
GWED-G ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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ABBREVIATIONS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AJWS	American Jewish World Service
ANC	Antenatal Care
CBDA	Community Based Documentation Assistant
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DGF	Democratic Governance Facility
FP	Family Planning
GEWEP	Gender Equality through Women's Empowerment
GWED-G	Gulu Women Economic Development & Globalisation
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HRV	Human Rights Volunteer
HURICAP	Human Rights Capacity Building Programme
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MDR	Monitoring, Documentation, and Reporting
NUHRP	Northern Uganda Human Rights Partnership
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission
RMM	Role Model Men
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TFV	Trust Fund for Victims
VHT	Village Health Team

a year's overview

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF GWED-G

2018 was a period of refinement, adaptation and growth for GWED-G. We continued with the process of streamlining our internal operations and staffing in an effort to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our programs. The Board has also been more focused on strategy and policy development including providing oversight to GWED-G's operations. We are pleased to announce that in 2018, GWED-G won four (4) new grants with a total net worth of over \$767,000 USD. The new projects were 1) Promoting Human Rights and Inclusive Governance funded under the EU Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) for 8 months with a focus on human rights, citizen participation and land rights; 2) Citizen Engagement for Protection of Community Land in Northern Uganda funded by the Open Society Initiative for East Africa (OSIEA) that will run for 24 months and focus on land rights, human rights, institutional strengthening; 3) Influencing Change for Women Voices and Rights in Acholi Region funded by Oxfam/NOVIB that will run for 24 months and focusing on women's leadership, governance and participation; and finally 4) The Apaa Humanitarian Emergency Project, that will focus on resettling the displaced communities of Apaa. These new funds enabled GWED-G to bring on board new staff with diverse expertise that will steer us to greater heights. We continue to play a pivotal role in rising the profiles of land conflicts that affect the most ignored segments of our population in the Acholi sub-region.

To that end, we reached over 50,000 people with radio messages while 1,006 people participated in human rights sensitizations and 94 cases of human rights violations were

referred for redress using our grassroots human rights networks. As part of our male engage initiative, Role Model Men held 345 household dialogues reaching out to 7,431 couples on SGBV. As partners in the USAID/RHITES Acholi project and GlobeMed, we have been instrumental in mobilizing communities and linking them to the formal health system; in 2018 we were able to reach to over 58,766 people with health messages on various services including HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, nutrition, MCH and family planning. 6,156 women of reproductive age were counselled and referred for family planning methods of their choice. 11,000 pregnant women were mapped by VHTs and referred for ANC services, while 787 benefited from mama kits. Under the AJWS project we reached 720 adolescents with sexual and reproductive health messages. GWED-G is committed in ensuring that communities access high quality health services for better health outcomes.

As donors move more to working with local partners and shift their preferences to contracting local organizations, GWED-G will position itself as a partner of choice. We commit to developing and strengthening our internal systems in addition to being more accountable to our constituencies. To our core stakeholders, we would like assure you that the Board and Management of GWED-G is ready for yet another productive year as we continue to execute our Strategic Plan 2017-2022. In 2019, we plan to increase our revenue stream by at least 25% through bidding for new projects and building alliances with like-minded organization as we journey towards a truly Gender Just society.





ABOUT US

Gulu Women Economic Development and Globalisation (GWED-G) is a grassroots women's rights organisation serving communities in northern Uganda. We strive to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable populations – with particular focus on women and girls. Our work contributes to post-conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation efforts in the Acholi Region in the hopes of cultivating a vibrant, prosperous and peaceful society. We believe that communities that are supported to enjoy their full socioeconomic and social rights will thrive, enjoying unfettered access to quality healthcare and educational services. The free and full enjoyment of one's human rights means living a healthy and dignified life in a violence-free environment.



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*Our Vision is to achieve a **gender-just** society where women and men, boys and girls, in post-conflict Northern Uganda realize their **full potential**, enjoy their **human rights**, and live in total **peace** and **prosperity**.*

AIMING HIGH: OUR MISSION

Through our efforts, we wish to help shape a society that respects all people regardless of their sex, age, class, ability status, sexuality, ethnicity, and religious or political affiliations. We wish to support people (with special emphasis on women and girls) to fully integrate into their communities, enjoy their full human rights, equally benefit from all government services, have equitable access to and control of productive resources, participate actively in democratic and political leadership processes, and to live free from violence.

.....

*Our Mission is to **empower** women and girls. We effectuate **change** through implementing **best practices** and placing the community at the heart of our projects. We use **community-based** models for women's and girls' empowerment to **amplify** their **voices**.*

OUR VALUES



GENDER EQUALITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

We value & support the central role of women in development and believe in gender equality by ensuring all people have equal opportunities.



INTEGRITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

We uphold the highest degree of honesty, transparency and accountability in carrying out our duties and in our partnerships.



