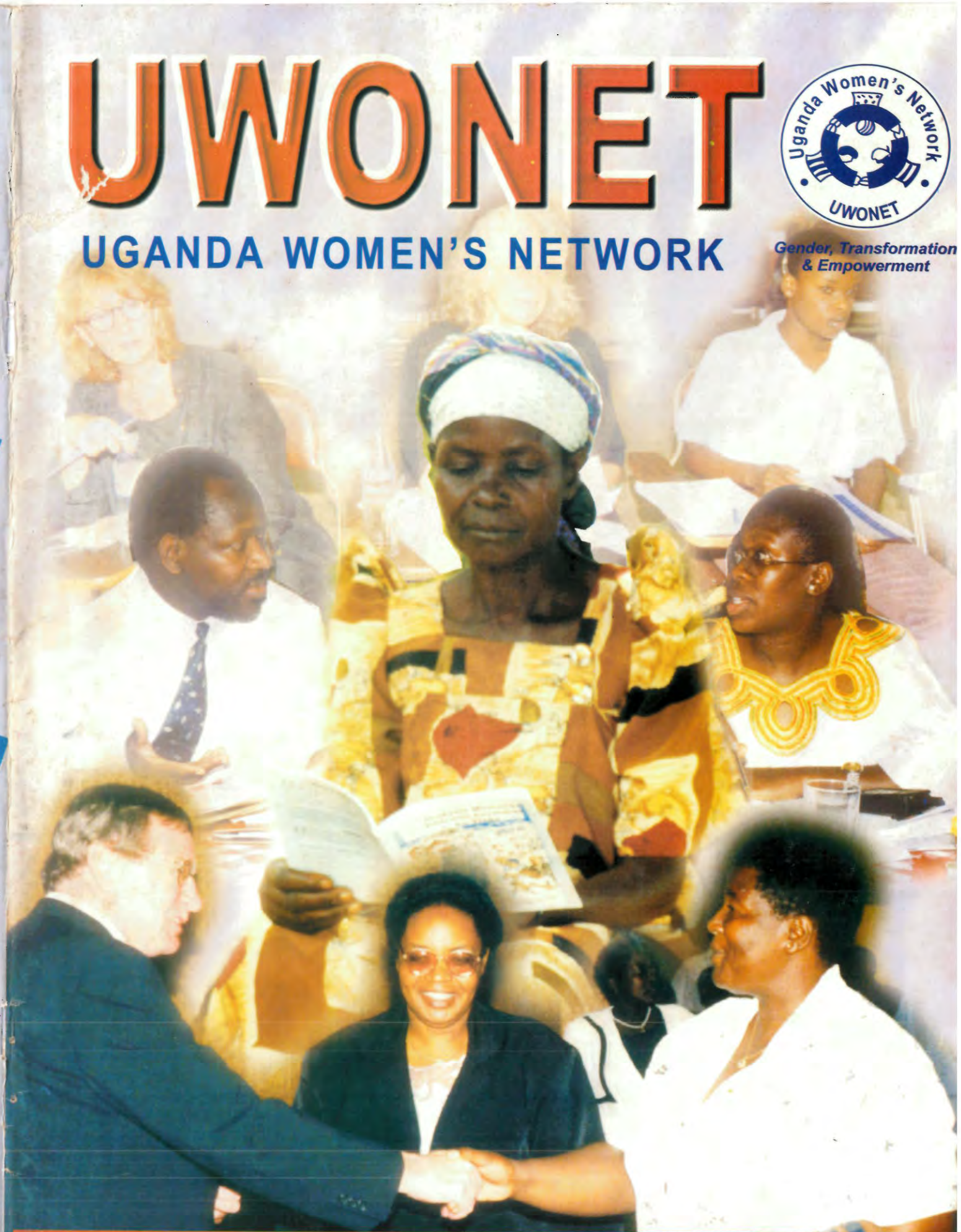
UWONET

UGANDA WOMEN'S NETWORK

Gender, Transformation & Empowerment



Addressing the needs of the people

ANNUAL REPORT 2000

Lydia Rugasira
UWONET Chairperson

Chairperson's Foreword

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) presents to you the 2000 Annual Report which gives a complete account of it's 7th year of existence. In the year 2000, UWONET unwaveringly endeavored to change the unequal gender relations in our society through promoting, supporting and sustaining gender mainstreaming.

UWONET can now safely say that decision-makers are increasingly recognizing the demands by Ugandan women for legal safeguards and gender-sensitive policies. Although the Land Act 1998 has not yet been revised to include enabling provisions for women's land ownership and a fair Domestic Relations Law is not yet in place, the increased attention to these issues is a significant step towards translating these demands into laws, policies and appropriate programmes. This achievement cannot be claimed by UWONET alone, but it is that of it's members, partners and allies with whom the Network shares the commitment to create a better environment for the Ugandan woman to flourish in.

The challenge to get those in decision-making to positively respond to women's demands has always called for regular self evaluation. In the year 2000, UWONET underwent several changes to enable it better achieve its objectives. UWONET's Constitution has been revised to facilitate the smooth running of the Network and what was originally the Planning Committee is now the Executive Committee and meets quarterly to give timely direction to the Secretariat. An Advocacy Officer and Administrative Secretary have been added to the small but competent staff to enhance its capacity to keep women's issues on the discussion table. The number of interns also increased from two to three to reinforce the efforts at the Secretariat. Computerization of the accounting system was finalized to ease accounting and generation of transfer and disbursement reports. As well, UWONET moved to a more spacious office to provide a better working environment.

The above changes have already borne fruit and UWONET is able to sail through the year more efficiently than ever before. We hope for an even better performance in the coming years. UWONET is grateful for the financial, technical and moral support rendered to it by member organizations, Government, donors, partners and allies. Our appreciation also goes to individuals from member organizations who have increased participation in and consequently added value to UWONET activities. We also value and are thankful for the unrivaled work done by the Secretariat staff under the leadership of the Coordinator.

UWONET is committed to tirelessly carry through its advocacy on women's rights and will endlessly engage Government and donors to enhance partnerships; and increase allies to strengthen the voice that speaks for marginalized groups, especially women.

UWONET ANNUAL REPORT, 2000

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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. Founded in 1993, UWONET achieves its goals through networking, civic education, training, research advocacy, lobbying and information collection, packaging and exchange.

UWONET derives its strength from the diversity of expertise and experience of its membership and allies. It strives to articulate plurality, human rights and open up democratic space for women's organisations in Uganda.

UWONET Mission

Uganda Women's Network aims at promoting networking, collective vision and action among different actors working towards development and the transformation of the unequal gender relations in society.

UWONET 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 level and by the Global Economic Institutions like the IMF and the World Bank;
- ⇨ Work towards the achievement of equal opportunities and rights for women in all sectors and increase women's access to, and control of resources and benefits;
- ⇨ Work towards the elimination of defilement, rape and other forms of abuse and violence against women and children; and
- ⇨ Collect and disseminate information on priority and other issues of concern to women.

UWONET administraton and management

UWONET is governed by a General Assembly of all members of the Network which meets once every calender 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 open 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

The Need for More Political Space

One of the most complex and critical issues facing organised societal actors in Africa today is the need for political space to mobilise autonomously from the state and from the party in power. Those organisations that have asserted the greatest autonomy have generally been able to select their own leaders, push for far-reaching agendas, and involve themselves in politics to a greater extent than organisations that have been tied to the regime and/or dominant party, either formally or through informal patronage networks (Tripp, 2001)§.

Borrowing a leaf from Professor Aili Tripp's analysis "*The politics of autonomy and co-optation in Africa: the case of the Ugandan Women's Movement*", one can appreciate the challenge faced by advocacy groups in a country like Uganda, which is hailed worldwide for its gender sensitive policies. UWONET went through a grueling year of 2000 battling with Government to appreciate and implement gender sensitive national policies. Although President Yoweri Museveni and his Cabinet have always outwardly seemed receptive to the concept of women's emancipation, they often declared their negative stand on very crucial issues like spousal co-ownership of land and the Domestic Relations Bill.

In one public address, Museveni described land ownership by women as 'disaster'. To further disempower the Women's Movement, on December 7, 2000, the Vice-President, Dr. Speciousa Kazibwe delivered the infamous cabinet stance on women's property rights. Kazibwe told the women parliamentarians and later the Uganda Land Alliance that women only need access rather than control of land. Hence the final blow on the demand for a clause in the Land Act 1998 that would permit women to co-own land with their spouses.

