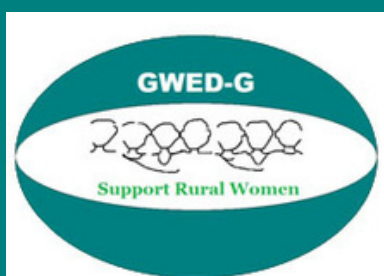


# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



## Gulu Women Economic Development & Globalization

Prepared by: GWED-G Technical Team

## CONTENTS OF REPORT

01

MESSAGE FROM THE  
BOARD CHAIR & THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

05

PROTECTING LAND  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
DEFENDERS

08

PROMOTING HUMAN  
RIGHTS & GENDER  
EQUALITY

12

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT  
& WOMEN'S POLITICAL  
REPRESENTATION

15

PEACEBUILDING &  
TRANSITIONAL  
JUSTICE

18

LIVELIHOODS & FOOD  
SECURITY

21

PROMOTION OF  
CLIMATE JUSTICE

23

HEALTH &  
NUTRITION

27

WORKING TOWARDS  
ACHIEVING GLOBAL  
HEALTH EQUITY

30

SOCIAL CORPORATE  
RESPONSABILITY  
TOWARDS COVID-19

31

SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE  
HEALTH RIGHTS

35

2020 FINANCIALS

37

STORIES OF CHANGE



# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AHF</b>	Aids Healthcare Foundation
<b>ALENU</b>	Action for Livelihood Enhancement in Northern Uganda
<b>ANC</b>	Antenatal care
<b>C&amp;R</b>	Cultural and Religious
<b>CLF</b>	Community Linkage Facilitator
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>DGF</b>	Democratic Governance Facility
<b>DINU</b>	Development initiative for Northern Uganda
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FP</b>	Family Planning
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>GEWEP</b>	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
<b>GWED-G</b>	Gulu Women Economic Development and Globalization
<b>HRDs</b>	Human Rights Defenders
<b>HRVs</b>	Human Rights Volunteers
<b>HURIFO</b>	Human Rights Focus
<b>ICT</b>	Information Communication Technology
<b>IEC</b>	Information Education and Communication
<b>IPV</b>	Intimate Partner Violence
<b>IYCF</b>	Infant young child feeding
<b>JPC</b>	Justice and Peace Commission
<b>KINGFO</b>	Kitgum NGO forum
<b>LC</b>	Local Council
<b>LRDs</b>	Land Rights Defenders
<b>MEI</b>	Male Engaged Initiative
<b>MLAS</b>	Mobile Legal Aid Services
<b>MNCH</b>	Maternal Neonatal Child Health
<b>NUHRP</b>	Northern Uganda Human Rights Partnership
<b>OPM</b>	Office of the Prime Minister
<b>PLHIV</b>	People living with HIV
<b>PLW</b>	Pregnant and lactating women
<b>SAM</b>	Severe Acute Malnutrition
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WPHF</b>	Women Peace Humanitarian Fund



# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

## DEAR FRIENDS,

One of the joys of preparing an annual report is that it gives us the opportunity to look back and be thankful for all that has been accomplished. The past year was filled with challenges and also wonderful opportunities for us as GWED-G. Uganda's Economy significantly slowed down in 2020 on account of the direct and indirect impacts of lockdown measures put in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Much as we were in the middle of extreme uncertain times characterized by the Pandemic, 2020 in itself was a tumultuous year that GWED-G continued with support to the community as per the mandate. GWED-G maintained its operation to support the vulnerable at the peak of the pandemic while working through their grassroots networks and via Zoom meetings with Donors, Partners and Government Ministries. Here are some few of the high lights:

- Establishment of a Covid-19 Assistance Programme to distribute food to 2000 households, Zinc and Vitamin C, COVID 19 remedies, and also provide Psycho-Social support in communities.
- Participation and being recognized as best partner in the Gulu Covid-19 Task Force.
- Securing projects like DINU (Office of the Prime Minister), REAL Fathers (UNICEF) and Women in Business (UCC) among others.