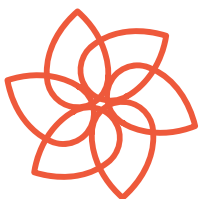
RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

We ensure the rights of women and marginalised communities are respected, promoted, protected and fulfilled by drawing attention to the responsibilities of local leaders, government representatives and other institutions.



ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

We aspire towards full, equal, and meaningful involvement of our members and beneficiaries at all phases of project cycles.



VOLUNTEERISM & SERVICE-ABOVE-SELF

We expect our members and employees to be motivated by a conviction and commitment to uphold human rights. We foster the spirit to serve the under-privileged, particularly women & girls.



PARTNERSHIP, ALLIANCE-BUILDING & COLLABORATIONS

We partner with local, national and international NGOs to maximize our efforts to improve the human rights of vulnerable communities and eradicate poverty.



GRASSROOTS SUPPORT FOR POOR & UPROOTED COMMUNITIES

We believe injustices can be eradicated and rights respected only when women and excluded communities are able to take charge of their lives and claim their rights. .

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS & GENDER EQUALITY

As part of Strategic Focus 1 on promoting Human Rights & Gender Equality in Northern Uganda, we implemented 3 projects to address these areas.

A key objective for us is to foster a culture of recognition and respect for human rights and dignity for all communities in Northern Uganda, especially marginalized populations including women and girls, people living with HIV/AIDS, people with disabilities, and war-affected persons.

In April, GWED-G commenced implementation of a 15-month project funded by Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) to promote human rights, peace and inclusive governance. (DGF Project). The project operated in four Districts in post-conflict Acholi Region: Gulu, Nwoya, Amuru, and Omoro.



GWED-G continued its implementation of a project started in 2016 sponsored by Diakonia Sweden to promote gender equality through women's empowerment and strengthening male-engaged initiatives (GEWEP Project). This project is implemented in three Northern Districts: Nwoya, Amuru, and Omoro.

BOLSTERING PROGRESS THROUGH ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

Any effort to drive societal changes necessitates systemic and institutional transformation. This is why GWED-G has placed heavy emphasis on arming its beneficiaries with knowledge from the grassroots to the government. An effective method for informing the public and opening channels of dialogue is through the use of radio talk shows, whereby we collaborate with a wide range of influencers and community representatives, including local government actors at the district- and sub-county levels (such as Speakers, Probation & Welfare Officers, and Land Officers) to activists and advocates from the villages.

MAKING WAVES: RADIO FOR RIGHTS

Radio is the most widely available media channel through which the most disadvantaged groups and individuals receive information. Topics covered included Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), the importance of women's participation in leadership, human rights education, promoting girl-child education, and discussions on land rights, particularly women's land rights.

10 TALK SHOWS REACHING

RADIO SPOT MESSAGES REACHING

50,000+

15,000

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

ON LOCAL GOVERNANCE



LUCY FROM LALIYA

Lucy was suffering in silence in her abusive marriage for years. She didn't know where to turn to for help and desperation grew. Fortunately, Lucy had tuned into the radio and learned about GWED-G from a RMM leading a talk show on SGBV. The next day, Lucy walked into our office and disclosed her story of abuse. Through our mediation sessions and home visits to support, Lucy and her husband have resolved their issues and are now living together peacefully.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: INCREASING INCLUSION IN DECISION MAKING

A vital component in promoting gender equality centres on women's participation in decision making and planning processes. To this end, the DGF Project targeted 82 women councillors in leadership positions with training to sharpen their skills on gender mainstreaming, gender-responsive planning and budgeting, and effective communication. These women leaders were also supported with training in advocacy and lobbying on issues key to women and girls, as well as how to form caucuses to enhance their ability to shape policies and better position themselves in terms of political leadership.



Resultantly, women councillors have been able to form caucuses as a venue to collectivise, share ideas, and streamline their messaging to better articulate their issues in the hopes of boosting attention both within their communities and local governments.

The women councillors who received training facilitated twelve interface meetings, reaching local grassroots women (and men) to share their views and increase their involvement in public decision making. Interface meetings involved 874 women and 160 men where discussions revolved around women's participation in decision making and leadership, male engagement, women's empowerment, and advocacy for the concerns of women.

1,074

PARTICIPANTS @ INTERFACE
MEETINGS

FACILITATED BY WOMEN COUNCILLORS

MALE- ENGAGED INITIATIVES

To grow on past initiatives to promote gender equality, GWED-G has continued rolling out its model of training Role Model Men (RMM) to serve as examples to other men on gender equality and fair behaviour. The concept involves training community men from various backgrounds to promote positive masculinities and serve as allies to women's empowerment and advocate for gender equality. Each man is assigned ten households to work with intensively to change the status quo, decrease violence, and eliminate toxic attitudes. We have had much success in the past with our RMM that it continues to be a cornerstone approach to engaging men in promoting gender equality for our organization and, more importantly, for the communities we work with.

