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Gender, Transformation
& Empowerment

UWONET

ANNUAL REPORT 2001

Uganda Women's Network



Celebrating Ugandan Women's Achievements in Politics



Lydia Rugasira
UWONET Chairperson

Chairperson's Statement

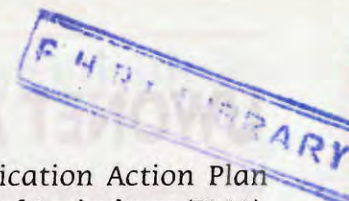
initiatives such as the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) and the Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA).

The year 2001 was particularly a unique one for me, since it marked the end of my tenure as UWONET's Chairperson. I am pleased to have served UWONET in that capacity from 1997 to 2001. I am also proud to have been associated with establishing UWONET as one of the leading organisations in advocacy for women's rights. I take this opportunity to welcome the new Executive Committee chaired by Ms. Judy Kamanyi and call on it to carry the networking process forward. The achievements of the out-going Executive Committee could not have been realised without a result-oriented and committed Secretariat staff and many thanks go to them. Special thanks go to Ms. Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi who has been the UWONET Coordinator for the last six years. We give her our blessing and promise her our support as she moves on to assume a more challenging role; representing the interests of Ugandan women in the East African Legislative Assembly.

I thank our development partners who value the significant contribution UWONET has made towards improving the lives of women and by so doing continue to give the Network financial support. Lastly, I applaud UWONET member organisations and individuals who have unceasingly displayed commitment in the pursuit for the vision UWONET stands for. United we have stood and united we shall move forward.

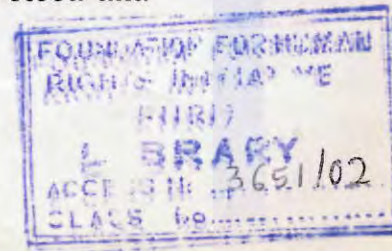
The pursuit for positive social change demands new and innovative responses to the ever-increasing and ever-shifting challenges that face women's socio-economic development. Throughout the year, UWONET provided timely and appropriate action while lobbying and advocating for equal opportunities and rights for women. This Annual Report, highlights UWONET's achievements as well as challenges during the year 2001.

As part of the strategy to create change, UWONET enhanced its vertical and horizontal linkages. More networking was done with like-minded organisations operating at national level. There was a renewal of meaningful collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and our relationship with the Legislature was strengthened. Also, more activities were carried out in districts to respond to the challenges of the government's decentralisation policy and the need to reach men and women at the grassroots level. Much effort was also made to highlight the relationship between women's domestic and land rights to the on-going development



ANNUAL REPORT 2001

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UWONET Annual Report 2001

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)

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What is UWONET?

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) is an advocacy and lobbying coalition of national women's NGOs, institutions and individuals in Uganda. UWONET was born out of the East African Women's Conference held in Kampala in 1993. This was in preparation for the UN World Conference on Women in China in 1995. UWONET is a registered Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), with its secretariat in Kampala.

Mission

To enhance and transform the unequal gender relationships in society through networking, collective visioning and concerted action among different actors.

Objectives

- ⇒ Promote and ensure women's access to power and decision-making positions in all sectors and at all levels.
- ⇒ Improve the economic conditions of women and other marginalised groups by lobbying for debt relief and mobilising women to take collective action to address Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) and other economic policies taken at the national and international level.
- ⇒ Advocate for equal opportunities and rights for women in all sectors and increase women's access to, and control of resources and benefits.
- ⇒ Advocate for the elimination of defilement, rape and all forms of abuse and violence against women and children.
- ⇒ Collect and disseminate information on priority and other issues of concern to women.

Administration and Management

UWONET is governed by a General Assembly of all members of the Network which meets once every calendar year. The Executive Committee of UWONET which comprises of two representatives from each of the member organisations has done a commendable job in publicising the Network and ensuring that it takes off. UWONET secretariat was opened on June 1, 1996 to act as a focal point and nerve center of the Network. It implements the activities as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Editorial Board

Sheila Kawamara Mishambi (Member)

Vat Kamatsiko (Member)

Catherine Kanabahita Guma (Editor)

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Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi
UWONET Coordinator

Democracy: A Collective Responsibility

The challenge to get a more pronounced voice for women in Uganda's politics remains one of the biggest tasks for UWONET and a host of women's NGOs. Although the year 2001 offered the Network great opportunities in this area, it is still felt that increasing and sustaining the numbers of women in positions of power and decision-making is not enough. The capacity for these women to satisfactorily deliver on their pledges needs to be strengthened.

UWONET celebrates with all the women that joined politics last year. Four women joined the regional parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly, 74 joined the Uganda national parliament and many others began their struggle to join the local government councils in 2002.

As one of UWONET's objectives, accessing political power means that women have got a place around the table where decisions are being made on the management and distribution of resources. The presence of women is intended to enhance the allocation of these resources to uplift the standard of living for women and target poverty eradication.

UWONET joined other women's organisations to form the Coalition for Political Accountability to Women (COPAW). Although the Coalition has been attacked in

some political circles, it is seen as one of the building blocks of democracy. It brings together women and men in politics, human rights activists and academicians and holds politicians accountable to the needs of Ugandan women. UWONET hopes that if COPAW is properly focused, it will be able to identify and support women joining politics and at the same time offer emotional and technical support to those already holding political offices.

UWONET also believes that with COPAW, Ugandan women will be able to hold their leaders accountable to them. The forum will enable members of the coalition and the broader Ugandan population to understand and participate in policy making and other political processes.

In 2001, UWONET has been able to sustain public debates on issues of concern to women particularly in relation to the Domestic Relations Bill, women's land rights and the elimination of violence against women. Much as no legislation has been enacted on all these issues, the Uganda Women's Parliamentary Association (UWOPA) and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development have prioritised these issues.

UWONET is working very closely with Government to ensure that women's issues are not relegated a backyard position. It is UWONET's hope that given the goodwill of the Government, closer collaboration will be attained in the foreseeable future.

On behalf of the members of staff, I would like to congratulate ourselves, the Executive Committee of UWONET and all the allies and supporters of the Network for having seen us through UWONET's eighth birthday. We are still young but we have made a great impact in generating meaningful dialogue between Civil Society Organisations, Government and Donors on issues affecting women. We need each other to make a positive change in the lives of Ugandans, particularly women and children.



