



Gender Transformation & Empowerment

END OF PROJECT REPORT THE GENDER CAPITAL FOR PEACE RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN (PRDP) IN NORTHERN UGANDA

Counting change-the Gender Capital project 2010-2011



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THE GENDER CAPITAL FOR PEACE RECOVERY
AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN (PRDP)
IN NORTHERN UGANDA**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

UWONET would like to extend its sincere appreciation to ADC for the support given which enabled the implementation of the Gender Capital project in Kitgum and Pader districts (2010 to 2011).

On another special note UWONET would like to extend special thanks to partners at the districts; KIWEPI in Kitgum and WORUDET in Pader who worked tirelessly see to the project a success. Not forgetting the local governments officials of Pader and Kigum districts who supported the entire process, communities, member organizations like FOWODE, taskforce members for a gender responsive PRDP and the entire UWONET staff.

This is a documentation of the actions taken/ interventions, achievements, challenges, lessons learnt, strategies used and recommendations among others.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADC	Austrian Development Cooperation
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
IEC	Information Education Communication
KIWEPI	Kitgum Women Peace Initiative
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NUSAF	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund
NGOs	Non Government Organisation
NRM	National Resistance Council
PRDP	Peace Recovery and Development Plan
UWONET	Uganda Women's Network
WORUDET	Women in Rural Development Network

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report draws upon the consolidated reports of the Gender Capital project for the implementation of Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) in Kitgum and Pader districts in Northern Uganda undertaken in 2010 to 2011. It focuses on issues from those activities implemented which offer most insight into the results of the project and which offer the best opportunities for learning. Based on this analysis the report tries to balance the success which emerged as a result of the project implementation.

1. The Gender Capital project was launched in 2010 at national and district level and piloted in Kitgum and Pader districts. The project was implemented at district and sub county level targeting women Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), district technical staff, opinion leaders and women councilors.
2. The project aimed at empowering women in Northern Uganda (Kitgum and Pader districts) to monitor implementation of the PRDP and where there gaps hold the leaders accountable. This was envisaged to foster transparency, participation and gender responsiveness for improved service delivery in the districts.
3. The project focused on activities around capacity building of different stakeholders; awareness raising through radio and Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials; and peer exchange learning visits within and to outside countries.
4. Methodology of implementation included: Creation of strong partnership both at district and national level; Capacity building/training workshop were also used for different categories; Peer learning; Production of simplified, attractive, laminated , easy to read and packaged IEC material; Radio was another method used; Continuous monitoring among others.
5. As a result of the project the following achievements were realized;
 - Community's knowledge and understanding on Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) has been enhanced. This was achieved through trainings conducted at Sub County and district level, radio programs, IEC materials developed translated and disseminated to

the beneficiaries and other stakeholders. As a result the community is able to demand and monitor the gender sensitivity of PRDP interventions using the knowledge and information they acquired.

- The community is able to question political power by persuading and influencing decision makers, resisting unequal power relations and effectively engaging policy makers for improved service delivery (vigilance of the community).
 - As a result of the advocacy training held, a vibrant women's movement has been realized at the grass root. They are passionate on gender issues and instrumental on issues of civic participation.
 - The community has learnt to be independent and utilize resources within their reach to influence improved service delivery (sustainability).
 - Women are participating and benefiting from government programs. For example many women have joined Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF) and National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) programs by forming their own groups (gender awareness) and are accessing farm inputs.
6. From the project implementation the following recommendations were drawn, they also present gaps which need to be addressed;
- Upscaling sensitization to create community awareness on government recovery and development programmes, through IEC materials, radio programmes to provide information to the community. Once they have information and knowledge, they can be able to demand. This will help create a knowledge base for advocacy among the community.
 - Continuous support supervision to the community watchdogs and the formed PRDP monitoring pressure groups to influence gender sensitive implementation of government development and recovery programmes.
 - Sensitizing the duty bearers to strengthen their understanding on gender mainstreaming, participatory planning and budgeting to influence gender sensitivity of any designed programme

- Ensuring that mechanisms that involve participation of citizens in the process of managing public resources and tracking public spending are initiated for social accountability. This can be in form of community led initiatives.
- Establishing and strengthening vibrant CSO to advocate for improved service delivery in the community.
- Advocacy for political will to prioritise women rights issues in development and recovery programmes.
- Strengthening and supporting the civil society arm in the districts for effective advocacy.
- Strengthening the gender units at the district for effective advocacy and influence for gender and women rights issues in the PRDP.
- Using the rich gaps identified during project implementation to design continuity of the project to concretize the impact in the community for sustainability. Phase II needs to be expanded to other sub counties.

BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

This report offers a summarized account of the main issues captured during the implementation of the *Gender Capital* Project for the implementation of PRDP in Northern Uganda under taken in 2010 and 2011.

The project was designed to empower women in Northern Uganda (Kitgum and Pader districts) to participate and monitor implementation of the PRDP and where there gaps hold the leaders accountable. This was envisaged to foster transparency, participation and gender responsiveness for improved service delivery in the districts.

Implementation was in two districts of Kitgum and Pader but with creation of new districts Agago and Lamwo were included. The activities focused on; capacity building of different stakeholders; awareness raising through radio and Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials; and peer exchange learning visits within and to outside countries, targeting majorly the women CSOs, district technical staff, opinion leader, women councilors, community watch dogs, the entire community and other stakeholders.

Across the project districts the target beneficiaries acknowledged the fact that their knowledge and understanding on PRDP was enhanced through training, radio programme and IEC materials disseminated and shared. With the information acquired they were able to monitor the gender sensitivity of PRDP through the PRDP monitoring pressure groups formed. Through this move it indicated how the community appreciated the need for women to benefit from the development and recovery programmes looking on how the war impacted on them.

The success of the project implementation was based on key factors which supported the process;

- * Participation of the target group and own motivation as duty bearers and rights holders
- * Partnership with district women networks and district local government
- * Collaboration with member organizations
- * Use of participatory learning (PALS)- working together and learning together
- * Involvement of cultural and religious leaders

The implementation of the project indicate that its activities contributed to brining about in individual and collective actions in monitoring implementation of government recovery programmes in a gender responsive manner to benefit all. The level of influence is context specific. There is evidence that the ***Gender Capital*** project has contributed to information on PRDP to the communities and gender sensitivity of district officials during implementation of government development and recovery programmes.

The Gender Capital Project at a glance

The ***Gender Capital***, Project was a twenty four month project that aimed “to empower women in Northern Uganda to hold their leaders accountable for the implementation of the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) in a transparent, participatory and gender-sensitive manner”. The project specifically targeted to improve the leadership and oversight capabilities of women in Pader and Kitgum Districts to ensure that local governments are gender sensitive in their planning and implementation of PRDP projects.

Initiated in 2010 the ***Gender Capital*** project was implemented with support from Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). The project focused on building the technical capacities of women councilors, women

groups and civil servants in participatory planning and budgeting, rights based approach, budget cycle; gender budgeting; social accountability, monitoring and evaluation tools, lobbying and advocacy, leadership skills and networking. The project was implemented in partnership with Women and Rural Development Network (WORUDET) in Pader district and Kitgum Women Peace Initiative (KIWEPI) in Kitgum district. Following the creation of new districts UWONET implemented in four districts of Agago, Pader, Kitgum and Lamwo.

The Government of Uganda formulated a Comprehensive Development Framework, the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda (PRDP), as a strategy to eradicate poverty and improve the welfare of the populace in Northern Uganda which has consistently fallen behind the rest of the country within the realm of human development. Following the twenty one year armed conflict in Northern Uganda characterized by breakdown of institutions and increased vulnerability and marginalization of women and children, involvement and participation of women in leadership and development processes has persistently been low. Very few women hold positions of power/leadership (in politics, civil service and CSOs head of women organizations) which leaves them with enormous challenges in advancing women's agenda in the structures with in which they work. Government recovery programs do not feature the lived realities and needs of displaced women. In addition the findings and lessons of a study conducted by the Women's Taskforce on a gender responsive PRDP to which UWONET is a member, the Gender Capital project was initiated in 2010.

Project overall objective

Meeting gender needs of women in northern Uganda by increasing women's visibility and efficiency in the implementation and monitoring of the Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP).

Project Specific objectives

1. To mobilise and build capacities of women in local governments and women groups in Pader and Kitgum districts to take part in the PRDP implementation process and advocate for gender sensitivity.
2. To advocate for gender equality and women's needs in the PRDP implementation process.
3. To strengthen women's alliances at district, regional and national level to track and document PRDP implementation from a gender equality and women's rights perspective.

