

GENDER TRANSFORMATION & EMPOWERMENT



UGANDA WOMEN'S NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT

2010

ABOUT UWONET

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) is an advocacy and lobby coalition of 16 national women's organisations, institutions and individuals in Uganda. The network operates in collaboration with other CSOs, networks and institutions in the country. It was born out of the East African Conference held in Kampala in 1993 and is registered by the Uganda NGO Board under Uganda NGO registration statute and is also incorporated under the companies Act (CAP 110)

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 and equity.

UWONET VALUES

1. Honesty
2. Justice
3. Gender Equality
4. Accountability
5. Voluntarism
6. Mutual respect
7. Unity in diversity
8. Participation

UWONET PRINCIPLES

1. Equal opportunity
2. Respect for all
3. Time consciousness
4. Innovation and continuous learning
5. Service oriented
6. Mutual respect

Overall objectives:

Create a critical mass of women's collective action for effective strategic policy engagement.

Outcome:

A vibrant women's movement that advocates for the attainment of gender equality in Uganda

Strategic objective 1:

To advocate for enactment and implementation of gender responsive laws, policies and programmes.

Specific objective:

To lobby, advocate and monitor gender responsive laws and policies.

Strategic objective 2:

To strengthen the collective voice on women specific issues.

Strategic objective 3:

To enhance the Network mechanisms through which members can be accountable to each other and stakeholders.

Strategic Objective 4:

To strengthen UWONET's institutional Capacity.

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List of abbreviations

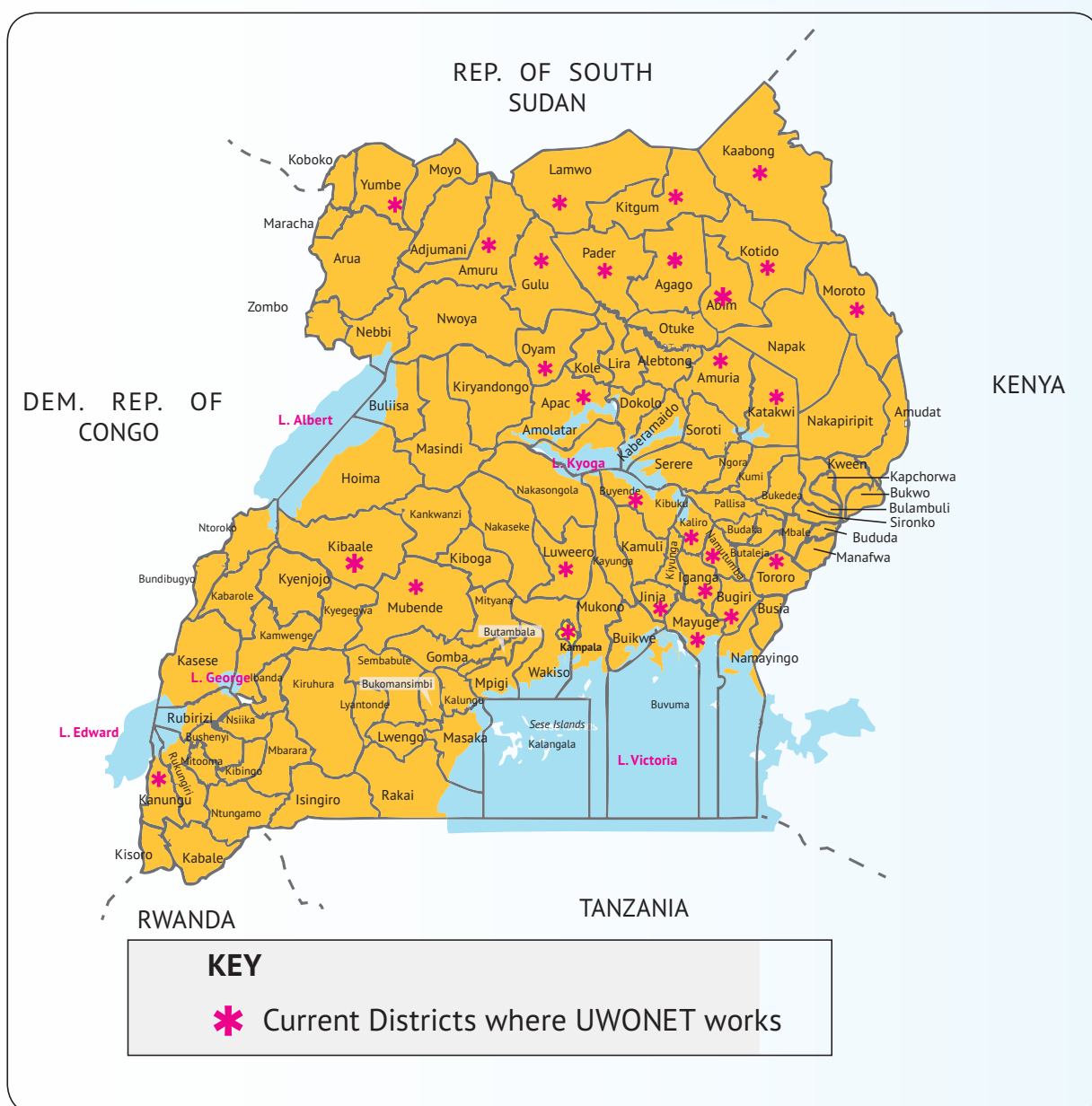
AGM	Annual General Meeting
BCC	Budget Call Circular
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DP	Democratic party
FOKAPAWA	Forum for Kalongo Parish Women Association
GBV	Gender Based Violence
IWD	International Women's Day
KIWEPI	Kitgum Women Peace Initiative
MFPED	Ministry of Finance planning and Economic Development
NRM	National Resistance Movement
OPM	Office of the Prime minister
PDP	People's Democratic Party
IPC	Inter Party Coalition
PPP	People's Progressive Party
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based violence
UWONET	Uganda Women's Network
WORUDET	Women In Rural Development Network

INTRODUCTION

This annual report 2010 is intended to share a record of what the organisation set to do and accomplished during the year. It highlights the context in which UWONET worked; a record of the programmes implemented and achievements; a financial report; existing management and staff members and a list of the publications among others.

While having a national outlook UWONET works in a number of districts.

