail such as punctuation and to avoid one sentence paragraphs" Sarah Agwang, Programme Officer.

In addition different staff attained trainings relevant to their programme focus organised by the several partners as detailed in the table below

<i>Title of training</i>	<i>Content</i>	<i>Organised by</i>	<i>Staff who attended</i>	<i>Staff comment</i>
Training on use of the SASA methodology.	■ GBV and power relations ■ Stages of SASA i.e. Start Awareness, Support and Action.	UNFPA	Susan Labwot (Programme Assistant, Policy Research)	The training helped me to learn the various steps on how to address community problems through SASA i.e. start, awareness, support and action. It enhanced my capacity in undertaking and writing community dialogue reports as well as understanding power relations and its impact on GBV.

Title of training	Content	Organised by	Staff who attended	Staff comment
Enhancing local capacities for peace	■ Understanding conflicts ■ Conflict transformation ■ Building sustainable peace	UNFPA	Rita Dradrimiyo (Programme Assistant)	The training helped me to learn the different dynamics of the LRA war and how it had affected the people. This information was important because I had it at the back of my mind while implementing the Peace Building Fund project.
Training on reproductive health	■ Communication advocacy in sexual reproductive health and rights ■ HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB effects on the reproductive health rights in Uganda	MEMPROW	Anyangurati Miria	The training helped me learn about sexual reproductive health in details, dangers of abortion, the different types of cancer and the preventive measure to take to avoid cancer including early testing.
Training on community dialogue using the MGLSD Methodology.	■ Report writing on community dialogue ■ Mentoring and evaluating community dialogues ■ Preparation for community dialogues and how to/handle difficult situation in community dialogues	UNFPA	Labwot Susan and Laureen Karayi	We were able to learn how to handle difficult situations when interacting with the community, how to dress, how to speak and timing for the dialogue. The training also helped us a lot in identifying community actors that can facilitate community dialogues. As a result of this training, we have been able under our program of preventing and responding to help the communities we work with to develop their action plan of addressing GBV which they are implanting.

4.6. Manage and administer the network

A range of procedures and systems are in place to guide management and administration of the network. These include among others:

1) Board meetings that review and advise management and administration processes and decisions on a quarterly basis. However special meetings are held as and when key matters that require urgent attention emerge

2) Board Programme Committee meetings; these review and guide programme plans and implementation on a quarterly basis for results, quality assurance and value for money.

3) Board Finance Committee meetings; complementary to the programme committee the finance committee reviews and checks financial flows on a quarterly basis to ensure adherence to organizational and partner financial guidelines and

procedures as well as value for money.

4) Board Human Resource Committee; similarly the human resource committee on a quarterly basis handles emerging human resource issues some of which arise from the monthly staff meetings and advises on the direction to be taken in reference to the organizational human resource manual and government policy.

APPRECIATION MESSAGES FROM STAKEHOLDERS

"Thanks a lot for the updates I do appreciate whatever you do towards improving lives of the voiceless". **Muhammad Miriam muhammadmariam@gmail.com**

UWONET thanks for the updates!" **Hellen - akoledimu@yahoo.com**

"Thanks UWONET for these news articles which I have enjoyed .I will contribute later. Thanks". **Williams Moi willmoi2k42004@yahoo.com**

"Dear UWONET, thanks for the great job well done". **Betty Adio in Soroti bettyadio@yahoo.com**

"Thanks to UWONET for the constant updates, greetings!" **Nakkazi Doreen doreennakkazi@yahoo.com**

"Thanks for sharing with EASSI. And again thank you so much for the publications that you shared with us recently. They were well received. We got caught up in reading them and forgot to acknowledge receipt. Apologies for our late expression of gratitude!" **Best, Sylvia Namale - EASSI sylvia@eassi.org**

"Thank you so much for this information. I needed it so much to prepare a concept paper on the same issue. Regards" **Josephine Kalule josephinekalule@yahoo.com**

"This is fresh and inspiring". **Ayot Abigail abigailachika@gmail.com**

"Thanks for this detailed and accurate summary of

the deliberations at UFF Four". **Solome Nakaweesi-Kimbugwe snkimbugwe@gmail.com**

"Surely, that is great effort. Congratulations for keeping us updated on the current affairs. Thank and may the almighty God bless you" **Ekakoro Fredrick fekakoro@yahoo.com**

