

UWONET

(UGANDA WOMEN'S NETWORK)

1998 ANNUAL REPORT



*Gender, Transformation
& Empowerment*



**Consolidating
our energies**

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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 Beijing, China in 1995. Since its inception, UWONET's greatest strength has been information sharing and networking.

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 administration and management

UWONET is governed by a General Assembly of all members of the Network which meets once every calendar year. The Planning 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 Planning Committee.

Editorial Board

- Sheila Kawamara (Member)
- Eunice Busingye (Member)
- Catherine Kanabahita Guma (Editor)

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



Lydia Rugasira
UWONET Chairperson

I am very glad to present the 1998 Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) Annual Report. It was a year of challenges and inspiration in that it gave UWONET numerous opportunities for institutional growth and development. 1998 was one of hard work, commitment and dedication to our stated mission and objectives.

UWONET joined the rest of the world to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A series of activities were organised by our members, allies and the Uganda Human Rights Commission to highlight UWONET's goal of attaining social justice in our country.

Despite UWONET's efforts of advocating for peace at all levels, thousands of Ugandans continue to suffer the violence of armed conflict in parts of northern and western Uganda. In Kampala over forty innocent Ugandans were killed and hundreds injured in incidents of urban terrorism. There were also many instances of person - to - person violence such as kidnappings, ritual murders and torture. Such occurrences mar Uganda's peace and development, and therefore pose a challenge to all peace loving Ugandans. UWONET

condemns all acts that violate human rights in Uganda.

On a more positive note, in 1998 Uganda witnessed thousands of women getting into positions of decision making at the local government and local council levels. There were some new appointments of women cabinet ministers and judges. UWONET extends its congratulations to these women and pledges support to their important work.

At the policy level, UWONET together with various civil society organisations engaged the Uganda government, the World Bank and several donor agencies in successful dialogue aimed at attaining better standards of living for the poor and marginalised groups, particularly women. UWONET is proud of its outstanding contribution towards the engendering of the Land Act 1998 and for sensitising women on their right to own land. It is our belief that the women's movement in Uganda will carry forward these achievements and make them a reality.

UWONET will continue to contribute to strengthening the capacity of women's organisations and groups. It is UWONET's wish to extend advocacy training and activities to some of the districts in Uganda. In consonance with its mission statement, UWONET shall continue to promote networking among the women's movement and civil society at large.

On behalf of the planning and executive committees of UWONET, I would like to thank all those people who have helped us to achieve our objectives. We pledge that we shall continue to be supportive and reliable partners in development. ■

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UWONET STRUCTURE

Member Organisations

- Association of Women Lawyers in Uganda (FIDA-U)
- Action for Development (ACFODE)
- Women Engineers, Technicians and Scientists in Uganda (WETSU)
- Association of Uganda Women Medical Doctors (AUWMD)
- Uganda Women's Finance Trust (UWFT)
- Uganda Media Women's Association (UMWA)
- National Association of Women Organisations in Uganda (NAWOU)
- Association of Uganda Women Parliamentarians (AWOPA)
- Department of Women and Gender Studies Makerere University (WSD)

Executive Committee

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| • Lydia Rugasira | Chairperson |
| • Jane Ocaya Irama | Vice Chairperson |
| • Judy Kamanyi | Treasurer |
| • Jackie Asiimwe | Secretary |

Planning Committee

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| • Judy Kamanyi | ACFODE |
| • Jessica Matwire | ACFODE |
| • Theo Bitature Webale | FIDA |
| • Jackie Asiimwe | FIDA |
| • Dorothy Balaba | AUWMD |
| • Hasifa Lukwata | AUWMD |
| • Lydia Rugasira | UWFT |
| • Gladys Mukasa | UWFT |
| • Margaret Sentamu | UMWA |
| • Julie Gipwola | UMWA |
| • Jane Ocaya-Irama | WETSU |
| • Dorothy Kabagaju Okello | WETSU |
| • Irene Muloni | FEMNET |
| • Peace Kyamureku | NAWOU |
| • Margaret Rugadya | NAWOU |
| • Hope Kabuchu | UWONET |
| • Maude Mugisha | UWONET |
| • Grace Bantebya | WSD |
| • Florence Ebila | WSD |
| • Alice Kagoda | MUK |
| • May Sengendo | WSD |
| • Lina Zedriga Waru | PGRD |

Individual members

- Hope Kabuchu
- Maria Musoke
- Merab Kagoda
- Rose Kiggundu

Staff Members

- Sheila Kawamara - Coordinator
- Eunice Busingye - Accounts Assistant

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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 Organisation (SNV-U)
- ♦ Friedrich Ebert Foundation
- ♦ 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
- ♦ US Information Service (USIS)
- ♦ InterAction (USA)
- ♦ School for International Training (SIT), Vermont
- ♦ USAID
- ♦ Kampala City Council (KCC)
- ♦ Members of Parliament

- | | |
|---|--|
| ♦ The Uganda National NGO Forum | ♦ Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) |
| ♦ East African Post-Beijing Sub-regional Support Initiative (EASSI) | ♦ African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) |
| ♦ Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA) | ♦ Slum Aid Project |
| ♦ The Uganda Women Writers' Association (FEMRITE) | ♦ NGO Coalition for East Africa (NGOCEA) |
| ♦ Uganda Debt Network (UDN) | ♦ Akina Mama Wa Afrika |
| ♦ Voluntary Efforts for Development Concerns (VEDCO) | ♦ Human Rights Network (HURINET) |
| ♦ Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD) | ♦ Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) |
| ♦ Buso Foundation. | ♦ Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) |
| ♦ Disabled Women's Network and Resource Organisations, | ♦ Association of Women Judges |
| ♦ Mpigi Women's Development Trust (MWODET) | ♦ Associates for Change |
| ♦ ActionAid- U | ♦ The New Vision Newspaper |
| ♦ Oxfam | ♦ The Monitor Newspaper |
| ♦ Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF - U) | ♦ Bukedde Newspaper |
| ♦ Women's International Cross-cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE) | ♦ The Crusader Newspaper |
| | ♦ Sanyu Television |
| | ♦ Uganda Television (UTV) |
| | ♦ Capital Radio |
| | ♦ Radio Uganda |
| | ♦ Radio One |
| | ♦ Voice of Toro Radio |

STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERSHIPS

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In 1998, UWONET took firm and determined strides in promoting justice for women in Uganda and worldwide. It was a year in which UWONET cemented several relationships it had built since its inception in 1993. UWONET members, allies and collaborators all worked hand in hand to advocate for the recognition and promotion of women's rights.



Sheila Kawamara
UWONET Coordinator

UWONET was guided by the spirit of sisterhood and partnership and remained committed to the network's values of accountability and transparency to its members and partners. It was a year full of challenges, yet inspiring to the members and secretariat staff.

UWONET was able to get new friends and useful contacts to facilitate its growth. At the national level, UWONET has made tremendous impact particularly in policy formulation. We are hopeful that the achievements made by UWONET will be consolidated and sustained by members and allies.

UWONET has also endeavoured to involve more women in its advocacy campaigns. The wealth of this involvement has been realised in the land campaign and the campaign against violence to women. UWONET is exploring more opportunities of

linking up with NGOs and development actors working at the district level so that more women are involved. It is believed that through UWONET's efforts, the civil society's capacity of engaging the Government and the donors in dialogue on development issues will be strengthened.

UWONET has benefited a lot from networking and is confident that through the combined efforts of all development actors, there will be a positive change and a powerful civil society in Uganda.

On behalf of UWONET, I would like to express my gratitude to the membership, partners in development and all friends that have stood by us in times of challenges and celebrations. We shall continue working together and pledge our commitment to transform the status of women in Uganda and ensure a gender balanced society. Together we can make it. ■

INCREASING WOMEN'S ACCESS AND CONTROL OF RESOURCES

A campaign to influence the Land Legislation in Uganda: What happened to women's land ownership rights?

Uganda went through a process of developing a new law to govern and rationalise land use in the country. A Land Bill was tabled and passed by parliament and UWONET was actively interested in the on-going debate and emerging issues in the draft Land Bill, particularly those pertaining to the land rights of women in Uganda.