UWONET Structure

Representatives from Member Organisations

1. Lydia Rugasira - UWFT
2. Veronica Namagembe - UWFT
3. Harriet Mulyanti - UWFT
4. Linda Akullu - NAWOU
5. Betty Akullu - NAWOU
6. Jennifer Kijumba - ACFODE
7. Seraphine Awacango - ACFODE
8. Theo Bitature-Webale - FIDA-U
9. Christine Mugerwa - FIDA-U
10. Dr. Dorothy Balaba - AUWMD
11. Dr. Hasifa Lukwata - AUWMD
12. Ruth Muwanga - WETSU
13. Jane Ocaya-Irama - WETSU
14. Margaret Sentamu - UMWA
15. Julie Gipwola - UMWA
16. Florence Ebila - Department of Gender & Women Studies
17. Dr. Edith Okiria - Department of Gender & Women Studies
18. Mr. Julius Mukunda - FOWODE

Staff Members

- Sheila Kawamara
-Mishambi - Coordinator
Vat Kamatsiko - Ag. Advocacy Officer
Eunice Busingye - Accounts Assistant
Margaret Mugenyi - Administrative Secretary
Amos Adule - Office Assistant

In-coming Executive Committee

- Judy Kamanyi - Chairperson
Christine Mugerwa - Vice Chairperson
Veronica Namagembe - Treasurer
Grace Mukasa - Secretary

Individual Members

1. Maude Mugisha
2. Hope Kabuchu
3. Catherine Guma
4. Judy Kamanyi
5. Victoria Lwanga
6. Dr. Alice Kagoda

Interns

- Mr. Julius Kapwepwe
Ms Rita Aciro-Lakor
Ms Susan Karungi
Mr. Martin Musoke
Mr. Joseph Nyakaana

Out-going Executive Committee

- Lydia Rugasira - Chairperson
Jane Ocaya-Irama - Vice Chairperson
Judy Kamanyi - Treasurer
Jackie Asimwe - Secretary

Acknowledgements

UWONET is particularly grateful to all its member organisations, donors, allies and supporters.

Donors

- Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation (NOVIB)
- Department for International Development (DFID)
- Netherlands Development Organisations (SNV-U)
- The World Bank
- ActionAid Uganda

Supporters

- Vice President, Dr. Specioza Kazibwe
- Minister of Ethics and Integrity, Hon. Miria Matembe
- The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
- The Ministry of Finance and Planning
- The British Council
- ActionAid Kenya
- The American Centre
- InterAction (USA)
- School for International Training (SIT), Vermont
- USAID
- Bread for the World
- Members of Parliament

Allies

- The Uganda National NGO Forum
- East African Post-Beijing Sub-regional Support Initiative (EASSI)
- Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Association (DENIVA)
- The Uganda Women Writer's Association (FEMRITE)
- Uganda Debt Network (UDN)
- Voluntary Efforts for Development Concerns

(VEDCO)

- Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD)
- Buso Foundation
- Disabled Women's Network and Resource Organisation
- Mpigi Women's Development Trust (MWODET)
- Oxfam - GB
- Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF-U)
- Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE)
- Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE)
- African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)
- Slum Aid Project
- NGO Coalition for East Africa (NGOCEA)
- Akina Mama wa Afrika
- Human Rights Network (HURINET)
- Law and Advocacy for Women - Uganda (LAW-U)
- Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE)
- Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)
- Association of Women Judges
- Associates for Change
- Arua Women's Network
- Women's Empowerment Programme (WEP)
- The New Vision Newspaper
- The Monitor Newspaper
- Bukedde Newspaper
- Sanyu Television
- Wavah Broadcasting Cooperation (WBS)
- Uganda Television (UTV)
- Capital Radio
- Radio Uganda
- Radio Simba
- Radio One
- Voice of Toro Radio
- Power FM



More Political Space for Uganda's Women



Ugandan women representatives in the East African Legislative Assembly. L-R; Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi; Ms. Sarah Bagalaliwo; Ms. Irene Ovonji-Odida. Another member not in the picture is Ms. Lydia Wanyoto Mutende

UWONET's role in promoting the number of women to positions of power and decision-making has grown over the years as more women join both the national and regional parliaments. In 2001, Uganda witnessed a rise in the number of women parliamentarians. Out of the nine Ugandan Members of Parliament (MPs) for the East African Legislative

Assembly, four are women, whereas at the national level out of 296 elected MPs, 73 women got into the 7th Parliament. They comprise 24% of the elected MPs, an increase of 5% compared to the 6th Parliament. In the previous Parliament, there were 52 women (19%) out of the 279 MPs. Eight women were directly elected on the open seat in 1996, whereas 13 were elected this time round.

UWONET played a critical role in encouraging capable women to run for office and a number of women activists were duly elected. Among these at the regional level is the Coordinator of UWONET, Ms Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi; the current Chairperson of FIDA-U, Ms Irene Ovonji-Odida; the Vice Chairperson FIDA-Africa Region, Ms Sarah Bagalaaliwo; and Ms Lydia Wanyoto Mutende.

In the national parliament, we witnessed the return of the Ex-Chairperson, Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), Winnie Byanyima (Mbarara Municipality); the Ex-Chairperson of Action for Development (ACFODE), who is also the Minister of Ethics and Integrity, Miria Matembe (Woman Representative, Mbarara District); the Ex-Chairperson of the National Association of Women's Organisations in Uganda (NAWOU), also Minister of State for Primary Education, Bitamazire Namirembe (Woman Representative (Mpigi District); and the Ex-Chairperson of Isis-WICCE, Victoria Nakiboneka Mwaka (Woman Representative Luweero District).



New entrants in parliament from women's organisations include: the Director for Law and Advocacy for Women in Uganda (LAW-U), Dora Byamukama (Mwenge South); Coordinator Women Activities in the Pan African Women's Liberation Organisation (PAWLO), Margaret Kyomuhangi (Woman Representative Nakasongola); Director, Rukungiri Gender Development Association, Winfred Masiko (Woman Representative Rukungiri); Executive Director, Uganda Gender Resource Centre, Hope Mwesigye (Woman Representative Kabale); and Chairperson of the Forum for African Women Educationists (FAWE-U), Ruth Nvumetta Kavuma (Woman Representative Kalangala).

It is anticipated that the participation of Women Activists in parliamentary debates will enhance the voices of the poor the majority who are women and open doors for members of Civil Society Organisations. UWONET would like to congratulate all women parliamentarians and pledge to work with them to advance women's rights.

Monitoring of the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) together with Action for Development (ACFODE), as part of the NGO Election Monitoring Group (NEM-Group), monitored the 2001 presidential and parliamentary elections in 45 out of 56 districts. The monitoring exercise covered the nomination of candidates, election administration, display of voters' registers, the campaigns, and polling day activities. According to reports of the gender monitors, the election process was marred by a number of administrative irregularities and election related violence.