Much as Uganda has seen more women leaders from the Women's Movement appointed in cabinet and elected to parliament, the movement has gradually been weakened as some of the prominent champions of women's rights are neutralised. In practice women are still denied the right to own property, particularly land, security in their matrimonial homes, appropriate redress from perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence, and equal opportunities in the participation of national development. As per its mission of *transforming the unequal gender relations in our society,* UWONET continues to advocate for the full recognition and protection of women's rights and ensure that appropriate legislation is in place.

In the year 2000, UWONET called for the constitution of the Equal Opportunities Commission, the enactment of the 36 year old Domestic Relations Bill and the inclusion of the clause on co-ownership of land by spouses in the Land Act 1998. Together with its allies, various activities contained in this report were implemented and women's issues remained on the public agenda for analysis. UWONET continues with its unfinished agenda.

UWONET is proud to report that through its campaigns, many more NGOs in Uganda have appreciated women's rights and have joined hands with the Women's Movement to push for a more responsive attitude from Government. UWONET hails the support it has received from its allies, donors and supporters within the decision-making organs of Government.

We pledge to continue with the struggle for the liberation of the African Woman and the emancipation of all woman-kind. Our struggle now is more focused and we hope to breed a leadership that will stand the test of time and consistently promote the women's agenda.

I would like to congratulate UWONET membership, the Secretariat staff, UWONET's allies in the Women's Movement and the broader Civil Society for their endurance in their continued demand for political space in Uganda. Your persistence has given an alternative voice to issues that would have otherwise remained silent.

Bravo! The struggle continues.

§ Aili Mari Tripp, The Journal of Modern African Studies, 39, 1 (2001), pp. 101-128, Cambridge University Press.

UWONET STRUCTURE

Representatives from Member Organisations

1.	Linda Akullu	- NAWOU
2.	Betty Akullu	- NAWOU
3.	Jennifer Kijumba	- ACFODE
4.	Seraphine Awacango	- ACFODE
5.	Theo Bitature-Webale	- FIDA
6.	Christine Mugerwa	- FIDA
7.	Dr. Dorothy Balaba	- AUWMD
8.	Dr. Hasifa Lukwata	- AUWMD
9.	Ruth Muwanga	- WETSU
10.	Jane Ochaya-Irama	- WETSU
11.	Margaret Ssentamu	- UMWA
12.	Julie Gipwola	- UMWA
13.	Hon. Dominica Abu	- AWOPA
14.	Florence Ebila	- Department of Gender and Women Studies
15.	Dr. Edith Okiria	- Department of Gender and Women Studies
16.	Lydia Rugasira	- UWFT
17.	Julius Mukunda	- FOWODE
18.	Irene Muloni	- FEMNET

Individual Members

Dr. Alice Kagoda
Hope Kabuchu
Catherine Guma
Maude Mugisha

Executive Committee

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Chairperson
Jane Ocaya Irama
Vice Chairperson
Judy Kamanyi
Treasurer

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Amos Adule
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Susan Karungi
Rita Aciro-Lakor

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 State in the President's Office, Hon. Betty Okwir
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
Powwer FM

UWONET's continued struggle to secure women's land rights

The struggle for co-ownership of land by spouses still futile

The co-ownership of land by spouses remained a contentious issue in Uganda's politics throughout the year 2000. Women are still denied ownership rights of the land on which they reside and derive their sustenance. The Co-ownership Amendment, which seemed to have been erroneously omitted from the 1998 Land Act, was rejected at cabinet level and referred to the long-awaited Domestic Relation's Bill (DRB). UWONET continued the struggle to ensure that the issue remained in its rightful place, the Land Act, since it is a land matter. UWONET, through the Uganda Land Alliance (ULA), is sensitising Ugandans on the need and benefits for spouses to co-own land. To this effect, ULA has organised several public engagements and media programmes that have publicised the issues of both women and men on land ownership.

UWONET'S LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY STRATEGIES

UWONET has engaged different strategies to ensure co-ownership of land by spouses. These have ranged from doing research, holding strategic meetings with key stakeholders, to reaching out to the general public through dialogue and the media.

A cross-section of women dressed in T-shirts distributed by UWONET and the DRB Coalition march past President Yoweri Museveni (not in picture) during the March 8, 2000 Women's Day celebrations in Rukungiri.

Meeting with the Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment

UWONET and the Land Alliance held a meeting with a highly-powered delegation from the Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment on January 20, 2000. The delegation that was led by the Minister of State, Hon. Baguma Isoke, conceded to most of the proposals presented by the two lobby groups. The meeting was held at the office of the Minister of Ethics and Integrity, Hon Miria Matembe, also the mover of the amendment. The Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment drafted a new provision and justification, which was then presented to cabinet. The amendment was rejected by Cabinet in February 2000.

A documentary on co-ownership of land by spouses

A documentary on co-ownership of land by spouses was produced by the Uganda Land Alliance, (to which UWONET is a member), and the DRB Coalition (spearheaded by UWONET) highlighting problems women endure as a result of lack of ownership of land. Many decision makers still feel that the issue is not pertinent to most women throughout Uganda and there is no empirical data to show that women suffer from lack of land ownership.

The objectives of the documentary were:

- To record the voices of the women at the grassroots as they express their need and support for co-ownership of land by spouses;
- To remove the misconception that co-ownership is an issue of a few elite women and therefore not representative of the needs and aspirations of rural-based women;
- To explain the impact of lack of land ownership by women on their productive capacity and invariably the economy of the country.

Strategic Meetings with Members of Parliament

The Uganda Land Alliance (ULA) organised several meetings with Members of Parliament to discuss co-ownership of land by women with their spouses. The meetings, which were held with Women Parliamentarians, the Young Parliamentarian Caucus, Members of Parliament from Eastern and Northern Uganda and the Buganda Caucus, provided more information and insights related to the improvement of land advocacy. It was noted that while most Women Parliamentarians were committed to seeing the amendment brought back to Parliament, the Young Parliamentarian Caucus and the regional caucuses were still grappling to understand the concept. It was explained to the parliamentarians that the Co-ownership Amendment was not only about women owning land; but it was a family concern for men, women and children. Further more, the Amendment would promote social justice and economic development of the whole nation. It is also consistent with the Government's Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP). The Young Parliamentarians asked UWONET and ULA to provide more information on whether the existing customary practices, particularly in Eastern Uganda, protect women's land ownership rights. These meetings with parliamentarians were extremely helpful in identifying and addressing some of the specific concerns from the different cultural groupings in Uganda.

Research on Women and Land

ganda Land Alliance, with assistance from ActionAid Uganda, carried out research on "Women and Land Rights" in the districts of Pallisa and Kapchorwa in May, 2000. The UWONET Advocacy Officer, Ms. Jackie Asiimwe, and a consultant from Women's Spacee, Ms. Evelyn Nyakoojo, undertook the research. The findings of the research confirm those of an earlier study done by UWONET in 1997, prior to the enactment of the Land Act. They found out that women are still discriminated against in the ownership of land and land is passed through patrilineal descent. Much as women have access to land, that access is not automatic. It can be restricted or taken away if the relationship with the access giver sours or is severed by death. The major recommendation is that advocacy initiatives, especially over the issue of women's right to own land, have to address the fears that society associates with women owning land. The research findings were disseminated at the end of June 2000.

Women in Kitenderi, Luwero district, study the simplified Land Act 1998 published by UWONET during a sensitisation meeting on its implementation.

Why Ugandan women are denied Land

- Various cultures in Uganda do not recognise the right for women to own land.
- Most land is still owned and managed customarily under clan heads.
- The institution of marriage will be corrupted by property ownership; and women will marry and divorce their husbands at will in order to amass land.
- Many men still view land ownership as a male domain.
- The majority of people in Uganda still do not understand the rationale of the need for women to own land.
- Many politicians are still very skeptical about including women's land ownership rights on their political agenda.

Reaching Out to the General Public

Uganda Land Alliance organised a half-day public dialogue on co-ownership of land by spouses on July 27, 2000 at the Sheraton Kampala Hotel. The dialogue under the theme "Co-ownership of Land by Spouses – Issues and Options: The Government Perspective" was attended by a cross-section of people including politicians, academicians, local leaders and men and women from grassroots organisations. Women from the districts of Apac, Mukono, Mbarara, Pallisa, Mpigi and Kibaale shared their personal experiences on land-related disputes. They called on the Government and their respective Members of Parliament (MPs) to support the co-ownership clause and include it in the Land Act; and not in the Domestic Relations Bill (DRB) where it has been incorporated.

