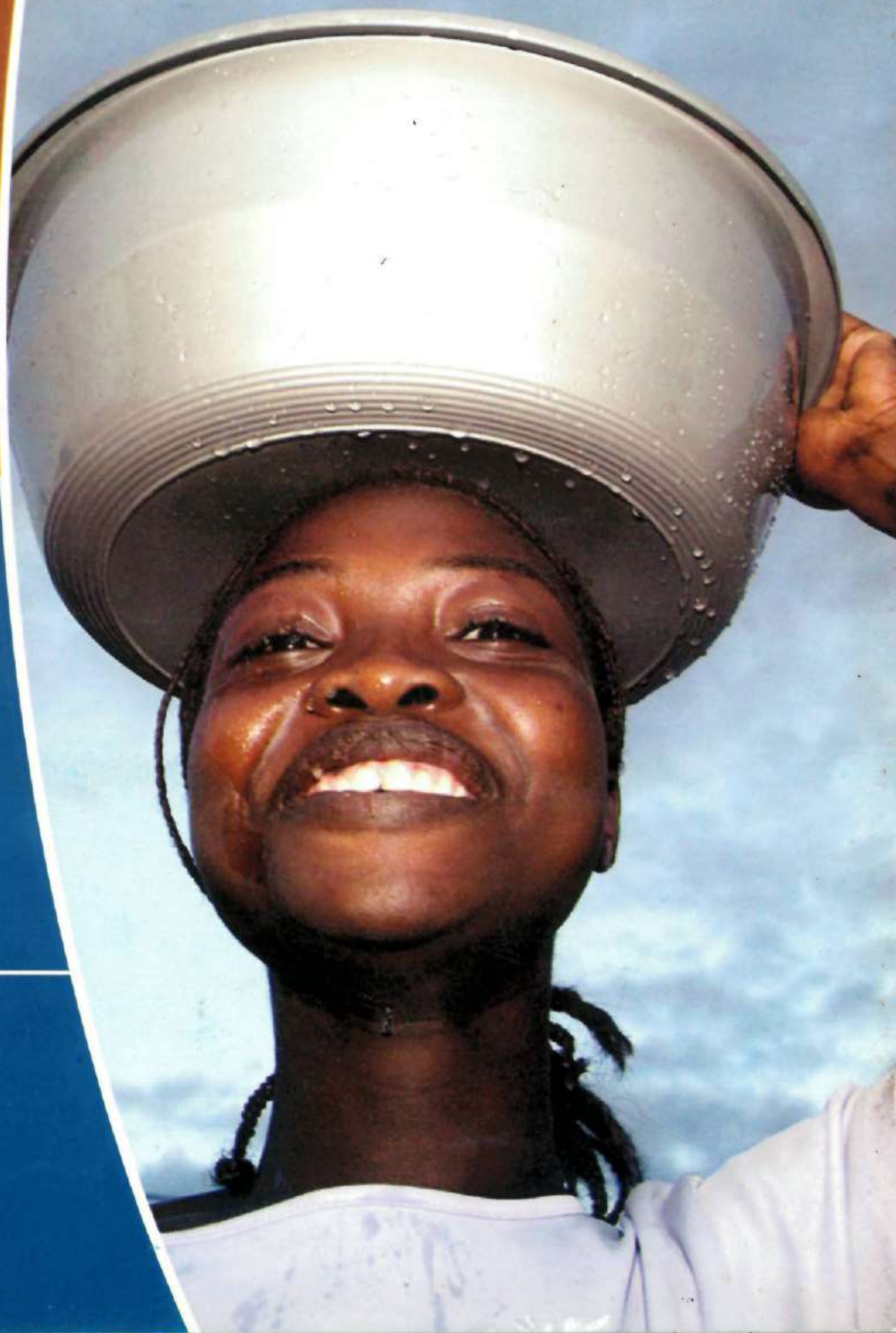
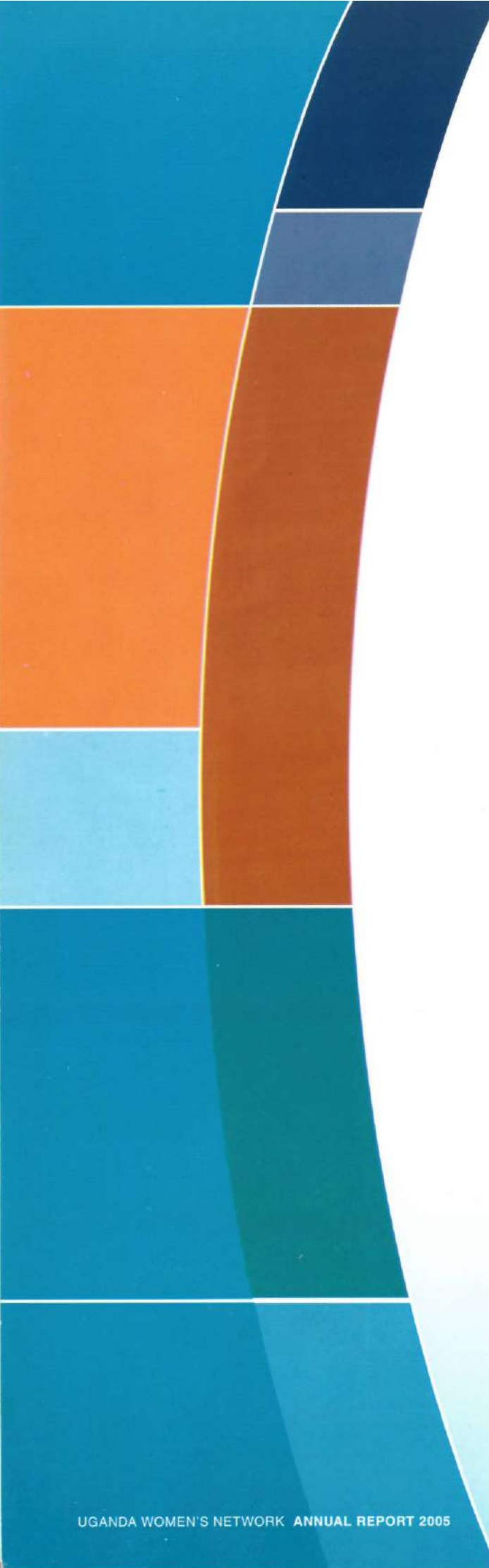


UWONET | Annual Report 2005







UGANDA WOMEN'S NETWORK (UWONET) ANNUAL REPORT 2005



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Chairperson's Message

"It is with great pleasure that I present the Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) Annual Report 2005. It was a year of challenges and increased visibility of UWONET as a leading body on women's rights in Uganda."