Emerging Issues

- ◆ Affirmative action for women joining politics is still necessity for Ugandan women. Most women compared to their male counterparts lack the necessary resources to compete favorably in the electoral process. Many women also lack ample experience and confidence in politics to compete with men for open seats in the constituencies. However, 13 women who stood exclusively against men are now in parliament.
- ◆ Campaigns are still a threatening experience for women. There was a lot of physical and emotional violence targeting the aspiring candidates, their agents and supporters. In some instances, President Yoweri Museveni and the Movement secretariat openly campaigned against three prominent women candidates as the case was in Lira Municipality (Cecelia Atim Ogwal) Mbarara Municipality (Winnie Byanyima) and Rukungiri

District (Winnie Babihuga). Of these, only Babihuga failed to join the 7th Parliament. The intimidation the three women faced could grossly undermine the future participation of capable women in Uganda's politics.

- ◆ The election of the District Woman Representative in parliament through Electoral Colleges was highly criticized by most of the candidates, their agents and voters. It was argued that the Local Council Executives from 1 – 3 and the Women Councils Executives from 1 – 3 often do not favour those candidates opposed to the movement system of government. It was thus argued that once women were elected for the affirmative action seat they would owe their allegiance to the movement government and in particular the President, the Local Council I, II and III and Women Councils that elected them. Many people advocated for universal adult suffrage for the district woman representatives in parliament.
- ◆ The Electoral Commission did a commendable job in organising the elections, but there were still glaring administrative discrepancies. These included absence, insufficient and late

delivery of election materials to some districts and polling stations. Electoral officials had insufficient knowledge about the electoral process and some had limited capacity to carry out their duties effectively. The understaffing of electoral officials at polling stations on election day led to inefficiencies of the available staff and hence created opportunities for malpractice. At some polling stations there was lack of or late arrival of voters' registers, leaving room for impersonation.

This time round more women were involved in the election administration, although the total number of women involved were still much smaller than that of men. Out of 716 polling stations monitored, 526 (85.4%) presiding officers were men while 90 (14.6%) were women.

According to the Public Relations Officer of the Electoral Commission, one of the criteria used for recruiting the presiding officers was a minimum education of O'level (Senior four). Not many women have such qualifications and this could have contributed to the limited numbers of female presiding officers. The Commission however, does not have a deliberate and conscious effort to encourage women to apply for such opportunities.



Members of Parliament at the Coalition for Political Accountability to Women (COPAW) cocktail on 18th July, 2001. (l-r) Beatrice Byenkya (Woman Representative, Hoima district), Victoria Mwaka (Woman Representative, Luweero district), and Kabakumba Masiko, (MP Bujenje County, Masindi district)



UWONET in the NEMGroup

In the quest to promote democracy in Uganda, six Civil Society Organizations formed a consortium, the NGO Election Monitoring Group-Uganda (NEMGroup). It was accredited by the Electoral Commission to specifically monitor the 2001 Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

The organisations involved included: Action for Development (ACFODE), Association of Women Lawyers in Uganda (FIDA-U), Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), Uganda Journalists Safety Committee (UJSC), CASE – International and Uganda Women's Network (UWONET).

Each organization brought with it a unique contributor to monitor the elections. The elections were monitored from the legal, administration, media and gender perspective. UWONET and ACFODE provided gender monitors that focused on whether women exercised their rights without discrimination and intimidation. They also looked at the factors that inhibited women's participation in politics and whether women's concerns were adequately and responsibly addressed.

UWONET conducted the training of all the district monitors to ensure that they all observed the elections with a gender focus. UWONET also served on various committees, including procurement, national operations, and that of the directors of the NEMGroup organisations.

The NEMGroup plans to also monitor the local government elections, 2001–2002. UWONET will again participate and specifically focus on gender issues. These elections are very crucial since most development decisions are taken at district level. Within the Local Government structure, Ugandan women constitute at least 1/3 of the seats at all local council levels. It is UWONET's interest to monitor and examine whether women do take advantage of the opportunities and identify factors that facilitate or hinder their effective participation.

UWONET is in the process of publishing a full report on the 2001 presidential and parliamentary elections. Copies of which will be widely circulated.



The Coordinator, UWONET, Ms. Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi, addressing a press conference after the Parliamentary elections on 29th June 2001. Looking on from left, is UWONET Treasurer, Ms. Judy Kamanyi; ACFODE Gender Monitor, Ms. Lydia Bakaki; and the Executive Director UJCC and NEMGroup National Coordinator, Rev. Canon Grace Kaiso.



Women's Land Rights in Uganda Still in the Balance

Women's right to own land in Uganda remained a contentious debate during the year, particularly for those that are married. Although UWONET continued to lobby for the amendment of the Land Act 1998 to include the



The Minister of State for Lands, Baguma Isoke, addressing the dissemination workshop at Hotel Equatoria on 20th September, 2001. On his left is a consultant, Margaret Kemigisa, who carried out the study on the Implementation of the Land Act. The Minister committed himself to re-introduce the co-ownership clause in Cabinet.

“lost clause” on spousal co-ownership of land, not much was achieved as government insisted on conducting its own study on the relevance of spousal co-ownership of land.

Currently, there are two studies on spousal co-ownership of land conducted by the Uganda Land Alliance and the Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment. UWONET participated actively in both studies by providing technical assistance and having its own researchers involved. Nonetheless Government continues to question the validity of some of the findings of both studies. The debate is being delayed because Government insists on carrying out yet another study. A Government research institute at Nsamizi Social Development Centre is reportedly doing the study commissioned by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

The rights of spousal co-ownership as advocated for by UWONET would only extend to that land on which the family resides and derives its sustenance. Uganda's Constitution guarantees the right for individuals to own property in their own right. Economic forces, culture and tradition practices in most communities have often infringed upon this right for women.



At the peak of the March 2001 presidential campaigns, President Yoweri Museveni announced in his manifesto that once elected, he would look into the issue of co-ownership of land by spouses because he was aware of the demand by women activists to amend the Land Act 1998. UWONET has followed up this commitment by seeking a meeting with the President through the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ms Zoe Bakoko Bakoru. The President has vowed to live to his campaign pledge. UWONET has also petitioned the Minister of State for Lands on the same issue and still awaits a response.