"Thanks for the constant news updates and am profoundly honoured to volunteer with your organisation Best regards", **Bazirondere K Pafuladito Minister of National and International Affairs, Kyambogo University pafuladito@gmail.com**

"Dear UWONET, I want to thank you for sharing with us news at a glance, this

information has really helped us up country since it difficult for us to get newspapers. We have started printing this information and we send them to our women groups in the villages besides putting in the resource center for our own reading and for visitors. Thank you and May you continue with this good work". **Betty Akullo WORUDET- Pader WORUDET Network worudet2@yahoo.com**

"God bless your effort". **Ayot Abigail abigailachika@gmail.com**

"Good Evening Thanks a lot for your educative at the same time challenging documents, information which make us reason beyond what is happening today. Thanks again UWONET" **Yours sincerely Jacqueline**

Asara asarajacque@gmail.com

"Thank you so much. This is very useful and important. At least I am following events every time I get this. Keep up" **CHEROP LYDIA CAROLYN Program Coordinator, Women Integrated Initiative for Development (WIIDE) Cherop Lydia cheroplyd@yahoo.co.uk**

"This is great news indeed thank you so much UWONET for this daily update. We who live abroad and UWONET members we are real enjoying the news. Good work!" **Grace Musoke, gmusoken@yahoo.com**

"Thanks for keeping us posted. Keep on", **EASSI Team Sylvia sylvia@eassi.org**

"Thanks UWONET for the glance at the news, I got to

learn about it through two colleagues who receive them and on checking it out found it useful indeed. But I have known your organisation for a long time. I did not tell you that I also own Rainbow Radio in West Nile and is hungry for stories, particularly on women and development". **David Rupiny drupiny@gmail.com**

"This news update is a wonderful initiative, especially for those of us who because of looming poverty, cannot buy papers. Keep this up". **Ms. Harriet Musoke Isis-WICCE**

"Hi UWONET, Thx for the updates". **Milton Aineruhanga.**



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

UGANDA WOMEN'S NETWORK
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2011

	Note	2011 Ushs	2010 Ushs
ASSETS			
Non-Current assets			
Property and equipment	7	257,990,672	234,514,101
Current assets			
Debtors and prepayments	8	30,231,184	13,910,700
Cash and Bank balances	9	920,727,170	421,711,884
		<u>950,958,354</u>	<u>435,662,584</u>
Total assets		<u>1,218,949,026</u>	<u>670,136,685</u>
RESERVES and LIABILITIES			
Reserves			
Restricted fund	10	815,491,042	395,255,081
Capital fund	11	267,990,672	234,514,101
General fund	12	50,799,312	17,367,503
		<u>1,134,281,026</u>	<u>647,136,685</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors and accruals	13	84,668,000	23,000,000
Total reserves and liabilities		<u>1,218,949,026</u>	<u>670,136,685</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 13.04.2012 and were signed on its behalf by:



Chairperson

Hon. Sheila Kawamara Mishambi



Treasurer

Rosemary Mirembe Lukholo



Executive Director

Rita Aciro Lakor

ABOUT UGANDA WOMEN'S NETWORK

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) is an advocacy and lobby network of national women NGOs and individuals, operating in Uganda. It was born out of the East African Women's Conference held in Kampala

VISION

A Ugandan society free of all forms of gender based discrimination

MISSION

To coordinate collective action among members and other stakeholders through networking, capacity building, resource mobilization, policy research and advocacy for the attainment of gender equality in Uganda

UWONET VALUES

UWONET is committed to the transformation of the unequal gender relations in society and promoting networking among women and other development partners based on mutual trust and respect for one another. The network is accountable to its members, partners and stakeholders. It is also highly participatory in decision-making and operations and produces quality work.

The purpose: To create a critical mass of women's collective action for effective strategic policy engagement by 2013.

Strategic Objective 1: Advocate for enactment and monitor the implementation of at least 3 gender responsive laws, policies and programmes by 2013.

Strategic Objective 2: Increase networking in 8 districts and at the national level to effectively engage institutions and governance structures for gender equality by 2013.

Strategic Objective 3: Increase knowledge and articulation of women rights and gender through information sharing amongst members and stakeholders by 2013

Strategic Objective 4: Strengthen UWONET institutional capacity by 2013

Contact;

The Executive Director

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)

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Twitter: @uwonet