It is with great pleasure that I present the Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) Annual Report 2005. It was a year of challenges and increased visibility of UWONET as a leading body on women's rights in Uganda. The year 2005 also had a lot of uncertainty for many Ugandans due to changes in the political governance system.

The political transition from the movement system to multiparty democracy offered the Ugandan women's movement opportunities to advocate for increased women's visibility in politics and governance albeit amidst challenges. UWONET in collaboration with its member organizations developed a Women's Manifesto and widely distributed to all political parties, candidates, the media and the general public. UWONET successfully held two electoral trainings for women candidates for parliamentary seats. Further, UWONET rolled out the first ever national Women's candidates training program designed for women candidates in the whole country. By the end of the year a total of 640 women had been trained in 16 districts of Uganda. The biggest challenge was the failure by the women's movement to come up with common voice to constantly and systematically engage in the political transition. Consequently there was limited visibility and integration of women's concerns in political parties' agendas.

Despite the heightened resistance the Domestic Bill has faced over the years, UWONET in close collaborations with its member organizations continued the advocacy campaign for the enactment of the DRB. Though The DRB was not enacted into law by parliament, the intense campaigns led to increased awareness of the pertinent issues among various stakeholders' i.e. civil society organizations, religious intuitions, parliament, international organization and the communities at large. UWONET is committed to NEVER GIVE UP on the DRB.

UWONET continued its commitment to advocate for peace at all levels. Women's experiences in armed conflict were documented and published. A strategy on more effective advocacy for women affected by armed conflict was developed through training workshops held in northern Uganda.

In consonance with its mission statement of promoting networking among women's movement and civil society at large, UWONET organized a number of activities. This included capacity building workshops, exchange programs, coalitions meetings and participating in regional and international networks activities.

Information management at UWONET was strengthened for effective communication and advocacy. Through an improved website, newsletters, video documentaries and publication, women's concerns and issues were kept in focus.

UWONET continued to face both old and new challenges. These include among others, the slow pace of legal reforms especially laws aimed at promoting and protecting women's rights, new aid modalities and the increasing "basketisation" of funds which do not offer feasible ways of funding civil society organizations.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and Secretariat, I would like to thank all those people and organizations who have supported us to achieve our objectives. We pledge that we shall continue to be supportive and reliable partners as we advocate women's rights and gender justice.

Assoc Prof. Dr. Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo
Chairperson, UWONET



Coordinator's Message

The year 2005 was a transition one both for UWONET and the nation at large. It was a year of transition from single party to multiparty politics in Uganda. The same year saw UWONET enter the second year of implementing its five-year programme strategy 2004-2008. Prior to and during the transition period, UWONET, among many other organizations, was at the core of activism. Efforts to mainstream gender engage the various stakeholders as well as prepare women for the transition, took centre stage of our advocacy. Despite some challenges, the Network registered a lot of achievements in 2005, key among which were the constant engagements of women in Uganda's political transition process. At the African regional level, it was a year of celebrating the election of the first ever woman president, Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

UWONET continued with women's rights lobbying and advocacy through research, outreach and documentation, public events, media advocacy, workshops and trainings, and peaceful demonstrations among others. The debate and advocacy on Uganda's family law - the Domestic Relations Bill (DRB) also fully resumed.

UWONET was never solitary in the struggle but in fact strongly allied with:

Agder Research; Eastern African Sub-regional; Support for the Advancement of Women (EASSI), Akina Mama Wa Afrika (AMWA), Human Rights - Uganda (HURINET), Anti Corruption Coalition of Uganda (ACCU), Buganda Cultural Development Foundation (BUCADEF); Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA); Coalition on Political Accountability to Women (COPAW); International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI);

Uganda Women's Parliamentary Association (UWOPA); Uganda National NGO Forum, one to another. Many thanks to you for working with and believing in UWONET, and for the love, passion and commitment to women that was exhibited then.

The valuable support of our donors and development partners cannot be ignored. In 2005, UWONET expanded and strengthened partnerships with all its development partners to ensure improvement of the lives of women. I would like to thank all our partners and donors who through their kind support enabled UWONET maintain the women's rights issues high in the public arena. Special thanks go to: DANIDA, Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CIDA), Partners for Democracy and Good Governance / Election Support Unit, Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), Institute of Aids Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), International Republican Institute, Women's Intercultural Network (WIN), the American Embassy - Kampala and International Republican Institute (IRI), Action Aid International Uganda, DANIDA, HURINET/SIDA, Africa Women Development Fund, and the Norwegian Fredskopset / Agder Research and our constant partner Oxfam Novib.

On behalf of UWONET, I wish to thank those that contributed either directly or indirectly to support UWONET. Special thanks goes to: The Executive Committee for their guidance throughout the year, the UWONET Membership for the support accorded to the Secretariat in terms of responding to the numerous invitations that we send out during the year, keeping the ablaze and afloat women's activism; individuals in the women's movement who have volunteered their time and energies to run around with the UWONET agenda; government departments, line ministries, partners and allies of UWONET with whom we have had so much implemented.

Lastly, my deep appreciation goes to the members of staff for their loyalty and commitment to the work of UWONET. Without support from every stakeholder in guiding and working with the Network, we wouldn't have amounted to as much as we did.

Solome Nakaweesi-Kimbugwe

Coordinator, UWONET



Introduction

In 2005, there was evidence of increased visibility of the Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) as a leading body on women's rights in Uganda. The ability of UWONET to work with government, partners, allies and donors has been recognised by all stakeholders and has resulted in concerted efforts to address gender inequalities and advance the position of women in Uganda.