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A petition that should not be ignored

UWONET lodged a petition to the Minister of Water, Lands and Environment on 8th November 2001, after the workshop on Women, Land and Poverty organized by UWONET on 20th September 2001,

The petition called on the government to:

- Re-introduce the proposed amendment on spousal co-ownership of land in the 1998 Land Act to Parliament and Cabinet.
- Effectively and expeditiously implement the Land Act 1998 by availing sufficient resources to ensure that the various organs and institutions established become operational.
- Expedite the development of a comprehensive land policy.
- Address the socially constructed root causes of poverty in relation to women.
- Ensure that the Land Act 1998 helps at least 50% of Ugandans to secure land.
- Ensure that the certificate of customary tenure is issued in the names of all family members who have interest in the land.

Disseminating study findings on women, land and poverty

UWONET held a series of public dialogues with district leaders of Kampala, on September 20th, Luweero on October 11th and Ntungamo on October 19th 2001. The one-day dialogues discussed the linkage between the government Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA) and spousal co-ownership of land, under the theme: "Agricultural modernization and poverty reduction: Is there a case for spousal co-ownership of land?", UWONET shared with the participants its study findings on how the Land Act was being implemented since its enactment in July 1998.



UWONET is committed to sustain public discussions on the right of spouses to co-own land on which their matrimonial home stands and the family resides and derives sustenance.



The struggle for women's land rights continues

- Many Ugandans are still ignorant about the provisions of the 1998 Land Act and what the Act says about women's land rights. UWONET was requested to extend its sensitisation programmes to the lower local council levels.
- Spousal co-ownership of land is still considered an urban and elite idea. The people in the rural areas and especially the poor feel they have not been consulted to take an informed decision in what has become a national debate. More information needs to be given in relation to divorce, co-ownership of land in a polygamous setting, in cohabitation and where step children are involved.
- Traditional beliefs and practices still undermine women's land rights. The belief that men are the heads of families promotes unequal power relations in decision making particularly in matters of property management. Some men still believe that women are by nature their subordinates and therefore cannot have equal rights with them over land. The existing cultures also do not permit the transfer of land to women.
- Widows lose land upon the death of their husbands and the reasons behind this should be investigated and clearly understood.
- The fear that if women are given control and ownership of family land they will take advantage and acquire land from various men.
- The PMA is likely to face setbacks if women, who provide most of the labour in agriculture, have no protection to use the land effectively and securely.
- The provision to seek spousal consent for the transfer of land was viewed as detrimental to development if one denied the other permission to sell or mortgage family land.

What did UWONET achieve?

- ◆ Participants acknowledged the important role women play in agriculture and discussed the connection between women's land ownership rights, food security and modernisation of agriculture.
- ◆ District authorities were able to debate the issue of co-ownership of land by spouses and devise ways for an effective lobby.
- ◆ Fears and myths surrounding co-ownership of land by spouses were elaborated and strategies to popularise the concept were discussed.
- ◆ UWONET broadened its campaign on women's land rights by taking the debate outside Kampala district.

The Land Sector Strategic Plan (LSSP)

As a member of the Inter-Institutional Steering Committee on the implementation of the Land Act 1998, UWONET is involved in the development of the Land Sector Strategic Plan (LSSP). The LSSP is intended to guide Government, the private sector and civil society in the management and use of land resources. It is based on the different government policies aimed at eradicating poverty and promoting human, economic and social rights, democratisation and sustainable development. A number of meetings were held last year under the auspices of the Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment to obtain feedback from stakeholders.



Discussions focused on whether the plan, as it was, could achieve its intended mission of creating an enabling environment for the participation of all stakeholders in effective use and management of Uganda's land sector and how best the plan could be strengthened.

UWONET, together with other members of the Uganda Land Alliance have enriched the LSSP. Focus has been placed on the role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in implementing the plan, particularly in documenting and disseminating information targeting policy makers and the public.

The CSOs have also pledged to participate in conducting training and capacity building for institutions under the LSSP. It is anticipated that the LSSP will provide a useful framework for the implementation of the Land Act 1998. UWONET will continue to make input in the LSSP to ensure that it is gender responsive.

Joint Activities with the Uganda Land Alliance

UWONET participated in a study commissioned by Uganda Land Alliance to monitor the implementation of the Land Act 1998. The study was conducted in the districts of Kibaale, Kampala, Luweero, Mbarara, Iganga, Kapchorwa and Apac. The study looked at the institutions that have been charged with the operationalisation of the Land Act and at the role of the different stakeholders involved in the implementation process. It also focused on the process of developing the Land Sector Strategic Plan (LSSP) and identified issues for consideration in the National Land Policy.

The study revealed that the implementation of the Land Act is beginning to take off with the mapping out of the LSSP. It also revealed that the structures responsible for implementing the Land Act are only working at the district level. The Parish Land committees have been formed but they are not operational because of lack funds and in other instances, the members are not aware of their roles and responsibilities. There are also no Land Tribunals at district level.

Uganda Land Alliance's Commitments

- To stimulate more political good will for women's economic empowerment.
- To create a linkage between gender issues and poverty eradication and retain women's land rights on the development agenda.
- Operationalise all land management institutions to expedite the implementation of the Land Act.
- Continue influencing the LSSP to ensure that it is gender responsive.
- Lobby for the establishment of the Land Fund and ensure that the procedures for handling the Land Act are clear and transparent.
- Repackage the concept of spousal co-ownership of land and articulate its justification so as to make it more acceptable to policy makers.
- Take the debate on co-ownership of land by spouses to the grassroots and explain how it will affect women and men in different forms of marriages.
- Revisit the concept of a wife/spouse and explain tenancy in common versus joint tenancy.



Uganda's Domestic Relations Law Still in Limbo

UWONET's campaign to enact the Domestic Relations Bill (DRB) has received increased impetus as members of Uganda's parliament vow to move it as a private members' bill. Work on the bill begun 38 years ago and up till now various legislators have shied away from debating it and enacting it into law, for fear of upsetting the cultural foundation of their constituents.

Although many members of parliament have not read the bill, they believe that some of the provisions raised in it are contradictory to the practice in most of their communities. It is also thought that the bill could further empower women and thus erode male supremacy in the family. UWONET has nonetheless continued to steer the DRB Coalition towards ensuring that members of Civil Society sustain the debate on having a just family law that would benefit all Ugandans.

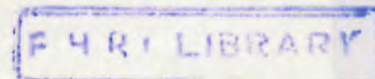
The DRB Coalition, which comprises of about 40 organisations, has continuously engaged policy makers and legislators to hasten the

enactment of the DRB. Last year, the Coalition met with the Minister of Justice and Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development. Both ministers pledged to present the much-awaited bill to Cabinet and subsequently to parliament. The coalition also met with a select group of parliamentarians and discussed some of the contentious issues within the bill. The Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA), a founder member of UWONET has included the DRB on its list of priorities to be advocated for in the seventh Parliament.