4. To review the PRDP implementation guidelines, M&E frameworks, plans protocols and strategies from a gender equality and women's rights perspective to influence policy change.
5. To track PRDP budgets (at national and district level) to ensure that adequate resources are allocated, disbursed and efficiently utilized for projects/ activities focused on gender equality and women's rights.

The expected outcomes included;

- * Effective participation by women organizations in the PRDP structures and processes at community and national level.
- * Participatory planning and gender budgeting at local government level and efficient utilization of funds allocated for PRDP implementation.
- * Gender equality and women's rights issues integrated in the PRDP Implementation Guidelines, M&E Frameworks, Protocols and Strategies
- * Increased public awareness and appreciation of the gender and women's rights issues within the PRDP implementation process at all levels.
- * Effective coordination among women organizations at community and national level to influence the post-war reconstruction policies and programmes in Northern Uganda.

In the project districts among the target beneficiaries the following success was registered in relation to the intended outcomes;

- * Greater community awareness on PRDP
- * Participation of women during planning and budgeting
- * Civic competency among the community being realized
- * Gender sensitivity central during implementation and monitoring of government programmes
- * Women benefiting from road maintenance during work for cash
- * Women included in school management and water use committees
- * Budget allocation for sanitary pads in some schools
- * Counselling/ changing rooms for girls who are in menstruation constructed most schools
- * Different latrines constructed for girls and boys
- * A vibrant women's movement realized at the grass root
- * The community utilizing resources within their reach to influence improved service delivery (sustainability).

- ✱ Women participating and benefiting from government programs. For example many women have joined NUSAF and NAADS programs by forming their own groups (gender awareness).

Advocacy issues voiced by the community watchdogs

To inform UWONET's national level advocacy the watchdogs were involved in issues of;

Involvement of women in road maintenance; advocacy for safe water chain; encouraging women to take part in government recovery programs like NAADS, NUSAF; girl child education and completion of school; involvement and participation of women during planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of government programmes; gender mainstreaming and budgeting by the district staff; gender sensitivity during implementation of programs; advocacy and sensitisation on reproductive health rights for example family planning, safe delivery and immunisation. This move awakened the mothers to use health centres.

Month/ 2011	Situation before (number of safe deliveries)	After (number of safe deliveries)
July	14-15	33
September	14-15	40
October	14-15	40

Pajule health centre III. Source: watchdog report 2011

What counts as change?

Within the methods, approaches and strategies employed individual and community shifts were realised. Change is change no change is small and is all of equal value in society. Someone saying information and knowledge on PRDP was enhanced after the training is change which can have a wider impact in the community. Because they are aware they can demand and monitor.

- ✱ District officials having an in-depth understanding in gender and mainstreaming and thus applying it during planning, budgeting and implementation
- ✱ The community understanding and appreciating women's needs in recovery and development programs

- * Appreciation on participatory planning and budgeting by the community and duty bearers
- * Vigilance of the community; they are aware of their rights and as a result they are able to demand
- * Level of community awareness on PRDP is evident
- * Vibrancy of the women's movement
- * Civic competency being realized among the community
- * These changes contribute to the project goal.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

To achieve the project activities strategies of implementation need to be developed, UWONET employed the following multiple strategies;

Utilisation of her members with comparative advantage under particular thematic areas; documentation of achievements and lessons learnt; key strategic partnerships with the Local Government and district partners based in the focus areas; Joint planning and sharing of responsibility with partner organisations (participation); Feed back to and from the stakeholders; immediate and continuous monitoring; continuous consultations at national, district and community levels; dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to the beneficiaries and other stakeholders; trainings and community dialogues with the beneficiaries; use of radio as an effective tool to reach a wider population and follow up visits. For sustainability, UWONET staff participated in all project activities that required external sourcing (consultancy)

The above implementation strategies yielded great results among others providing information and creating awareness on the PRDP and women's rights issues as evidenced by the testimonies from the communities and achievements realised during project implementation.

The successes registered were dependent on the project activities implemented during this period.

Mass mobilization of the community and other stakeholders to be part of the project was done during the district and national launches to gather support and acceptance by the community and the local government/ district leadership, this fostered ownership and sustainability.

Awareness creation on PRDP and gender sensitive implementation and monitoring was conducted using radio spot messages, IEC materials and training (capacity building).