WHERE UWONET WORKS



A WORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Members of UWONET, with great pleasure I present to you the Network's annual report for the year 2010. This was a year of a lot of great achievements that have largely contributed to the rebranding of UWONET. Together with all our development partners, we are very proud to be part of UWONET's history and making a difference to the lives of millions of Ugandans, in particular women and children.

Despite some challenges UWONET is still able to rally the women of Uganda to speak with one voice and take concerted effort to uplift the women's status in the country. I take this opportunity to congratulate the gallant women of Uganda who have continued to fight against all forms of oppression in all its manifestations and those who bravely offered themselves as leaders for elective positions, in the 2011 general elections.

As we committed ourselves in the Strategic Plan, 2009-2013, UWONET is going to work hard to make the Network more visible and relevant to all its stakeholders. During the course of the year, various initiatives have been undertaken at the district, national and international levels, in strong collaboration with the members of the Network. I express my sincere gratitude to all the members of UWONET, the Board and most importantly the staff who have turned our ideals into reality.

More than ever before, UWONET is recognized as a unifying force and an authority on women's policy issues. We commit ourselves to continue serving all our stakeholders in this regard and ensuring that the women's concerns are effectively dealt with at levels of policy making and implementation. I call upon our major partners in the Executive, the Parliament and Judiciary to continue trusting us in our struggle for the recognition and emancipation of all women in Uganda.

Since most development programmes are currently being implemented at the district level, UWONET appeals to the Local Councilors and technocrats at the various levels of Local Government to continuously involve women in all aspects of programme planning and implementation. I sincerely thank all those local governments who have welcomed UWONET into their districts and facilitated our work with our sisters in their areas of jurisdiction.

I also thank the police and other law enforcement organs, religious leaders and institutions, cultural leaders and the media who have worked closely with UWONET to expose gender violence and the violation of women's rights. I believe that together we can ensure that all Ugandans live in harmony and with dignity.

Hon. Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi
Chairperson

A Message from the Executive Director



Over the year UWONET has continued to establish strong linkages with district and local communities especially working with Local Government, NGOs and CBOs with the main objective of acquiring evidence based advocacy while maintaining a strong national focus on amplifying the voices at national level. Over 20 Local governments have been reached in our work, creating a sense of responsibility and social accountability on the side of duty bearers and rights holders. As a result of the different interventions by UWONET i.e capacity enhancement for grass root organisations we have seen local communities demand for action from relevant authorities both at district and Sub county level. Networks have been born and, actions taken at the different levels, in spite of the challenges of lack of information and ignorance of civic rights. At institutional level, UWONET continues to grow from strength to strength.

The strategic plan 2009-2013 gives UWONET renewed zeal and strength. To meet the new demands of the ever changing environment, UWONET had to review its internal policies. In the the year, UWONET recruited a Director of Programmes for efficient implementation and monitoring. The changes and growth at the UWONET Secretariat would not have been possible without the commitments of the different actors who supported us.

I would like to sincerely appreciate members of UWONET, allies at national and district level, UWONET Board, Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MGLSD), Local Governments where UWONET operates, and all our development partners. All the above steps taken could not have been possible without your support, collaboration, network, partnership and team spirit.

Last, but not least, special thanks go to my colleagues at UWONET secretarial (staff) for a job well done and Team Spirit.

Rita Aciro Lakor

Executive Director, UWONET

CONTEXT WITHIN WHICH UWONET OPERATED: What informed the various engagements?

A continuous scan of the global, regional and national development environment over the years presents the organisation with a range of socio-cultural, political and economic issues that inform its interventions besides the strategy. In 2010 some of the key trends that defined UWONET's work included:

- ❖ The growing concern of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the country more especially Violence Against Women (VAW) yet with inadequate related service provision in most parts of the country-at less than 5 percent (MGLSD, 2009). The Uganda Demographic Health Survey (2006) established the highest incidence of sexual violence cases against women at 53 percent. The Eastern region at 76 percent had the highest incidence of VAW and the East Central region (Busoga sub region) with 53 percent has the highest GBV prevalence in Eastern region.
- ❖ Delayed enactment of key gender laws such as the Marriage and Divorce Bill that would strengthen CSO advocacy and other policy actions towards reduced gender imbalances and violence.
- ❖ Rampant political intolerance & violence mostly affecting women while on the other hand justice, legal and regulatory frameworks, systems and institutions are inadequate, inactive, non-functional and largely marred by impunity, corruption and partisan tendencies.
- ❖ Low socio-economic indicators particularly in post conflict areas; West Nile region, Acholi, Lango, Teso and Karamoja sub regions yet with less responsive mainstream development programmes further marred by seemingly acceptable decentralised embezzlement of government funds. There is persistent poverty and vulnerability; high maternal and infant mortality rates; high illiteracy; high school drop-outs; high incidence of disease among others all grossly affecting women and children.

- ❖ Economic vulnerability of women with, minimal ineffective or at times no government protection at all- 74 percent of women are employed in agriculture but only 1.6% are engaged in market oriented agriculture; 88.2 percent of the economically active women are self employed and 70% of street traders in Uganda and about 50% of market and street traders in Kampala are women (UN Women formerly UNIFEM 2005/08).
- ❖ The limited participation and involvement of women in the recovery and peace building processes and thus limited responsiveness of the recovery plans and programmes to the needs of the vulnerable women in the post conflict areas in northern Uganda.
- ❖ Generally the glaring mismatch between policy and practice in the country has been a key drive for UWONET's policy research and advocacy initiatives over the years in a bid to contribute to bridging the gap.

On the positive note UWONET recognises the presence of an enabling and supportive environment within the country that eased its work in 2010. This was characterised by:

- ❖ Presence of favourable laws, policies and plans such as the overarching National Development Plan which recognises gender and gender based violence as a development concern and priority that needs to be addressed towards achievement of the MDGs; policy on affirmative action and the newly (2010) enacted gender related laws including Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Act; Anti Domestic violence Act and the Anti Trafficking in Persons Act.
- ❖ Availability of a wider policy space for CSOs to feed and actively engage to influence policy change in different fields.