As an entry point into the debate, UWONET was irked by the lack of public discussion and debate on the need for protecting women's secure access and control to land given the fact that they are the major land users in this country. Women are responsible for producing 90% of Uganda's food and provide about 80% of the total agricultural labour. In spite of the high labour input in the agricultural sector, women are reported to own only 7% of the land.

UWONET believes that this disproportionately low share of the right of ownership is bound to have direct implications on women's control over the products of their labour and their productivity in agriculture. UWONET is further convinced that it made the appropriate decision to engage in the land debate because this was the most opportune time for public discussion of issues related to the land rights of women.

In order to ground the debate on land issues and legislation in the reality of women peasant farmers

of Uganda, UWONET undertook a preliminary study in six districts to document the views and suggestions of women on the proposed Land Bill, specifically, and women's land rights issues, in general. Selection of the districts was deliberately done to reflect the differences in land tenure systems and capture the opportunities and constraints faced by women peasant farmers in these areas. This activity was undertaken with the multiple objective of providing information on the draft Land Bill to the peasant farmers while at the same time initiating discussion on land issues at the grassroots level.

The study findings were published in a booklet *Women and land Rights in Uganda, 1997*; as a documentation of the views and suggestions of women peasant farmers. The publication was intended to provide information and increase the awareness of policy makers and the general public on the need for protecting women's rights over land within the context of the provisions of the proposed Land Bill and the 1995 Constitution of Uganda.

Strategies used to influence the Land Act 1998

Targeting the cabinet

In February 1998, UWONET sought a meeting with the cabinet committee set up to hear people's views on the proposed Land Bill. The meeting, which was organised through the Ministry of Lands,

Environment and Natural Resources, was attended by five cabinet ministers and a technical committee in the ministry, which was responsible for drafting the legislation. UWONET was represented by the UWONET Coordinator, and members from FIDA-U, ACFODE, WETSU and EASSI. Members of the Uganda Land Alliance were also in attendance.

Two concrete proposals were made to the cabinet ministers which required them to guarantee women's user rights over land and also provide for their right to own land. UWONET also called upon the cabinet to ensure that the proposed certificate of ownership include the names of all stakeholders in the family that is to say; the wife, or wives in cases of polygamous unions, husband and all other beneficiaries.

Linking up with parliament

UWONET held a two-day workshop for parliamentarians on the Draft Land Bill on April 1st - 2nd 1998. The workshop, which attracted over 80 parliamentarians, was co-facilitated by Uganda Land Alliance. As a lobbying strategy, the workshop was aimed at sensitising the parliamentarians about the provisions in the Land Bill and how they affected women. UWONET also intended to lobby for the amendment of the proposed Land Bill before it was finally debated in parliament. Out of this meeting, UWONET in collaboration with the Association of Women Parliamentarians (AWOPA) compiled and published a booklet entitled "Proposed Amendments to the

Land Bill". In order to seek support for women's concerns, the publication was circulated to all parliamentarians and media houses. At this stage, the women activists together with the parliamentarians demanded the Lands Ministry to seek further public consultation on the proposed land bill and explain particularly to the women the implication of the proposed land legislation.

The proposed amendments on the Land Bill were presented to the Parliamentary Committee on Lands, Works and Physical Planning chaired by Hon. Benedict Mutyaba.

Media advocacy

Realising that the women's concerns would still be marginalised while parliament debated the Land Bill, UWONET decided to devise a media campaign which would keep the issues in focus. UWONET approached the Chief Editor of the Monitor Newspaper who agreed to give UWONET space in their paper to enable women express their concerns and also



For any kind of recognition, women have put up a stiff struggle. To what extent can they sustain the achievements made under the Land Act 1998?

reach the members of parliament. Articles were written, and published on women and land rights in the Monitor newspaper throughout the time of the debate.

A journalist was hired by UWONET to sit in parliament during the debates so that UWONET could receive authentic information on who was against or supporting women.

Parliamentary debate on the Land Bill

It is important to note that the Land Bill 1998, which had been perused by the Parliamentary Committee on Works, Transport and Communications and Lands and Physical Planning and presented to parliament, had omitted virtually all the proposals put forward by UWONET. This called for active lobbying on UWONET's part to explain to parliamentarians as to why women needed to co-own the land on which the family resided and survived.

An amendment was drafted by women activists and later tabled in parliament by Hon. Miria

Matembe. This amendment was reportedly passed by parliament on June 25, 1998 and the Land Act became law on July 2, 1998. But unfortunately when the Land Act was published, this amendment was glaringly omitted. This caused an uproar from women and human rights activists who petitioned parliament and other bodies like the Ministry of Lands, Environment and Natural Resources. Parliament has promised UWONET that this clause will be included as an amendment tabled by Government, since in principle, members of parliament had agreed to it when the Act was being debated.

Following the enactment of the land law, UWONET has on several occasions been invited by the Ministry of Lands, Water and Environment to participate in panel discussions and other activities relating to its implementation.

Other individuals and organisations who contributed to the media advocacy included Akina Mama Wa Afrika, WILDAF-U, UMWA, FIDA-U and Ms Irene Ovonji-Odida of the Law Reform Commission. Some women's NGOs, for example, WILDAF, FIDA-Kenya and the Kenyan NGO Council have expressed interest in learning from UWONET's advocacy experience.

Follow-up on the Land Act Implementation process

- Production of an abridged Women's Land Act

UWONET is going to publish a simplified Land Act, 1998 to be used by women in Uganda both at the national and grassroots levels. The *Women's Land Act* is intended to help women understand the provisions in the Land Act and how they relate to women. The Act will particularly be designed to equip women with information so that they are able to sustain the debate

The Achievements and challenges in the Land Act

- Through its networking mechanism, UWONET managed to mobilise its membership and allies to critically analyse the proposed Land Bill and influence the legislation, which is to regulate land ownership and administration in Uganda.
- The Land Act 1998 has taken into consideration a number of women's views as expressed by UWONET to parliament.
- UWONET can therefore claim credit of engendering the Land Act 1998 and particularly section 28 on the *Right of women, children and persons with disability, regarding customary land*, section 40 on *restrictions on transfer of land by family members* and section 58 on *Membership of the District Land Boards* which stipulates that at least one third of the members of the Board shall be women.
- The media and the public were interested in the parliamentary debate on land and there was a lot of discussion in the media and public places on women's right to own land. President Yoweri Museveni and a number of public figures have made reference to this issue on several occasions.
- UWONET is a member of the land Act implementation committee under the Ministry of Lands, Water and Environment
- UWONET however is still lobbying parliament to amend the Land Act and include the clause on co-ownership of land by spouses.

spearheaded by UWONET on Women and Land Rights and also participate in the monitoring of the implementation of the Act. Initially, the Act will be produced in English and translated into Luganda, Luo, Runyakitara (Runyoro/Rutooro/Runyankole/Rukiga) and Lugbara. UWONET's aim is to make the Act user-friendly for women in Uganda who are the main land users and yet have limited control over its ownership. This process will also avail women's organisations and groups, and NGOs working on agricultural development and poverty eradication with information on the Land Act and how they can help women to monitor its implementation. It will also facilitate the sensitization of Ugandans and particularly women on the provisions in the land Act, 1998.

- Action research on women's land ownership rights

UWONET, together with the Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the

Advancement of Women (EASSI), will undertake a research and advocacy project on issues of women land ownership rights in Uganda. This is part of a larger research and advocacy proposal to be implemented within the Eastern African sub-region. The proposed three-year research and advocacy project for Uganda, will re-introduce and sustain public discussion on the issue of women's land rights. EASSI is a sub-regional initiative formed to sustain interest in the fourth world conference on women in Beijing. Using action-oriented research, the project will monitor and document women's experiences in the operationalisation of the Uganda Land Act, 1998 and use the information generated to effect changes that benefit women. UWONET and EASSI will also ensure that women utilise the provisions in the Act that enhance women's land rights and use the information collected from the research to validate and/or challenge the premises on which the Land Act, 1998 is based. ■



Women activists who attended the consultative meeting on the East African Draft Treaty in Arusha, July 2nd - 5th, 1998. This was proof that women can influence regional and international policies.