Training

UWONET conducted training needs assessment which informed the development of a comprehensive training manual. The manual was used to build the capacities of the; women CSO leaders, women councilors, district technical staff, opinion leaders and community watchdogs. Emphasis was made to different groups and on different topics. The training manual covered topics among others; understanding PRDP, gender and its analysis in PRDP, advocacy, budget cycle, gender budgeting, networking, social accountability, monitoring and evaluation. The trainings were conducted at district and sub county level. This gave them an in-depth understanding of PRDP and gender analysis of PRDP implementation.

Training of District Technical staff; to enhance their understanding in addressing gender equality and women's rights issues within the PRDP and other government programmes, a total of 250 district technical staff were trained during the project period. The targeted participants included; chief administrative officers, sub county chiefs, gender officers, district planners, education officers, health officers, politicians, community development officers, auditors among others.

Margaret the Assistant Education Officer Pader district shared how she has been able to handle issues of defilement which resulted to high drop out of girls from school. With her help the perpetrators have been brought to book and girls taken back to school. She has advocated for women to be included in school management committees and construction of changing rooms in schools.

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Training of women CSO leaders; in a bid to empower women with skills to better monitor the implementation of PRDP and hold their leaders accountable for the implementation of PRDP in a transparent, participatory and gender sensitive manner, 10 trainings were conducted in Kitgum and Pader districts. A total of 400 women leaders were trained including; police, CSO leaders, teachers, religious leaders, health workers and other influential women in the community.

Training of Community Watchdogs (CWDs); this was geared towards equipping them with skills and knowledge on how to monitor the implementation of PRDP from a gender perspective.

Community watch dogs are community members resident within local communities; they follow and report on gender sensitivity of PRDP implementation. Through this UWONET was able to generate new knowledge, approaches and practice on effective implementation and inclusion of gender and women rights issues in post conflict recovery programs. 24 CWDs were nominated by the partner organisations.



Trained community watch dogs

Training of opinion leaders; a total of 100 opinion leaders were trained on areas to understand gender and women rights issues within the PRDP and the need to hold government accountable for the implementation of PRDP in a transparent, participatory and gender sensitive manner and above all awareness creation on PRDP since they are the influential people in the community.

The training targeted religious leaders, cultural leaders, politicians, elders and other influential community members.

IEC materials

To enhance community's awareness on gender and women's rights in PRDP implementation various IEC materials were produced and some were further translated in the local language (Luo) these included; Gender Audit of national budget and local government budgets and plans; Training needs assessment report; Advocacy training manual; Production of a policy brief; Production of a news letter, fliers 1000, t-shirts 1000 and brochures 1200 copies. These IEC materials gave an in-depth knowledge and understanding on gender and women's rights in PRDP.



Women from Lira palwo reading some of the translated IEC materials

Radio programme

To target a bigger population with information on PRDP a radio program was developed inform of radio spot messages on themes that inform and empower women to demand and get involved in the PRDP implementation and monitoring.

Peer learning

Exchange visit; during the project period UWONET facilitated 40 women for an exchange visit to Kenya and Burundi. The purpose of the exchange visit was for the beneficiaries to share and learn from their sisters emerging from such conflicts and to understand issues with women peace and security in reconstruction settings. These countries were chosen for experience sharing.

Annual networking week; The Annual Networking week was initiated as an opportunity to bring women from the 40 PRDP districts to promote shared learning for identification of synergies, potential areas for collaboration and sharing of good practices from various districts.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The project progress was continuously checked and monitored using various methods as identified below.

Process monitoring: This activity was conducted as an opportunity for spot on checks and assessment of impact of all the activities undertaken.

Participatory monitoring with beneficiaries (annual reflection): This was carried out as a way to identify challenges, success and together devise means of how best to improve on project implementation.

Quarterly quality assurance meetings were conducted by the Executive Committee members; this process ensured that all activities were undertaken in accordance with the rules and regulations of UWONET; above all, it facilitated the approval of service providers, monitored checks and balances, ensured proper management and accountability.

UWONET provides for a transparent and result oriented implementation in the organisations guidelines and procedures.

Institutional Strengthening

For effective and efficient implementation of the planned activities UWONET purchased the following equipment; a brand new Toyota Pickup double cabin UAN 577F and brand new computers (Laptop and desk top) which helped UWONET in the running of project activities and for the organisation at large.

Achievements of the project

UWONET using the above strategies and methods of implementation registered the following achievements.

Two MOUs were signed, one between UWONET and the district officials and the other with partner organizations. This created partnership, acceptance and ownership, stipulating clear roles and responsibilities of UWONET, local government and partner organizations thus avoiding duplication of activities. This process ensured support and clear identification of target group was enabled by these stakeholders.