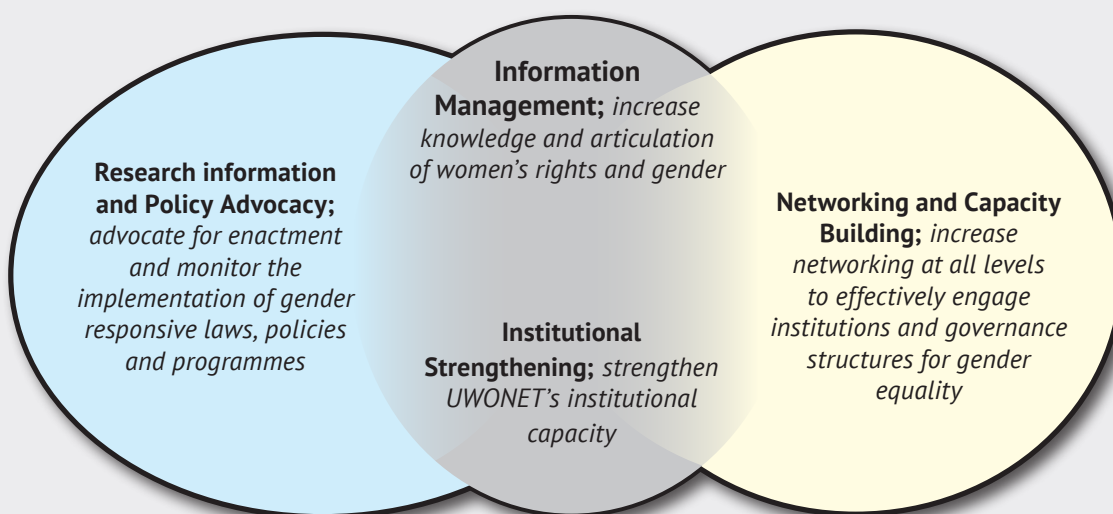
- ❖ Presence of other like-minded organisations, individuals, activists, academia among other interlocutors. This laid a basis for formation of strong and vibrant coalitions, networks and fora geared toward collective voices and action for policy change.
- ❖ Presence of joint partnership programmes among government (national and local), CSOs, Faith based organisations and other actors. This has helped to ease information flow and the policy influencing process.
- ❖ Presence of development partners interested and willing to support CSO work particularly in advancing gender and women's rights.

The above therefore informed UWONET's strategic direction and planning and helped to define her focus in 2010.

Programme Report: Highlights for 2010

Inline with her vision ; *a Ugandan Society Free of all Forms of Gender Based Violence*, UWONET has two major interlinked programme areas including Research information and Policy Advocacy and Networking and Capacity Building which are both supported by programme components on Information Management and Institutional Strengthening. Each of the programme area is intended to achieve one of the four key strategic objectives as illustrated below

UWONET's Programmes and the Strategic Objectives



More specific defined areas of focus under each of the programmes guided development of the specific activities and subsequent implementation in order to achieve the key strategic objectives.

FOCUS AREA I:

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS:



A training of district based alliances on GBV in Katakwi District.

This area links with action point one in UWONET's strategy, which is to build and support national and community structures to mitigate Gender Based Violence. UWONET implemented several initiatives in 2010 to advance her GBV and RR agenda both at national and district levels with support from various partners including United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) under the 7th GoU/UNFPA country Programme, Irish Aid under the GoU/Irish Aid joint programme on addressing GBV in Busoga Sub region and Action Aid International among others.

The initiatives included: trainings, skill and capacity enhancement measures for 240 alliance members in the 8 programme districts facilitated by UWONET after the alliance formation processes. The alliances were formed to spearhead GBV prevention and response initiatives in the districts. The trainings were geared towards knowledge building and increasing understanding of gender based violence, gender as a concept, rights and advocacy as a skill with an aim of strengthening the alliances' role.

District Based GBV Alliances:

UWONET facilitated the formation of district based GBV alliances in all the eight partnership districts under GoU/UNFPA 7th Country programme districts of Mubende, Katakwi, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, Oyam, Yumbe and Kanungu. These alliances have spearheaded several GBV prevention and response initiatives in the districts..

Similar structures have been established at sub county levels in a bid to reduce social tolerance to GBV and also influence action of Local Government and other duty bearers.

The trainings were greatly appreciated. One male participant from Yumbe district after a training facilitated by Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP)¹ was quoted;

“ I feel touched after this training and I believe that so many men are ignorant about the violence they perpetrate against women. We thus need more sensitization because violence against women has implications on women themselves, their families and the community as a whole.”

Resource Allocation Analysis:

In addition, a national and district level resource allocation analysis to the prevention and response to GBV specifically in the sectors of health; Justice, Law and Order and the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) was conducted. Four of the GoU/UNFPA 7th country programme districts that is: Kanungu, Mubende, Oyam and Katakwi were covered. The analysis led by Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) a member organisation of UWONET, was mainly intended to establish the extent to which the national budget 2009/10 allocated resources to prevention and addressing of GBV in the selected sectors.

Results from the analysis indicate very minimal budgetary allocations to the cause and lack of a GBV specific vote function within the sectoral budgets despite recognition of GBV as a key concern that requires full-scale government intervention.

A range of simplified information materials have been developed from the analysis exercise to further strengthen UWONET's advocacy for increased resource allocation towards *a Ugandan society free of all forms of gender based violence* .



Some of the publications developed from the research

¹ Centre for Domestic Violence is one of UWONET's member organisations together with whom they are implementing the GoU/ UNFPA 7th Country Programme. Other implementing member organisations under the programme all of whom have played a crucial role include Action for Development (ACFODE) and Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE).

UWONET LAUNCHES A CAMPAIGN AGAINST GBV IN BUSOGA

UWONET with support from Irish Aid, under the GoU/Irish Aid joint programme(2010-2014) on addressing GBV in Busoga sub region, launched a campaign, in eight districts including: Jinja, Iganga, Mayuge, Kaliro, Kamuli, Bugiri, Namutumba and Buyende.

According to the Uganda Demographic Health Survey-UDHS (UBOS, 2006) Busoga sub region has a rate of 53 percent, the highest prevalence of GBV in the whole of Eastern Uganda yet with very low service provision (at less than 5 percent). In this five year joint programme, UWONET will be responsible for advancing the objective of enhancing capacity of duty bearers in Busoga sub region to prevent and respond to gender based violence while the other partners including Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development; Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention and Mystic Multi-Media will each take charge of the other three programme objectives respectively. 2010 marked the official launch of the programme and as one of the inaugural activities, UWONET prepared the visit of the Irish Ambassador to Uganda to Iganga district to meet and share insights of the situation in the district and the sub region. Interactions with some of the women political candidates who have benefited from the trainings, leadership mentorship sessions conducted by UWONET under her Democracy and Governance sub programme were organised. The sharing from this visit largely informed subsequent planning and later roll-out of the programme in 2011.