SAYING NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

UWONET has continued to denounce any acts of violence against women. In solidarity, women's organisations have on several occasions pooled resources, both financial and human to launch joint campaigns against the perpetrators of any form of violence against women.

UWONET is however overwhelmed by the number of cases that crop up on a daily basis and has not been able to respond on each and every case as demanded by the public. The UWONET member organisations and allies have taken up several cases, but the number is still overwhelming.

UWONET in solidarity with Violated Women in Armed Conflict

As part of the activities to commemorate the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, (November 25th to December 10th) and the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UWONET in conjunction with the People's Voice for Peace (PVP), an NGO based in Gulu, in northern Uganda, held a three-day workshop Dec. 2nd - 4th in Gulu, under the theme: "Setting the Women's Advocacy Agenda for Peace".



The workshop was co-funded by NOVIB and ActionAid Uganda and was a follow-up on a National Peace Conference organised by a consortium of NGOs in Kampala, that took place on 26th - 27th Feb, 1997. The conference recommended that UWONET links up with women's groups in Northern Uganda in order to set up a meaningful pressure group and an advocacy agenda, which would promote peace and development in the war-ravaged area. Co-facilitators of the workshop included Isis-WICCE, Uganda Women's Finance Trust and the Legal Aid Project in Gulu.

The Gulu workshop which attracted both men and women from Gulu, Kitgum, Apac and Lira districts was aimed at forging a common agenda for peace among various women's groups in Uganda and identifying key advocacy issues that would culminate into peaceful resolutions of conflict.

The participants included Local Council leaders, civil society leaders and women leaders of community based organisations (CBOs). Resource persons were drawn from women's organisations involved in conflict resolution, provision of legal aid and micro-credit services, as well as those with expertise in advocacy and coalition building. UWONET also used the opportunity to hand over to PVP clothes and other material items that were collected by UWONET from the members of the public since 1996. The Commanding Officer of the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) 4th division,

Success indicators of the campaign on violence against women

- There has been increased public discussion on crimes committed against women and children.
- There is an increased number of reported cases of violence against women in the media.
- The media has sought comments about the published stories and possible follow-up actions from UWONET on several occasions.
- Security agencies like the police and the army have been in constant touch with UWONET and both institutions have pledged to play an active role in exposing any violations against women and standing up to protect their rights.

Brigadier Katumba Wamala officiated at the handing over ceremony of these items.

As a follow-up to the peace initiative, UWONET is going to coordinate a multi-stakeholder initiative aimed at documenting the experiences of women in armed conflict in northern Uganda. The findings will be used as an advocacy tool for peace and to hold Government accountable to its international obligation to protect women against violence. UWONET is going to work closely with Isis-WICCE, Action Aid-Uganda and the Women's Empowerment Project (WEP) in West Nile.

Display of posters as a solidarity sign against violence

In commemoration of the 16 days of activism against gender violence, a coalition of women's NGOs was set up to work out a strategy to educate the public about the prevalence of violence against women. A poster displaying newspaper headlines of violent stories against women was sponsored by Isis-WICCE and this was published and distributed widely in the country. The poster, which captured just a tip of the iceberg of reported cases of violence against women, currently hangs in several public places and NGO offices.

The women's coalition on violence against women also ensured that the Monitor Newspaper published stories on the violation of women's rights throughout the 16 days.

The campaign against rape and defilement

UWONET together with its members have continued the campaign against sex crimes against women and girls. There has been increased public awareness and condemnation of the perpetrators of such crimes. The number of reported and prosecuted cases has also increased. UWONET has been able to disseminate information contained in the "*Index of reported cases on rape and defilement in Kampala district in 1996*" In addition to radio discussions, information was given to the print media and also used by the women's coalition group on rape and defilement to strengthen their advocacy work. The *Index* has been submitted to the Uganda Law Reform Commission, which is carrying out a study on sexual offences so as to come up with a Sexual Offences Bill. Hope after Rape and FIDA-U have compiled more information on the two crimes and various NGOs have publicised cases of sexual offences in their newsletters. ■

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A cross section of women who have been violently abused in the civil war in Northern Uganda attending a solidarity workshop with UWONET in Gulu. December 2nd - 4th 1998.

INCREASING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The Local Government elections 1998 - defining the women's position

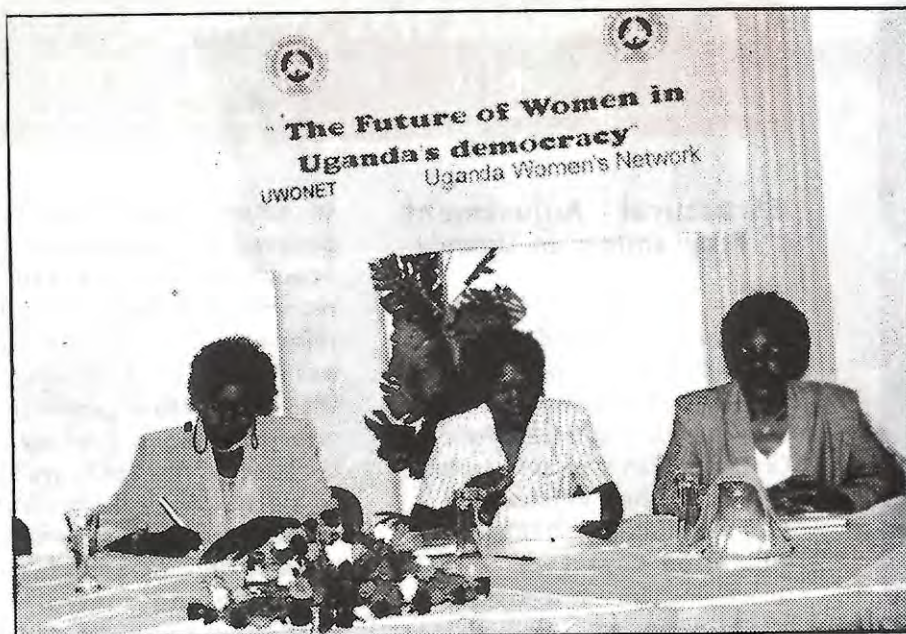
Through its participation in civic education and monitoring of the Local Council and Local Government election process, 1997/98, UWONET documented the experiences of women participating in politics at this level under the title "Women Emerging in Uganda's Democracy". This documentation, which was given a high profile launch in October 1998, is a contribution to various efforts by women's organisations in Uganda aimed at facilitating their participation in politics, particularly in the local government structures.

As one of its objectives, UWONET believes that the presence of women in local council deliberations will greatly influence the decisions taken at various levels of local administration, particularly resource allocation at the sub-county and district levels. With such a strategy, women's needs will get on the priority list of development planners at the district level and subsequently at the national level.

Although the level of women's participation in local government politics is still marginal, it should be highlighted that the legal requirement in the Local Government Act, 1997, for the councils to have at least 30% as women has brought in more women councillors on the respective councils.

UWONET's contribution to women's political participation

- UWONET simplified the Local Government Act in English and translated it into three major languages in Uganda, that is; Luganda, Runyakitara and Luo.
- UWONET printed election posters calling upon Ugandan voters to vote for women councilors and for women candidates. The messages on the posters were translated in all the local languages used in Uganda and distributed by UWONET members and the Electoral Commission to all corners of the country.
- UWONET in conjunction with the Uganda Media Women's Association (UMWA) produced radio and television programmes, which were aired in all languages.
- The monitoring of the election process was done in 11 districts of Kampala, Kabarole, Pallisa, Soroti, Kiboga, Lira, Apac, Mbale, Masaka, Bushenyi and Kamuli.
- UWONET has observed and pointed out to the Uganda Electoral Commission that the constraints facing women politicians aspiring for posts in the Local Government far outweigh the opportunities available to them.
- UWONET has made proposals for the amendment of the Local Government Act and the Ministry of Local Government has redrafted them for presentation to parliament.
- The contribution by UWONET is remarkable and has been commended as a landmark in Uganda's democratisation process.