Community's knowledge and understanding on PRDP has been enhanced. This was achieved through trainings, radio programs, IEC materials disseminated to the beneficiaries and other stakeholders. As result the community is able to demand and monitor PRDP interventions because they have the knowledge and information. One beneficiary from Kitgum district considered the project '*an eye opener*'. Vigilance of the community has been enhanced they are able to question the duty bearers incases of incomplete work. This has initiated better feedback between community and the leaders.

District officials indicate in-depth understanding in gender and mainstreaming and thus applying it during planning, budgeting and implementation. Majority of women are benefiting from NAADS, NUSUF and other government programmes. They have formed their own groups and are accessing farm inputs.

'We have ensured that women form their own groups under NAADS and are accessing farm inputs this process has empowered them economically'- NAADS coordinator Lokung sub county.

Women have taken up strategic advocacy positions in the community for example they are part of the school management and water user committees.

During the peer exchange visit to Kenya and Burundi the women had a shared learning on women peace and security. They learnt a lot during the sharing from other countries especially Kenya's Post Election Violence relating it to the 2011 elections in Uganda. Also other methods of preventing further escalation of the violence were discussed and how women can tap resources from recovery programmes. They understood their roles as role models in society to remain non violent.

Veronica ochan a beneficiary from Lira Palwo, Pader district acknowledge how the exchanged visit exposed her to the other world and she was able to share and learn.

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The community is able to by persuade and influence decision makers, challenging unequal power relations and effectively engaging policy makers for improved service delivery. For example;

In Latanya parish Pader district, water was brought back in the community after community members mobilized and demanded the local government to repair the water sources.

In Alim primary school Pajule Sub County, Pader district a roof of a classroom block was blown and pupils were no longer going to school. The community mobilized with the help of the community watchdogs and dialogued with the school administration. Later the roof was repaired and the pupils went back to school.

Through sensitization groups formed joint sensitization meetings for girls in primary schools with their parents were regularly conducted. This strategy encouraged girls to stay in school, they were able to open up and talk on the challenges they are facing. *This increased the number of girls enrolled in primary seven in 2011 in particular. In Lamwo district fifteen girls dropped out of school; this move saw four sit Primary seven exams.*

The community has learnt to be independent and utilize resources within their reach to influence service delivery. For example *Panyira health centre in Lokung sub county Lamwo district was closed after a pit latrine got filled up. Seeing the need for health services within the community, the members*

mobilized and sank the latrine. After which the health centre was opened and the community started to access services.

Due their self motivation and knowledge acquired the women are able participate during planning, budgeting and implementation process at all levels. Their self esteem has been boosted. *In Pader district the woman deputy speaker has been able to raise gender issues during council meetings and debates, a move which has encouraged active participation on the side of women councilors.*

Women councilors indicate improved skills in debate during council meetings. *The secretary for production in Kitgum attested to this, she is able to challenge men during council meetings.*

The women themselves are beginning to understand how they can get involved in the monitoring of PRDP implementation, their role in the rehabilitation programs and how the programs should benefit them (how to tap resources).

The sub accountant of Lira Palwo Agago district testified that for the first time 2010 to 2011 women came in large numbers to attend a budget conference at the sub county which never used to be the case.

Challenges and mitigation measures

Although a number of achievements were registered some challenges were met during project implementation

- * Getting the MOUs signed by the district officials took long because they were in and out of office following the establishment of new districts.
- * Engaging the district staff during most project activities was difficult due to their busy schedules.
- * Expectation from the community in terms of facilitation for monitoring, this is because often times they have presented this as a challenge to them.
- * Targeted number during the trainings was small for some categories like the women groups, opinion leaders and community watch dogs.
- * Some of the IEC materials produced in Luo were not enough for all the beneficiaries.
- * The need to expand the project to other sub counties in the project districts. This issue came up during every project activity.

- * High turn over of beneficiaries made the monitoring difficult especially the district staff. Those who received the training had been transferred to other districts or gone for other better paying jobs.
- * Expectation from the community in terms of the continuity of the project

The challenges encountered during the project implementation were mitigated through the following ways;

Continues follow ups and feedback to the different stakeholders on all the interventions; Running of the project in partnership (Planning and implementation with the district based organisation). This created a sense of ownership; To large extent UWONET made the information simple for easy understanding by the community; Continuous collaboration with district grass root organisations, involvement of opinion leaders as a target group.