**"Our Mission is, GWED-G exists to empower Women and Girls. We seek to achieve our mission through effective institutional and technical capacity building; strengthening community-based models for women's empowerment, sound strategic and operational partnerships, knowledge management, resource mobilization, and more."**

The Board regards governance as a fundamental essential for the success of the GWED-G's implementation. It is committed to applying the principles of good governance in directing and managing GWED-G in order to achieve its strategic objectives. The Board is the focal point for and custodian of the GWED-G's governance framework and is supported by its committee structures, management, and other stakeholders of the Organization.

With all this – and much more in place, GWED-G is ready to embrace a faster approach in Emergency and also a strategic development project-oriented future. We are on the right track towards a more robust, agile and ambitious GWED-G, which can get hold of great funding opportunities through a strong combination of our Donor relations, Expertise and an Empowered Women Network – and in that way provide efficient leadership and a Just world to our community and globally. This is what we call 'Empowerment to the next level' in our strategy. In conclusion, I thank the Board of Directors, the Executive Director, Management and Staff of GWED-G for the continued commitment towards the achievement of GWED-G's Mission.



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## 2020: A YEAR OF GLOBAL PANDEMIC AND MANY CHALLENGES MET BY GWED-G

The year 2020 was an extraordinary one. The COVID-19 pandemic and heightened political campaigns affected implementation of projects to a great extent. However amidst all this GWED-G was able to marshal its technical expertise and leverage on its excellent relationships with community structures and development partners to implement project activities. GWED-G partners such EU, Office of the Prime-Minister (OPM), AIDs health foundation, USAID-RHITES North Acholi activity, Caritas Switzerland provided resources to procure personal protective equipment's that were provided to staff, community structures and project participants.



Other interventions included conducting community COVID-19 risk communication using Ministry of Health IEC materials and provision of COVID-19 relief in the form of food and non-food items for extremely vulnerable and most affected individuals, families and communities. As an organization we also commiserate with all families who lost loved ones as result of COVID-19, special to note is the Resident District Commissioner of Gulu the late Major Santos Lapollo who has over the years been a great ally of GWED-G in the Region.

Project implementation amidst political campaigns and COVID-19 presented a restricted environment, since Government outlawed political gatherings on account of its potential risk to spread COVID-19. The restrictions that were imposed during campaigns affected the exercise of individual freedoms and human-rights. Cases of violent dispersal of communities and arrest of political actors was common place, this created fear, uncertainties and anxiety in the community. In order to allow for minimal project intervention especially in the movement of pregnant mothers and safe passage for community health workers and human rights activists, GWED-G worked closely with the COVID-19 task forces, who provided permits to allow implementation of vital services for community members, this included referral for health services , community sensitization , community dialogues and home-visits.



GWED-G has continued to source resources for the growth of its project portfolio during the period and new donors were brought on board. This included: AHF -Aids Healthcare Foundation for COVID-19 relief; DGF phase II for human and land rights; PELARD-NU- funded by the EU with a focus on protecting Land Human Rights Defenders (LHRDs); Uganda Communication Commission that committed resources to fund a Women in ICT project; Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)/UNWOMEN for empowering women in peace building.

Quite a number of remarkable milestones were registered under the strategic objectives of GWED-G. Notably 35 Human Rights Defenders/Land Rights Defenders (LRDs) had their capacities built; a safe and secure data base for collection and recording of land human rights violations was developed under the PELARD project; Tele psychosocialcounselling services were provided to victims/survivors of human and land rights violations; an emergency toll-free line (0800333166) was procured and shared extensively with HRDs for their protection. 16,646 community members were reached with information on human rights including SGBV through different media. Instrumental to this reach has been the community structures set by GWED-G such as Role Model Men (RMM), HRDs, Community activists and Human Rights Volunteers whose capacities were continuously built so as to improve reporting, referral and documentation of human rights violations. Under GWED-Gs' Gender Equality and Women Economic Program (GEWEP), selected Police out-posts in the community had their capacity built in investigating and management of gender based violence scene of crime management. Increased reporting of SGBV cases about 186 was noted in the year. Alternative Dispute Resolution using local people and solutions has seen a number of land conflicts involving women disposed and land recovered as a result.





Our livelihood and food security interventions reached out to vulnerable women, People with Disability (PWDs), child headed houses, chronically sick and the elderly. Support included provision of agriculture inputs, extension service provision and organization/institutional strengthening activities to farmers groups. Our Health and nutrition interventions continued to deliver cutting edge health communication initiatives in partnership with community structures, district health departments and health partners. Notably changes noted were in the increase of health awareness and health seeking behavior among targeted communities as evidenced by increased antenatal attendance (62%), improved exclusive breast-feeding (80%) and nutrition assessment among children under 5 years.