Indexing and analysis of print media reports on gender based violence

Indexing and analysis of print media reports on GBV, mainly focusing on three daily Newspaper releases including The New Vision, The Monitor and Bukedde. A synthesised analytical report is in place and some of its key results indicate that the misunderstandings within domestic spheres over issues like adultery and property such as land is a key driver of GBV leading to murder, physical violence, a reason among others. The impact of violence can be devastating and this may include unwanted pregnancies, HIV/ AIDS infections, and injuries.



²To strengthen coordination among key actors at national and local government level for effective prevention and response to GBV; To mobilize communities with a particular focus on men's involvement as agents of change to prevent and respond to GBV and to generate and disseminate information on GBV in Busoga sub region for policy programming and advocacy

ADVOCACY ON LEGAL FRAMEWORKS RELATING TO GBV

In a bid to further address gender based violence and reproductive rights issues, UWONET coordinated cohesive action/advocacy on violence against women in general and more specifically on national, regional and international legal instruments including the Marriage and Divorce Bill; the Convention on Elimination of all of Forms Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol). To support the advocacy, a policy brief; Facts and Myths on the Marriage and Divorce Bill, a CSO CEDAW alternative

report and a corresponding policy brief were produced. Resultantly the Government of Uganda ratified the Maputo Protocol; recommendations of the CSO CEDAW report informed the concluding observations of the CEDAW Committee and upon which the government of Uganda was called upon to pass some of the laws like the Marriage and Divorce Bill, sexual Offences Bill, also formulation of legislation to eliminate traditional practices and stereotypes that discriminate against women, curb the high prevalence of violence against women and girls, among others



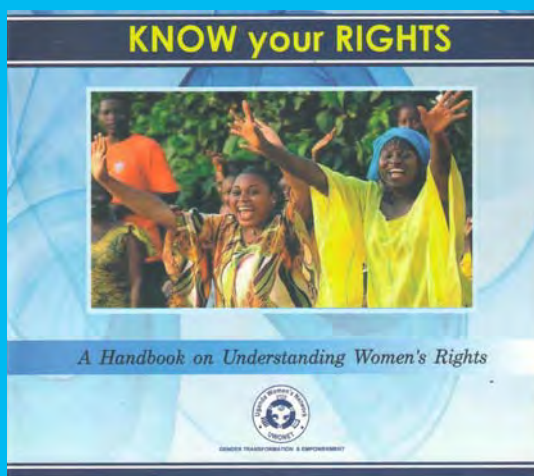
Facts and myths on the Marriage and Divorce Bill, CSO CEDAW Alternative Report, Policy Brief on the progress and challenges on the legal framework for protection of women against discrimination & promotion of their Social, Political & economic rights.

FOCUS AREA 2:

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

This is under action point two of UWONET's strategy, to advocate for women's economic rights and justice. Emphasis here is put on land, property and labour rights of women. In order to widely promote understanding, raise awareness, evoke a demand for rights from grassroots particularly from women themselves and thus reduce rampant violation of women's rights. Among the activities undertaken in 2010 include:

Production of a rights handbook



Know your rights: A handbook on understanding Women's Rights

UWONET produced a handbook; 'Know Your Rights'. It details the economic, social, civil, political, property, reproductive and domestic relations rights among others. The book has helped to sustain sensitisation and empowerment efforts to wider communities by district women networks and other organisations. The handbook is meant to create knowledge and demand for quality services on women's rights.

Engagement with duty bearers



Photo taken after a meeting with the IGP on Women's peaceful participation in politics.

UWONET held meetings with the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and other stakeholders to discuss various issues such as: the way forward on Electoral violence and escalating violence culminating into women's rights abuse. As a result of this meeting, both parties realised the need for the police not to use excessive force in arresting people, need for periodic dialogues with the police to follow up on violence cases reported and the need to sensitize women on the laws in place and what their rights and responsibilities are.

FOCUS AREA 3:

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING:

UWONET's action point three is on, lobby and advocacy for increased participation of women in leadership and decision making. This area is geared towards advancing democratic governance through enhancing women's participation in politics and decision making processes at all levels. In order to achieve that objective, several initiatives were undertaken in 2010 among them:

Financing capacities of prospective women Councillors and MP's

Training was carried out in 50 districts more specifically to enhance the participation of women in the 2011 elections. Over 2500 women political candidates were targeted, equipping them with skills for effective leadership, knowledge on political parties, running successful campaigns, public speaking, presentation skills, what to do on a polling day and after polling day. The trainings were implemented under a joint coalition called Women Democracy (WDG) coordinated by UWONET and constituted by different women organisations including Forum for Women in Democracy-FOWODE, Action for Development-ACFODE and Centre for Women in Governance-CEWIGO with support from DANIDA under its programme on Deepening Democracy.

Out of the over 2500 women targeted during the trainings mentioned above in the 50 districts; at least 2214 women were nominated.

As reported above, many women were able to be renominated after UWONET's trainings. One woman in particular was able to compete favourably against men in the Local Council V chairperson position in Kanungu district. This is a big achievement considering the fact that this position has traditionally been held by men.



A training of women candidates in Moroto District.



Some of the trainees pose for a photo after the training in Moroto District.

With support from Dan Church Aid, a similar capacity enhancement initiative was conducted for lower level women candidates-Local Council. This was deemed important because several critical decisions affecting communities and women in particular for example on issues pertaining land and gender based violence are made at LCI level, therefore building capacity of prospective LCI women candidates on key issues of gender; women rights and basically good leadership was thought crucial. This initiative targeted 40 women candidates from each of the four selected districts of Amuria, Abim, Katakwi and Moroto.