Media Campaign on Land Ownership

Various articles on women's land ownership rights continue to be published in both the local and international media. *The New Vision* and *The Monitor* publications in Uganda have been very collaborative in highlighting the need for women to own land. The electronic media, particularly the Internet, has been utilised by a number of lobby groups such as UWONET and ULA to solicit for international support. An international call for Women's Action was sent out by *Equity Now,* an international advocacy group, highlighting women's exclusion from land ownership in Uganda.

The call which has been circulated through ordinary and electronic mail, appealed to President Yoweri Museveni and his ministers in charge of Water, Land and Environment and the Speaker of Parliament to publicly support and ensure swift passage of the Co-ownership Amendment to the Land Act. To keep the pressure on Government, members of the Uganda Land Alliance ran a supplement in the *New Vision* newspaper on co-ownership of land by spouses on August 08, 2000 to which UWONET contributed articles and pledged to keep the debate on co-ownership at the forefront of its advocacy programmes.

Workshop on Gender, Patriarchy and Land Rights

UWONET participated in a two-day workshop organised by ULA on gender, patriarchy and land rights held from July 06 through July 08, 2000 at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel, Entebbe. The workshop aimed at equipping participants with knowledge about the link between land rights and the wider development context of the country; as well as the link between land laws and other laws that affect women. It was emphasised that land ownership had to be looked at in a much broader perspective of poverty, human rights and good governance. Members of ULA need to be able to influence other policies through continuous dialogue as well as to contribute to the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), the Poverty Action Fund (PAF) and the Plan for the Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA).

UWONET's initiatives to simplify the Land Act, 1998 and influence its quick and effective implementation

Production of Simplified and Translated Versions of the Land Act 1998

UWONET simplified the Land Act 1998 and came up with a version entitled "Women Know Your Land Rights." This was published in English, Luganda, Lugbara and Runyakitara. The simplified Land Act was distributed to women through UWONET's members and the established land information centers under the Uganda Land Alliance. "Women, Know Your Land Rights" is an easy to read booklet and UWONET seeks to sensitise Ugandans, especially women, on their rights by pointing out those issues in the Act that are pertinent to them. The 20-page booklet is available at the UWONET Secretariat.

Some of the men who attended the Land Act 1998 sensitization meeting organised by UWONET in Kitenderi, Luwero district. They, also received the simplified Land Act 1998.

Monitoring the Implementation of the Land Act

As a member of the Inter-Institutional Steering Committee of the Implementation of the Land Act, UWONET is monitoring the implementation of the Land act with a focus on increasing gender equity and reducing poverty. The findings from this project will be used to lobby the implementers of the Act. The project, which commenced in May 2000 in the districts of Lira, Mbale, Kabale, Luwero, Arua and Kibaale, set out to determine the extent to which the current implementation of the Land Act 1998 is responding to the needs and circumstances of women as opposed to men under different land tenure systems in Uganda. UWONET was able to document women's current realities vis-à-vis their interests, needs and concerns on land in the light of the inherent patriarchal assumption underpinning the Land Act. The monitoring process has been

highly participatory and provided information and awareness among women farmers, and the rural population on the new land law as well as linking it to Government policies such as the PEAP, the Gender Policy, the Environment Policy and Food Security.

Widows still face problems of land grabbing by in-laws, when spouses die. There is a general lack of knowledge about the Land Act and its provisions.

Research on the monitoring of the implementation of the Land Act 1998 intends to;

- Assess community knowledge of the provisions of the Land Act;
- Assess the utilisation of the established land management structures;
- Document community experiences in light of the new land law.

Findings of the study have revealed that implementation of the Land Act 1998 has been very slow and ineffective and people are not aware of the provisions of the law. Although local councils still handle land disputes, there is a vacuum in effective handling of these disputes. This is because the land law disempowered Local Council officials on land matters. Many Local Councils believe that women and men with small pieces of land do not need to register for titles. Widows still face problems of land grabbing by in-laws, when their spouses die. There is a general lack of knowledge about the Land Act and its provisions. The research findings will be used in advocating for a gender responsive implementation of the Land Act to improve the status of women.

UWONET participated in a consultative workshop on the development of a Strategic Action Plan for land sector reform organised by the Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment. The workshop held from November 30 through December 1, 2000, focused on the issues of land shortage at household level, inequality in access to land and its distribution, land in relation to the population, as well as the implementation of the Land Act 1998.

UWONET's achievements on women's land rights

- The issue of women and land remains topical and UWONET and other stakeholders have done a number of researches in this area.
- Women's land rights are now recognised as development issues and crucial to poverty reduction as stipulated in government programmes such as the Poverty Eradication Plan (PEAP) and the Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA).
- UWONET has contributed greatly to increasing and strengthening the pool of Ugandans and particularly women, on the awareness and need for women to own land and gain control over productive resources.

Challenges to Achieving Women's Land Rights

* The Land Act 1998 to be amended to include the co-ownership clause.
* Alternative strategies to increase women's access to and control of land other than the co-ownership clause.
* Change the still existing negative attitude to women's ownership of and control over land.
* Win the support of the Executive and Legislature on women's land rights.
* Get grassroots women and men actively involved in advocacy for their rights.
* Increase on the sensitisation of women and men on their land rights and the provisions of the Land Act 1998.
* Generate high quality research and specifically quantitative research to provide statistical backing for advocacy on women's land rights.

Women Demand Recognition in Rukungiri

The Women's Day, March 8, 2000 was celebrated in Rukungiri district, where women courageously put before President Yoweri Museveni their concerns and demands. The day, was celebrated under the theme: "Celebrating Women's Empowerment" and it attracted thousands of women from across the country. UWONET mobilised the participation of women's NGOs and some Community Based Groups, produced posters with different messages calling for more government committment to women's issues and printed and distributed T-shirts with the following slogans:

- Land is an Economic Issue, it is not a Domestic Issue
- A stable Family is a Stable Nation: This is guaranteed in the Domestic Relations Bill.
- Where is the Equal Opportunities Commission: It is a right in the Constitution.

In his speech, Museveni appreciated the demands put before him and said, that he was going to invite women leaders to discuss with him the controversial issue of co-ownership of property. He cautioned the women to be careful in their demands because these could be manipulated by unscrupulous people and be used against them.

President Yoweri Museveni receives a T-shirt from the Treasurer UWONET, Ms. Judy Kamanyi, with a message: "Land is an Economic Issue, It is not a Domestic Issue", during the March 8, 2000 Women's Day celebrations in Rukungiri district.

The President who up to now seems to have not internalised the concepts of co-ownership said some activists had an unrealistic approach in their advocacy and it could affect the economy. He said that women should not rush to pressurise the government into having their husbands' property as their own. He pointed out that the issue is so fundamental that it needs thorough discussion with women leaders. Museveni who at that time was campaigning for the Movement System of government prior to the June 29 Referendum pointed out that the women's problem is not political but rather social, considering that girls have not had equal opportunities with boys in education. He noted that the most important empowerment of women in Uganda has just started through Universal Primary Education Programme (UPE) where women would broadly benefit from investment opportunities and the modernization of agriculture which was being promoted by his government. These ventures would in essence generate more employment opportunities for both men and women.

New Challenges after Rukungiri

❖ Although President Yoweri Museveni has promised to meet women leaders, efforts made by UWONET to fix an appointment with him have been futile since March 8, 2000.

❖ It is alleged that after Rukungiri, women cabinet ministers were grilled and since then the advocacy for co-ownership of land and the enactment of the DRB have been frustrated since there is a lack of strong committed champions in cabinet and parliament.

❖ The government still remains non-committal on setting up the Equal Opportunities Commission although this is embedded in the 1995 Uganda Constitution.

❖ Co-ownership of land and property have now been incorporated in the DRB, which has been at the formative stage since 1964. This takes the campaign for women's land rights back on the drawing board.

❖ The President and his government must understand that women's problems are highly political and they require political solutions. Much as women need education, it only makes sense when they have control over resources of production like land and capital investments.

❖ Government, represented by the Vice President, Dr. Specioza Wandira Kazibwe in December 2000 issued its position on the co-ownership of land saying that women in Uganda simply need access to and not co-ownership of land.

The campaign to promote family stability through the Domestic Relations Bill

Uganda today, is still without a Family Law that conforms to the 1995 Constitution and international human rights instruments ratified by government. The Domestic Relations Bill (DRB) Coalition, spearheaded by UWONET, is still working hard to ensure the passing of the 37 year old Bill into an Act. These efforts have generated a lot of public debate especially through the media. The year however, came to an end without the Legislature debating the Bill and its future therefore, remains bleak.