This year, we held a "Male Engaged Exhibition" in Amuru as part of the GEWEP Project to reach 50 beneficiaries (35 males, 15 females). Through the exhibition, RMM and select households were given the opportunity to share new ideas and knowledge on how best to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Participatory methods were used to generate action points to transform communities, to be spearheaded by the RMM.

Male engagement powers gender equality.

The DGF Project also utilized the RMM approach, training 225 new RMM on SGBV and conflict resolution to conduct household dialogues in families experiencing SGBV. Our approach to cultivating gender equality involves tackling SGBV as a key violation of women's and girls' human rights.

These RMM conducted 345 household dialogues and community awareness sessions impacting 7,431 community members in four districts. These sessions covered a range of topics including reporting and referral pathways for survivors, domestic violence, and denial of women's and girls' rights, namely access to family planning and denial of a girl's right to education. Economic violence issues were raised, especially with regards to the denial of women's land ownership rights.

TACKLING SEXUAL & GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

An increasing focus of GWED-G is aimed at eradicating SGBV. GWED-G and Civil Society Organization (CSO) partners Action Aid and Christian Counselling Fellowship supported SGBV survivors' access to response services by furnishing police (9 police posts) with key materials and supplies to assist their documentation and referral of cases. Resultantly, 35 survivors (33 female, 2 male) were able to report their cases and access medical referrals. By assisting police in this way, survivors were better able to access psychosocial, legal and medical services.

GWED-G supported Nwoya District Local Government to develop the Child Protection and GBV Ordinance. This ordinance represents a key tool for SGBV prevention and response in Nwoya.

In addition to previously mentioned activities, we conducted 36 community sensitizations specifically focused on SGBV. Emphasis was placed on how to prevent SGBV through gender equality and women's empower, the importance of reporting, SGBV case management and referral pathways, and information on support available to SGBV survivors in the community. RMM and case workers provided psychosocial services to 115 SGBV survivors within their communities.





SUPPORTING EARS ON THE GROUND: HUMAN RIGHTS VOLUNTEERS

One of the key factors in the protection of human rights involves the documentation and reporting of human rights violations and the evolution and handling of these violations. Through the DGF Project, we trained 60 Human Rights Volunteers (HRVs, 35 males, 24 females) in the monitoring, documentation, reporting and referral of human rights abuses and violations in communities using tools developed by GWED-G.

For us, it has been important to develop locally-sourced tools and tailor our

trainings around the context on the ground to ensure that we are making knowledge dissemination relevant, responsive and accessible to our community.

HRVs were furnished with bicycles to mitigate transport challenges and reach further distances during their outreach and mobilization. We also support them with airtime for communicating human rights abuses.

*HRVs led 24 community awareness-raising meetings on human rights, including gender equality, reaching **2,369 people** (1,256 females & 1,113 males). A total of **94 human rights violations** were reported to our HRVs.*

ENHANCING LAND RIGHTS ADVOCACY IN ACHOLI SUB-REGION

In line with its strategic objective of promoting human rights, GWED-G implemented the Amnesty International Human Rights Capacity Building Programme (HURICAP) that focused on strengthening the capacity of the Northern Uganda Human Rights Partnership (NUHRP) – a partnership where GWED-G is a member and host institution. In 2018, NUHRP/GWED-G worked around issues that improve land rights for marginalized communities in Acholi sub-region. The support provided to HRVs as part of community-led activism on land rights helped to deter and avert land grabbing, especially by powerful parties who intentionally exploit the vulnerability of communities.

HRV activism raised the profiles of highly contested land rights violations in ‘hot-spot’ areas such as Nyimur Multipurpose Irrigation Project in Lamwo District and Apaa in Amuru District. As a result, government instituted task forces to help resolve these land conflicts with the communities and their leaders. Our advocacy works through radio talk-shows, community sensitizations, and high-level platform dialogues involving regional figures of various social positions. These people are brought into the public arena to debate on the land rights of vulnerable members of the community. NUHRP/GWED-G reinforced its grassroots advocacy efforts on land by training and equipping HRVs. The training focused on improving monitoring, documentation and reporting of human rights and land violations and equipment provided included cameras and smartphones.





FACILITATING COMMUNITY LAND ADVOCACY PLATFORMS

A regional level Land Advocacy Forum was organized by NURHP to discuss the critical huddles to land rights in Acholi sub-region that included the use of power (state, economic, political, and cultural) and political authority in abusing land rights. Abuse of political authority was cited in the case of land grabs in Lakang, Apaa and Nyimur where brutal force and sometimes legal fiat were used to forcibly obtain community land and displace local populations. The forum formulated resolutions to support communities to address land rights violations notably: a) use of customary land law guidelines for land acquisition; b) strengthening the institutional capacity of Ker Kwaro Acholi (the cultural institution) to defend/mediate on land issues; c) prohibition of individual sale of customary land; d) transparency and involvement of communities in the acquisition of customary land.