³ Yumbe,Adjumani,Kaabong,Arua ,Nebbi Nakapiripirit ,Kapchorwa,Moroto ,Kaliro,Mayuge,Jinja ,Iganga ,Kamuli ,Bugiri ,Kyenjojo ,Bundibugyo Bushenyi ,Isingiro ,Rubirizi ,Mitooma ,Mbarara ,Kasese,Kabarole ,Shema,Buhweju ,Kiruhura,Kamwenge ,Apac ,Amorator,Butaleja,Kalangala,Kisoro,Kanungu ,Sironko.,Mbale ,Dokolo ,Lira.,Ssembabule ,Oyam ,Manafa ,Kampala ,Mukono,Katakwi ,Kiboga,Soroti ,Buikwe,Kumi,Wakiso.,Busia,Tororo,Rakai,Amuria

Media trainings:

Similarly, trainings for media were conducted in Kampala with an aim of equipping them with skills on gender sensitive reporting and broadening the understanding of issues of women in leadership. The trainings benefited over 40 media practitioners; radio stations, print media and television both at national and district levels. As a result several female candidates attested to an improved media reporting and coverage during the late 2010-2011 political campaigns compared to the past where all that would be reported about women related to beauty; marital status among other trivial issues rather than their leadership capabilities and potential.

A gender analysis of political manifestos:

This covered seven political parties that were to participate in the 2011 elections including: The National Resistance Movement (NRM), The Inter Party Coalition (IPC), Democratic Party (DP), Uganda Peoples Congress (UPC), Uganda Federal Alliance (UFA), People's Progressive Party (PPP), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The process is mainly intended to assess responsiveness to gender and specifically commitment to addressing needs of women in the different political party agendas and consequently propose possible gender responsive options to inform the agenda reviews. The results of the analysis will be used to monitor commitment to and implementation of the highlighted gender and women's needs and concerns. UWONET has also developed a simple monitoring tool for CSOs for continued monitoring and engagement with the parties on the various issues identified such as engendering the party structures, systems and processes among others.

Facilitating dialogue among key election stakeholders:

With support of CARE international, a total of four district dialogues were held in the districts of Amuru, Gulu, Pader and Kitgum targeting 80 participants in each dialogue. The participants deemed as key stakeholders in the electoral process included women leaders or candidates for the various positions, political party representatives, the media, security officers, police and electoral commission. The dialogues were intended to foster a conducive environment for women to freely participate in the political space and decision making at local council and national level. During these dialogues, participants discussed the roles of duty bearers in creating a favourable environment for women in leadership and decision making.

They were appreciated in all the districts as the first of a kind and a very important event for the districts that should happen more frequently. The Police in Amuru and Gulu requested UWONET to have more of these dialogues. The representative of the District Police Commander (DPC) Amuru in his own words was quoted, "I thank UWONET so much for this dialogue because the police is always blamed when carrying out its duties." The Chairman LCV Gulu embraced the idea and requested more of the dialogues in the district. In Pader, the DPC was elated and was quoted "I am happy the candidates are here to listen to this information."

As a result of the dialogues, a code of conduct was signed by all the participants in every district after making and accenting to a number of commitments. The code of conduct will act as a point of reference of the different roles by the duty bearers and will be used to guide in case of breach of the agreement.



A participant makes a point during the dialogue on creating a favourable environment for women's participation in leadership and decision making in Gulu District.



Participants pose for a photo after a dialogue on creating a favourable environment for women's participation in leadership and decision making in Amuru District.

Young women leaders' initiative:

As an avenue to further enhance and sustain women's participation in leadership and decision making processes, UWONET has for over years been implementing a mentoring programme for young women leaders. This mainly targets female leaders (both political and non political) in higher institutions of learning. In 2010, several dialogues were held for these mentees with various guest speakers/presenters mainly distinguished women leaders and experts in different fields to share their experiences with these young leaders. Some of the topics discussed include sexual and gender based violence; reproductive health; women in decision making and governance and women's rights. The testimonies from the various beneficiary mentees indicated great appreciation and overwhelming need and scale-up of the programme.



A facilitator demonstrating sexual violence prevention techniques to the students during one of the session at UWONET secretariat.



Rose Kanyange a student from Makerere University Business school

8th March 2010 is a day to remember in the lives of the lucky stars that attended the Uganda Women's network (UWONET) dialogue with female university leaders. It was well represented by young ladies accompanied by a few gentlemen from various universities in Uganda.

The dialogue saw many students testify about their experiences on Gender Based Violence and their views on what should be done. It's was noted that at least one in every three girls at the university has been sexually harassed, with or without their knowledge. To some, it starts right from childhood, throughout school, to their workplaces and worse still in their marriages!

However, this is one aspect that has been seen and heard over time, but continuously neglected. It's on those grounds that I commend UWONET for its bold and timely endeavour to address such evil deeds that have ruined the lives of many promising young women in Uganda.

Generally, the dialogue was so inspiring and interactive. It gave us a platform to network and think aloud with the right and most important, concerned people. The participants left with much more knowledge on issues of transformative leadership, gender roles and remedies to GBV, among others.

I must say its one training that needed to have every youth to attend. We look forward to many more foras of that nature to help in transforming the lives of fellow youth. Big thanks again go to UWONET.

FOCUS AREA 4:

PEACE AND CONFLICT:



A photo of Mr. Joachim Kissano, The United Nations envoy to the government addressing community members of Lamino-Lawino in Gulu District on the need for women's participation in the recovery process

In focusing on peace and conflict, UWONET strives to promote and enhance women's involvement and participation in conflict resolution and peace building processes in conflict ravaged areas particularly in Northern and North Eastern Uganda. This is because for a long time women have been excluded from such processes and subsequently their needs don't get to be addressed in recovery plans yet women and children bore the worst brunt of the conflict. More importantly UWONET argues that the inherent role of women as peacemakers needs not be underestimated in such processes.

On that premise, UWONET steered a range of initiatives including :

Promoting and enhancing Understanding of the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) as the overarching peace plan:

This targeted women civil society organisations; local government technical and political officials; women local councillors & women community groups among others. It was geared towards arousing civil society and community vigilance towards gender monitoring of implementation of the plan and create demand for quality service delivery and on the other hand to raise the attention and consciousness of the unmet needs of vulnerable women.



A picture of the field monitors of Kitgum and Pader after a training in Kitgum district November 2010

Gender Audit of the PRDP:

Several achievements have been registered in the communities due to UWONET's interventions. For instance the trained community based PRDP field monitors in Pader district attested to seeing most of the schools being rehabilitated using the PRDP funds at least constructing a special changing and counselling room for girls; in Lamiyo primary school, a special budget vote has been allotted to purchasing sanitary towels for the girls in the school; an increased inclusion of women on the school management committees has also been reported; involvement of women in public works such as opening of the access roads and in the area of health have been registered. This is attributable to the advocacy and regular monitoring by the field monitors trained and mentored by UWONET particularly in Lira Palwo and Pajule Sub Counties in Pader district and Lokung and Namukora Sub Counties in Kitgum district.