The Domestic Relations Bill aims at establishing a family law that would ensure stable and progressive families. (Source: New Vision Newspaper.)

The MPs have admitted that many of them are ignorant of the contents of the bill. As part of its contribution to the DRB Coalition, UWONET has developed user-friendly information packs that will be used in discussing with various stakeholder groups including different interest categories in parliament. The information packs highlight key contentious issues and the messages promoted by the Coalition. UWONET has also developed posters that will be used in mobilising the communities outside Kampala to support the DRB campaign.





Debates on the DRB in the media have continued to generate a lot of public interest. In the year 2001, UWONET participated in 30 radio programmes, the majority of which were phone-in shows with members of the public questioning some of the issues in the DRB.

Radio Station	Number of Programmes
Monitor FM	12
Mama FM	5
Power FM	2
Radio One	6
Radio Uganda	4
Radio West	1

On behalf of the Coalition, UWONET would like to extend its appreciation to the management of the above radio stations for the support they have given to the DRB Campaign. The print media, particularly *The New Vision*, *The Monitor* and *Bukedde Newspaper*, a Luganda daily have also been instrumental in provoking debate on some of the contentious issues such as polygamy, age of consent, bride price and co-habitation. Although the debate has at times derailed the campaign, to a great extent it has promoted public interest in the debate.

Contentious issues in the DRB

- Age of consent: Whether to set it at 18 years or less.
- Bride price: Whether to drop it and introduce 'marriage gifts'
- Polygamy: Is it economically viable? Can a man love two or more wives equally?

- Co-habitation: Whether and when it can be legally recognized as marriage.
- Divorce: Both men and women to have equal grounds for divorce.
- Marital rape: Instances where it is applicable in marriage
- Matrimonial property: To be equally owned by spouses.
- Widow inheritance: As a cultural practice to be outlawed since it is negative and outdated.



The DRB is to promote harmony for such a couple.

Coalition strategies

As a follow-up to the DRB process, the Coalition has an agenda that will propel the enactment of the bill. A series of activities have been planned using the mass media and regional workshops.



Strengthening Linkages through Networking

UWONET continued to enhance its linkages with other organisations and institutions operating at different levels. The value that came with networking was the sharing of experiences, learning from each other as well as the exchange of current information. Networking also often results into collective action which UWONET values greatly. Consequently, UWONET has initiated and participated in several events and processes that promote networking.

The Women's Annual Networking Day

UWONET has set aside a networking day for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to promote networking between individuals and organisations. This initiative is a strategy to publicise and acknowledge the work done by various NGOs and more specifically gender focused NGOs. The annual event will highlight the contributions made by CSOs to development, publicise and promote NGO work as well as enable them to share with others how and where they do their work.

The annual networking day was held on 6th December 2001, during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence under the theme; "Zero tolerance to violence against women". The event brought together more than 20 organisations that work to promote and protect

women's rights and human rights in Uganda. The day provided an opportunity for organisations to exhibit their work as well as to share experiences, challenges and achievements in advocacy for women's rights. In addition, participants shared and exchanged information on various advocacy initiatives. UWONET produced and distributed T-Shirts bearing the theme message.

The day was commemorated with a testimony from a victim of violence, a poem by a woman activist, candle lighting in memory of victims of gender violence and an exhibition.



The out-going Chairperson UWONET, Ms. Lydia Rugasira and the incoming Chairperson, Ms. Judy Kamanyi, chat with Winnie Byanyima (MP, Mbarara Municipality) at the COPAW get together on 18th July, 2001



Isis Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange
(Isis-WICCE)



Uganda Gender Resource Centre (UGRC)



Hon. Sam Bitangaro, Minister of State for
Gender giving a speech.

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Women's Annual Networking



Uganda Women Writers' Association
(FEMRITE)



Support the Youth Development
Association (SYDA)



A victim of domestic violence, Annet Bugingo
giving her testimony



The Báhai Faith



Hope After Rape



*Centre for Economic Empowerment of Women
(CEEWA-U)*

g Day (6th December 2001)

17



*The Hon. Minister lights a candle in memory
of victims of violence*



*Uganda Women Lawyers' Association
(FIDA-U)*



*Action for development
(ACFODE)*



The new Vice Chairperson, Christine Mugerwa presented a paper and accentuated the need for government to enact laws that protect women from all forms of violence. The Minister of State for Gender and Cultural Affairs, Hon Sam Bitangaro, stressed the government's commitment to protect women's rights and called upon NGOs to continue complementing government's efforts to end gender based violence.

Women demand for political accountability

One of the major achievements of the year was the formation of the Coalition for Political Accountability to Women (COPAW), which brings together women activists, politicians and academicians. COPAW, formed in March 2001, strives to enhance women's participation in politics and decision making, by



Cecilia Ogwal (MP Lira Municipality) and Aggrey Awori (MP Samia Bugwe North) share a light moment at a COPAW meeting on 6th Sept. 2001 at Kampala Sheraton Hotel.

spearheading a process of setting national priorities on issues of concern to women.

The coalition, the first of its kind was established, to provide a neutral ground on which women activists and politicians can agree on how national and local leaders would be held accountable to women. The forum will also provide appropriate space for women outside the political arena to engage with politicians and offer technical assistance in areas where they have expertise. This will enable Uganda to have a high calibre leadership that is accountable to its people.

UWONET as one of the founding organisations has actively participated in the following activities organised by COPAW:

- ◆ A press conference addressing the mode of elections for the district woman representative in Parliament was held and a press statement was published in the local media on 27th March, 2001. COPAW members advocated for universal adult suffrage. It was argued that since the women district representatives claimed to be representing the interests of the districts, then it was only prudent that they were elected in that manner. The use of electoral colleges was under attack because it locks doors for some women wishing to enter politics and perpetuates women who no longer need affirmative action in power.
- ◆ COPAW organised two breakfast meetings that brought together key stakeholders in Uganda's politics. These included both male and female MPs, government officials and activists in CSOs. Although the breakfast meetings were hailed for attracting a wide attendance, some leaders challenged the legitimacy of



Members of Parliament Aggrey Awori (Samia Bugwe North), Jane Alisemera Babiiha (Woman MP Bundibugyo district) and Ruth Nvumetta Kavuma (Woman MP Kalangala district) share a light moment during one of the COPAW breakfast meetings.