A: UWONET PROGRAMME AREAS

Part A of this Annual Report is structured on UWONET's four programme areas, namely: Policy Advocacy; Networking; Information Management; and Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building. Part B of the report states challenges faced and lessons learnt and Part C is on UWONET's key partners such as donors and implementing partners in 2005.

PROGRAMME ONE: POLICY ADVOCACY

Policy Advocacy is UWONET's core programme. Under the Policy Advocacy Programme, UWONET was able to achieve the following:

Development of the Women's Manifesto



UWONET developed a Women's Manifesto for Uganda through consultations with 74 women leaders in NGOs and local governments from 32 districts. The Women's Manifesto provided a platform for a common set of demands aimed at the achievement of the following:

- gender equity and equality;
- contribution to the legacy of good governance through providing a framework for women voters, candidates and other political actors;
- persuading government, political parties and organisations about the need for people centred development as well as the interests of women in the development process;
- raising awareness about the various gender issues among the various political players;
- mobilising at least 51% of the electorate to actively participate in all processes that promote national democracy;
- Providing platform for negotiation between women and the various political candidates and bringing together women's voices in the political transition.

The Women's Manifesto for Uganda was published in preparation for the general elections for the President and Members of Parliament that took place in March 2006. It spelt out the six major platforms for action for the political actors which are: Democracy and Good Governance; Peace and security; Poverty and economic empowerment of women; Women's rights; Education; and Health and Reproductive rights.

The Women's Manifesto for Uganda was widely distributed

to prospective women political candidates, Members of Parliament, the media, and the general public and political parties. Some of the key recommendations were adopted by the Manifestos of the various political parties and including:

- Commitment to set up programmes that address women's health and reproductive rights and lowering maternal mortality rates by at least 50%;
- Strengthening CSOs and institutions that work on corruption;
- Promoting a culture of constitutionalism;
- Zero tolerance to corruption;
- An average of 40% representation of women within all party organs for each of the political parties;
- Affirmative action at tertiary levels of education maintained;
- Commitment to setting up the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC),
- Implementation of the EOC to track and ensure compliance of gender commitments;
- Affirmative Action to extend to government contracts and credit schemes; Lower MTCT by guaranteeing ART to expectant mothers; Special protection for widows and children orphaned by HIV/AIDS;
- Introduction of health insurance schemes (Social Health Insurance and Community Health Insurance.)
- Develop HIV workplace policies;
- Continue waiving taxes on sanitary pads;
- Intensify immunization to 100% coverage;

The publicising of the Women's Manifesto achieved a number of things for women: women's issues were clearly laid out and these formed a basis for them to bargain with the various political parties. In addition, the manifesto, through its Democracy and Good Governance platform demanded that women's representation at all levels should be at 50%. Although this was not achieved but the 5 major political parties in their party documents committed to increasing increased women's quotas from 30% to 40% in all their party structures.

Position Papers on the Constitutional Amendment Bill

UWONET spearheaded the move to developing the women's position on the Constitutional Amendment bill on 7th – 8th February 2005. The Network convened a national workshop for her members and allies to come up with a position

paper which was shared with the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee at a public hearing. Two thousand copies of the position paper on women's concerns in the Constitutional Amendment Bill was published and widely shared with various stakeholders and it also formed a basis for advocacy and lobbying.

In addition, as part of the bigger civil society organisations, UWONET as a member of the Coalition for Constitutional Reforms (CCR) also comprised of HURINET, ACCU, and COPAW convened over 130 CSOs to develop a position paper on the Constitutional Amendment Bill. The concerns of civil society organisations were as follows: Governance issues; Decentralisation; Sovereignty of the people; Political systems; Justice, law and order; Human rights concerns; Constitutional bodies; Public awareness of the constitution; Presidential term limits as well as the omnibus nature of the bill.

“.. a paper on women's concerns in the Constitutional Amendment Bill was published and shared widely with various stakeholders and it also formed a basis for advocacy and lobbying.”

The position paper was presented to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee of Parliament in March 2005 and published as a newspaper release in the New Vision and Monitor Newspapers.

The issues that were taken up were the commitment to set up the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) with government committing to establishing an EOC Committee in Parliament and tabling the bill by September 2006.

The Domestic Relations Bill Campaign that Never Gives Up

The Domestic Relations Bill (DRB) advocacy gained momentum throughout the year, despite the continuous and heightened resistance the Bill has faced over the years. The DRB seeks to reform and consolidate the laws relating to marriage, separation and divorce into one law. It aims at establishing fairness and justice for women and men at the family level, and to produce social equity at community and national levels. The following were the highlights of the DRB campaign:



- Monthly DRB Coalition strategizing meetings were held in the course of the year. The purpose of these meetings was to review, plan, strategize and keep the DRB campaign high on the agenda of Government and Parliament.
- There was the production of DRB IEC materials that included posters, stickers and leaflets whose messages were based on issues in the DRB that are considered contentious such as polygamy; bride price; sex without consent of a spouse (marital rape); and the age of marriage. The IEC materials were produced in five major languages, namely; English, Luganda, Runya-Kitara, Japadhola and Luo. These materials were received with a lot of enthusiasm at the grassroots level and they went a long way in raising awareness about the provisions of
- undertaken throughout the country through a number of media channels during the grassroots DRB campaigns. The print media, television and radio covered the DRB events in Tororo, Luwero, Kampala, Luwero and Rukungiri.
- A DRB demonstration was organized and a petition formulated that demanded the expeditious enactment of the DRB by the Parliament of Uganda. The demonstration brought together women's organizations, Members of Parliament of Uganda, the East African Legislative Assembly, and the African Union, human rights organizations, NGOs, academia, students, men and women from all walks of life. The chief walker of the demonstration was Mr. Warren Nyamugasira,

"The Domestic Relations Bill seeks to reform and consolidate the laws relating to marriage, separation and divorce into one law."

the Bill especially on the issues considered controversial and unclear.