According to the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Janat Mukwaya, Parliament was more concerned about debating constitutional issues such as the Referendum on political systems and the Land Act 1998. While this is largely true, one still wonders whether Government does not consider protecting the family as a constitutional issue. UWONET has lobbied people who will support the DRB and other issues of concern to women to stand as candidates for the Seventh Parliament.

The District Local Government Speakers from Kampala, Iganga, Jinja and Bugiri discuss the DRB provision at a Consultative Regional Workshop in Iganga, September 26-30, 2000. The regional workshops were organised by the DRB Coalition.

Intensified pressure to table the DRB

On February 16, 2000 UWONET organised a DRB Coalition re-strategising meeting at ACFODE House. The objective was to update members on the Coalition's activities, re-strategise, and share duties and responsibilities. A number of strategies were identified and as a follow-up on the agreed action plan, the following were achieved:

- A letter to the Minister of Water, Lands and Environment, Hon. Baguma Isoke was drafted and sent by each member organisation demanding for the lost co-ownership clause to be reinstated in the Land Act and not to relegate it to the DRB.

- A press conference was held on Monday February 21, 2000 at the International Conference Centre to re-emphasise the need to have the co-ownership clause in the Land Act and not the DRB.

Ministers met by members of the DRB Coalition and the Uganda Land Alliance

- The Minister of Justice, Mr. Jehoash Mayanja Nkangi was met and asked why the DRB had not been tabled and when Parliament would discuss it. The minister informed members that the DRB memorandum was to be prepared and the Bill tabled in Parliament by the end of March 2000.

- The Minister of Gender, Labour and Community Development, Janat Mukwaya advised the Coalition members to meet the President on the issue of the co-ownership clause and the Domestic Relations Bill. Efforts to meet the President have remained futile.

- The Vice President, Dr. Speciosa Kazibwe delegated the Minister of State in her office, Ms. Betty Okwir to represent her at the meeting with UWONET. Okwir informed members that she lacked a briefing from the Ministers of Gender, Labour and Social Development and that of Water, Lands and Environment on the issue of co-ownership. Once briefed, Okwir promised to invite the coalition members for another meeting. Uganda Land Alliance promptly wrote a brief to the Vice President but to date there has not been any response yet.

- Speaker of Parliament, Mr. Francis Ayume invited the Coalition members to meet him on Wednesday March 29, 2000. The Coalition briefed him on the grievances it had in relation to the co-ownership clause and the DRB. He assured the Coalition that all was not lost with the co-ownership clause. The Coalition could still go ahead to lobby Members of Parliament. He also advised the Coalition to make an appointment with the Head of the Law Reform Commission to inquire about the status of the report on the DRB and whether or not he had sent it to the Minister of Justice. The position ascertained would then help the Coalition to plan a way forward.

DRB challenges:

- To have more men involved in the struggle for stable families.
- To take the DRB campaign to the grassroots level.
- To get the public and policy makers to realize the negative aspects embedded in the contentious issues.
- To further sensitise the public and to generate more public debate on the DRB.
- To have the DRB enacted by the 7th Parliament.

Contentious issues:

- Co-habitation
- Divorce
- Marital rape
- Polygamy
- Widow inheritance
- Bride price
- Matrimonial Property
- Age of marriage

The DRB Media Campaign

The Media Task Force, headed by UWONET has continued to keep the issue of the DRB high on the socio-political agenda. The task force ran articles in the newspapers, which consequently stimulated a lot of public debate. The Task Force was composed of journalists from *The New Vision* and *The Monitor* newspapers, as well as UWONET and ACFODE staff members. The debate focused on the following themes:

- Why Uganda needs a Domestic Relations Law.
- The public's perception of the DRB.
- The new proposals in the Bill relating to cohabitation, divorce, marital rape, marital property, age of marriage and others.

A Special Women's Day Supplement

In a bid to publicise the DRB concerns, the DRB coalition members joined hands and contributed to the Special Women's Day Supplement on March 8, 2000 in both *The Monitor* and *The New Vision* newspapers. The organisations that contributed included: UWONET, ActionAid-U, HURINET, ACFODE, DENIVA, Akina Mama wa Afrika, FIDA-U and SNV-U. Special messages, emphasising the importance of having a fair family law, co-ownership of land by spouses and the Equal Opportunities Commission, were run in the print media in order to sensitise the public and to put more pressure on decision makers to recognise these issues.

A Public Dialogue on the DRB

A Public Dialogue on the DRB was organised by UWONET at the International Conference Centre on March 01, 2000. The theme was; *"The Agony of the Ugandan Family: Will the Domestic Relations Bill Ever be Tabled in Parliament?"* The main speaker, Dr. Rev. John Mary Waliggo, Commissioner, Uganda Human Rights Commission gave a keynote address on why the Domestic Relations Bill has taken so long. Dr. Sylvia Tamale, a Senior Lecturer at Makerere University, Faculty of Law made a presentation on; *"Promoting Social Justice Through the Domestic Relations Bill"*. By way of recommendations, the participants suggested that the Coalition should put more pressure on Parliament to pass the Bill, either before the Referendum or before the lapse of the 6th Parliament.

Regional Sensitisation Workshops

The DRB Coalition organised seven workshops to sensitise people at the grassroots on the DRB through regional workshops. These were held in the districts of Kampala and Mityana (Central Region), Gulu (Northern Region), Arua (West Nile region), Fort Portal (Western Region), Iganga (Eastern Region) and Soroti (Eastern Region). The workshops were conducted from September 14-30, 2000 and attracted participants from 35 districts. The objectives of the workshops were to:

- Sensitise people on the Domestic Relations Bill;
- Identify area specific issues and other issues of interest to the general public;
- Broaden the DRB advocacy by mobilising support of the people at the grassroots level.

Local Government officials from western region scrutinise the DRB during a sensitisation workshop in Kabarole, 26th - 30th September, 2000.

The views, which emanated from the regional workshops, have been incorporated into the DRB advocacy to make it more representative and acceptable to Ugandans. In addition, some issues, which arose from these consultations, were used in compiling "The People's Manifesto," which is currently being used as an advocacy tool to put issues of concern to the marginalised groups on the election agenda. It is hoped that if a wider constituency understands the DRB provisions, the process of enactment of a just domestic relations law will be hastened.

Mapping Out New Strategies for the DRB Campaign

The DRB Coalition met on December 14, 2000 and reviewed the Regional Consultative Workshop reports and a summary focusing on contentious issues emerging from the workshops was made. The summary report will be used by the coalition as an advocacy and lobbying tool. The consultant, Ms. Maria Gorretti Mayiga, assigned to draw up a 2000 – 2004 Five Year Strategic Plan for the DRB Coalition presented the proposed plan. Likewise, the consultant commissioned to assess the coalition's media strategy; Ms. Anita Sempa presented her findings. It was noted that the coalition needed to sustain pressure on Government, if the DRB was to make any headway to Parliament.

The Coordinator of UWONET Ms. Sheila Kawamara Mishambi, explains to the NOVIB General Director, Ms. Sylvia Borren and the VAHR Dutch Television and Radio, Vera Keur, about UWONET programmes on 3rd August, 2000. The two were in Uganda to acquaint themselves with activities of NGOs funded by NOVIB.

Promoting women's participation in politics

One of UWONET's objectives is to promote women's access to power and decision making positions at all levels. UWONET is therefore interested in having more women participating in politics as voters, candidates and leaders. The quality of women's participation in politics is also of great interest to UWONET. Given that women form 51% of the population of Uganda, women should take advantage of their numbers to hold their leaders accountable and push their interests on the political agenda. UWONET has contributed to this cause through awareness raising, civic education and monitoring of elections.

Civic Education on the Referendum 2000

UWONET is one of the NGOs that were accredited by the Electoral Commission to conduct civic education and monitor the 2000 Referendum on Political Systems. Considering its experience and expertise, UWONET was accorded the responsibility to lead the development and publication of education materials that were used by all civic educators in the country. UWONET was also a member of the NGO Civic Education Coordination Committee and worked closely with ACFODE, NOCEM, UJCC, NAWOU, FOWODE and UMWA. The following materials were developed and published:

- 108,000 copies of the 4 educational books,
- 80,000 copies of the 4 educational posters,
- 27,000 copies of 1 promotional poster, and
- 1,500,000 copies of 1 brochure on basic facts about the referendum.

The brochure and promotional posters were translated into 19 local languages of Uganda.