At the community level, land advocacy initiatives involved organizing community dialogues on land conflict steered by the cultural and local leaders. The dialogues were aimed mainly at highlighting violations of land rights and bolstering the protection of customary land rights. Additionally, GWED-G sought to educate affected persons about their land rights under the customary land tenure system and provide information on how communities can mitigate /resolve violent land grabbing and disputes. In 2018, such dialogues were held in Nyimur, Ogili and Apyeta in Lamwo districts where there were territorial disputes. GWED-G and NUHRP advocated for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) that uses local cultural structures and systems other than the formal court process that is normally perceived by the communities as slow, expensive, corrupt and complex.

SUPPORTING MONITORING, DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING (MDR)

MDR is a critical element in human rights work especially in voicing and amplifying violations, and can also be used in seeking justice in legal courts. To that end, 30 Community-based Documentation Assistants (CBDA) were trained on MDR and provided electronic gadgets (i.e., smartphones and cameras) to aid MDR activities in 'hot-spot' land conflict communities of Apaa, Palabek and Lakang. The CBDAs utilized the gadgets and shared photos of violations in the contested areas.

USING EVIDENCE FOR ADVOCACY

NUHRP/GWED-G, in collaboration with other partners that included Action Aid, Solidarity Uganda and CARITAS-Uganda, jointly conducted a preliminary study on the forceful land eviction in Apaa. NUHRP/GWED-G contributed financial resources to facilitate the study that was carried out by a human rights activist. The study provided the chronological history of the Apaa conflict, along with its impacts in the recent past and present. This included evidence and the extent of atrocities meted out on the inhabitants of Apaa. Extracts of the study have been widely shared on social media including on various platforms of CSOs. The study was used to raise the profile of the conflict both nationally and globally, resulting in government entering negotiations for settlement of the crisis in addition to providing humanitarian support to the affected community. NGOs such as GWED-G and CARITAS also mobilized support for the community of Apaa.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM STUDY:

- Property destroyed & looted
- Numerous reports of physical injury and severe beatings
- Uniformed men cited in the beatings and destruction of property
- Displaced persons scattered to Gulu, Pabbo, and Amuru towns
- Members of the Madi tribe cited in forceful evictions and resettled in areas originally belonging to Acholis



PEOPLE DIRECTLY AFFECTED

2,743

people who had huts burned or were displaced due to the Apaa conflict

844

number of recorded huts burnt

LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY

A key strategic focus for GWED-G emphasizes strengthening livelihoods and food security in terms of the economic empowerment of women and youth.

We want to empower women and youth on their economic and civic rights to meaningfully participate in the economy, in conjunction with increasing their involvement in democratic processes within Uganda. By investing in women, we believe that we can unlock women's economic potential, thereby increasing gender equality as well as income equality, and help to increase productivity and boost Uganda's Gross Domestic Product.

Additionally, GWED-G's efforts to target youth is key to securing their economic and social futures, given the demographics showing a bulging youth population with grim employment prospects.

2018 saw two projects that involved addressing livelihoods and food security issues, namely the Globe Med Project and the GEWEP Project.

While the Globe Med Project, which started in April and runs into 2019, primarily focuses on health measures, GWED-G integrated approaches to support livelihoods. To this end, the project sought to enhance livelihoods and food security through supporting profitable usage of land and strengthening market linkages in Amuru District.

The Globe Med Project supported 137 households with the provision of vegetable seeds to nurture and harvest to purchase goats as a means of diversified food production and income generation. This intervention led to a larger yield during harvest periods and the acquisition of livestock (*i.e.*, goats).



FROM ROLE MODEL MEN TO MODEL FARMERS

GWED-G's GEWEP Project piloted an approach to build on the pre-existing influence and experience of RMM. Six RMM belonging to Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) groups were selected to become model farmers. These RMM were provided improved beans and maize seeds to promote diversification of their livelihoods. By using improved seeds, farmers are able to yield bigger harvests, thereby increasing their revenues. This extra income can lead to increased VSLA groups savings which benefit the entire group, in turn, by increasing the money available for taking out loans to invest in growing their businesses.



PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE: ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IN ACHOLILAND

To best position Northern Ugandan to participate in the economic transformation and development of their region, GWED-G acknowledges the importance of preparing subsistence farmers for the detrimental effects of climate change. 43 beneficiaries (23 women VSLA members selected from 20 previously formed VSLA groups and 20 RMM) received training on Climate Change, Climate SMART Agriculture and Disaster Risk Reduction from Nwoya, Amuru and Omoro Districts.

Participants were able to identify the root causes and risk factors of climate change. They gained knowledge in mitigation measures to put in place to enable their households to cope with the deleterious effects of climate change, namely droughts, floods, infestation of pests, and diseases. Women VSLA groups have worked to interweave climate change awareness building and knowledge-sharing into their group activities as a direct contribution towards environmental protection and conservation. The women have switched to drought-resistant crops, such as cassava, sorghum and millet, as an adaptive measure to ensure future food security for their households. RMM have started planting various tree species like pine, eucalyptus and tick trees on their farms to increase tree coverage and shade, to protect soil degradation and conserve water.