- A DRB grassroots campaign was launched in Tororo district by FIDA-U, Luwero district by the Uganda Land Alliance, Rukungiri district by ACFODE, Kyenjojo district by Akina Mama Wa Afrika and Mubende district by NAWOU. Petitions calling for the urgency in the enactment of the DRB were signed at the grassroots activities and presented to the Members of Parliament of the districts where the campaigns took place. In addition, some of these petitions were presented to the Speaker of Parliament.
- An intensive media advocacy on the DRB was also
- Executive Director of the Uganda NGO National Forum. The demonstrators petitioned the Speaker of Parliament to act on the delayed enactment of the DRB as well as ensure that debate on the Bill resumes. The Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi received the petition and informed petitioners that there are many interest groups in the DRB and in his position would ensure that all the issues raised by the various petitioners are taken into consideration so as to enact a law that is appreciated by all Ugandans.
- UWONET wrote an open letter to the President of Uganda which was also published in the daily newspapers. The letter called upon the President, as the head of state to intervene

in the matters concerning the DRB and also impressed upon him the need to appreciate the Bill as an issue that is of national importance. He was urged to consider that the enactment of the Bill would be one way of ensuring that Uganda's gender commitments at the national, regional and international levels would be achieved.

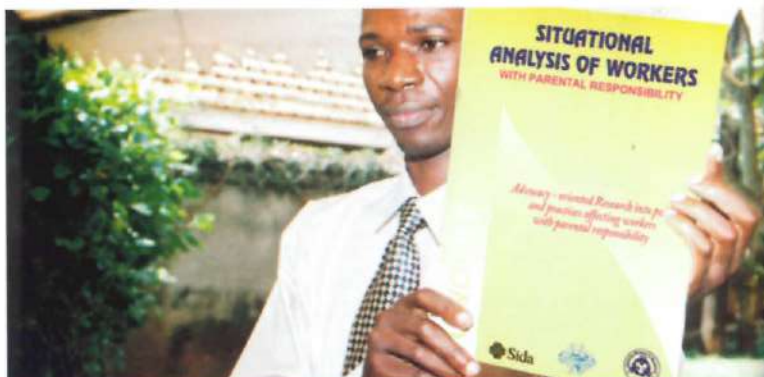
- Various lobbying meetings were undertaken with various stakeholders, such as the House of Anglican Bishops, a one-day workshop for male heads of NGOs, Members of Parliament, and the media. The House of Bishops accorded the DRB Coalition members a warm welcome and had a detailed discussion on the clauses considered contentious in the Bill. The outcome of this lobbying meeting was the commitment on the part of the Bishops to revisit their conservative position on the Bill as well as use various channels available to them to inform their congregations to understand the positive principles of the family law.
- However, despite all the endeavour efforts the DRB was not passed into law. The struggle continues.

The Land and Matrimonial Property Project: 50 acres of land donated to 50 women

UWONET in partnership with Lydia Bakaki, a women's rights activist and member of the DRB Coalition and the Women's Intercultural Network (WIN) secured 50 acres of land for 50 disadvantaged women who had been thrown off their matrimonial property by their spouses. Lydia Bakaki conceived this land project after her training with the Global Women's Leadership Network (GWLN) in order to build support for the enactment of the DRB.

A total of 50 women were identified by UWONET membership and the DRB Coalition members namely: Action for Development (ACFODE), Uganda Network on Law and Ethics on HIV/AIDS (UGANET), Forum for African Women Educationists (FAWE), Association of Uganda Women Lawyers (FIDA-U), Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) among others and given 1 acre of land each, totalling to 50 acres of land. This initiative kick started the Land and Matrimonial Property Project and provided ground for the DRB advocacy. It is expected that this land would empower the women by providing them with one of the most important productive assets. The DRB coalition used this gesture to empower women to own land to lobby for the enactment of the DRB in order to secure and safeguard women's property rights as spelt out in Clause 65 of the Bill.

The clause explains what comprises of matrimonial property, and proposes different types of registration and co-ownership of matrimonial property between husband and wife, for the sake of fairness and equity.

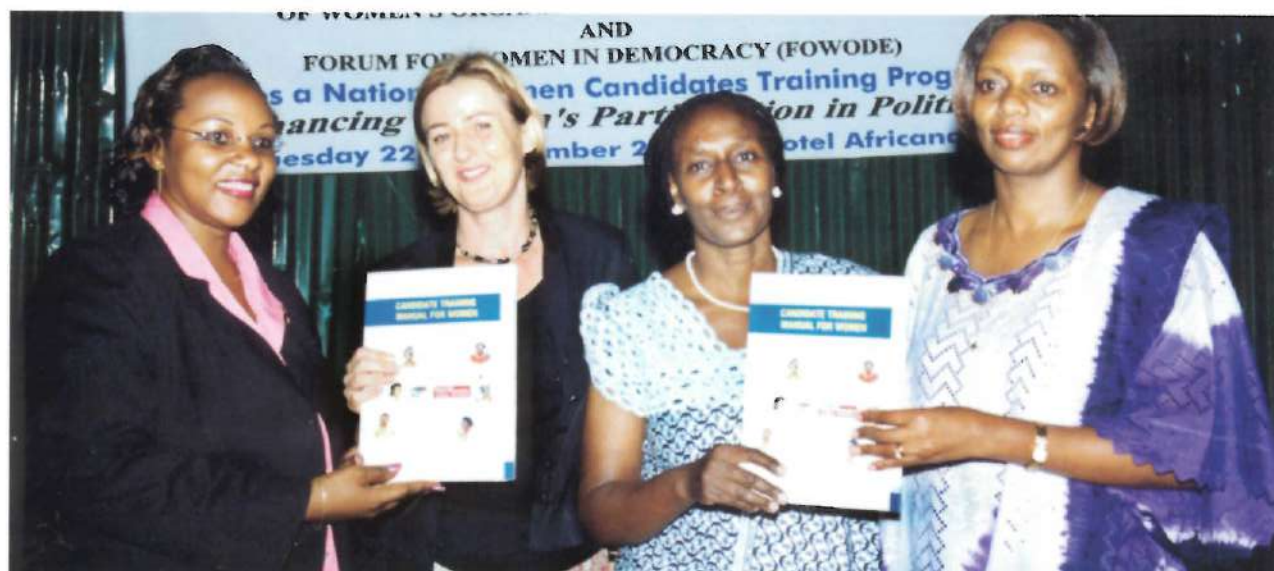


Labour Rights Research and advocacy.