COPAW since the Coalition never supported them in their bid to join politics. Some have branded COPAW an opposition wing. Looking at what has been achieved, UWONET believes COPAW is a neutral organ that will go a long way in promoting democracy in Uganda.

- ◆ COPAW organised a training workshop to empower women intending to run for parliamentary seats in the East African Legislative Assembly. The workshop, which attracted expert facilitators, addressed the challenges of regional integration and the work to be done by the Assembly. COPAW lobbied different women to run for office as a means of acquiring experience in political campaigns and also getting women activists into active political fields.

- ◆ On behalf of COPAW, UWONET organised a cocktail for all women that participated in the parliamentary elections of 2001. The get-together, under the theme; "Celebrating women's achievement in politics", was aimed at reconciling women who had competed against each other in the elections and also congratulating those who had made it to parliament. It laid a foundation for collaboration between women activists and the women in the 7th Parliament. UWONET donated a rose flower to all the contenders. The Deputy Speaker, Hon. Rebecca Kadaga officiated at the ceremony.

- ◆ A press conference was organised to denounce the violence experienced by some women that contested in the parliamentary elections. COPAW also protested the post-election state-inspired harassment against Winnie Byanyima who was faced with an election petition in Mbarara Municipality. COPAW pointed out that such attacks on women politicians would consequently discourage other women from joining politics.

Strengthening collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

A new minister for the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), was appointed following the June 2001 parliamentary elections. UWONET arranged three meetings with the Minister, Zoe Bakoko Bakoru with the aim of enhancing collaboration between CSOs, particularly women-focused NGOs and the Ministry.



Out of this initiative, a position paper on issues affecting women has been compiled under a consultancy commissioned by UWONET and ActionAid Uganda. The position paper is intended to guide the dialogue between the women focused NGOs and President Yoweri Museveni, which is being arranged by the Minister.

UWONET has also developed a collaboration strategy to guide the relationship between the Ministry of Gender and CSOs. The draft collaboration strategy was discussed by technical officials from the Ministry and representatives from gender-focused NGOs on 21st November 2001. The strategy, among other things highlights the challenges facing the process of women's emancipation, the priority areas for action and entry points for NGOs into the Ministry's programmes and the role of the Ministry and the NGOs in executing strategic actions. This initiative and other related processes will be followed up in 2002.

The National NGO Forum

The NGO Forum is the umbrella organisation of all NGOs and CBOs in Uganda. During the year, the Forum carried out an appeal to government to reconsider withdrawing the NGO Registration (Amendment) Bill that is due to be tabled in parliament.

Despite the major development contributions that NGOs are making in Uganda, the bill potentially criminalises the work of NGOs and subjects them to government control at renewal of registration. The

appeal stated in the NGO Forum's Bulletin, "The Lobbyist" highlighted the following issues in the NGO Bill:

- * Introduces a permit, which would be required from NGOs in addition to the registration certificate.
- * States that registration for NGOs can be refused if their objectives "are in contravention of any government plan, policy or public interest."
- * Threatens NGOs who breach its provisions with fines and imprisonment.



The Minister of State, General Duties, Hon. Mondo Kagonyera (third from left) officiating at the NGO Forum General Assembly.



- ✱ Proposes an NGOs Board that is almost exclusively composed of government members and includes members of the Internal and External Security Organisations (ISO & ESO). The Board is to be located at the Ministry of Internal Affairs which mainly deals with security matters.

It must be pointed out that the NGOs Bill is mainly to limit the autonomy of NGOs and this could affect their role as a "watch dog of government." This contravenes the principle of Freedom of Association provided by the Uganda Constitution (1995) and International Convention on Civil and Political Rights that Uganda ratified in 1996.

NGO Forum's contributions to the Constitutional Review

- Establish a peace building mechanism.
- Set up tribunals to deal with corruption cases.
- Social security to be guaranteed for every Ugandan.
- Include a provision of basic rights of internally displaced people.
- Feedback from Speaker of Parliament on performance of members of parliament to the people.
- Stipulate a period within which its provisions should be enacted into law.

- Amend the following articles:
 - 78: One man and one woman to represent a district in parliament.
 - 80(2): An MP should not hold another public office. An MP's function should be restricted to full-time legislation.
 - 33(4) 50% of women on Commissions, Authorities and Parliament to be women.
 - 88(1): MP should not determine their own emoluments and facilities.
 - 114; to be reconciled with Article 113 on the number of Ministries the President can appoint.
 - 84(3); reduce the number of votes needed to petition the Speaker for recall of an MP.
 - 269: contradicts Article 29 on the protection of freedoms of conscience, expression and association.
 - 237(4): delete clause (b): Customary tenure of land is not inferior to freehold.
 - Women on affirmative action seat to Parliament should be voted by adult suffrage and not electoral colleges.
 - Voting of president, parliamentary candidates as well as interest groups representatives should be held on the same day.
 - Exclude army and employees out of interest groups in parliament.
 - 30: Age of consent to remain at 18 years.
 - Abolish death penalty.
 - 164: Public should demand accountability from public officers.



Building Capacity for Effective Advocacy

UWONET organised an advocacy training workshop from 26th – 30th November 2001. The objective was to enhance the capacity of UWONET members of staff, individuals from member organisations and CSOs allies at national level to enable them effectively carry out advocacy work. The training also targeted advocates operating at district and other lower levels. The workshop was facilitated by a consultant, Charles Lwanga Ntale of Development Research and Training. The workshop explored the concept and practice of advocacy. Other topics included advocacy in relation to development, communication, the media, fundraising and gender.

Out of the thirty-eight advocates trained, 30 are operating at the national level and 8 are from the districts of Arua, Kabarole, Kalangala, Mpigi, Ntungamo and Soroti. The workshop offered an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and networks at national and district levels. Initial

"The workshop gave me an insight into effective advocacy and was very relevant to the kind of work I do. I am now able to confidently participate in developing an advocacy strategy for my organisation."

Annette Tendo,
Advocacy Officer
The Association of Women Lawyers in
Uganda (FIDA-U)

"Unlike other advocacy training I have attended, the workshop was practical. It gave me an opportunity to share experiences and best practices with others."

Oliver Zawedde,
Coordinator
Women and Children's Crisis Centre
(WCCC)



Hilda Twongyeirwe of FEMRITE presenting her group's discussion to other participants during the training.



Beatrice Mugambe of UJCC (centre) contributing to the group discussion during the training.