PEACE BUILDING & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

A long-standing strategic focus for GWED-G, peace building and conflict resolution initiatives are key to sustainable development in northern Uganda.

To contribute to peace building in war-affected communities, GWED-G implemented the Integrated Physical and Psychological Rehabilitation Assistance for War Victims in Northern Uganda with funding support from the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV). The intervention targeted 12 sub-counties in the districts of Gulu, Amuru, Nwoyo and Omoro with 12 outreach offices operated by facilitators. The project supported war victims with physical rehabilitation and psychosocial and material support. In 2018, a total of 370 victims were identified (152 male and 218 female). 234 war victims were treated, including 7 admissions, and 13 were supported with assistive devices. 168 victims received follow-up visits and support.

18 women were also trained on different skills (e.g., craft, pottery, shoemaking, and livestock production) to generate incomes and nurture economic independence. A further 10 vulnerable war victims were supported with sewing machines to facilitate their economic activities. 93 people were counselled. To reduce stigmatization of the war victims, 21 community mobilizations and sensitizations were conducted to promote peaceful co-existence among the war victims and community members reaching 999 people (579 male, 420 female) in the 12 targeted sub-counties. As a result, stigma has greatly reduced.



LAND RIGHTS: GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

In a bid to promote peace, GWED-G employs Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as a mechanism to resolve conflicts in the communities. With financial backing from DGF, 156 traditional leaders (80 Rwodi Kweri and 76 Rwodi Okoro) were trained to conduct land mediation at the grassroots level. Four trainings were conducted at each district targeting 40 participants in August 2018.

This year, 40 land conflicts were successfully mediated in the districts of Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya and Omoro. The majority of the cases involved disputed boundaries, denial of land rights for widows, and intra-family and inter-clan conflicts.



Stakeholder engagement was paramount to success. District-level engagements were held to discuss the Northern Region's specific land rights issues. 4 meetings were held in the districts of Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya and Omoro, reaching 169 people (49 women and 120 men). The meetings aimed at collectively brainstorming on common land rights issues in the region and drawing action plans (by district) to resolve the various land issues.

Common land rights issues identified included unauthorized land sales, inadequate knowledge on land laws, unclear land boundaries due to displacement during the war, family land conflicts (especially customary land), poor land management systems, and greed over land due to high cash value attached to it. Stakeholders agreed that the District and Sub-county Mediation Teams needed to be adequately facilitated and continuously motivated in their work. The government was pressed to derive solutions to the land issues in Acholi including the Apaa, Laminatoo, and Leb-ngec land conflicts, among others. During these meetings, the district and council determined an amount of money to be given to the Area Land Committee as they operate to avoid exploitation of the community members by overcharging. Local government and development partners strengthened their collaborative efforts towards capacity building of traditional leaders on mediation, as courts are not easily affordable for the community members and cases take long to be handled.

KNOW YOUR (LAND) RIGHTS!



Community sensitization is another strategy used in preventing conflicts by GWED-G. A total of 1,006 people (434 female and 572 male) were reached from four districts, strengthening communities' knowledge on women's land rights in a bid to prevent human rights violations of women and other extremely vulnerable people. Communities appreciated the knowledge gained through these information sharing sessions on the importance of land registration, demarcation and titling. Working with local government structures helped particularly with the Area Land Committee members, parish chiefs and District Land Officers.

**PEACE THROUGH COMMUNITY
SENSITIZATION REACHING**

1,006

**PROVIDING KNOWLEDGE ON
LAND RIGHTS**

**NUMBER OF TRADITIONAL
LEADERS TRAINED**

156

**ON ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE
RESOLUTION**

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

In 2018, we were able to reach out to youth in- and out-of-school, reaching 463 boys and 680 girls. Young people participated through community awareness sessions on human rights and other issues. Youth have been involved as beneficiaries, partners and collaborators in our work. They were informed and engaged in program activities, with some playing the roles of HRVs, Councillors representing youth and mobilizers that bring together communities and shine a light on youth issues. Our youth partners took part in planning, implementation and monitoring of project activities. Youth leaders in our programming areas were engaged to monitor the deliverables to ensure that the youth benefit and are actively included in each step of project processes.



American Jewish World Service (AJWS) supported GWED-G to mentor young people in schools to encourage the development of future leaders. We work with schools to strengthen their debating clubs and encourage inter-school competitions and visits to learn and share best practices across different schools.

1,143

YOUTH REACHED THROUGH
COMMUNITY AWARENESS
SESSIONS

CONNECTING VOICES: EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH INFORMATION SHARING AND DIALOGUES

Awareness and sensitization campaigns for adolescent girls and young women were conducted and 740 adolescent youths aged 10-25 years (320 boys and 420 girls) in- and out-of-school benefited from education on reproduction and sexuality. Key topics for these interactive sessions included delaying sexual initiation, dangers of teenage/early pregnancies, availability of services including youth and child friendly spaces, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV, and causes/consequences of dropping out of school.