UWONET finalised the research on worker's labour rights entitled: the "Situation analysis on women workers with parental responsibilities," as part of the Labour Rights Advocacy. In addition, a half-day dissemination workshop was organized as well as three-day workshop to develop a Labour Rights Advocacy Strategy to map on the way forward. This advocacy strategy was developed to guide UWONET's labour rights advocacy in future. Issues identified for advocacy formed a basis the labour laws amendment process that was successfully undertaken by UWONET in early 2006.

Peace initiatives supported by the Vagina Monologue's Project

UWONET collaborated with ActionAid International (Uganda), Isis-WICCE and Akina Mama wa Afrika to organize the staging of the Vagina Monologues as part of a campaign to raise awareness on violence against women, with special emphasis on sexual violence. UWONET and her partners finalized the vagina Monologues project and handed over the proceeds from the sale of tickets and donations amounting to over 20 million Uganda shillings, to rural NGOs, namely; Lira Women's Peace Initiatives and Kitgum Women's Peace Initiatives. The funds were used as seed money to set up foundation for reception and training centre for girls and women (returnees).



Capacity Building of Women Political Candidates

During the course of the year, UWONET rolled out the first ever National Women Candidates Training Programme. The training was designed for women candidates in the whole country on basic campaign skills, fundraising skills, handling of the media, and seeking party support. This was a programme that was jointly implemented with Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), a member of UWONET. By the end of the year, a total of 640 women were trained in 16 districts of Uganda. It was anticipated that at least 40 women per district would be trained. The training targeted prospective women candidates at LC III to Parliament level. By the end of the project, a total of 2655 women in 56 districts of the country were trained (UWONET trained 1229 and FOWODE trained 1426). Most of the trainees succeeded in the political party primaries and general elections at national and local council levels

Study on Electoral Systems in Uganda

UWONET also commissioned a short study on electoral systems. The study specifically highlighted proportional representation and how to increase women's participation in multiparty politics. The study findings were shared with the various political actors and widely popularized. Initially, the various political actors did not show enthusiasm about the study recommendations. However, the recommendations were integrated into manifestos of at least one political party The Democratic Party (DP) as a way forward to improve electoral systems in Uganda.

Lobbying for more Space and Voice for Women in Political Parties

In partnership with the International Republican Institute (IRI), the roundtable meetings with political parties and organizations continued to take place. A number of issues were discussed such as the importance of spaces for women, quotas for women, women's wings, proportional representation of women and affirmative action within the 5 major political parties namely: The National Resistance Movement (NRM) Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), Uganda People's Congress (UPC), Democratic Party (DP) and Conservative Party (CP). Some political parties were able to appreciate these issues and some pledged over 40% of women representation in leadership positions.

MY VOTE, MY VOICE:

Women's participation in Politics



In order to enhance the participation of women in the political transition, a number of activities and achievements were registered. A documentary on women's participation in the political transition, titled: "My Vote, My Voice" was documented; nine public dialogues were held at county level in the Teso Region, in the districts of Kumi, Katakwi and Soroti; IEC materials were also produced that included posters, stickers and T-shirts. These materials were used to mobilize the women's constituency to effectively participate in the political transition.

African Charter on People and Human Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

UWONET in conjunction with Akina Mama wa Afrika held a number of lobbying meetings with policy makers in as far as the process of Uganda's ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on People and Human Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa is concerned. UWONET together with Akina Mama wa Afrika held a press conference on 20th June 2005 in order to build popular support for the protocol among the general public as well as calling upon government to expeditiously ratify the protocol. Akina Mama wa Afrika, a member of UWONET is the national focal NGO for the protocol. However, to date the charter has not been ratified as UWONET will continue to lobby and campaign for its enactment.

Gender Audit of Key Laws and Policies

Taskforce meetings for the gender audit of key laws and policies were held so as to select researchers and draft the TOR. The overall objective of the gender audit is to research on various laws and policies identify gender gaps and recommend ways to ensure they are gender responsive. The identification of gaps was based on the 1995 Constitution and the various regional and international human rights instruments to which Uganda is a signatory. The audit is expected to identify emerging issues and trends emanating from the various laws and policies that will inform UWONET's future advocacy for law reform and policy review.

Reaching out to women in areas of armed conflict

Advocacy for women in armed conflict continued throughout the year. A training workshop for women's organizations working in conflict areas under the theme: Building a Strong Alliance and Advocacy Strategy for Effective Civil Society Engagement and Action for Peace in Northern Uganda" was conducted. One the output of the training was a strategy on more effective advocacy for women affected by armed conflict. In addition, the research titled "Documenting women's experiences in Armed Conflict" was translated into Lugbara, published and launched. The Strategy to date has evolved into a bigger Coalition of Women's Organisations for Peace in Northern Uganda engaging in a series of activities supporting ensuring that women's issues are part of the agenda in the Pace talks and also mobilising to support the talks

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Training

In conjunction with the Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics at Mulago National Referral Hospital, UWONET organised a workshop for health workers on Rights Based Approaches (RBA) as part of the health rights advocacy. Prior to the workshop, a training manual on reproductive and sexual rights was developed and used during the training.

Gender mainstreaming in the HIV/AIDS vaccine trials

A new partnership was also established with the International Aids Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) to try to mainstream gender in the AIDS Vaccine work, especially increasing women's participation at the various levels. Two consultative meetings were held at the grassroots and the national level as well as setting up a joint Gender Advisory Committee to carry the process forward.