The Vice Chairperson, Ms. Jane Ocaya-Irama (centre) gives an address at the launch of UWONET's publication "Women Emerging in Uganda's Democracy" in Kampala on October 15, 1998. Left is Ms. Mary Maitum, a Uganda Electoral Commission official and Ms. Ruth Matsika.

UWONET's publication on the Local Council elections

The booklet "Women Emerging in Uganda's Democracy" is an insight into the opportunities and constraints facing Uganda's upcoming women politicians in the local government. It is a documentation that will bring to the forefront the reasons that have continued to work against women's participation in national politics. UWONET has distributed this booklet to various policy makers in the Uganda Electoral Commission, Ministries of Local Government and Gender, Labour and Social Development, to all parliamentarians and the district women councillors. This booklet has also been given to all donors in Uganda who are keen on building capacity of local councilors.

It also calls on the attention of

various policy makers to address technical issues in the laws that hinder women's participation in local politics. Already the Electoral Commission and the Ministry of Local Government have taken up recommendations made by UWONET and have proposed them to parliament as amendments to the Local Government Act, 1997. The donors in Uganda, for example the Department for International Development (DFID), East Africa Desk, is working with UWONET to develop a national project on: *Improving the effectiveness of women politicians in Local Government.*

UWONET is planning to work with its members and allies to build the advocacy capacity of women councilors so that they are more representative of women in the councils and effective in their work. ■

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ENHANCING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Structural Adjustment Programmes in Uganda

In 1997, UWONET commissioned a desk review on the implementation of the Structural Adjustment Policies (SAPs) in Uganda so as to explain to women their implications in the agriculture, health and education sectors. The underlying aim was to take stock of the situation including the reforms undertaken since the launching of SAPs. It also set out

to capture the achievements and constraints, and issues that remain unresolved and the recommended revisions to the reform agenda. The study which was finalised in 1998, highlights the significance of gender in the reforms based on the view that the benefits from SAPs are likely to be unequally distributed between men and women. This is due to the differences in roles, access to and control over productive resources and the women's role in decision making. This desk review has



The two first Ladies: Mrs. Hilary R. Clinton and Mrs. Janet Museveni during the Clinton's visit to Uganda. They are very useful allies for the women's movement.

been submitted as an input to the literature review of the Structural Adjustment Participatory Review Initiative (SAPRI), a tripartite study which is being undertaken by the Government of Uganda, the World Bank and the Civil Society.

As a follow-up to the desk review, UWONET together with the Council for the Economic Empowerment of Women in Africa (CEEWA-U) are going to carry out a SAPs education campaign using public policy dialogues, regional workshops and the print and electronic media.

In 1999, the two organisations will organise meetings to have dialogue with parliamentarians on the effects of SAPs and how they impact on women in Uganda. Both organisations have carried out several activities in educating their members on SAPs and are in the process of extracting the critical issues highlighted in the SAPs desk review carried out by UWONET into an "issues paper". This paper will be used as a resource in the first public workshop in July 1999 at which the findings of the two studies will be disseminated to the members of the civil society.

The national launch of SAPRI

The Structural Adjustment Participatory Review Initiative (SAPRI) was launched on June 18-19, 1998 at the International Conference Center in Kampala. The meeting was highly attended with representatives from the Government, World Bank, NGOs and all districts of Uganda. The forum among others recommended the

following issues for future investigation:

- ⇒ Are SAPs being correctly phased to maximise their positive impact?
- ⇒ How sustainable is the growth brought about by SAPs?
- ⇒ Are SAPs responsible for corruption?
- ⇒ Are SAPs responsible for the existing high cost of production structure? If so, what proportion can be attributed to them?
- ⇒ Are the proceeds of privatisation being translated into benefits for the majority?
- ⇒ Are the liberalised marketing systems causing food insecurity amidst increased food production at the national level? What should be done?
- ⇒ What are the gender dimensions of SAPs especially the status of women in agricultural production and their position as victims of domestic violence?
- ⇒ Given a liberalised economy, is there a regulatory framework for employment creation and job-security both in the public and private sectors? Is the remuneration both in public and private sectors commensurate with the input of labour? If not, how do we ensure that? Have policies such as liberalisation and privatisation caused investors to resist trade unions?
- ⇒ What is the plight of retrenched workers and the demobilised soldiers?
- ⇒ What are the ideas on how to eradicate poverty? ■

UWONET HIGHLIGHTS

UWONET's capacity training

Best practices of managing and sustaining the network.

In January 1998, UWONET's Planning Committee had a three-day retreat to review the institutional set-up and planning of the network. The meeting was facilitated by a local consultancy firm, African Visions International.

Although the meeting was able to help the members of the planning committee reflect on the network, it raised a lot of intriguing questions which called for further analysis on UWONET's institutional mechanism and programmes.

UWONET sought the assistance of NOVIB senior advisor on advocacy, Mr. Peter van Tuijl, who supported the identification of UWONET's institutional dilemmas and the development of organisational structures that would build the confidence of UWONET's members and strengthen their participation in UWONET's activities. Mr. Van Tuijl also facilitated UWONET to reflect on UWONET's effectiveness and accountability in preparation for the programme evaluation to be undertaken in 1999.

Training On Organisational Self-Assessment And Utilization of Consultants

SNV-Uganda organised a one-week training on Organisational Self-assessment and the utilisation of consultants, for its partners at Hotel Triangle in Jinja, February 1st - 7th 1998. Apart from the Secretariat, UWONET member organisations which directly benefited from the training included; UMWA, FIDA and UWFT.

The workshop which was jointly conducted by a Ugandan-based NGO, URDT and a Dutch-based consultant firm, De Beuk, was aimed at equipping the management and executives of the participating organisations with skills in self-assessment of their organisations and how to make better use of consultants.

Training of facilitators on organisational development (OD)

Action Aid -Kenya organised the first Phase of the Training of facilitators on Organisational Development (OD) from April 20th to 24th, 1998 at the Action Aid Development Training Center in Kisumu. The second phase of the training, was supposed to be held in November 1998, after a six month project assignment but was postponed to February 1999. The Coordinator of Uganda Media Women's Association (UMWA) Ms Margaret Sentamu and the UWONET Coordinator, Ms Sheila Kawamara, attended.

The workshop in Kisumu focused on enhancing the participants'

understanding of OD inter-ventions and processes and creating a cadre of OD facilitators in Africa. It also emphasised the development of materials that would facilitate the management of growth and change in NGOs.

The training was attended by 26 participants from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi, The Gambia, Zimbabwe, Egypt and Zanzibar. It was facilitated by renown organisational development experts; Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Executive Director for the Society of Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and Dr. David Brown, the President of the Institute of Development Research (IDR)-Boston.

Gender Training for Development Practice in Africa.

The Coordinator of UWONET attended a four weeks gender training course for Development Practice in Africa at Makerere University from May 25 to June 19, 1998. The course was sponsored by the British Council and attracted participants from Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It was organised by the Department of Women studies Makerere University, and the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, UK.

Building a Data Base on Professional Women in Uganda

In the past two years, UWONET has collected information on women in professional and specialised fields of training. This information has been used to set up a database at the UWONET secretariat. This information will soon be published in a directory of professional women in Uganda. The directory will serve as a lobbying tool to promote women's access to power and positions of decision-making. As a spin off of this activity, two UWONET members, FIDA(U) and UMWA published directories on women lawyers and media women respectively in 1998. Other women's professional bodies have been encouraged to produce similar directories because they provide information on who is who among the women and where they are located.