600 boys were engaged during dialogues to share their experience on how they have been allies to girls to support them in staying in school through actions like sharing house chores at home and reporting abusers of girls' rights to the appropriate authorities. As a result, girls have enjoyed improved learning environment at school and were further supported with motivation through continuous mentorship from teachers.



HEALTH & NUTRITION

Focusing on health and nutrition remained a strong strategic area for GWED-G in 2018. Nurturing healthy communities is paramount in empowering individuals and supporting communities' autonomous development.

GWED-G continues to focus on the improvement of reproductive health rights, maternal and child health (MCH), and the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. During the period, GWED-G used a mix of innovative and highly impactful approaches to increase uptake of health services in communities. Under the 5-year USAID-funded RHITES-North Acholi project, GWED-G's work contributes to increasing the adoption of health-seeking behaviours among the communities of Gulu, Nwoya, Agago and Amuru. RMM, Village Health Teams (VHT), and local influencers (*i.e.*, cultural, religious and women leaders) are crucial to ensuring that communities are engaged as participants in addressing barriers that prevent disease and encourage the adoption of healthy lifestyles. GWED-G community coordinators use health data obtained from health facilities and the district as evidence to drive implementation. Demand for a range of health services that include TB, HIV/AIDS, MCH, family planning (FP), nutrition and WASH is generated using multiple community approaches. VHTs – who are the frontline community health resource persons – were used to map, register, educate and refer clients for the various services. Targeted community dialogues for specific key populations and groups were organized based on needs. Dialogues were held to improve on referral of pregnant mothers in order to improve first trimester antenatal care (ANC) attendance and facility delivery. Dialogues on TB, voluntary male medical circumcision (VMMC), WASH, nutrition, FP and HIV/AIDS were done at the community level. Home hygiene and sanitation campaigns organized in communities with low coverage of latrine and poor WASH indicators were also conducted. GWED-G's community health approach not only seeks to promote health at the community level but also to strengthen linkages between the community and the formal health system.





ACCESS TO FAMILY PLANNING

During the period, GWED-G mobilized and referred 58,766 new family planning acceptors for services. 301 VHTs were trained on Community-Based Family Planning and supported to report FP activities at the community level. During community integrated outreaches, GWED-G and its partners were able to provide counselling services on FP for eligible clients totalling 6568 people, focused especially on those below the age of 20 years. Short-term methods like male and female condoms, Sayana press, Depo Provera and oral pills were provided. For long-term methods, communities were referred to nearby health units. Family planning behavioural change at the community level was enhanced through the use of targeted community dialogues in areas of high fertility to counter myths and misconceptions about FP methods. Local FM radio stations and cultural and religious leaders were leveraged to reinforce uptake of FP services.



FP REACH IN AGAGO, AMURU, GULU & NWOYA DISTRICTS

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE
WHO RECEIVED FP
COUNSELLING**

6,568

HIV PREVENTION & RESPONSE

In line with GWED-G's Strategic Objective 4 on supporting efforts to increase access to quality and affordable health services for women and girls, we used VHTs to map and register a total of over 11,000 pregnant women under the RHITES-N Project. These women benefited from HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) services in the community and at static sites. 9,669 out of 11,000 women received ANC services within the first trimester and 1,360 women were enrolled in the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT) program. VHTs were facilitated to follow-up mother-baby pairs with missed appointments, and all mothers that delivered at the facility level were followed by VHTs at 6 hours, 6 days and 6 weeks.



According to Uganda AIDS Commission (2017), HIV prevalence in GWED-G's operational area is 7%, with women disproportionately affected. In 2018, we implemented a number of HIV interventions under Globe Med and USAID-RHITES-N Acholi funding. Globe Med specifically supported wrap-around services for pregnant women enrolled on PMTCT. The services included HIV/AIDS sensitization outreaches for 21 communities, with a total reach of 1,212 beneficiaries. ANC referrals were made for 2,318 HIV-positive women enrolled on the PMTCT program. VHTs and health workers visited 364 homes of PMTCT clients to educate on and promote adherence counselling, psychosocial support and livelihood support. 300 babies and women received immunizations, 1,814 mothers received FP of their choice, and 787 pregnant and lactating mothers were provided free mama kits.

Male involvement in encouraging men to accompany their partners for ANC services was emphasized. As a result, 327 men accompanied their partners for ANC services. This intervention registered remarkable impacts especially in ensuring that children of HIV-positive mothers are born HIV-free. All 409 HIV-positive mothers that delivered at health facilities and were enrolled at the baby-mother care points had their children declared free of HIV/AIDS after 6 months of Early Infant Diagnosis. In 2017, Globe Med provided bean seeds as part of its nutritional support to HIV-positive pregnant mothers for improved health outcomes. The fortified beans were harvested in 2018 and supplemented the diet diversity of lactating mothers in addition to providing surplus income for buying other vital necessities like alternative foods for their babies.