A participant during a monitoring visit to Pader and Kitgum described the project as an 'eye opener'; this is because the community was not aware of the PRDP programme going on.

This was undertaken mainly to assess responsiveness of the PRDP to gender and particularly women's needs as the most affected persons by the conflict. It also examined consonance of budgetary allocations to the identified gender needs and priorities within the plan. Key results of the audit generally show huge investment in infrastructural development and little or none in production and marketing, psychosocial support yet they are equally very crucial areas. Prioritisation and allocation to gender and women's issues is still wanting. The audit thus gives important recommendations for policy such as urging the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (MFPED) and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to enforce the Budget Call Circular (BCC) directive on gender and equity budgeting by for instance compelling local governments to demonstrate how gender and equity issues in their work plans and budgets are being addressed

FOCUS AREA 5:

SOCIAL MOVEMENT BUILDING

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) has worked towards strengthening the women's movement in Uganda. In 2010 this has been done through a range of processes including:

Mentoring and nurturing grass root organisations:

This was done with an aim of enhancing their institutional capacity and promoting local activism on gender and women's rights issues. As a result of UWONET's nurturing process two vibrant district women networks have been formed in Pader and Abim districts. The organisations attest to the fact that they have since developed strong governance structures; organisational strategies and have been able to attract more partners and funds to operationalise their plans.

Establishment of resource centres:

UWONET facilitated establishment of one stop knowledge reference centres in the two districts (resource centres). This was in a bid to create a knowledge base and increase awareness especially

on gender and women's rights to increase local activism and hence increasing demand and service delivery. The resource centres are noted to be very helpful to the communities. One long distance education student from Makerere University attested to the fact that she passed her exams well compared to previous sittings after using some books and space at the resource centre in Agago to revise. Several women candidates also noted to have utilised the resource centres quite often during campaigns more especially reading the book on Winning Elections published by Forum for Women in Democracy an UWONET member organisation among other resource books, laws, journals and literature. The women were delighted to share that the information empowered them in having evidence based agendas and campaigns and though some of them didn't make it to Council or Parliament, they are positive that they have the right knowledge and information through the centres which they can use to seize any other leadership (political and non political) opportunity for the good of particularly marginalised women in this country.



People reading in the resource center in Kalango Agago district.

Training of community watch dogs:

This was in a bid to create awareness on women's rights with in the communities. A total of 40 community watch dogs were trained in Agago and Pader districts and these have conducted a series of community dialogues to deepening the understanding of women's rights. As a result there is notable increase in community vigilance, reporting and advocacy actions against women's rights abuses.

Development of a documentary:

A documentary on the women's movement in Uganda; experiences, lessons and challenges, has also been developed for wider experience sharing and reflecting on the strategic direction to facilitate the movement's growth.

Exchange visits:

These were organised to enhance shared learning, peer review and growth of the women's movement for instance twenty (20) women from PRDP Districts were selected with the help of the district women networks for a peer learning visit to Nairobi during the launch of the African Women's Decade. This was intended for the women from Northern Uganda to share and learn from experiences of African countries emerging from armed conflict ,skills and experiences of engaging with peace and recovery processes.

Some of the lessons learnt and documented by Uganda participants from the visit include:

- ❖ Violence / conflict prevention strategies such as use of the media, holding dialogues with key influential people in society among others taking a case of *Kibera Women for Peace and Fairness*
- ❖ Early identification and monitoring of hotspots during elections which are likely epicentres of post election violence. This was identified as a measure of preventing and guarding against election related violence/conflict as the case was in Kenya that claimed hundreds of lives and affected mostly women and children. The need to engage in voter education, dialogues and massive sensitisation campaigns on peaceful elections and targeting mostly the youth was emphasised.
- ❖ Recognised that the problems affecting women in Africa are the similar for example, domestic violence, poor health services, economic rights, exclusion from leadership and decision making, negative effects of war, low levels of education among others. There is need therefore to address these problems collecting as African women of issues are in the ten (10) thematic areas of the African Women's Decade.



Participants pose for a group photo during the NGO forum at the launch of the African Women's Decade

A Summary of Strategic Regional and International Partnership Engagement Meetings/Events UWONET Attended.

Name	Type of Meeting	Venue/Place	Organiser
Convention on the Status of Women (CSW)	Strategy Development	New York, USA	UN
CEDAW	Progress Reporting	Geneva, Switzerland	UN
Launch of the African women's Decade	Strategy Development	Nairobi, Kenya	AU
Scaling up male involvement in Advancing Gender equality	Strategy Development and Experience Sharing	Lusaka, Zambia	UNFPA

Similarly an annual networking week was organised in Kitgum district for women from the different districts implementing the Peace Recovery and Development Programme (PRDP) including Lira, Soroti, Nakapiripirit, Gulu, Amuru, Arua, Yumbe, Koboko, Katawi, Moroto, Kotido and Otuke among others. This was purposely organised to provide space for sharing experiences of engaging and influencing the PRDP implementation process; network and build synergies where possible. The event attracted over 200 women and they attest to drawing several experiences across such as the need to form PRDP sub county monitoring committees an idea and widely creating awareness on PRDP among the communities.



UWONET Executive Director (centre) joins the traditional dance at the end of the networking day of Women, Peace & Security in Kitgum District

FOCUS AREA 6:

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

This is intended to bolster the organisation's capacity so that it can be effective in pursuit of her programmes and thus achieve the overall goal. Several initiatives were undertaken in 2010 as a measure to strengthen the institution's capacity. These include among others:

A directors' and chairpersons' meeting organised purposely to enhance efficiency and quality of the secretariat and member organisation's work. An annual staff and Board reflection meeting organised to bridge the gap between the Board and staff and also allow for wider sharing on a range of organisational aspects. Quarterly Board and Board Committees' meetings purposely for quality assurance and an annual General Meeting (AGM). A staff retreat organised to enhance staff's capacity

and skills in team work, team spirit, professional ethics, among others;

A staff appraisal was also conducted plus attendance, participation and involvement in a number of national, international and regional workshops, advocacy drives and meetings such as the Convention on the Status of Women (CSW) to promote networking, information sharing, visibility and shared learning;

Development and review of organisational policy documents including the constitution, human resource and financial policies; recruitment of new staff to enhance timely and quality delivery of programmes and finally an external audit undertaken to enhance value for money.