Finally I would like to thank our committed staff and all our partners who stood by us and made all this possible amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Special thanks goes to AJWS, EU, USAID, OPM, District Local Governments, Diakonia – Sweden, Open Society Foundation, AHF –Aids Healthcare Foundation, Eirene Suisse and Columbia University.



We equally extend an open invitation to other partners who believe in our vision of ***A Gender Just Society in which Women and Men, Boys and Girls in Northern Uganda realise their full potential, enjoy their human rights and live in total Peace and Prosperity.***



## PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS & GENDER EQUALITY



### PROTECTING LAND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

In 2020, GWED-G, in partnership with Human Rights Focus (HURIFO) and Soletterre, got funding from EU to implement the 24 months Protection and Empowerment of Land Rights Defenders (PELARD-N) project that is implemented in the districts of Amuru, Nwoya, Gulu and Lamwo. This project directly contributes towards promoting human rights and land rights through the active and meaningful engagement of Land Rights Defenders (LRDs) in northern Uganda by creating conducive working environment for LRDs through building their capacities to work with reduced risks.

From February 2020, PELARD-N has contributed to the promotion of human rights by increasing the capacity of **35 Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) / Land Rights Defenders (LRDs)** to work safely and securely on land rights protection and promotion. **35 volunteer LRDs** underwent through three different trainings for fifteen days. The trainings were on: 1) Security management; 2) Advocacy and communication; 3) Monitoring, Documentation and Reporting of land cases and 4) Human Rights and basics of land laws. They are now able to respond safely and securely with minimum risks as they do their work. Subsequently, LRDs have been able to understand their work and working environment. LRDs have also been able to mitigate a number of risks through the development of monthly risks registers as they do their work in various communities. There is improved frequency of safe submission of documented reports of human rights violations including the management of security incidents as reported by the LRDs. An indication that they are now able to work under minimum risks as they actively participate in the protection and empowerment of community and group land rights.



**OUTCOME 1**

Increased capacity of 35 HRDs/LRDs in 4 districts of Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya and Lamwo to work safely and securely on land rights protection and promotion.

**OUTCOME 2**

Improved human rights database and reporting system (collection & recording) for HRDs/LRDs and enhanced safety and better security responses on land issues by HRDs/LRDs.

**OUTCOME 3**

Contributed towards improving the psychosocial needs of HRDs/LRDs in northern Uganda by providing counselling and psychosocial support.

**OUTCOME 4**

Improved networking among Individual HRDs and Organizations at national and international levels to enhance protection and advocacy mechanisms. This has been done through convening 6 land rights protection working group meetings in Nwoya, Amuru, Gulu and Lamwo.

**OUTCOME 5**

Improved emergency response on HR violations and protection of individual and group land rights. An Emergency line was procured and shared extensively so HRDs can access emergency protection from PELARD-N Project partners. To date, a total of 43 calls were made on the line to report cases of land disputes, inquiries for legal aid services, report other HR violations

PELARD-N project also continues to contribute towards the improvement of human rights database and reporting system (collection & recording) for HRDs/LRDs. This has also enhanced safety and better security responses on land issues by HRDs/LRDs. An online Monitoring Documentation and Reporting (MRD) software for reporting land conflicts was developed and 102 cases of land conflicts have since been reported using the system by the LRDs. Through a shift in their work from MDR of land disputes to voluntary community dispute resolution, **46% (47/102) of the reported land related cases have been resolved** through mediation by LRDs/HRDs and legal advice (Mobile Legal Clinics). The MDR platform can be accessed on: [www.pelard-n.org](http://www.pelard-n.org).

The project continues to provide a great support towards the psychosocial needs of HRDs/LRDs through the professional engagement of a psychologist. Contribution towards understanding the mental and psychosocial needs of HRDs has been through a research to document psychosocial needs of the LRDs.







The Resident District Commissioner (RDC) of Amuru district issuing smart phones provided under PELARD-N project to LRDs of Amuru district to ease digital Monitoring, Reporting and Documentation (MDR) of human rights abuses.