Food Security Policy Analysis Workshop

UWONET participated in the Food Security Policy Analysis workshop at Hotel Equatorial on August 7th 1998. The workshop was organised by OXFAM, COOPIBO-Uganda and SNV-U so as to disseminate research findings on the impact of liberalisation of agricultural price and market, on food security in Uganda. The research involved an analysis of agricultural policy formulation and implementation framework and a micro-level analysis in four districts in Eastern and Northern Uganda. The main focus of the research was to generate qualitative information from the grassroots to supplement the quantitative information available on the subject. The workshop discussions made concrete recommendations to the policy makers who were in attendance. The report of proceedings is available to members of the public. *

UWONET HIGHLIGHTS

Improving UWONET's information management system

In April 1998, UWONET finalised a consultancy that has streamlined UWONET's information management system. One of the basic problems at the Secretariat has been the failure to organise available information for easy retrieval and ultimate usage.

All the sources of information available at the secretariat are now

inventorised and organised in a manner that forms the framework for the information management system. The inventory will be entered onto the computer in form of a database, to enhance processing, organisation and retrieval.

The inventory is meant to provide the crucial "information about information" in order to benefit

UWONET members in their advocacy and lobbying programs. The idea is to create a database at UWONET secretariat so that without physically moving to any of the information resource centres available within member organisation and allies, one is able to receive it at the Secretariat and come up with the location of the information materials needed.

IDA deputies meet in London

UWONET was invited to participate in the International Development Association (IDA) 12th replenishment meeting in London on May 14, 1998. The Deputies met with a group of NGO representatives from developing countries, which included Uganda, Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Guyana, Ethiopia, Nepal and Nicaragua. The Coordinator, Ms Sheila Kawamara, represented UWONET.

The NGO representatives pointed out that the issues of participation, poverty reduction and good governance were still very pertinent in their countries and thus the need for continued IDA support. It was also pointed out that the World Bank should emphasise its commitment to participation and involvement of the poor in project formulation, planning, implementation and management. The UWONET representative cautioned that when the World Bank carries out consultations, special attention should be given to the gender specific constraints that may inhibit women's participation in the discussions or consultations.

UWONET General Assembly

In 1998, the UWONET Annual General Assembly was held on October 2, at the Equatorial Hotel. The Chairperson, Ms. Lydia Rugasira, observed that although UWONET had been a very active network, there was still need to refocus its activities so as to consolidate the achievements made and attain greater impact in the advocacy campaigns. The meeting reviewed the activities of the network and made suggestions to refine the plans for the coming year. A number of challenges facing the planning committee members and the secretariat were also addressed by the assembly. In order to improve the efficiency of UWONET, the following recommendations were made:

- All members organisations should indicate activities to be undertaken by them on behalf of UWONET.
- A programme officer should be recruited to strengthen the capacity of the secretariat.
- The planning committee meetings would be held over lunch time every second Tuesday of the month.
- The by-laws of the network should address the issue of non-attendance of meetings by members of the Planning Committee.

Seminar on women and trade in SADC

UWONET was invited to participate in the seminar on Women and Trade in SADC under the theme "Women in the Global Market: Trade through women's eyes". The invitation to the seminar which was at short notice was held in Natal, South Africa, from June 28th to July 3rd 1998 and attended by the Chairperson, Ms Lydia Rugasira. It was designed to promote critical analysis on the nature and process of Trade in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), to review the risks and opportunities for women, and concluded by creating a SADC Declaration on Women and Trade. This seminar is very relevant to UWONET and other sister organisations in East Africa as we try to influence the EAC trade pact and other trade arrangements at the East African level so that they are relevant to women.

UWONET gets new address

With effect from July 1, 1998, UWONET shifted its Secretariat from the Uganda Women's Finance Trust (UWFT) premises on Buganda Road to Plot No. 144, Kira Road, Kamukya, opposite Kira Road Police station Kampala. The new UWONET office is spacious and is able to adequately serve the organisation's current office space demands. The premises are shared with the Women Writers' Association (FEMRITE). UWONET is sincerely grateful to the UWFT which hosted the Secretariat for two years.

INFLUENCING THE BUDGETARY PROCESS IN UGANDA

The budgetary process in Uganda is a mechanism which makes it possible to take a short and medium term view of important Government policies and what can be done within the available public mechanism to achieve their objectives. It is a process to make public means meet public ends. The budget process in Uganda is legal, technical, administrative and political and has undergone numerous changes.

The process is continuously involving consultations within Government, and with the Central Bank, IMF, the World Bank, the legislature and to a small extent the private sector.

identified structures and scrutinized the process of policy formulation, budgetary planning and implementation and the role of civil society in influencing or intervening in these areas.

The study revealed that Parliament is critical of the process which denies it an input in the formulation and preparation of the budget and in the authorisation of the supplementary budget. There is also a growing feeling that parliamentary approval of the budget is a mere formality.

It was also highlighted that while the influence of the World Bank and the IMF was dominant, that of the private sector and the

Civil society organisations also need to take up a more instrumental role in sensitizing the public on policies, decision making processes and available resources to empower members of society to be able to demand accountability in resource utilisation and delivery of services.

In 1997, UWONET together with Uganda Debt Network (UDN) commissioned a study on the *Budgetary Policy and Expenditure in the Social Sector in Uganda*. The study analysed the extent to which the budgetary policies and public expenditure conformed to the policies and strategies for social development and elimination of poverty. It also

media is minimal, while that of the civil society is completely absent, especially in influencing the allocation of resources.

Fraud, corruption and abuse of office remains rampant despite an elaborate system of checks and balances for managing the budget. In terms of social expenditure, the study noted that

apart from the recurrent expenditure on education, the social sector is allocated the least resources in terms of both the recurrent and development expenditures, compared to security, the general public service and economic functions.

Donor funding still dominated development expenditure (over 80%), focusing on road infrastructure, primary health care, institutional and capacity building and now primary education, under the Universal Primary Education (UPE) scheme.

As a major recommendation of this study, civil society

address them. Civil society organisations also need to take up a more instrumental role in sensitizing the public on policies, decision making processes and available resources to empower members of society to be able to demand accountability in resource utilisation and delivery of services.

The NGO sector therefore needs to be more organised in order to play a more proactive role in policy influencing. The NGOs have not yet constituted themselves into a strong force to engage Government and donors on policy issues and resource allocation.



The two Consultants, Ms. Maude Mugisha (left) and Mr. Vincent Edoku presenting the "Study on Budgetary Policy and Expenditure in the Social Sector in Uganda", on August 8, 1998 in Kampala. Extreme right is Mr. Zie Gariyo, Coordinator Uganda Debt Network.

organisations were called upon to develop analysis tools to enable them analyse appropriate policies and policy objectives so as to identify policy gaps and develop their own policy framework to

As a follow-up to this study, a civil society group to monitor the budget and the instances of corruption and fraud, has been set up under the Uganda Debt Network. ■

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WORKING WITH THE UGANDA GOVERNMENT

Uganda Vision 2025 project

Since 1997, the Uganda Government has undertaken a national participatory process aimed at creating a sustainable future for all citizens under the Uganda Vision 2025 Project.

It is assumed that through broad participation of the people, social dialogue will be promoted and will be a foundation for the building of a national consensus for the future. On March 26, 1998, UWONET held a public dialogue at Hotel Equatoria as a contribution to the Women's Vision 2025. UWONET's contributions that emerged out of the dialogue have been included into the broad national project and the network has been invited to participate in several meetings of the Uganda Vision 2025.

Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Project

UWONET is one of the NGOs participating in the Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Project (UPPAP). UPPAP is a three-year research and advocacy project which seeks to;

- bring the voice and perspective of the poor into national and district planning for poverty reduction in Uganda.
- enhance knowledge about the nature and causes of poverty and devise strategies for action,
- build district capacity to plan for poverty reduction;
- develop a national system for qualitative and quantitative poverty monitoring; and
- establish the capacity for participatory policy research in Uganda.



The Coordinator, People's Voice for Peace (PVP) Ms. Rosalba Oywa, presents the UWONET contribution to the women and children in Gulu to Brig. Edward Katumba Wamala, the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) 4th Division Commanding Officer (CO) based in Gulu, on December 3, 1998.



UWONET Chairperson, Ms. Lydia Rugasira (second right) addresses the 1998 General Assembly on October 2, 1998 in Kampala. (From left to right) Ms. Judy Kamanyi (Treasurer), Ms. Jane Ocaya-Irama (Vice-Chairperson) and Ms. Sheila Kawamara (Coordinator).