A photo of a staff training on Effective communication by Mr. Ethan Mussolini

The internship and volunteer program

A number of national and international student interns were recruited. These were to support the staff while in the process their capacity and skills in a range of gender and development issues was being enhanced.

The experience of one of the interns



Alari Mahdi, student from UK

I started off my work at Uganda Women's Network hesitantly. I was nervous and unsure of what to expect. Yet my curiosity and willingness to learn about gender issues coupled with the friendly faces I was met with, ensured me that I was in for an experience. My time here has been just that. I was never a gender person. Having been lectured by a renowned feminist, one was forced to sit through one too many gender lectures. I found it interesting but never really engaged with it. UWONET changed that! I felt like I was thrown into a gender-deep end and quickly found that these were issues that I cared about!

Throughout my very short stay, I worked under the Women in Democracy Project; looking at the issues and barriers that women face in achieving equal representation in politics. The training of the trainers workshop held on 30-31 August, gave me my first insight to the huge challenges women had in politics and the decision making process. I then started working more closely with Rita Aciro Lakor (Executive Director of UWONET) in developing materials to be disseminated throughout Uganda, in an attempt to educate and sensitize the general public about gender gaps in Uganda. Working closely with the ED taught me valuable skills and I now intend on writing on issues that I care about.

I was also privileged to go along with Ms Laureen karayi (Programme Assistant) on a training on Gender based Violence in Kanungu. The training was excellent and gave a real insight to how deep rooted the issues of gender discrimination was in Uganda. However, it also convinced me of the importance of everything UWONET advocates for. The dedication of the staff here now made sense. I left Kanungu, full of thoughts and saddened that my experience had to be a short one.

Throughout my internship at UWONET, I have met various women in different capacities from Miria Matembe (former Member of Parliament) to the women in the village. It is unfortunate that would not be able to express adequately how much each woman contributed to my life and my outlook of the world. I did not only have an enjoyable and thought provoking internship, I learnt life lessons and dare I say I now feel like an empowered woman.

A Summary of some of the Capacity Development Trainings attended by UWONET Staff include:

Name of Staff	Title of Training	Venue	Organiser
Rita Aciro Lakor & Laureen Karayi	Results Based Management Training	Kampala	Diakonia
Rita Aciro Lakor	Resource Mobilisation	Kampala	African Women's Development Fund (IWD)
Alice Ndyabawe & Elizabeth Nkurunziza	Procurement Procedures	Kampala	DCA
Gertrude Kabanyoro & Rita Dradrimiyo	Rights Based and Gender Approach training	Soroti	Dan church Aid.
Laureen Karayi & Betty Kasiko	Finance for non-Finance Managers	Jinja	Diakonia

FOCUS AREA 7:

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

This links to the strategic objective, to increase knowledge and understanding on women's rights and gender through information sharing and capacity building amongst members and stakeholders. A range of initiatives were made to enhance management of organisational information, communication and visibility. These include among others production of an organisational and programme/project specific brochures for wider information sharing for example a brochure on the Gender Capital Project was developed, a thousand (1000) copies produced and widely disseminated.

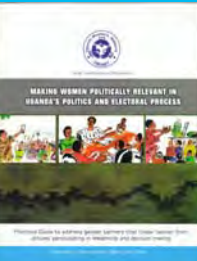
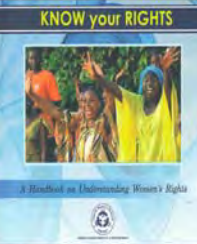


Gender capital for responsive PRDP Project brochure

In addition an annual report 2009 was produced, regular stock-ups for the organisational resource centre were made and subscription to information sharing institution membership such as NGO Forum, Uganda Land Alliance (ULA), The African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) were made.

A Summary of UWONET's Publications, 2010

Title of Publication	Picture	Purpose
1. Advocacy skills training manual for stakeholders on PRDP in English and Luo		To equip women and other stakeholders in post conflict Northern Uganda with skills to enhance their capabilities to understand and monitor the implementation of PRDP.
2. A Report on the Gender and Leadership Training Needs Assessment on implementation of the PRDP in Uganda.		To use the findings of the report as an advocacy document for a gender responsive PRDP and develop relevant information material
3. A gender Audit of the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP)-Kitgum & Pader National Focus.		To establish responsiveness of the plan to gender and use the findings for further advocacy.

4. A synopsis of SGBV in the print Media		To generate information that can be utilised in public education about the problem of violence against women in Uganda.
5. A CSO alternative report on Uganda's implementation of the CEDAW		To present some of the progress made and challenges that still persist relating to the promotion of women's rights and gender equality in Uganda.
6. A women's Democracy Resource pack: Making Women Politically relevant in Uganda's Politics and electoral process. Versions in English, Luo, Lugbara, Rutooro, Luganda, Ateso, and Akaramajong.		To increase understanding on the women's role in leadership and enhance awareness of civic rights-Overloming Gender barriers.
7. Know Your Rights: A Handbook on Women's Rights		To raise awareness on the rights of women and thus stimulate demand for justice and social accountability among communities particularly women.
8. Policy Brief on progress and challenges on the legal framework for protection of women against discrimination and promotion of their social, political and economic rights		To document progress made and challenges relating to the promotion of women's rights and gender equality in Uganda for further advocacy.
9. Women's candidate's training manual		To enhance knowledge and skills on leadership and decision making.

10. Annual report 2009.



To promote information sharing and enhance accountability to partners, members, stakeholders and the general public.

11. Simplified handbook on Nomination, campaigns and polling Day: Facts every candidate should know



To raise awareness on the electoral laws and guidelines to enhance active participation in the elections.

12. Modules for Building Capacities of District Alliances



To provide basic information on Gender and reproductive rights and practical guidelines on how district alliance can use lobbying, advocacy, networking, collaboration and fundraising to promote gender and reproductive rights among policy makers and duty bearers.