Findings from the study indicated that most HRDs believed that human rights exist when people live freely in their communities without their rights being constrained. Additionally, most LRDs never had any clue of what is entailed in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), though they showed that they had ever experienced symptoms of mental problems. As a result of the research, a counselling and psychosocial support manual was produced to support LRDs to gain comprehensive knowledge in assessment of psychosocial needs and distress; provide the appropriate care for eliminating psychological distress; promote functional coping mechanisms among HRDs; help the HRDs know extremely distressing cases which require referral for further management.

The manual is designed to be used as a training support handbook with focus on psychosocial needs for the rehabilitation of HRDs with trauma, mental health related forms of distress and other kinds of psychological effects to assist staff or individuals concerned with providing

protection and assistance to HRDs.

As part of strengthening the promotion of human rights, PELARD-N has contributed greatly to improving networking among Individual HRDs and organizations at national and international levels for the purposes of enhancing protection and advocacy mechanisms. This has been done through establishing Land Rights HRD Protection Working Group (by HRDs) and provision of Mobile Legal Aid Services (MLAS). Acholi Human Rights Protection Working Group was established and lower levels protection working groups at district levels guided by the works of LRDs. SOP for HRD Protection Working Group was developed and used to establish Acholi Human Rights Protection Working Group. The first two meetings were chaired by Uganda Human Rights Commission and Co-chaired by Human Rights Focus (HURIFO). An Emergency toll-free line (0800 333166) was procured from Airtel Uganda and shared extensively so HRDs can access emergency protection from PELARD-N Project partners.



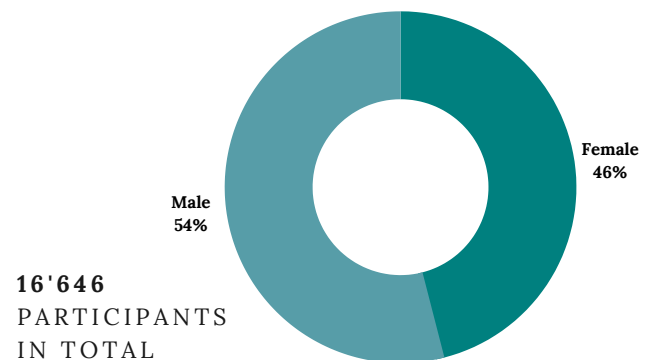
## PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS & GENDER EQUALITY

### PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW



In a bid to promote human rights and governance, GWED-G implemented the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) supported project titled **Promoting Human Rights, Peace and Inclusive Governance** in Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya and Omoro District. The project contributes to protect rights of vulnerable individuals, enhance women's participation in governance and as well promote land rights of vulnerable individuals.

In 2020, the project reached out to a total of **16,646** participants (male **8,991**; female **7,655**) through the various interventions such as sharing information on rights, capacity building, dialogues, radio talk shows, women's rights in leadership, governance and land rights.



MALES REACHED WITH  
HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION

# 739

FEMALES REACHED WITH  
HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION

# 689

The project reached out to **1,428** Male **739** and **689** female with human rights information through awareness creation in the communities. This information package included general human rights as provided for in the 1995 Constitution of the republic of Uganda, gender based violence preventive measures, and referral path way for Gender based violence. In the awareness creation sessions and dialogues, communities and leaders including local councilors made commitments to protect and promote human rights in their constituencies. These have been followed by increase reporting of sexual gender based violence cases such as defilement and assaults which were previously concealed by the community members.

## GETTING MEN INVOLVED IN THE GENDER EQUALITY MOVEMENT



**1079**

**CASES OF GBV  
REPORTED**



**8121**

**PARTICIPANTS REACHED  
THROUGH HOUSEHOLD  
DIALOGUES**



**240**

**ROLE MODEL MEN  
ENGAGED**

Furthermore, household dialogues were conducted by **240** Role Model Men (RMM) to combat gender based and domestic violence in our targeted communities. In 2020 **1,079** cases 29% of GBV cases were reported and documented which included; spousal fights, economic violence and rape, child neglect among others.

The dialogues reached out to **8,121** participants with **4,033** male and **4,088** female. These actions have yielded noble results as community members appreciate

the male engage approach used by GWED-G, Men have been reported to have become more supported and responsive in terms of accompanying their spouses for antenatal care and men involving women in decision making at household level, some men supporting their wives to contest in leadership positions, a decrease in number of child neglect cases and child labor, commitment by men to pay school fees for their children and general peaceful coexistence in families.