The project which is being coordinated by the Government is a contribution towards the goal of Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) which is to eradicate poverty through empowering households to earn decent incomes and facilitate the improvement of their quality of life. The project is being carried out in nine pilot districts of Kotido, Moyo, Kapchorwa, Kumi, Kalangala, Kisoro, Kabarole, Bushenyi. UWONET participated in the planning workshop at Entebbe in July 1998 and continues to monitor the progress.

Review of the national policy of NGOs in Uganda

A team of local and foreign consultants was commissioned by the Uganda government and UNDP to review the operating environment of NGOs in Uganda. The team presented its draft report to the NGOs, Government

and the donor community on July 23, 1998. The study aims at reviewing the current National NGO operational policy framework by carrying out an in-depth review of the NGO sector, including the statutory provisions and the Government/NGO relationships and other related fields. The consultants made recommendations to the government, the donor community and other stakeholders in the NGO sector development on what they viewed as the best way forward. UWONET participated in the meeting, together with some of the member organisations. The NGOs were not satisfied with the report. Government promised to hold another meeting to discuss this report, but on two separate occasions the meetings have been postponed without any reason given. No new date has been set for the meetings and the NGOs are still waiting.

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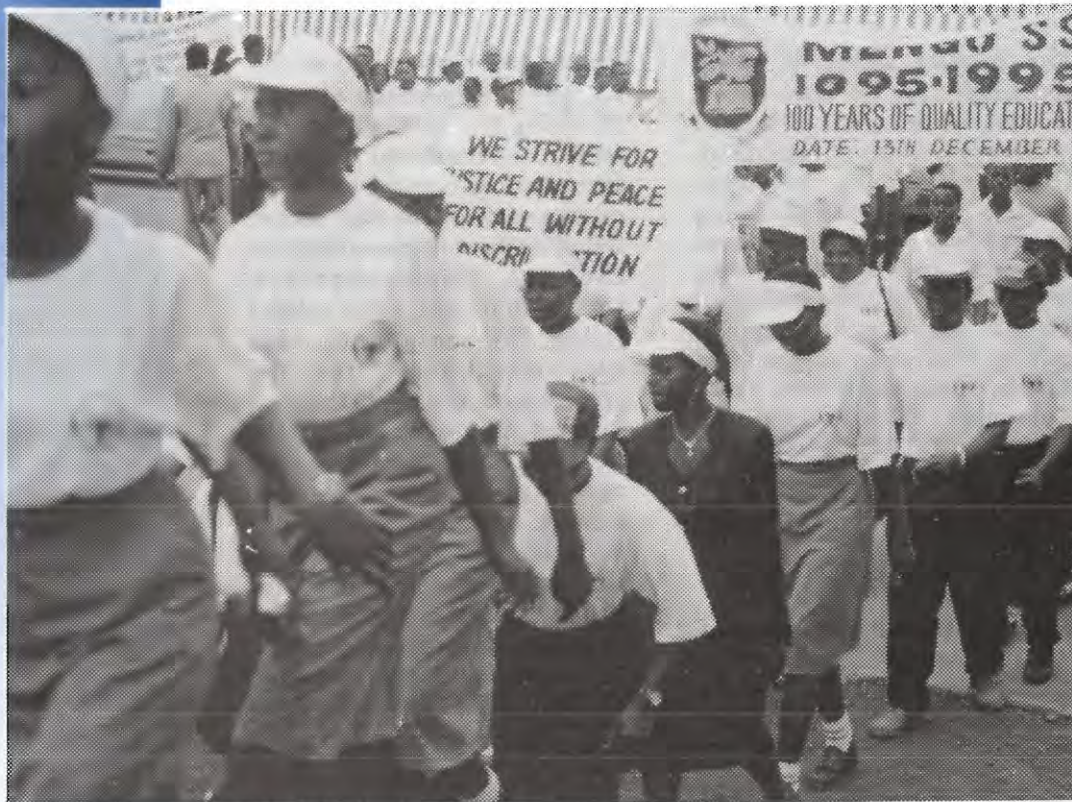
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NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NETWORKING

The National NGO Forum

In 1998, the Uganda National NGO Forum, a consortium of registered NGOs operating in Uganda went through the initial phases of development. The forum was able to establish and develop a small but well-equipped Secretariat, which is managed by a Coordinator and an Administrative Officer. The NGO forum also revisited its mission which is: *to be a forum of all NGOs in Uganda; to influence policy, enhance dialogue with government, donors and other development actors; to promote information exchange.*

Although the NGO Forum which is currently chaired by UWONET failed to attain Government registration in 1998, it managed to develop a strategic vision and plan for 1999- 2001. The forum also established and strengthened the regional and district NGO fora. The forum has been able to develop preliminary steps to enhance future networking and information exchange among NGOs both in their thematic grouping and individual undertakings. Reports on the various activities undertaken by the NGO Forum are available at the NGO Forum and the UWONET Secretariats.



On October 3, 1998, UWONET joined the Uganda Human Rights Commission in a series of activities to commemorate 50 years of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 3rd Anniversary of Uganda's Constitution.

UWONET on the Civic Education Committee

UWONET was elected as one of the two NGOs representing civil society in Uganda on the civic education coordination committee. The Civic Education Coordination Committee (CECC), under the Human Rights Commission commenced work early 1998. According to the Uganda constitution, the Human Rights Commission is the organ mandated to oversee civic education in Uganda.

The Commission among its other responsibilities is supposed to formulate, implement and oversee programmes intended to inculcate in the citizens awareness of their civic responsibilities and an appreciation of their rights and obligations as free people.

The other NGO on the committee is the Human Rights Network (HURINET). The chairperson of ACFODE, Dr. Edith Natukunda Tagboa, represents UWONET.

The members of the coordination committee are drawn from a variety of constitutional organs, mandated to carry out civic education in various fields. They include the Judicial Service Commission, Ministry of Justice, Electoral Commission, Inspector General of Government, Uganda Human Rights Commission and the National Environment Management Association.

The objectives of the Civic Education Coordination Committee are:

- To coordinate education programs, making them cost effective and avoiding unnecessary duplication;
- Coordination of civic education for the formal sector, focusing on school syllabi; exchange of programs and publications of each organisation in its area of specialisation;
- Coordination of civic education activity budgets where a common donor is available.

Among the activities undertaken by the coordination committee is the development of a civic education syllabi for primary schools and tertiary institutions. In order to keep the public updated on their rights and responsibilities, the Uganda Human Rights Commission publishes a monthly magazine, *Rights*. This magazine is widely circulated to government and civil society institutions.

Eastern African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI)

EASSI extended its networking within the region. The initiative, with its Secretariat in Kampala is intended to promote networking, research and documentation, capacity building, resource mobilisation and advocacy at the sub-regional level. UWONET is a member of the EASSI, Uganda National Task Force.

EASSI has been able to reach out to a number of countries in the region, so as to link up with the EASSI contact

organisations and members and brief them about the progress of the initiative since its inauguration in July 1996. During the networking visits, the Coordinator of EASSI, Ms Maude Mugisha was able to discuss with various stakeholders the action strategies and areas for collaboration in the implementation of the Platform for Action.

EASSI has developed a database to be used as an inventory on resource materials and a facility for documenting information on the progress made on the implementation of the Platform for Action. EASSI has also designed a monitoring and evaluation tool for collecting information on the sub-regional priorities. The tool will be used to collect information by organisations and initiatives in the sub-region.

EASSI has participated in a number of activities organised by local NGOs in Uganda. In its up-coming regional programme, EASSI is going to carry out a regional action research project on women and land rights in the East African region. In Uganda, UWONET is linking up with EASSI to carry out this project. EASSI produces a quarterly newsletter, *The Eastern African Initiatives*.