Monitoring the Referendum from a Gender Perspective

The Referendum on Political Systems was held on June 29, 2000. In this election, Ugandans were to choose between the multi-party and movement system of governance. UWONET looked at the different aspects of the election from a gender perspective. The gender monitoring exercise was carried out in ten districts, namely: Arua, Kamuli, Kampala, Kabarole, Kalangala, Katakwi, Kisoro, Mbale, Masaka, and Gulu. The objectives of gender monitoring were:

- To identify issues that facilitate or inhibit women's active participation in politics and the democratisation process;
- To assess and analyse the participation of women in the electoral process (registration of voters, civic education, canvassing for votes and voting);
- To record the trend of women's attitudes towards the referendum;
- To document the experiences of women in the referendum 2000;
- To establish a baseline for women's participation in the Presidential and Parliamentary elections scheduled for 2001.

The first phase of gender monitoring took place from March 21-25, 2000 and involved observation of voter registration and civic education. Specific attention was given to the participation of women in the entire process. It was found that:

- Provision was made for pregnant and disabled women in Kisoro. The Registrars physically went to these people's homes and registered them. As a result, a high percentage of women were registered.
- There was still confusion on the use of the voters' cards. Some women in Gulu thought that in future, voters cards may be required at roadblocks, so registration was taken as a protective measure and hence a high turn up of women for the exercise.
- Kalangala district registered a poor turn-up of women because of an inadequate transport system and facilitation to registration centers situated on selected islands.
- Some registration centers in Mbale were too far for women to walk to, taking into consideration the fact that the place is hilly. The long distances of travel to registration centres also prohibited women in Masaka from registering, hence a low turn up.
- Women's participation as civic educators was poor. There were very few female electoral officers. In urban areas, there were more women as electoral officials compared to rural areas.
- Women in Kawempe Division in Kampala District were uncomfortable with the registration forms, which demanded details of their age and ancestral background. It was feared that this information could be used against them in the future.

UWONET's added value to the monitoring exercise was to look at the different aspects of the election from a gender perspective.

On the advice of PriceWaterHouseCoopers, which had not grasped the concept of gender monitoring, the exercise was unceremoniously terminated in May, 2000, a month and a half before the slated date for the Referendum. Without any prior notification, the donors stopped funding for the project and the gender monitors were unable to monitor the two sides in the course of canvassing for votes and the actual voting exercise. By this time, only the registration of voters and the civic education exercise had been monitored. To many, gender monitoring of elections is still a difficult concept to understand.

Although the donors eventually agreed to release the funds, it was already late and UWONET could not continue with the exercise and consequently the documentation of these elections did not take place. This was a blow, albeit not only to UWONET; but to the Government, the Electoral Commission and the women of Uganda as well, who lost the first opportunity ever to monitor a national referendum. The most immediate implication is that the country missed out on the chance to have a gender perspective to the exercise, to say the least.

On June 29, 2000, Ugandans decided on the Movement System of governance. Generally the vote was cast peacefully and free from intimidation throughout the country. Voter turn up was however low and this was blamed on a number of reasons which included voter apathy and fatigue due to frequent elections, inadequate civic and voter education, negative publicity and the boycott call made by the multiparty supporters opposed to the referendum.

Women's Empowerment: Tokenism or Reality?

UWONET's Advocacy Officer, Ms. Jackie Asiimwe listens to Ms. Beatrice Lagada, the Director for Gender and Mass Mobilisation at the Movement Secretariat, highlighting the Movement System's plans for Ugandan women. Asiimwe contributed women's concerns to the two sides of the referendum.

UWONET held a public dialogue on June 13, 2000 to challenge both sides in the Referendum on their commitments to the women of Uganda. The dialogue under the theme, "Women's Empowerment: Is it Tokenism or a Reality?" was intended to facilitate women to make an informed decision on an appropriate political system that would have their interests at heart. It was disappointing at the end of the dialogue to discover that none of the sides addressed the issues raised by Ugandan women. Although both sides purported to have policies in favour of women's empowerment, they were non-committal on how women were being incorporated in either system. The concerns raised by women included:

- Loss of the clause on Co-ownership of Land by spouses
- The delayed enactment of the Democratic Relations Law
- The failure to establish the Equal Opportunities Commission
- The failure to legally address violence against women
- The low level of appointment of women in decision making positions, as well as the appointment of women in non-political offices, such as Ambassadors, Permanent Secretaries and Commissioners.

The dialogue participants castigated the Movement System for claiming to promote women's empowerment and yet the Chairman of the National Movement Committee, President Yoweri Museveni, was going around the country decampaigning women's interests that would lead to real empowerment.

The Director for Gender and Mass Mobilisation at the Movement Secretariat, Ms Beatrice Lagada, represented the Movement side; while Mr. Vincent Sekabira, the Chairman of the Multiparty Referendum Committee, represented the multiparty side.

The People's Manifesto: People's Voice

On December 19, 2000, UWONET launched the first People's Manifesto ever in Uganda. The Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, who represented President Yoweri Museveni, applauded the manifesto as a positive and timely step in the democratisation process.

Present at the launch were representatives from government ministries, Members of Parliament and representatives of presidential candidates. Also present were diplomats, representatives from various civil society organisations and non government organisations, religious leaders, and the general public.

The People's Manifesto, is a contribution to Uganda's democratisation process by civil society, local and international NGOs. It was compiled

The Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ms. Janat Mukwaya, who represented President Yoweri Museveni, launches the People's Manifesto in Kampala. Left is UWONET Chairperson Ms. Lydia Rugasira.

after consultations with Local Council District Leaders from 37 districts and members of the Domestic Relations Bill Coalition.

The People's Manifesto seeks to advance equity, development and peace for Ugandans. It highlights the various rights Ugandans are entitled to, emphasises people's issues and concerns and recommends solutions to address them.

Why the People's Manifesto?

- Persuade government to prioritise people-centred development and the interests of women and children in policy development and implementation;
- Raise awareness about gender issues in Government, NGOs and civil society;
- Urge voters in the forthcoming Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government elections to consider issues that are crucial for their livelihood and important to women and children when selecting their leaders; and
- Mobilise women who comprise 51% of the population and the electorate to actively participate in all processes that promote national development.

On June 27, 2000, a former Minister of Local Government, and Member of Parliament for Tingey County in Kapchorwa district manhandled and slapped the Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness, Jane Frances Kuka, for allegedly de-campaigning him politically.

UWONET took up the case as part of its campaign against any form of violence against women and children. The organisation also looked at this particular incident as a patriarchal instigated action against emerging women leaders. A meeting was organised by members of UWONET and the Uganda Women's Movement together with the aggrieved minister. Ms. Kuka appreciated the women's solidarity and committed herself to pursue a criminal case against her tormentor, who had made it a habit to publicly humiliate her. Chebrot had referred to Minister Kuka as being "a stupid woman, useless and not fit to be a minister". Kuka's torture had gone on for over 10 years without any intervention by the relevant authorities.

On July 14, 2000, UWONET prepared and sent a petition, with signatures collected from members of the public, to President Yoweri Museveni condemning gender violence. Dr Chebrot sought an appointment to meet the Coordinator of UWONET to explain his case. The women's movement met with him at UWONET secretariat on August 1, 2000. He explained his case against Kuka and apologised for not applying a more diplomatic channel in solving their differences.

On August 2, 2000, the Director for Public Prosecution charged Chebrot for being idle and disorderly. The women protested against the lenient charge and called on the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) to intervene. The DPP explained that according to Uganda's current criminal laws this was the only law under which Chebrot could be prosecuted since he did not physically harm Kuka. The DPP called for reform of the law, particularly that pertaining to violence against women.

On August 7, 2000, in reaction to the above, a group of about 16 "elders" from Kapchorwa visited UWONET. They requested that UWONET pulls out of the case since the conflict between Kuka and Chebrot was a local one and was going to be solved locally by the elders. UWONET insisted that Chebrot's actions were against womankind. UWONET also emphasised that the case is not a local one since both personalities were national leaders. The Kapchorwa "elders" also met with key national leaders including the Minister in charge of the Presidency and Security.

On August 28, 2000, Chebrot was criminally charged for being idle and disorderly and although he payed a mere fine of Ug. Shs 2000/- an equivalent of US $1.10, the conviction marked a victory against one of the perpetrators of violence against women. However, the penalty given ridiculed the graveness of the offence. Unless the penalty given to these perpetuators is made stiffer, millions of Ugandan women will continue to suffer the torture and humiliation at the hands of their partners, brothers, husbands and colleagues.