PROGRAMME 2: NETWORKING



Throughout 2005, UWONET strategically established linkages with various networks and stakeholders and registered the following achievements in its networking programme:

Advocacy Skills Training for UWONET Members

Advocacy skills training for UWONET members was undertaken under the theme: "Advocacy Skills Training for Effective Citizen Participation in Policy Dialogue in Uganda." Members were trained on the use of international and regional conventions in advocacy for women's rights and empowerment.

Press Conferences on Women's Concerns

UWONET in collaboration with her members continued to hold monthly press conferences so as to keep updating the public on a number of issues that affect the lives of women in Uganda.

Uganda Programme Development Workshop

UWONET successfully organized the Uganda Programme Development workshop for Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD). At this workshop held on 27th to 28th January 2005 at Entebbe, various stakeholders included

women's organisations, members of parliament, human rights organisations, national networks and coalitions. The workshop identified priority issues for WFD support which are based on the following thematic areas: Civil society and the politics of transition; Challenges facing women in a multi party democracy; Promoting human rights in a pluralist democracy; The international dimension to governance programs. These formed the basis for the development of the WFD three-year country programme.

Meetings for Directors and Chairpersons and General Assembly

Throughout the year, as part of ensuring effective Networking among the members of UWONET, quarterly meetings for Executive Directors and Chairpersons took place. These enabled the policy making organs of the membership of UWONET to remain updated about business at the Network as well as strategize on a number of issues. The UWONET Annual General meeting was held so as to report to the members and jointly strategize.

Fredskopset Exchange of Personnel Programme

Under the Fredskopset Exchange of Personnel Programme, UWONET was involved in a tripartite exchange with Agder Research (AR) in Norway and Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA) in Ethiopia. UWONET hosted two participants from Norway and Ethiopia and sent a participant to Ethiopia. The purpose of this activity was to have cross cultural learning and capacity building among the different partners. UWONET benefited through sending a member of staff of FIDA-U, a member of UWONET to Ethiopia who was hosted under the Advocacy Department of CRDA. UWONET also benefited from an IT

expert from CRDA as well as a researcher from AR. The two participants hosted engaged in research on micro finance and power relations at the household level and enabled UWONET kick-started a data base of its membership as well as building the capacity of the members in research and website design and maintenance.

UWONET, an Active Participant in Coalitions

UWONET continued to host the Coalition for Political Accountability to Women (COPAW) and to convene meetings for COPAW members to discuss women's participation in politics and decision-making. During the year, COPAW actively engaged in the Constitutional Review process with other coalitions. In 2005, UWONET actively participated in a number of coalitions like the Coalition on the NGO Bill, Coalition on Freedom of Information, Civil Society Steering Committee (CSSC), GCAC, the Global Call for Action Against Poverty (GCAP) and the DRB Coalition. UWONET engaged in a number of activities of the UWONET membership, allies and other partners throughout this period.

UWONET's Link with UWOPA and MGLSD

Throughout 2005, UWONET continued to network with a number of stakeholders. One of such is the strategizing meetings with Uganda Women's Parliamentary Association (UWOPA), the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and other line ministries. Key topics were discussed such as the Domestic Relations Bill, the Protocol to the African Charter on People and Human Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the National women political candidates training programme, international women's day.

Regional and International Networks

At the regional and international level, the UWONET participated in a number of events noted as follows:

- The World Social Forum activities organized in Uganda where two workshops were held on the DRB and women in the political transition.
- ActionAid write-shop in Sussex and Bangkok to document experiences of women's rights activism in Uganda. The write shop was an opportunity for UWONET Coordinator to document her experiences in an article entitled: "Staging the Vagina Monologues: Challenging the Public on Violence Against Women" which is a publication on stories of women's rights works around the world entitled: Women Navigate Power (forthcoming).
- AWID International Forum held in Bangkok under the theme: 'How Does Change Happen?' brought together over 1500 women from across the globe. The major issues under discussion were the relative failure to achieve results and consolidate gains in various spaces of women's empowerment; losing interest to support and fund women's issues, women's issues losing steam, donors and development partners diverting their resources to other sectors such as HIV/AIDS, conflict, environment, etc, and failure of creating linkages with these sectors and women's rights. During the conference, AWID launched the report "Where is the money for women's rights?" based on research on the funds available to support women's initiatives.
- International Women's Rights Action Watch (Asia Pacific) organized a Global Consultation on the Ratification and Use of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) from 27th to 30th August 2005 in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. One of the outcomes of the meeting was creation of regional coalitions to advance for the ratification of the protocol. Being a national women's organization that engages in the annual tracking of CEDAW, UWONET enrolled as part of the OP-CEDAW Africa Regional Advocacy Group which is chaired by South Africa. Another outcome was a joint communiqué on the ratification of CEDAW and OP-CEDAW sent to all African governments before the September 2005 Meeting in New York (general assembly to review MDG's).
- Global consultation on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW organized by the International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) Asia. There were consultations and UWONET and other women's NGOs formed a coalition to advocate for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW in Africa.
- Training in women leadership organized by Baobab for Women's Human Rights and Women's Learning partnership held in Calabar, Nigeria.
- Novib East African Partners meeting for the Novib Aim 4 partners in East Africa to generate feedback on the implementation of programmes and input to the Novib 2007 – 2010 strategy.
- A number of trainings attended at the regional and international levels on: women's leadership, gender budgeting, and gender policy.
- UWONET also participated in a meeting organized by Oxfam and UN Millennium Development Goals and

AWEPON on the Gender and Global Call for Action Against Poverty (GCAP Africa) in preparation for the G8 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland.

PROGRAMME 3: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



Under the information management programme area, the process of redesigning and upgrading the UWONET website: www.uwonet.org was completed as well as setting up of the Local Area Network (LAN). UWONET also installed a 24 hour internet and intranet to ensure effectiveness. An in-house training was also conducted for staff on how to use the new IT gadgets and software.

UWONET's quarterly bulletins and newsletters were published; brochures, leaflets and stickers were published. Promotional materials such as T-shirts were also produced. The key messages on these materials were about the various advocacy initiatives that UWONET is engaged in such as the DRB, CEDAW, women and politics. The information materials were widely circulated to the policy makers, development partners, civil society organisational as well as the general public.