The NGO Coalition for East Africa (NGOCEA)

The first General Assembly of the NGO Coalition for East Africa (NGOCEA) was held in March 1998. It brought together 18 repre-

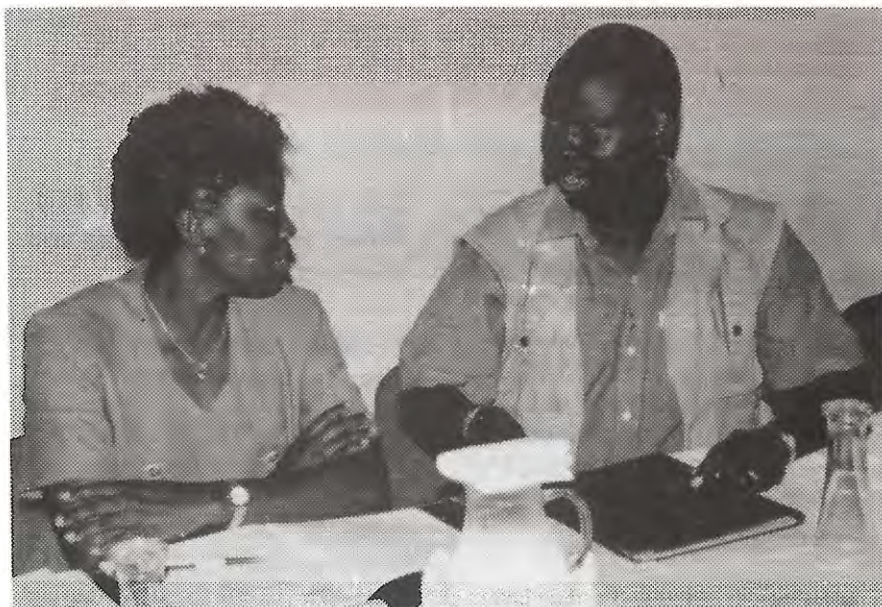
sentatives of NGO coalitions and bodies from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania representing over 2000 organisations in the East African region. The assembly aims at developing a strategic vision and programmatic content of NGOCEA's regional initiative.

The assembly adopted a feasibility study report commissioned by NGOCEA in 1997 and re-affirmed the need for the coalition and its commitment to facilitate the articulation of civil society voices and concerns so as to influence regional priorities in the interest of the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised.

In the course of the year, NGOCEA consulted widely with its members and made recommendations on the draft treaty of the establishment of the East African Community. The treaty is intended to provide the legal framework for social, cultural, economic and political co-operation between the member countries. NGOCEA pointed out that the EAC should be guided by democratic principles and involve NGOs and CSOs in its mainstream operations, programmes and activities.

East African Cooperation Treaty

UWONET participated in a consultative meeting on the East African Draft Treaty, July 2 - 5, 1998 at Novotel Meru Hotel, in Arusha, Tanzania. The consultative meeting drew participants from the three



The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs in the President's Office and former Minister of State for Regional Cooperation, Ms. Rebecca Kadaga (left), and the Editor-in-Chief of the Monitor Newspaper, Wafula Ogutu (right) during a Public Dialogue on the East Africa Cooperation Draft Treaty on September, 7, 1998 in Kampala.

East African countries of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania that make up the tripartite regional cooperation known as the East African Community. The women invited to the meeting were mostly members of Women, Law and Development in Africa Network (WiLDAF). They represented government institutions, development NGOs, the media and human rights organizations. Two women activists from Zambia were invited to the meeting to share their experiences in an effort to engender the Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC) treaty. Three members of staff of the East African Cooperation Secretariat attended the meeting.

The meeting drew the attention of policy makers involved in establishing an East African Community to the relevance of human rights

principles and more specifically, gender concerns to the entire process of regionalism and to development. As a follow-up to this meeting UWONET together with Akina Mama wa Afrika organised a public dialogue of the East African Cooperation draft Treaty in September where the public gave their views on basic human rights concerns that would facilitate regional integration.

The two organisations also hosted a number of television and radio programmes that increased the people's awareness, and particularly the women, on what was being discussed at the regional level. The women's movement in Uganda has forwarded its concerns to the EAC Secretariat in Arusha and UWONET has been invited to participate in the discussion of the Treaty. ■

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING

As an advocacy organisation, UWONET has exploited its connection on the Internet and e-mail to link up with several organisations and individuals that are working on similar issues. This has helped to strengthen UWONET's information base and its advocacy campaigns.

UWONET hopes to further exploit Information Technology (IT) by encouraging all its members to subscribe to the network. It is hoped that the cost of postage incurred by UWONET will gradually go down. About three-quarters of UWONET's members and allies are currently connected to the global information network.

Women Connect

As a follow-up, UWONET and the Women Connect Project based in California, are linking up to work out new communication strategies that will strengthen networking among women's groups in Uganda. In the next three years, the Women Connect Project will work with women's organizations in developing countries, to strengthen their communication and advocacy skills. Specifically, the project seeks to help women's organizations use all forms of media to communicate and advocate for the causes they feel are important in their community. The Women Connect initiative will also work with women's groups to connect them to e-mail and Internet so that they can network with each other and

with other groups around the world, sharing problems and solutions.

President Bill Clinton's Visit to Uganda, March 1998

In March 1998, President Bill Clinton of the United States and his wife Hillary visited Uganda. Prior to their visit, UWONET together with the Uganda Debt Network (UDN) spearheaded an advocacy campaign to communicate the concerns of Ugandans and the NGO sector to the visiting American President and his entourage. The two networks wrote letters to Clinton, which were also copied to President Yoweri Museveni and the American Ambassador in Uganda.

Letters were also written in the Uganda local press and various newspaper articles featured prominently questioning what benefits Ugandans would attain from the Clinton visit. UWONET also linked up with InterAction, a consortium of USA Private Voluntary Organisations (PVOs) and forwarded them outstanding concerns of Ugandans and these were subsequently presented to the Secretary of State, Ms Magdalen Albright.

Both Clinton and his wife in their speeches addressed the issues pointed out in the appeal of UWONET and UDN. They pledged funds to improve the education status in the country and also the status of women, particularly building the capacity of elected women leaders in the local government structures ■

INFLUENCING DONOR POLICIES

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DFID Consultative meeting

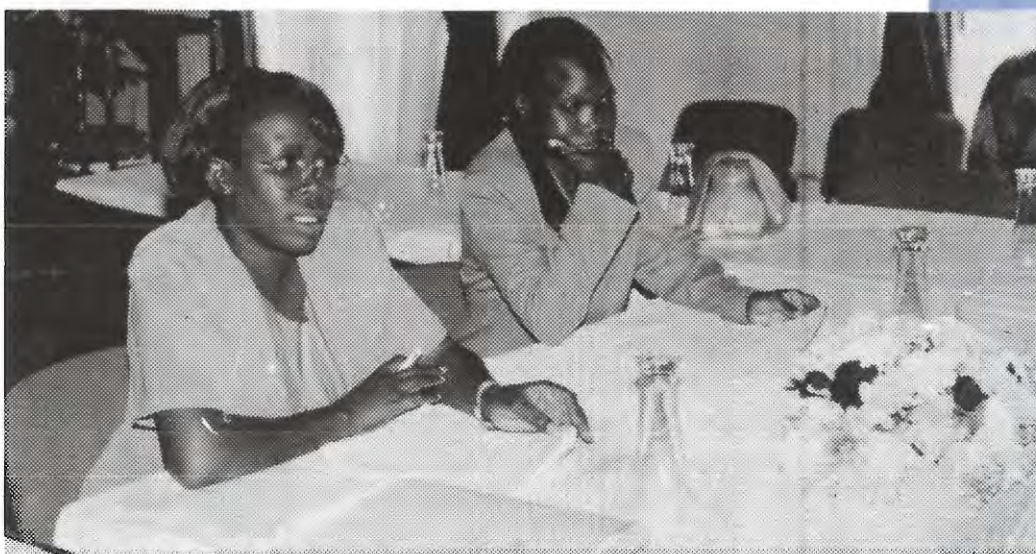
The Department for International Development (DFID) initiated a global consultation process with civil society organisations in June 1998, with the view of building strong partnerships with them for the elimination of poverty and achieving sustainable development. In Uganda, the consultation process entailed a series of meetings with various groups of civil society in Kampala and at the regional level for the district representative groups. For easy coordination, indigenous NGO networks were used to host and facilitate the consultations.