Annet Tendo of FIDA-U (right, facing camera) making a point during group discussions. Next to her is Hilda Turyahikayo of NGO Forum, Ntungamo district.



A group of participants discussing what they should put down for presentation. In the middle is Rose Bakasara of Kitumba Women Joint Effort Association, Fort Portal district.

materials to develop a training manual, to be designed specifically for use by advocates for women's rights, were offered.

Although UWONET has made enormous achievements in influencing decisions at national level, it has done so amidst various challenges. These range from practices that sustain patriarchy at family level to limited political will at national level. These challenges have highlighted the need for regular assessment and capacity enhancement. UWONET believes that the success of any advocacy initiative highly depends on the ever readiness of the advocates, which in turn hinges on whether they are well equipped with knowledge, skills and confidence to lobby and advocate for the cause at hand.

Prior to the training, UWONET carried out a needs assessment to enable the network design an appropriate training programme. The assessment focused on the existing strengths in form of knowledge and skills in advocacy and the gaps that needed to be filled to further enhance the effectiveness and efficiency in carrying out advocacy work.

The training was planned, organised and supervised by a task force that comprised of Beatrice Mukasa (ACFODE), Catherine Mugisha (Women's Spacee), Theo Bitature (FIDA-U), and the Coordinator and Advocacy Officer of UWONET.

"The training was very educative and it tackled the concept of advocacy at length. I now feel I have the skills to enable me handle an advocacy activity."

Veronica Nakijjoba,
Programme Officer-Gender
Training & Advocacy
Uganda Gender Resource Centre
(UGRC)

UWONET plans to conduct a follow-up on the advocacy training with the same participants in June 2002. The report of the first training is out and the task force in planning the next training.



Highlights of the Year

MAMA FM: The voice to listen to

On 24th August 2001, the Uganda Media Women's Association (UMWA) launched the first ever radio station owned and run by women in Africa. The radio station seeks to mobilise women for development and contribute towards empowering marginalised communities by raising their concerns. The radio which currently broadcasts to a radius of 400kms has intentions of covering the whole country. MAMA 101.7 FM is based at the UMWA Secretariat in Kisaasi, Kampala. MAMA FM gives a voice to the voiceless.

UWONET staff training

Type of Training:	Organised by:	Attended by:	Duration
Budget Advocacy 07 – 09 May, 2001	Uganda Debt Network / IDASA	Julius Kapwepwe, Programme Assistant	3 days
Financial Management 30 July – 03 August, 2001	NOVIB	Sheila Kawamara- Mishambi, Coordinator Eunice Busingye, Accountant	5 days
Policy Analysis and Advocacy Work 26 – 28 Sept, 2001	DFID / British Council	Valarie Vat Kamatsiko, Ag. Advocacy Officer	3 days

Sharing experience on democracy

Ms Rita Aciro-Lakor, an intern with UWONET together with other Ugandan women participated in an internship programme with the League of Women Voters of the United States of America in September 2001 in Washington D.C. The programme brought together 24 young African women from eight African countries. The programme that is run by the League and sponsored by the state department aims at sharing grassroots democracy between Americans and Africans. The league expressed interest to send some of its members to the different African countries to share and learn from each other.



The Annual General Meeting

UWONET's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 16th August 2001. The meeting also marked the end of the 1997 – 2000 Executive Committee's tenure of office. The out-going Chairperson, Ms. Lydia Rugasira highlighted UWONET's achievements in the last four years and thanked the Secretariat staff and the UWONET members for the support they gave to the Committee she chaired. Ms. Rugasira pledged to continue serving UWONET unreservedly. The out-going treasurer Ms. Judy Kamanyi also presented the treasurer's report and the audited accounts for the year 2000.

At the same meeting, the Coordinator, Ms. Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi, presented UWONET's activity report. On behalf of the Secretariat, she thanked the out-going Executive Committee for the good guidance and relationship it extended to the Secretariat. Elections for the new Executive Committee were held and a new Executive Committee was voted in for 2001 - 2004, chaired by Ms Judy Kamanyi. The AGM was attended by representatives from UWONET's member organisations, individual members and UWONET staff and allies.

President promises to revisit the DRB

The international Women's Day national celebrations were held in Kampala on 8th March, 2001, under the theme: "Education: A Tool For Women's Empowerment". On this day, women celebrate their achievements in the struggle for emancipation and assess their efforts against the challenges faced.

UWONET joined other women activists in a demonstration in Kampala, urging Government to be responsive to women's issues and concerns. The advocacy slogans attracted the attention of President Yoweri Museveni, and prompted him to give UWONET audience. The Ag. Advocacy Officer, Vat Kamatsiko, expressed the gender concerns to the President and reiterated the need for Government's commitment to the advancement of women. The President in his address to the nation promised to revisit the DRB and UWONET is still holding the President accountable.



National Networking

ORGANISATION	ACTIVITY	BENEFIT TO UWONET
National Association of Women Organizations in Uganda (NAWOU)	● Workshop on women and politics. (March 23, 2001) ● Planning workshop to lay out strategies on how to mobilise grassroots support for the enactment of the Domestic Relations Law. (December 18 –19, 2001)	● Assessed the role of women in politics and factors affecting their effective participation. ● Creation of a critical mass at grassroots level to influence the enactment of a fair family law.
DANIDA	❖ Consultative workshop on the Human Rights and Democratization Programme, March 28, 2001	❖ Influencing programmes that promote human rights and democracy in Uganda.
Action Aid-Uganda	* Meeting to introduce a new initiative: Citizens Policy Agenda (CPA) aimed at promoting citizen led policy engagements at national and trans-national levels. (April 12, 2001) * Meeting to develop a documentary on the ActionAid Gender Unit and its partners contribution to promoting the status of women in Uganda. (April 19, 2001).	* An initiative to advocate for pro-poor policies and an opportunity for CSOs to gain knowledge and skills to engage meaningfully with IFIs and government. * UWONET acknowledged as a key partner in networking to uplift the status of women.
Action for Development (ACFODE)	◆ Workshop to disseminate research findings on on "The Impact of Micro Finance Institutions and the Impact of Civic Education in Uganda: The cases of Tororo and Mpigi District". (April 23 2001) ◆ Public Dialogue on "Keeping the Torch of Women's Empowerment Burning within and Outside Parliament." (July 2001) ◆ Dissemination workshop of a study on "The Equal Opportunities Commission" (July 20 2001)	◆ An addition to the pool of documented information on micro-finance projects and civic education in Uganda ◆ UWONET's efforts towards keeping women's issues on the political and public agenda reinforced. ◆ Information will facilitate the advocacy and lobbying process for the establishment of the EOC