The UWONET resource centre continued to be a hub of information to the members as well as the general public and was throughout the year updated with a number of resource materials.

UWONET produced a video documentary on women's participation in the political transition titled: "My Vote: My Voice". It captured a cross range of concerns that women have, such as: accountability by the various political actors, gender based election violence in a multi-party setting, women's positions and quota within the various political parties, electoral systems, affirmative action, among others. The documentary was intended to capture women's voices and create awareness about the various issues surrounding the political transition process and specifically those issues that have implications for gender and women's rights. In addition it captured women's perceptions of the transition process and their aspirations for the country in the multi-party dispensation.

The documentary was used as a lobby tool among those who wished to steer Uganda forward through the transition and beyond, particularly political parties and organizations. It challenged them to take on board the needs and aspirations of women both in principle and in practice. The posters, t-shirts, stickers and the documentary on CD and VHS were launched on 3rd November 2005 at Hotel Africana, Kampala.

UWONET Publications in 2005

Title of Publication	Summary of Content / Purpose
1. The Women's Position on the Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2004	It detailed various issues of concern to women within the Constitutional Amendment Bill
2. Simplified Electoral Legislation.	The election legislation was simplified and circulated to women voters, candidates and monitors in preparation for the multiparty elections.
3. Information, Education and Communications (IEC) materials on the DRB.	These included posters, leaflets, stickers and flyers to raise awareness about the various issues considered contentious in the Bill.
4. Unhealed Scars: Documenting Women's Experiences in Armed Conflict (Lugbara Version).	This report captures the experiences of women in conflict affected areas and was translated into the Lugbara language so as to inform a category of women affected by war who do not speak English.
5. Posters on Violence Against Women	These were made as part of the campaign for the 16 days of activism against gender based violence. The posters were based on the health and violence theme.
6. Tracking Media reportage of Violence Against Women	This is an annual publication of UWONET which is compiled all year around on cases of violence reported in the print media. It forms the basis for the advocacy during the 16 days of activism against gender based violence. The purpose of this publication was to capture the incidences of violence as reported in the media so as to indicate the magnitude of the problems. The publication was used a strong tool for advocacy on the protection of women against violence at all levels.
7. Posters and bumper stickers on women's participation in Uganda's political transition.	The key message was about the centrality of women in the political transition and governance of the country.
8. Quarterly newsletters and UWONET brochures	In order to keep the UWONET membership and the general public informed of key events and strategies, these publications are produced on a regular basis.

PROGRAMME 4: INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING & STRENGTHENING

- UWONET acquired office equipment which included the following: five computers and accessories, one fire proof safe, three printers (two black and white and one coloured), and one scanner.
 - The routine monitoring procedures took place according to schedule. These include among others the following: Quarterly Executive Committee meetings and the extra ordinary EC Meetings; the monthly Finance Committee meetings; the quarterly Programmes Committee meetings; Annual General Meeting; Monthly staff meetings were routinely held and Auditing books of accounts 2004 were finalized and circulated to development partners.
 - Two interns were recruited for a year to support the staff at the Secretariat as well as grooming them for other responsibilities in future.
 - UWONET engaged in a vigilant fundraising drive so as to diversify the funding base of the organization.
- Officer), Ms. Christine Nankubuge Ndwula (Project Officer), Mr. Felix Ochakacon (Finance Officer), Ms. Mildred Asiimwe (Information Officer) and Mr. Alex Dralega (Office Assistant).
- A number of institutional policies were amended like the UWONET Constitution and the Human Resources Management Manual.

B. CHALLENGES FACED & LESSONS LEARNT

The year 2005 had a lot of uncertainty for many Ugandans because it had a number of changes especially at the governance level. The political transition in itself was an opportunity as well as a challenge to UWONET. One of the biggest challenges was that the women's movement failed to come up with a common voice to constantly

"UWONET was engaged in a fundraising drive to diversify its funding base which expanded to include new donors / Partners"

As a result, the funding base of the Network has expanded to include new donors / Partners such as: DANIDA, Partners for Democracy and Good Governance / Election Support Unit, Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), Institute of Aids Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), and Women's Intercultural Network (WIN), the American Embassy Kampala and International Republican Institute. In addition, UWONET's partners continued to support its work. These included: Oxfam Netherlands (Novib), Action Aid International Uganda, DANIDA, HURINET/SIDA, CIDA, Africa Women Development Fund, and the Norwegian Fredskopset / Agder Research.

- Changes in staff at Secretariat: Four new staff members were recruited during the year. These included: Ms. Caroline Bunga Idembe (Advocacy

and systematically engage in the political transition. In addition, as Uganda goes through a political transition process, some of the gains made by Ugandan women are in danger of being rolled back and increasingly, women being left out and/or marginalized (whether consciously or not) in shaping Uganda's political future. The biggest lesson here is that women's organisations should constantly engage in the political transition because it defines the environment through which women's rights are achieved. This involves constant engagement and seeking accountability from the various stakeholders, which requires constant and sustained interventions and an institutional framework. Hence, strengthening COPAW would fill this gap.

UWONET's work is mainly around advocacy and in Uganda, there is a slow pace of legal reform especially laws aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of women. This has

challenged UWONET's work in such a way that sometimes the impact of the many efforts may take long to be appreciated.

2005 was a true test to the Network, women's organisations and the women's movement in Uganda, in general especially regarding the backlash from UWONET's involvement in staging of the Vagina Monologues. This event tested the cohesiveness of the Network and the women's movement and enabled a series of internal reflections about the unity of the women's movement and CSOs in general. Another lesson was the realistic realisation that although much has been achieved in terms of women's emancipation in Uganda, much more still needs to be done to address entrenched gender stereotypes and biases.

Uganda also faced a national problem of constant power load shedding arising out of reduced water levels at the hydro electricity generation centres. This resulted into frequent load shedding during working hours that caused interruptions in the day to day work and UWONET's output in the long run.