Joining Others to Denounce Gender-Based Violence

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence were commemorated from November 25 to December 10, 2000. Women organisations in Uganda observe these days annually. UWONET organised two meetings to coordinate activities of member organisations during the 16 days. Members agreed that each organisation should organise its events individually as well as publicise them. UWONET focused on printing banners, which carried the year's theme: 'Violence Kills a Nation; Stop it Now!' The banners were hung in Kampala as a contribution to the on-going struggle against gender violence.

Ms. Rita Aciro displays UWONET's publications during a Civil Society Exhibition organised by the Uganda Parliamentary Technical Assistance Project in November, 2000. In the background is UWONET's banner calling for a stop to gender violence, during the 16 days of activism against gender violence.

UWONET's Strategic Planning Retreat

UWONET was engaged in a strategic planning retreat from December 15-16, 2000. The workshop participants did an internal and external analysis of UWONET. It was acknowledged that UWONET had achieved most of its targets in the year 2000. UWONET was however urged to continue using its strengths and explore the opportunities available in order to address its existing weaknesses and threats. UWONET programme plan for the year 2001 was drawn. Representatives of UWONET member organizations, individual members as well as UWONET staff attended the retreat that was facilitated by Ms. Catherine Mugisha.

UWONET's New Offices, New Staff and High Technology

UWONET Secretariat moved to Plot 15, Kanjokya Street in Kamwokya. Its telephone, e-mail and Post Office box remained the same. The new premises are not only spacious but are at the centre of most women's organisations in Kamwokya.

During the year, Ms. Jacqueline Asiimwe and Ms. Margaret Mugenyi as Advocacy Officer and Administrative Secretary respectively joined UWONET. However, in July 2000 Ms. Asiimwe left for the United States to pursue a Masters Degree at Georgetown University, Washington DC under the USAID-funded Law and Advocacy for Women in Africa Programme. Asiimwe will return to work with UWONET in October 2001. In the meantime, UWONET has employed an Acting Advocacy Officer, Ms. Vat Kamatsiko, an economist by training.

UWONET has also computerised its accounts with the Ledger Works Computer Programme, which is suitably designed to perform accounting. This system is user friendly and is to be used for basic bookkeeping. UWONET will generate transfers and disbursement reports for particular grants or project so easily at any given time.

Coming Soon: UWONET's Resource Centre

UWONET is currently working on its Resource Centre. The Centre, which will open soon, will carry literature on a wide range of issues of pivotal interest to UWONET members, allies and the general public. The main objective is to improve storage of data, as well as ease the retrieval and use of information for the Resource Centre users.

Using Information Technology to Strengthen the Women's Movement

The Uganda Women's Movement is striving to improve its connectivity using the new information technologies. These include the Internet and electronic mail (e-mail). In June *Women Connect,* a US based organisation, linked up with various women's organisations in Uganda and held two skills training workshops on the strengthening of linkages and networks in women's NGOs through media campaigns and electronic connectivity strategies.

The workshops, which were highly participatory offered a lot of hands on training and enabled the participants to appreciate the use of the new technologies. It was also an opportunity for women's organisations to strengthen their networking.

The Women Connect Project, under the Pacific Institute for Women's Health aims at strengthening the communication and technology skills of women's NGOs with the goal of promoting women's health, increasing women's empowerment, and helping build civil society.

Prior to the two workshops, Women Connect jointly with Isis-WICCE, organised a seminar and luncheon with a cross section of executive heads of a number of women's organisations to enable them acknowledge the power of information technology. Isis-WICCE, UWONET and ACFODE gave their experiences on using the Internet and e-mail in advancing their advocacy campaigns for women's rights. The seminar participants discussed how Information Technology (IT) could serve as a powerful advocacy tool to enhance their organisations' effectiveness in reaching their goals and strengthening ties with sister organisations in Uganda and around the world.

Some of the Executive Directors of women's organisations in Uganda who attended a training in Information Technology facilitated by Women Connect on June 6, 2000 in Kampala.

UWONET Meets Peace Activist

A woman activist from the United States Institute of Peace, Barbara Wien, and UWONET met on October 12, 2000 at the American Center and discussed issues of conflict resolution and peace building. Other matters discussed at the meeting were co-ownership of land by spouses, the draft DRB and why it has taken long to be passed into law.

The meeting provided suitable ground for sharing experience between Wien and the various organisations, including UWONET, Isis–WICCE, FIDA-U, HURINET, CECORE, Human Rights Commission and Jamiya Ya Kupatanisha. During the meeting, Wien stressed the need for organisations to reduce dependence on donors. She suggested that they could become creative and generate their own income through establishing businesses such as restaurants and canteens. She further stated that such ventures had succeeded in the U.S.A.

It was agreed that UWONET needed to strengthen its capacity building mechanisms. Wien advised UWONET to contact African Capacity Building Foundation based in Lusaka, Zambia. On the Domestic Relations Bill campaign, she said the Bill should be repackaged to make it more attractive. She said this could for instance be done by linking it to other government programmes like the PEAP and PAF.

At earlier meetings Wien had with Parliament, she commended the work of AMANI Peace Initiative and urged members to collaborate with the parliamentarians involved in this initiative.

Beijing +5 in New York

UWONET was part of the women activists who represented Uganda at the New York mid-term review of the commitments made at the 1995 fourth UN World Conference on Women. Among UWONET members and allies present at the Beijing +5 were: Maude Mugisha (EASSI), Evelyn Nyakoojo (Women's Spacee), Jessica Nkuuhe (Isis-WICCE), Mary Sonko (ActionAid-Uganda), Irene Ovonji-Odida (FIDA-U), Susan Muwanga (WILDAF-U and Ministry of Gender), Margaret Sentamu-Masagazi (UMWA), Ruth Ochieng (Isis-WICCE) and Judy Kamanyi (ACFODE). The Uganda Government delegation was led by the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ms Janat Mukwaya, who pledged to organise a national conference to disseminate information on what actually took place in New York and what government is going to do about it. UWONET will strive to keep the issues raised at the African and Beijing Platform of Action on the national agenda.

UWONET REMEMBERS ITS ACTIVISTS

Ms. Maud Magara

died on March 16 2000. She was the Treasurer and founder member of EASSI. Maud was employed by the Government of Uganda in the Ministry of Education.

Ms. Gladys Mukasa

died on 8th March 2000. Gladys was a member of the UWONET Planning Committee for three years. She represented the UWFT. Gladys contributed to UWONET's growth and her contribution will always be treasured by the Network.

Ms. Kulsum Wakabi

was the Chairperson of Law and Advocacy of Women in Uganda, a member of FIDA and an active member of women on the DRB Coalition. Kulsum contributed and will always be remembered for sensitising the Muslim community in Uganda on the provisions in the DRB. She also worked tirelessly to highlight cases of violence against women.

May their souls rest in peace.

National Networking

In advancing its mission of promoting networking among civil society organizations (CSOs), government and donor agencies, UWONET participated in a series of activities geared towards strengthening the network's vision. Through these meetings, UWONET has been able to build its internal capacity of handling local and international advocacy.

ORGANISATION	ACTIVITY	CONTENT	ACHIEVEMENT
Law and Advocacy for Women in Uganda (LAW-U)	• One day workshop January 31, 2000	Disseminating research findings on domestic violence in the districts of Iganga, Kitgum, Kabale and Kampala	A resource for UWONET's advocacy on violence against women and a contribution to the formulation of the Domestic Violence Law.
	• A Think Tank – 'A Call for Action on Women's Rights' December 19, 2000	Thee papers were presented: • "Where are we on gender violence?" • "Where are we on the Domestic Relations Bill and spousal co-ownership of land?" • "How can the 2001 Elections be used to advance women's rights	Public debate on the advocacy issues UWONET is pushing for.
Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE)	• Round table discussion on governance, leadership and civil society February 1, 2000	Theme: "The evolution of civil society in Uganda: Human rights and new leadership"	Better understanding of issues surrounding governance and leadership in relation to civil society.
	• Workshop on male identity May 19, 2000	Emphasis: Is male identity being eroded by stressing women's rights?	Awareness of the need to encourage men to participate in all programmes while special emphasis is placed on women.
	• National Gender Budget review workshop November 24 –25, 2000	Presentation of the second project cycle of the gender budgeting project (1999-2000). The project advocates for gender equity in national resource allocation and examines how Uganda's budget meets the needs of poor women, men, girls and boys.	A resource for the campaign to eradicate poverty in Uganda.