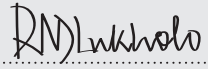
Financial Report 2010

UGANDA WOMEN'S NETWORK (UWONET)
(A company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)
Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2010

	Note	2010 UShs	2009 UShs
ASSETS			
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	3	234,514,101	24,166,689
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and Prepayments	4	13,910,700	13,928,520
Bank and Cash Payments	5.1	421,711,884	576,736,931
		435,622,584	590,665,451
TOTAL ASSETS		670,136,685	614,832,140
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
RESTRICTED FUND	6	395,255,081	51,634,005
CAPITAL FUND	7	234,514,101	24,166,689
GENERAL FUND	8	17,367,503	(96,181,554)
TOTAL FUNDS	9	647,136,685	(20,380,860)
LIABILITIES			
Creditors and accruals	10	23,000,000	107,613,000
Deferred income	11	-	527,600,000
		23,000,000	635,213,000
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		670,136,685	614,832,140

These financial statements were approved by the Executive committee on
.....07.03.... 2011 and were signed on its behalf by:


SHEILA KAWAMARA MISHAMBI CHAIRPERSON


ROSEMARY M. LIKHOLO TREASURER


RITA ACIRO LAKOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

UWONET Board of Directors 2010

	Name	Portfolio	Organisation
1.	Hon. Shiela Kawamara	Chairperson	Individual Member
2.	Ms Patricia Munaabi	Vice chairperson	FOWODE
3.	Ms Salome Ofwono	General Secretary	ACFODE(until October 2010)
4.	Ms Josephine Kalule	General Secretary	UMWA (From October 2010)
5.	Ms Rosemary Lukholo M.	Treasurer	Send a Cow
6.	Ms Debbie Kaddu Sserwada	Committee Member	Individual member
7.	Ms Beatrice Mukasa	Committee Member	Women and Gender studies

MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Staff at UWONET Secretariat in 2010

Name	Position	Photos
1. Rita Aciro Lakor	Executive Director	
2. Betty Ikanza Kasiko	Director of Programmes (From Nov 2010)	
3. Alice Ndyabawe	Finance and Administration Manager	

4. Manisurah Aheebwa	Networking Officer (Until July 2010)	
5. Andrew Bahemuka	Policy Advocacy Officer (Until April 2010)	
6. Joachim Bibuli	Information Officer (Until April 2010)	
7. Edith Nabuzana	Accounts Assistant (From August 2010)	
8. Margaret Mugenyi	Administrative Secretary	
9. Sarah Jesca Agwang	Programme Assistant Women, Peace & Security	

10. Gertrude Kabanyoro	Programme Assistant Women in Governance & Democracy	
11. Laureen Karayi	Programme Assistant Advocacy, Research and Information	
12. Julian Naluwooza	Volunteer	
13. Rita Dradrimiyo	Volunteer	
14. Alex Dralega	Office Assistant	
15. Twalib Kaggwa	Driver	

PROSPECTS FOR 2011

UWONET will continue to address issues of gender based violence and reproductive rights, more specifically engaging with and enhancing capacities of both duty bearers including Police; health workers and local council courts among others and civil society aimed at improving prevention and response services to GBV.

The governance trends in the country also point UWONET to strengthen its engagement on issues of governance, politics, social justice and social accountability. It will focus on aspects of civic engagement and social accountability; engagement with duty bearers in the electoral process and other key government institutions; continuous mentoring,

nurturing and training current and upcoming women leaders at different levels and in higher institutions of learning to effectively influence governance and decision making processes.

Issues of women, peace and security remain pertinent and will continue to define UWONET's agenda for 2011. Advocacy for enactment of pending gender bills particularly the Marriage and Divorce Bill, monitoring implementation of legal instruments and to influence gender sensitive and responsive plans and budgets of government at different levels to ensure delivery to the needs of vulnerable women in the country.

CONCLUSION

We recognise government's appreciation and effort to uphold rights of women manifested mainly through supportive laws and policies such as the Domestic Violence Act 2010; the Anti Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act 2010 and Anti Trafficking in Persons Act of 2010 and the famous Affirmative Action most of which have come as result of the advocacy led by the women's movement particularly spearheaded by UWONET. However, despite the good legal and policy framework, it is right to argue that promotion, observance and protection of rights

of women in Uganda is still lacking. Enactment of laws and formulation of positive policies has not translated into full implementation of these laws, prioritisation of women's rights issues in national development and action plans at different levels and consumerate budgetary allocations to realise the plans where available. This therefore calls for integrated and consistent approaches towards gender equality, equity and women empowerment in this country.

UWONET has worked with the following:

Civil Society Organisations	Partners
Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP)	Austrian Development Cooperation
Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE)	Action Aid International Uganda
Action for Development (ACFODE)	Care International Uganda
Center for Women in Governance (CEWIGO)	Danish Church Aid
Uganda Media Women Association (UMWA)	Diakonia Sweden
	Deepening Democracy programme (DANIDA)
	Irish Aid
Government Ministries	United Nations Population Fund
Ministry of Gender, Labour, and social Development	United Nations Office of the high commissioner for Human Rights

Pictorials



A Photo of an UWONET joint monitoring visit with Diakonia staff in Agago District



The Executive Director Participates in a Radio Programme on the CEDAW in Gulu District



Participants during a group work in Amuria District



A photo of participants during the CEDAW debriefing meeting in Kampala



A training of Local Councilors under the Gender Capital Project in Kitgum District



A dialogue on creating a favourable environment for women's Participation in politics in Gulu district



Participants during group work in Pader District



A training of District based Alliance on GBV in Katakwi District

UWONET Members

UWONET consists of:

1. Action for Development (ACFODE)
2. Association of Uganda Women Medical Doctors (AUWMD)
3. Association of Uganda Women Lawyers (FIDA-U)
4. Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP)
5. Community Development Resource Network (CDRN)
6. Department of Women and Gender Studies Makerere University (WGS)
7. Disabled Women's Network and Resource Organization (DWNRO)
8. Empower Children and Communities Against Abuse (ECCA)
9. Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE)
10. Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE)
11. National Bahai Committee for the Advancement of Women
12. Send a Cow
13. Slum AID Project (SAP)
14. Uganda Media Women's Association (UMWA)
15. Uganda Women's Finance Trust
16. Women Engineers Technicians and Scientists in Uganda (WETSU)

Individual members:

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

Contacts

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