New challenges have arisen especially in the areas of war and conflict with women bearing the brunt of civil strife especially in North and North Eastern Uganda. The HIV/AIDS epidemic presents another great challenge to women who are responsible for the nurture and care of the sick but who are not well targeted in HIV/AIDS policies and programmes.

There are also emerging challenges as regards the New Aid Modalities and how the increasing "basketisation" of funds affects women's organizations in terms of their survival and how to effectively and successfully get funds in such an arrangement. Women's organizations still have to fit themselves in the new modalities following the Rome and Paris Declarations. The basket funding mechanism is still not very clear to many organisations and tends to exclude smaller groups and those that do not have the technical capacities in proposal writing, and fundraising. As national women's organisations, we have to prepare ourselves, the membership and other women's organizations at grassroots level for the changing environment in the funding as well as engage in setting up more sustainable income generation mechanisms.

C: KEY PARTNERS IN 2005

(DONORS & IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS)

UWONET had the following donors and partners:

1. Novib (Oxfam Netherlands)
2. Action Aid International Uganda
3. DANIDA
4. Partners for Democracy and Good Governance / Election Support Unit (EU Donor Basket Fund)
5. The American Embassy, Kampala
6. Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)
7. International Republican Institute (IRI)
8. HURINET Fund (SIDA)
9. African Women Development Fund (AWDF)
10. Norwegian-Fredskopset / Agder Research
11. Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CIDA)

UWONET had the following Implementing Partners

1. Action Aid International Uganda
2. Agder Research
3. Akina Mama wa Afrika
4. Anti Corruption Coalition of Uganda (ACCU)
5. Buganda Cultural Development Foundation (BUCADEF)
6. Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA)
7. Coalition on Political Accountability to Women (COPAW)
8. Eastern African Sub-Regional Support Initiative (EASSI)
9. Human Rights Network- Uganda (HURINET)
10. International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)
11. Uganda Land Alliance (ULA)
12. Uganda National NGO Forum
13. Uganda Women's Parliamentary Association (UWOPA)
14. UWONET Membership
15. Women's Intercultural Network (WIN)

STAFF AT UWONET SECRETARIAT IN 2005

	Name	Position
1.	Solome Nakaweesi-Kimbugwe	Coordinator
2.	Caroline Bunga Idembe	Advocacy Officer
3.	Christine Nankubuge Ndawula	Project Officer
4.	Felix Ochakacon	Finance Officer
5.	Mildred Asiimwe	Information Officer
6.	Margaret Mugenyi	Administrative Secretary
7.	Twalibu Kagga	Driver
8.	Alex Dralega	Office Assistant
9.	Bernadette Nabbona	Intern
10.	Peace Athieno	Intern

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & THE ORGANISATIONS THEY REPRESENT

	Name	Portfolio	Organisations
1.	Assoc Prof. Dr. Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo	Chairperson	Department of Women and Gender Studies (WGS)
2.	Dr. Daisy Namono	Vice Chairperson	National Council for the Advancement of Women in The Bahai Faith
3.	Dr. Catherine Odenyo-Ndekera (until Apr 2005)	Secretary	Association of Uganda Women Medical Doctors (AUWMD)
4.	Anne Margaret Adhier	Treasurer	The Association of Uganda Women Lawyers (FIDA-U)
5.	Claire Nkirehe	Assistant Secretary (until Aug 05) Secretary (from Aug 05)	Slum Aid Project (SAP)
6.	Ruth Muwanga	Member(until Aug 05) Assistant Secretary (from Aug 05)	Women Engineers, Technicians and Scientists of Uganda (WETSU)
7.	Patricia Munabi-Babiiha	Member	Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE)
8.	Hajati Safia Nalule-Jjuuko (until Sept 2005)	Member	Disabled Women's Network and Resource Organization (DWNRO)
9.	Debbie Kaddu-Sserwadda	Member	Individual Member
10.	Christine Mugerwa-Kasule	Ex-Officio	Former Chairperson
11.	Solome Nakaweesi-Kimbugwe	Ex-Officio	Coordinator

UGANDA WOMEN'S NETWORK (UWONET)

A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2005

		2005	2004
	Note	Ushs.	Ushs.
FIXED ASSETS	3	5,366,333	14,853,709
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	4	102,692,731	9,005,000
Cash and bank balances	5	214,997,497	248,933,049
		317,690,228	257,938,049
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and accruals	6	13,890,555	34,827,750
NET CURRENT ASSETS		303,799,673	223,110,299
NET ASSETS		355,166,006	273,964,008
Financed by			
RESTRICTED FUND	7	311,448,793	222,389,680
CAPITAL FUND	8	51,366,333	14,853,709
GENERAL FUND	9	(7,649,120)	720,619
TOTAL FUNDS	9	355,166,006	237,964,008

These financial statements were approved by the Executive Committee on 2006
and were signed on its behalf by:

CHAIRPERSON

DR. GRACE BANTEBYA - KYOMUHENDO

TREASURER

MS ANNE MARGARET ADHIER

COORDINATOR

MS SOLOME NAKAWEESI - KIMBUGWE

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UWONET MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

- ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT (ACFODE)
- ASSOCIATION OF UGANDA MEDICAL WOMEN DOCTORS (AUMWD)
- ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS IN UGANDA (FIDA)
- CENTER FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION (CEDOVIP)
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE NETWORK (CDRN)
- DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY – (WGS)
- DISABLED WOMEN'S NETWORK AND RESOURCE ORGANISATION (DWNRO)
- EMPOWER CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES AGAINST ABUSE (ECCA)
- FORUM FOR WOMEN IN DEMOCRACY (FOWODE)
- Isis WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE (Isis-WICCE)
- NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS IN UGANDA (NAWOU)
- NATIONAL BAHAI COMMITTEE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
- SLUM AID PROJECT (SAP)
- UGANDA MEDIA WOMEN'S ORGANISATION (UMWA)
- WOMEN ENGINEERS, TECHNICIANS AND SCIENTISTS OF UGANDA (WETSU)



Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)

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