ORGANISATION	ACTIVITY	BENEFIT TO UWONET
DFID	● Meeting for CSOs to share experiences on Policy influencing. (April 30, 2001) ● Round table discussions on perspective of CSOs on how best social impact analysis of IMF/WB programmes can be carried out. (July 19, 2001)	● Shared challenges and best practices with other CSOs in advocacy work. ● Review team urged to carry out a gender disaggregated analysis of the impact.
Uganda Debt Network (UDN)	✧ Workshop on Budget Advocacy (May 7 – 9, 2001)	✧ Knowledge and skills on budget advocacy gained.
Uganda National NGO Forum	✧ 3 rd General Assembly. (April 25, 2001)	✧ A new National Executive Committee elected. The Coordinator, UWONET, Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi was re-elected Chairperson.
Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)	♦ Launching of the Human Rights Report 2000	♦ Documented information on the Human Rights situation in Uganda
UNICEF	● Workshop to formulate a National Strategy to eliminate gender based violence in Uganda. (November 27 – 28, 2001)	● Agreed on a way forward to address gender based violence.
SUNY – UPTAP	✧ Civil society exhibition. (September 28, 2001)	✧ Exposure on activities of CSOs.



Regional and International Networking

Sub-regional Conference on Women and Land

The East African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI) organised a sub-regional conference on women and land rights in Eastern Africa from 29th – 31st October 2001 at Hotel Africana, Kampala. The purpose of the conference was to share findings of a research on women and land that was done in five countries of the sub-region and to work out modalities for a sub-regional strategy to increase women's access to and ownership of land in the Eastern African Sub-region.

The Prime Minister of Uganda, in his opening remarks, said that African women continue to face formidable constraints towards access to and ownership of land. These he said include customary law, inheritance laws and land tenure laws. Lack of knowledge of the law as well as the practicability of these laws was also highlighted as obstacles to securing women's land rights. The Prime Minister urged the conference participants to come up with realistic and effective strategies to address the constraints that have hindered women's access and control of land. He cautioned that issues related to tradition and culture are difficult to change and therefore the process needs to be gradual.

The conference also featured other activities such as an exhibition of publications and other works done to advance the cause of securing women's land rights. A panel discussion on 'Land Rights: Challenges for Advocacy and Partnership' was also held. UWONET participated in the conference proceedings, the exhibition as well

as the panel discussion. The conference attracted participants from Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda.

Inter Action Annual Forum

The Coordinators of UWONET, Ms Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi and the National NGO Forum, Mr. Warren Nyamugasira, attended the InterAction Annual Forum in Washington and the Washington Lobby Week from 27th May, – 7th June, 2001. InterAction (The American Council of NGOs) Africa Liaison Program Initiative (ALPI) is a tripartite effort between three key stakeholders in African



African NGO leaders have continued to engage with USAID and American PVOs on how best sustainable development can be attained in Africa.



development: African non-governmental organizations, US-based private and voluntary organizations and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

UWONET has participated in the activities of InterAction since 1997. In 1998 the Coordinator, Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi was elected as one of the four members of the Advisory Committee of the ALPI from Africa. Since that time, sub-regional conferences have been held in Harare, Nairobi, Lagos. In 2001, two other sub-regional conferences were to be held in Kampala and Dakar. However, because of the September New York bombing, they were deferred to 2002.

UWONET is expected to organise the Kampala meeting which will focus on Relational Governance. The conference is being co-hosted by USAID and an American NGO, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC). Preceding the conference, a mapping exercise was commissioned to explain the relationship

Through a series of meetings and conferences both in Africa and the US, and information exchange, the ALPI aims at providing the space for a continuous tripartite dialogue among US PVOs, African NGO consortia and USAID and hopes to engender mutually beneficial development relationships in Africa.

between USAID, American NGOs and African NGOs. The studies were conducted in the two host countries, Uganda and Senegal. The relationship between the three development partners has often been marred by suspicion, mistrust and tensions and the three partners have been working hard at overcoming these challenges.

African NGOs in Search of an Ideology

The feeling that there is an ideology vacuum amongst African NGOs prompted MWENGO to organize an "In Search of an African NGO Ideology" conference which took place from 30th – 31st July 2001 in Harare, Zimbabwe. At the conference, it became apparent that there are no clear principles and core values that inform NGO actions and strategies. And if they are there, they either unconsciously exist or they are not articulated and shared at individual, NGO and sector levels in general.

Participants discussed the impact of an absence of an African NGO ideology on NGO actions both individually and collectively. The possibility of forging a common ideology amongst NGOs in their diversity was also explored. It was agreed that in diversity, a shared ideology among African NGOs and a common vision were important to build certainty about principles on which NGO actions and alliances can be built and sustained.

Participants agreed on a framework of action in an attempt to articulate an African NGO ideology. The question as to whether a shared African NGO ideology could be the answer to the challenges of globalisation, poverty, wars, hunger and disease in Africa took the center stage during the discussions. UWONET participated in the conference together with other participants from the Eastern and Southern Africa sub-region.



UWONET Income and Expenditure Account Financial Year 2001

SOURCE OF FUNDS	SCHD	2001 ACTUAL U.SHS.	2001 BUDGET USHS.
Donations and Grants	I	367,767,886	414,260,500
Other Income	II	3,009,968	-
Membership Fees		1,100,000	1,000,000
		371,877,854	415,360,500
Less			
EXPENDITURE ON PROGRAMMES			
Presidential and Parliamentary Elections		127,478,000	174,260,500
Advocacy Activities		16,676,950	56,000,000
Training Activities		12,378,025	33,600,000
Information Sharing		9,616,600	20,800,000
Inter Action Mapping Exercise		9,395,500	
Documentation		9,217,500	12,720,000
Increase in Networking among Women in Uganda		8,107,850	12,000,000
Increasing Women's access to power and decision making		7,193,400	27,200,000
Public Dialogue		7,056,800	6,400,000
Local Networking		6,525,400	5,600,000
Organisation Management		2,298,650	5,600,000
International Networking		953,550	4,480,000
Programme Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation		651,050	5,600,000
		217,549,275	364,260,500
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS			
Salaries and Allowances	III	62,091,500	75,040,000
Office Running Costs	IV	28,774,285	28,800,000
Depreciation		8,942,987	
Audit Fees		2,000,000	2,000,000
		101,808,772	105,840,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		319,358,047	470,100,500
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		52,519,807	(54,740,000)



Campaign Cards for the Domestic Relations Bill