SECURING THE SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS OF ADOLESCENTS

GWED-G implemented the AJWS Project that compliments its objective of adolescent sexual reproductive health rights advocacy. The AJWS Project focused mainly on strengthening the leadership and empowerment of girls and young women in the promotion and advancement of sexual health and rights. GWED-G used different transformative approaches in enabling girls and boys to gain access to information about sexual development and risks such as teenage pregnancies and sexual infections including HIV/AIDS. The approaches included: a) sexuality and gender sessions/sensitizations and campaigns in primary schools and communities. Special focus was on stopping violence, discrimination and ensuring the health, safety and dignity of girls; b) support to debating clubs to enhance public speaking and debating skills for girls so as to empower them with vital life skills in negotiating and defending their rights in private and public spaces; c) use of school alumni to mentor and coach young adolescent school girls to inspire them to become high achievers. Boys were specially targeted as future change agents for a gender-just society.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- 690 pupils (210 boys & 480 girls) reached with information on sexuality and reproductive health
- Reached 740 adolescents (320 boys & 420 girls) in- and out-of-school with reproductive health and sexuality messages
- 49 debating sessions held with 360 debating clubs' members participating
- 6 alumni mentorship and coaching sessions held in 6 schools with a reach of 874 youth (352 boys & 522 girls)
- 592 primary school boys engaged to protect the rights and dignity of girls
- Equipping 100 young women and girls with entrepreneurial and agronomic skills
- 20 teachers trained as mentors, counselors and coaches for sexuality, reproductive health and life skills

The boys benefitted from information on sexuality, in addition to training on gender equality. They were taught to respect and protect the dignity of girls in schools, especially those that face harassment and are embarrassed during menstruation. Furthermore, the girls supported under this project were provided entrepreneurial and agronomic skills for economic empowerment. Start-up kits were provided for liquid soap-making to 10 girls. For other female beneficiaries, a demonstration garden was set up with the support of an agricultural extension worker alongside the provision of quality vegetable seeds and organic fertilizers. To facilitate this project, we selected committed teachers from the participating 6 primary schools who participated in our training of trainers (TOTs). Specific knowledge and skills provided to the teachers were information on gender, sexuality and reproductive health, and life skills, as well as entrepreneurship and agronomy. Teachers trained were further supported with skills in mentorship, coaching and counselling. IEC materials on sexuality, reproductive health and risky behaviours were used to reinforce the messages provided to young people.

OUR ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH & SUSTAINABILITY

Our Board continued to provide strategic direction to the growth and sustainability of GWED-G.

A review of 2018 milestones reveals the following scorecard of the Board's performance.

SUCCESS IN 2018

- 100% Board attendance of meetings
- GWED-G project portfolio growth by ...% point
- Winning of 4 new grants namely DGF, HUM, VOICE and OSIEA worth 767,000 USD
- Recruitment of 6 highly qualified and experienced program staff steer the new projects
- Acquisition of new assets that included an office generator and 2 additional vehicles to add on the existing fleet of 3 running vehicles
- 2 Board members oriented under a CARE International governance and leadership program
- Strategic partnership discussion and linkage meetings held with private banks namely Equity Bank and Bank of Africa for financial support services including agriculture loans for 450 women farmers
- Meeting with ECLOF, a micro-finance institution, to explore opportunities for partnership for supporting groups
- GWED-G and others founded the Women Human Rights Defenders Network that is hosted by ISSIS-WICCE – The network will support human rights defenders in Uganda

BEYOND 2018...

- Attract and retain high caliber staff with high qualifications and diverse experiences
- Build capacities within GWED-G to write winning proposals
- Build capacities within GWED-G to write marketable proposals
- Win 3 big grants in 2019
- Midterm Review of the current Strategic Plan 2017 - 2022
- Develop a resource bank within GWED-G for different tested models
- Develop GWED-G website
- Review GWED-G's Operational Manual

OUR FINANCES

INCOME

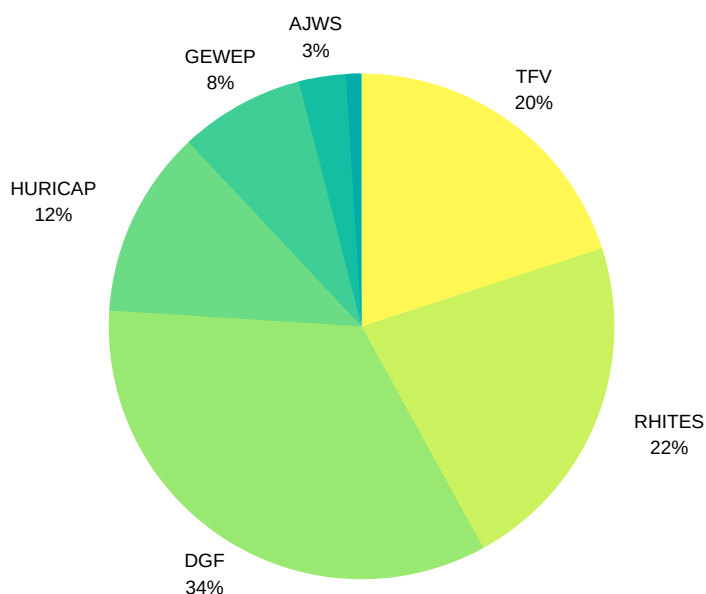
Funds c/f from 2017	UGX 105,300,339
Grants Received	1,801,862,794
Other Income	1,839,524
<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Revenue & Gains	UGX 1,909,002,657
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EXPENDITURES