ORGANISATION	ACTIVITY/PERIOD	CONTENT	ACHIEVEMENT
Action For Development (ACFODE)	• Public Dialogue November 17, 2000	Theme: "Women's paths to political participation and decision making"	Further analysis on women's advancement in Uganda's politics and how women can increase and sustain their participation in Uganda's democracy.
Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA)	• A consultative meeting on the post – Copenhagen World Summit for Development (WSSD-1995) March 14, 2000	Assess the progress made on the ten commitments by the heads of states and develop a plan of action for wider civil society participation.	Increase on resources to monitor social development in Uganda.
	• Lobby group meeting March 17, 2000	Develop strategies to advise and influence Government position on issues of World Trade Organisation (WTO) and globalisation.	Increased understanding of international advocacy.
	• NGO Bill consultative meetings (by DENIVA and the National NGO Forum) June 23, 2000	Make recommendations on the provisions in the NGO Bill. The proposed bill by Government has provisions that could stifle NGO development in Uganda.	Attainment of collective action on the NGO Bill.
The Association of Women Lawyers in Uganda (FIDA-U)	• A three day conference February 9 – 11, 2000	Theme: "Engendering the peace process": Focus on conflicts in Africa particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).	Increased capacity to assess and advocate against armed conflict.
Akina Mama wa Afrika	• Re-union Conference of the Alumni of the Africa Women's Leadership Institute (AWLI) February 7 – 11, 2000	Strengthening of the AWLI alumni network and undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the progress and impact of the AWLI.	Enhanced networking among emerging young women leaders in Africa.
	• Uganda National Workshop May 19 – 26, 2000.	Developing leadership potential of young Ugandan women. Focus was an empowering participants with self development and life management skills.	An increased pool of women activists and strengthened linkages with the local and international women's movement.

ORGANISATION	ACTIVITY/PERIOD	CONTENT	ACHIEVEMENT
ABANTU for Development and Uganda Gender Resource Centre	• Training workshop for NGOs and CBOs, January 24 – 28, 2000.	Enable the participants to effectively engage in policy dialogue with a gender perspective.	Increased capacity of NGOs and CBOs that work with women on policy and gender transformation.
Danish Association for International Cooperation (MS-Uganda)	• Launch of a Booklet "Democracy Your Handbook	Defining and demystifying the concept of democracy.	A resource for strengthening women's participation in politics
ActionAid Uganda	• Sponsored visit of 10 women from a CBO Sky Angel in Kalangala District to UWONET secretariat, October 3, 2000.	Acquainting grassroots women with what national women's organizations are doing.	Linkages with grassroots women's groups created and strengthened.
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	• Gender Forum May 29,2000.	Information exchange between UNDP and civil society on gender issues.	An opportunity for NGOs to network with UNDP on gender mainstreaming, promoting good governance and poverty eradication created.
	• Stakeholder's workshop on the second Government of Uganda and UNDP Country Cooperation Framework (CCF) October 11,2000.	The new CCF objectives programme areas (Democracy, Human Rights and Poverty eradication). How gender responsive is the CCF?	Strengthened commitment to gender mainstreaming in government and donor programming.
Food Rights Alliance	• One-day workshop, June 21, 2000.	Critique the draft Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA) in the context of the input by civil society organizations into the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP).	More resources for advocacy for promoting women's economic empowerment.

ORGANISATION	ACTIVITY	CONTENT	ACHIEVEMENT
Centre for Basic Research (CBR)	• Workshop December 7 – 10, 2000.	Strengthening democratic governance in conflict – Torn societies focusing on: • Civil society, ethnicity and conflict resolution • Gender, Parties and Local Government. • Decentralisation accountability and conflict.	Thorough analysis of the women's movement in Uganda.
Coalition Against Gender Violence (CAGV)	• Qualitative and quantitative research on gender violence in the districts of Apac and Mbale.	To investigate the knowledge and perspectives and identify the causes of gender violence in the study areas.	Increased resources on gender related violence.
EASSI Women's Spacee and UWONET	• Meetings to revitalize and activate the women's movement.	Is there a women's movement and where is it leading to?	Re-thinking the Uganda women's movement and increase collaboration among women's groups.
African Commission on Human Rights	• Meeting with A Commissioner, Ms Florence Butegwa and a legal Officer at the Commission, Ms Fiona Adollu, March 18, 2000.	Pave way for increased networking among human rights groups and the African Commission and to improve ties between government, civil society and the African Human Rights Commission.	Spousal co-ownership of land and the Domestic Relations Bill put on the agenda of the African Commission on Human Rights.
The National NGO Forum	• Attained legal registration with the Uganda NGO Board May 2000.		A Forum to amplify the voice of civil society in Uganda.
	• The second Structural Adjustment Participatory Review Initiative (SAPRI), African Regional workshop January 24 – 25, 2000.	Discussion of SAPRI experiences of participating countries focusing on relationship between the World Bank, government and CSOs.	Increased knowledge of International economic policy issues.
	• Fourth NGO Council meeting September 1, 2000.	To update the council members on the progress of the Forum.	Council members updated on the progress of the Forum.

Regional Networking

LandNet East Africa Planning Meeting

A planning meeting for LandNet East Africa took place in Nairobi, Kenya from August 15 – 18, 2000. The meeting was a follow-up on a workshop on 'Land Rights and Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa' held in February 1999 in Sunningdale, UK. The Nairobi meeting was an effort to consolidate a tripartite relationship between government, donors and NGOs so as to share experiences and expertise and forge a way forward. It focused on a number of critical issues related to land and development, which included; sustainable development and livelihood, rural governance and poverty eradication. The UWONET Coordinator, Ms Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi, participated in the meeting.

ALPI Sub-Regional Conferences

The first Eastern and Southern Sub-regional Conference on strengthening partnership between USAID, American PVOs and African NGOs was held in Harare, Zimbabwe from March 6–8, 2000. In the past four years, USAID has supported the Africa Liaison Program Initiative (ALPI) to bring together key actors from African NGOs, USAID and US Private Volunteer Organisations in a tripartite effort aimed at strengthening relationships for sustainable development in Africa through dialogue and information exchange. The sub-regional workshop which was hosted by MWENGO, noted that there was mutual suspicion between the three actors because they did not understand each other. It was therefore important for them to come together and learn what the other did and where they were coming from. To do this, it was agreed that in-country consultative meetings be held. Issues raised in Harare were further discussed in Washington by the top leadership of USAID, US PVOs and leaders of African NGO Networking during the InterAction Annual Forum, in April 2000.

From October 11-13, 2000, the Second Sub-regional Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference objectives were: sharing good practices in accountability, developing a vision for accountability and discerning elements of accountability based on the experience of participants and case studies. The meeting also analysed key challenges faced by organisations in the area of accountability and developing indicators to ensure accountability to stakeholders. During the conference, various participants presented views from the African NGO networks, InterAction, USAID and American PVOs. UWONET's Coordinator, Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi attended the conference.

A cross-section of participants from USAID missions in Africa, American Private Voluntary Organisations (PVOs) and African NGO Networks strategise on improving their relationships in Harare, Zimbabwe, March 6 - 8 2000.

Strategic Planning Training Workshop by PACT/MWENGO

PACT/MWENGO held a Strategic Planning Training workshop from November 27 - December 1, 2000 in Nakuru, Kenya. The workshop was one of the many organised under the Institutional Strengthening and Grant Management Program (ISGM) sponsored by USAID. Representatives of various NGOs from Kenya, Sudan, Somalia, Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar and Uganda participated in the workshop. UWONET's Ag. Advocacy Officer, Ms. Vat Kamatsiko, participated in the workshop. The workshop objectives were:

- To develop familiarity with the concept and process of strategic planning;
- To enable participants understand the importance of strategic planning to their organisations and to develop skills for strategic planning;
- To develop draft strategic plans for their organisations; and
- To share experiences about civil society organisations' activities and operations.

UWONET's Support to Kenyan Girls

Women activists from ACFODE and UWONET on December 18 2000, matched to the Kenya High Commission in a show of support for two Kenyan girls who refused to be circumcised. The Kenyan court had ruled in their favour. The activists denounced female genital mutilation and the violation of women's rights in general. The Kenyan High Commission to Uganda Ms. Magdalene Wambua later addressed them.

UWONET Accounts

UGANDA WOMEN'S NETWORK
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER, 2000.