Learning points

Although their were a number of challenges experienced, they provided a learning ground for UWONET, Lessons learnt will be used for better implementation of other projects. They include among others;

1. Involvement of the district leadership during the project implementation is a good strategy which creates ownership and sustainability of the process, acknowledgement and support of the project.
2. Continuous collaboration with district grass root organisations (CBOs) during project implementation enhances support during planning, mobilization and monitoring.
3. Involvement of the community during project implementation is a strategy which ensures ownership and sustainability of the project.
4. Involvement of staff in all project consultancies activities enhances capacity and ensures quality and timeliness.
5. Exchange visits are a good strategy for generating new ideas, experience sharing, opportunity for networking and information sharing.
6. Achievements and success stories need to be documented for evidence based national level advocacy.

7. The presence of a strong CSO in the community influences community's demand for improved service delivery and gender responsive interventions.
8. Knowledge and information sharing is key to empowerment of the community for demand.
9. Gender considerations should be applied in all projects for equitable implementation
10. Working with cultural and religious leaders is important for the success of the project because of their influence

The learning from the *Gender Capital* project will be shared with other stakeholders both at district level and beyond. This will direct the next project such that same mistakes don't happen twice and the best practices will be borrowed. The learning will help to direct the next intervention.

The following issues emerged during the project implementation which needs to be addressed;

Access to information is still a challenge. This is in terms of work plan and budgets of government running programs and basic knowledge about the existing government programs. As a result tracing district and sub county budgets for social accountability is difficult.

Some budgets from government come with strict regulations on how to spend, this makes advocacy for the gaps identified difficult.

Delay in realize of the money for some projects hampers the whole process and community is denied that particular service.

Access to a clean safe water sources is still a problem in some areas, the women have to move for a long distance to other villages to look for water. In most schools this is a challenge and has led to high drop out rate for girls who are in their menstrual cycles. This is because of the return process where by the water sources were left in camp areas. For example Namokora sub-county majority of the community is facing this problem.

In some schools there are few or no female teachers especially in remote schools. This can be attributed to poor enrolment of girls in schools because there are no female teachers to provide counseling to the girls. Male teachers have taken this role.

There is still a weak civil society arm in the districts which needs to be capacitated for advocacy.

Individual and collective led initiative are lagging in the communities hence are unable to effectively demand.

Recommendations

- * Upscaling sensitization to create community awareness on government recovery and development programmes, through IEC materials, radio programmes to provide information to the community. Once they have information and knowledge, they can be able to demand. This will help create a knowledge base for advocacy among the community.
- * Continuous support supervision to the community watchdogs and the formed PRDP monitoring pressure groups to influence gender sensitive implementation of government development and recovery programmes.
- * Sensitizing the duty bearers to strengthen their understanding on gender mainstreaming, participatory planning and budgeting to influence gender sensitivity of any designed programme
- * Ensuring that mechanisms that involve participation of citizens in the process of managing public resources and tracking public spending are initiated for social accountability. This can be in form of community led initiatives.
- * Establishing and strengthening vibrant civil society to advocate for improved service delivery in the community.
- * Advocacy for political will to prioritise women rights issues in development and recovery programmes.
- * Strengthening and supporting the civil society arm in the districts for effective advocacy.
- * Strengthening the gender units at the district for effective advocacy and influence for gender and women rights issues in the PRDP.
- * Using the rich gaps identified during project implementation to design continuity of the project to concretize the impact in the community for sustainability. Phase II needs to be expanded to other sub counties

Conclusion

The gender capital project rolled out with support from the district leadership, CSOs, community members and other stakeholders at district and national level. The impact it has created in the lives of the war affected communities in northern Uganda above all providing information and knowledge on government recovery and development programmes can be felt throughout the districts. The emerging issues from the community pose another challenge for UWONET and partners to find other angles of intervention. This leaves a challenge for UWONET to sustain the impact it has created. It is also very evident that there is a lot of expectation from the stakeholders on how much UWONET can push this forward. It is therefore important that creative means need to be reached on how best to meet the needs of the population.

Gender capital project pictures



Umoja Dance group entertaining guests at the climax of the network week in Kitgum district Nov 2010.



Participants during the exchange visit in Burundi



Christine A. Jantscher (ADC), Rita Aciro - Lakor (E.D UWONET) at the PRDP launch in Kampala 19th February 2010



Women councilors during a group work session in Kitgum district



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