Direct Program	UGX 691,584,088
Personnel	635,260,51
Administrative	104,741,048
<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	UGX 1,431,585,654
<hr/>	<hr/>

EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT

- DGF Project = 34%
- USAID RHITES = 22%
- TFV = 20%
- HURICAP (NUHRP) = 12%
- Diakonia GEWEP = 8%
- AJWS = 3%
- Diakonia HUM = 1%



OUR WORK, OUR PRIDE: STORIES OF SUCCESS

We take pride in our work. Here we have chosen a few examples of how our work is making an impact.



*Names have been changed to protect beneficiaries' identities.

MEET SANDRA: GAINING HOPE THROUGH HIV

It was just another day for Sandra when she decided to drop by her local health centre. She would have never imagined that she would test positive for HIV at her regular doctor's visit. Pregnant with her second child, Sandra was overcome with immense fear. She was unsure what her status meant for her upcoming child and started to consider abortion. Upon disclosing her status to her husband, she was met with ridicule and contempt. Not knowing where to access resources or find support, Sandra decided to take her life.

Fortunately, she ended up crossing paths with one of the local VHT workers in Pagak. The VHT counselled her on the specifics of HIV and connected her to a local health centre from where she accessed Anti-Retroviral medication. Her uncertainties and fears subsided once she understood that she could still live a fulfilling life and give birth to a healthy child. She is now also enrolled in GWED-G's HIV Prevention and Maternal Health program where she was able to receive a Mama Kit which will ensure that her coming baby is safely delivered and will be protected from HIV transmission.



“

As part of GWED-G's Livelihoods Program, I will be receiving goats so that I am self-sufficient and to generate income for the well-being of my entire family. GWED-G gave me another chance at life.

”

MEET CHRIS: REAWAKENING TO A PAIN-FREE LIFE

In 2002, I was forced to join the army. During our training, there was serious caning and beatings from the commanding soldiers. I was beaten so badly that I became ill and started to pass blood in my urine. I had a wound under my testicle and the pain radiated up my waist. While I escaped and was able to seek basic treatment, I did not have access to more thorough medical examinations including x-rays.

From 2003 to 2016, I struggled with my recurring wound, that would fester and smell, causing me anxiety and making me avoid social interactions. During this time, I also suffered from difficulties urinating and the pain continued to bother me tremendously. The only thing I could do was to isolate myself and my plan was to do away with my life because I saw no hope again.



Our family did not have enough money to get better medical treatment. In 2016, my brother heard about GWED-G's program to help war victims (TFV). GWED-G send a facilitator to inform me about the program and provided counselling to myself and my brother (who was mentored in how to support me). I was assessed and referred to Lacor Hospital in Gulu, where a doctor fixed a tube (*i.e.*, catheter) in my penis to help me urinate. Almost immediately, the pain reduced and I could sleep well at night, stay where others were. I was very happy! I was able to go for check-ups twice a month to change the tube and discuss any issues.

After fourteen months, I am now living without the tube and my doctor says I can resume normal activities. I have started digging and hunting as before. I have come back to a normal life! Again in 2018, GWED-G supported me with two female goats and this is going to help me produce more livestock and generate income for years to come.

MEET APRIL: EMPOWERED THROUGH SELF-SUFFICIENCY

April was diagnosed with HIV in 2010. After learning her status, she faced a large amount of stigma from her community and struggled to gain access to medical services. Luckily, she was able to connect with medical resources from GWED-G through Julius, a VHT Worker. GWED-G's health talks in her village helped reduce the stigma surrounding HIV. Since her diagnosis, she has given birth to three kids, and thanks to the mama kits she received from GWED-G and the valuable medical information that was shared with her, all of her kids were born healthy and HIV negative.

April's husband, a supportive and kind man, still tests negative for HIV. The medical advice April has received has been essential to the health of her family. Last year, the health situation of her family was complicated when one of her children fell into a fire. Her child spent a month and a half in the hospital. Fortunately, she was able to sell all of her produce that she harvested from the seeds she had planted and grown that she received from GWED-G's livelihood program to help pay for hospital bills.



The most valuable aspect of GWED-G's program has been the information I learned about how to protect my family's health and how to take care of myself.



GWED-G
Gulu Women's Economic
Development & Globalization