SOURCE OF FUNDS	SCHD	2000 Actual U.SHS.	2000 budget U.SHS.
Donations and Grants	I	416,384,792	473,160,934
Other Income (Contribution from Members)		7,941,841	-
Membership Fees		1,140,000	-
		425,466,633	473,160,934
Less			
EXPENDITURE ON PROGRAMMES			
Advocacy		234,883,876	329,574,212
Network Activities		22,677,400	36,000,000
Information Sharing		18,501,250	24,416,000
Documentation		8,807,000	14,640,000
Consultancy		5,009,000	-
Local Networking		4,445,300	3,200,000
Organisation Management		1,143,000	4,800,000
International Networking		1,830,860	3,840,000
Programme Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation		1,643,500	10,400,000
Training Activities		-	8,000,000
		298,941,186	434,870,212
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS			
Salaries and Allowances	II	51,302,250	63,200,000
Office Running Costs	III	19,570,030	19,680,000
Depreciation		5,443,522	-
Audit Fees		1,500,000	1,500,000
		77,815,802	84,380,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		376,756,988	519,250,212
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR (Note 6)		48,709,645	(46,089,278)

UWONET PUBLICATIONS
UWONET BULLETIN
May - June 2000
Women's Land Ownership
The Uganda Land Alliance has organised two meetings with members of Parliament to discuss the issue of women co-owning land with their spouses. The two meetings so far held, with women parliamentarians on June 13 and the Young Parliamentarian Caucus on June 21, have provided both UWONET and the Alliance with more information to improve on the land advocacy.
The co-ownership of land by spouses remains a contentious issue in Uganda's political circles. While most women parliamentarians are committed to see the amendment brought back to parliament, the Young Parliamentarian caucus is still grappling with understanding the concept. It was explained to both caucuses that the co-ownership amendment is not only about women owning land but it is a family concern for men, women and children. The amendment would promote social justice and economic development of the whole nation. It is also consistent with the government Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP). The Young Parliamentarians provoked the two advocacy networks to provide more information as to whether the existing customary practices particularly in Eastern Uganda protect women's land ownership rights.
Both UWONET and the Uganda Land Alliance are going to work towards mobilizing ordinary Ugandans to understand the spirit behind co-ownership of land by spouses. It was proposed that women activists and gender sensitive parliamentarians should educate themselves about land ownership rights and move down to the grassroots to mobilise their constituencies.
Where is our Domestic Relations Bill?
The Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ms Janat Mukwaya, has finally given her verdict on the DRB. The current Uganda parliament will not debate the bill and its future therefore remains bleak. What a shame! It is a shame because the women and human rights activists have worked so hard to sensitise the current parliament on the merits of the family law. According to Minister Mukwaya, the current parliament has been more concerned about debating constitutional issues like the Referendum on political systems and the Land Act 1998. Our Question to the Minister and the members of the current Parliament is "Isn't protecting the family a constitutional issue?" Our appeal to all Ugandans is watch out for the current Parliamentarians as they seek for reelection for parliament in the year 2001. Are they really representing the people's voices?
A meeting of the DRB coalition will soon be held to update members on the several meetings that have taken place with different decision makers and to chart out a way forward. Some of the people met by the coalition include, Minister Janat Mukwaya, the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Mr. Jeohash Mayanja Nkangi, the Chairman of the Uganda Law Reform Commission Justice Harrold Platt, the Speaker of parliament Mr. Francis Ayume and the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office, Ms Betty Okwir, who was delegated by the Vice President.
Research on the Land Act 1998
UWONET has embarked on the monitoring of the implementation of the Land Act 1998 from a gender perspective. The research which is to be undertaken by two consultants, Ms Margaret Kemigisa, the Principal Researcher, guided by the overall project consultant, Ms Elizabeth Kharono, will also monitor Government's commitment to its Poverty Eradication Action Plan.
The research will be undertaken in the districts of Luwero, Mbarara, Arua and Mbale. Within the districts, a multi-stage sampling will be applied and both men and women will be interviewed. The idea behind the study is to gather as much information as possible from all sources, particularly those opposed to women's land ownership rights. The research findings will be used for advocacy to improve the status of women in Uganda. Mukono districts will be used as a test case.
Gender Monitoring was terminated
SAD NEWS:
Gender monitoring of the Referendum 2000 was unceremoniously terminated in May, a month and a half before June 29. The exercise of which UWONET was the lead organization had so far been successfully implemented in ten districts. The gender monitors had monitored the registration of voters and the civic education exercise.
Without any prior notification funding to the project was terminated and the gender monitors were unable to monitor the two sides in the course of canvassing for votes and the actual referendum.
Referendum News
June 29, the date for the Referendum on what type of political system that should be adopted in Uganda eventually came and the vote was cast in favour of the movement system. As one of the groups monitoring the referendum, UWONET noted that the campaigns between the contesting sides, the movement and multiparty
Women still Discriminated against in land Ownership
Uganda Land Alliance with assistance from Action Aid-Uganda, carried out a research on women and land rights in the districts of Pallisa and Kapchorwa in May. The research was undertaken by the UWONET Advocacy Officer, Ms Jackie Asiimwe and an independent consultant from Women's Space,
UWONET General Assembly
Uganda Women's Network held its Annual General Assembly on 25th May 2000 at Hotel Africana. The AGM, which was well attended, by all members and a few of UWONET's allies received the annual report of 1999 and approved the audited accounts. It was observed that UWONET had made a lot of progress in bringing women's concern to the forefront and encouraging
Directory of Ugandan Professional Women
The long awaited directory is finally out in print. It is indeed a dream come true for UWONET. Five years ago UWONET was faced with the glaring reality of the lack of women in positions of power and decision making, especially in the non-political field. The reason given by the appointing authorities was that Uganda lacked qualified women to do the jobs that were avail-
the UWONET for inclusion in the second edition.
His Excellency the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni will launch the Directory on July 14, at the
ACFODE Disseminates Research Findings
On April 23, 2001 UWONET participated in a one day workshop organized by the Action for Development (ACFODE) Research Unit. The Research Unit disseminated findings on research done on the themes: "The Impact of Micro Finance Institutions: The Cases of Kiboga and Pallisa Districts" and "The Impact of Civic Education in Uganda: The Cases of Tororo and Mpigi Districts." In both researches, quantitative and qualitative methodologies were employed.
Findings on the Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) research point to the fact that these Institutions have empowered the beneficiaries such that apart from acquiring business skills, their standard of living had improved. The research further reveals that conceptualizing the
not form an integral part of MFIs. The researchers emphasise the need for developing a deliberate policy to integrate gender into
education basically due to the content and timing of the activity. It was also noted by the researchers that civic education had taught people to live together irrespective of their political affiliations. The researchers among other things, recommended that civic education should be a continuous exercise and should target more hard to reach groups such
NGOs, US PVOs
UWONET, the NGO Forum and USAID Uganda Mission co-hosted the first Africa Liaison Program Initiative (ALPI) meeting in
meeting began with an overview of its objectives and expected results. Ugandan NGOs, US PVOs and discussed the existing relationship them, and how best this can be and strengthened. It was reported Coordinators of UWONET Kawamara-Mishambi and NGO Forum, Mr. Warren were going to attend the
UWONET Receives visitor from Somalia
On May 14, 2001, Ms Fatma of the Somaliland Women's Association visited UWONET. Ms Fatma is one of the many women who visited Uganda under the Ex-
work. UWONET and the Somali-Land Women's Association hope to strengthen and enhance each other's programmes through networking.
New Plans for the DRB Media Campaign
and planned on how best it could resume its responsibilities. The Task Force discussed past achievements, challenges and strategized on the way forward. It was noted that the biggest challenge is the general misconception about the ideals and principles of the Domestic Relations Bill. The Task Force agreed on various strate-
Uganda Debt Network (UDN) in collaboration with IDASA of South Africa organized a three-day residential training workshop on budget advocacy. The workshop targeted senior officers from civil society organizations who work on budget advocacy, public expenditure analysis and economic policy research and analysis. Principles of good budgeting, budget policy analysis, techniques of participatory advocacy and lobbying strategies
The Landnet Uganda meeting organized by the Uganda Land Alliance (ULA) was held on April 20, 2001 at the International Conference Centre. This was the first stakeholders meeting which mapped out a way forward for Landnet Uganda. It was attended by participants selected from organizations that deal with land issues and advocacy. The meeting was informed that Landnet Uganda will handle issues on land policy development, implementation of the Land Act, land
CSOs Share Experiences on Policy Advocacy
Oku le emi ma ni okpo emini nyaku ma dria ri
NGO AND MEDIA ALLIANCE IN UGANDA
MOVING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY
Women Know Your Land Rights
The People's Manifesto
Putting people's issues on the election agenda
UGANDA WOMEN'S NETWORK (UWONET)
Uganda Women's Network
UWONET
CONSTITUTION
THE DIRECTORY OF PROFESSIONAL UGANDAN WOMEN
1999/2000