UWONET mobilised women's organisations in Kampala, and held their meeting on August 25, 1998. The women's groups noted that in order to have a meaningful partnership with DFID, there was need for the donors to understand the basic principles of partnership which are; mutual trust, transparency

on both sides and proper accountability to the people we serve. The women also noted that DFID had to be committed to promoting gender equity and equality both in words and practice as a strategy to eliminate poverty and enhance sustainable development.

SNV to promote mediation of women's NGOs

The SNV partners' meeting was held in Arua, West Nile from to November 3 and 4, 1998 and UWONET was represented by the Vice-chairperson Ms Jane Ocaya. West Nile is one of SNV's concentration areas and organising a meeting there, was seen as an opportunity to share experiences and ideas about development among SNV partners and the rural communities. The partners deliberated on the SNV country policy plan and it was pointed out that for future policy, SNV will concentrate activity in Arua, Adjumani, Moyo, Nebbi, Luwero, Mpigi and Nakasongola districts.



UWONET Coordinator, Ms. Sheila Kawamara (left) briefs the DFID Women's Consultative meeting on August 25, 1998 in Kampala. Looking on is the Vice Chairperson, Ms. Jane Ocaya-Irama.

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SNV sectoral areas for concentration will include; sustainable agriculture, water and environmental sanitation, women empowerment and education, institutional development and organisational strengthening of local governments, NGOs and Community Based Organisations (CBOs).

SNV will also provide technical assistance to partner organisations, project implementation, mediation for Ugandan organisations and services to European organisations.

In the mediation exercise, SNV will support collaboration between organisations in order to learn from, inspire and support each other. This will include information exchange, facilitation, linkage between regions and organisations; SNV and other Dutch organisations; Government with NGOs and CBOs; Women's Organisations with each other; government to community and others. This

kind of mediation helps to reinforce sustainability such that in future when SNV is no longer in Uganda, there will be strong organisations working together for the betterment of the communities.

NOVIB celebrates ten years of partnership in Uganda

On January 23, 1998, UWONET together with other NGOs supported by the Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation (NOVIB), celebrated a decade of NOVIB's partnership with Ugandan partners. The celebrations which were among others attended by the head of the Eastern and Southern Africa desk at NOVIB at the time, Ms Sally Burrows and Uganda's current Prime Minister, Prof. Apollo Nsubambi, created an opportunity for the partners to take stock of the developments of the ten-year cooperation. NOVIB together with its partners reaffirmed their continued partnership and commitment to Uganda's



Each year, NOVIB together with its development partners in Uganda meet and discuss challenges facing them. In a relaxed atmosphere, partners shared their concerns in Entebbe, September 3 - 4, 1998.

Why we treasure the partner platforms

BENEFITS

- Linking and learning
- Networking
- Experience sharing
- Accessibility of information
- Face-to-face meeting with the donor
- Information interaction with the donor
- Uniting factor between the partners and donors
- Partners reflect on annual performance
- NOVIB gets feedback easily
- Partners can collectively influence the donor
- Review and re-evaluate relevance of NOVIB and partners
- Provide an opportunity to streamline and build on existing programmes
- Enables appreciation of achievements and assists partners to develop strategies to address shortcomings

LOSSES

- Loss of collaboration
- Loss of all benefits

OTHER CHANNELS

- Exchange visits
- E-mail, telephone,
- Workshops, seminars
- Other visits by NOVIB officials during the year
- Continuous communication between NOVIB and partners
- Partner-to-partner linkages

development process. The partnership between NOVIB and its partners is based on mutual respect for each other, transparency and emphasis on accountability on both sides of the partnership.

In Uganda, NOVIB is in partnership with the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD); Akiika Embuga Women's Self-help Association; Kigulu Development Group; Mpigi Women's Development Trust (MWODET); the Association of Women Lawyers in Uganda (FIDA-U); Uganda Women's Finance Trust (UWFT); Development Network of Indigeneous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA); Voluntary Efforts, for Development Concern (VEDCO), Environmental Alert and UWONET. UWONET is proud to be part of this development network.

NOVIB partners meeting

The two day NOVIB Partners' Platform, 1998 was held from September 3 - 4, 1998 at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel Entebbe. The Coordinator, Ms Sheila Kawamara and the Chairperson, Ms Lydia Rugasira represented UWONET. The

Partners' Platform is an annual event which brings together NOVIB as a donor and its development partners in Uganda to reflect on the various development challenges and to forge a way forward.

A NOVIB staff at the East Africa Desk, Mr. Rudolf Scheffer, made a presentation on policy and funding issues that would impact on the partners. He pointed out that Uganda was receiving a colossal amount of funding because there is a good balance between economic growth and poverty alleviation. Uganda is also the only country where NGOs have a five-year commitment relationship with NOVIB.

In addition to the sharing of experiences about the work undertaken by the partner organisations, the meeting reviewed the activities that were collectively implemented by the NOVIB partners and the relevance of building productive partnerships. It was agreed that one partner NGO would take the lead in organising an activity unlike in the past when the SNV Field Support Facility (FSF) coordinated the activities.

Under the collective activities, UWONET will take the lead in bringing together NGOs to forge a common advocacy agenda for the Domestic Relations Bill. ■

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UGANDA WOMEN'S NETWORK INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1998

SOURCE OF FUNDS	SCHD	12 MONTH 1998 U.SHS	9 MONTH 1997 U.SHS
Donations and Grants	I	165,269,915	109,041,707
Membership Fees		980,000	640,000
Sale of Books and Working Papers		188,750	60,000
		<u>166,438,665</u>	<u>109,741,707</u>
LESS			
EXPENDITURES ON			
Increasing Women's Access to Power & Decision Making	II	105,888,210	39,347,189
Elimination of Violence Against Women	III	14,221,850	11 580,200
Increasing Women's Economic Empowerment	IV	8,984,750	22,631,600
Information, Communication and Documentation	V	7,525,245	7,514,275
Planning and Evaluation	VI	7,659,700	10,621,040
Net Working	VII	4,307,760	2,300,840
		<u>148,587,515</u>	<u>93,995,144</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS			
Salaries and Allowances	VIII	22,758,500	10,870,000
Office Running Costs	IX	12,712,540	8,449,227
Depreciation		5,257,336	4,007,506
Audit Fees		1,053,000	819,000
Office Utilities		530,700	206,000
Legal and Professional Fees			800,000
		<u>42,312,076</u>	<u>25,151,733</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>190,899,591</u>	<u>119,146,877</u>
(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(24,460,926)	(9,405,170)

UWONET'S PUBLICATIONS

UWONET is proud to have contributed to the documentation of women's experience in Uganda through the following publications;

- * Women and Structural Adjustment: A case Study of Arua District in Uganda, 1995;
- * The Women's Manifesto: Putting Women's Issues on the Election Agenda, 1996;
- * A Simplified Local Government Act - Vote in the Local Councils, 1997;
- * NGO and the Media Alliance in Uganda: Moving into the 21st Century, 1997
- * Women and Land Rights in Uganda: A Documentation of Women's Views and Suggestions on Land Issues in Uganda and the Proposed Land Bill, 1997;
- * Women Emerging in Uganda's Democracy: A Documentation of Women's Experiences in the Local Government Election, 1998;
- * Budgetary Policy and Expenditure in the Social Sector in Uganda, 1998
- * UWONET publishes a quarterly advocacy newsletter, UWONET News which aims at highlighting policy concerns affecting women and targets policy makers and parliamentarians. It is distributed widely to NGOs, Parliament, Government ministries and to the donor community both within and outside Uganda.

The following are unpublished studies and documents

- * The Directory of Professional Women in Uganda;
- * The Implementation of SAPs in Uganda and their Gender Implications;
- * An Index of Reported Cases of Rape and Defilement and Statistical Analysis for Kampala District, 1997.