HUMAN RIGHTS VOLUNTEERS  
RECRUITED AND TRAINEDHUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES  
DOCUMENTED AND REPORTED**PROMOTING  
HUMAN RIGHTS****60****362**

**60** Human Rights Volunteers (HRVs) were recruited and trained under the DGF project. They have been very instrumental in monitoring, documentation, reporting, and referral of rights abuses and violations in the community. HRVs in 2020 documented and reported **362 issues** of which **320** were resolved while **42 cases** were referred to like-minded organizations and State authorities (police) for investigations and litigation. These included criminal offenses like defilement, child marriages and assaults. The HRVs have been working in collaboration with area local council I and police to ensure law and order is maintained and that perpetrators are handled in accordance to the Ugandan law mainly for criminal and violent cases.

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, personal protective equipment were procured and distributed to the community structures by the HRVs and RMM, including **299 re-usable customized masks** and **299 500ml sanitizers** as they continued to work during the lockdown imposed in a bid to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The structures did not only respond to GBV and other rights violations but also stepped in to sensitize people on COVID preventive measure and monitoring observance of SOPs in markets and other public places hence contributed in the fight of the pandemic.



Media engagement was used to reach a wider audience in targeted locations. In 2020, **5 radio talk shows** were conducted on topical issues related to women's rights to participate in decision making processes, land rights and gender-based violence. **3 spot messages** were as well aired across **3 radio stations** in Acholi sub-region to amplify voices in support of women's rights. All the talk shows had caller's feedback appreciating the information given and thanked GWED-G and its development partners for increasing knowledge on women's land rights, addressing gender based violence and promoting women's participation in leadership and decision making processes.

The DGF project additionally built capacity of **45 media practitioners** on human rights and gender sensitive reporting. The training curriculum focused on sensitive reporting, media law and gender-based violence. Participants were from different media houses including some freelance journalists. Participants approved that the training was relevant to their needs and work. The training reconvened commitment by media practitioners to consider gender sensitivity in their work and also publish advocacy articles on human rights concerns in their constituencies with specific interest on women's rights.





## DGF SUPPORTED LEARNING EVENTS

### 511 project beneficiaries

Health workers and Police officers trained	40
Media practitioners trained on media law and advocacy	45
Chiefs and their secretaries trained	55
Area Land Committee trained	28
Local council 1&11 trained on land mediation and conflict mitigation	333



**511 project beneficiaries** including: **40 Health workers and Police officers** trained on GBV response and referral pathways; **45 media practitioners** trained on media law and gender sensitive reporting and advocacy; **55 Chiefs and their secretaries** were taken through customary land management and the role of traditional leaders in promoting and protecting land rights of the vulnerable individuals and groups; **28 Area Land Committee** trained on land mediation and their role in land management; **333 Local council 1&11** were trained on land mediation and conflict sensitivity and mitigation. Participants were purposefully invited from Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya and Omoro district. The training evaluations indicated increased knowledge of the mentioned stakeholders who are applying it in their work to promote and protect human rights in the project areas.



## ENHANCING GOVERNANCE THROUGH FEMALE REPRESENTATION

The DGF project conducted **4 community dialogues** to encourage women participation in electoral processes. Participants were mobilized and sensitized on opportunities (available legal frameworks and CSOs who provide capacity building. It was noted that some women have qualifications and some also have supportive spouses who encourage them to contest). Challenges discussed included; lack of spousal support, poverty, limited resources to finance campaigns, lack of support from fellow women, intimidation among others and remedies that exist for women to participate as contestants, voters and supporters during elections. A total of **138 community members** participated with **52 male** and **86 female**; the dialogues also provided a platform that built women confidence to contest for higher positions for instance leaders who were at LCIII level went to contest as LCV councilors at the district level. The women also shared their leadership experiences such as public speaking, balancing public and private life which encouraged others to take up leadership positions even at committee level (water resource management committee, parish development committee, school management committees.)

## PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

GWED-G strives to promote gender equality and women empowerment (GEWEP) through community structures like the role model men, community activists, case managers and human rights defenders. In 2020, Diakonia funded the promoting gender equality through women empowerment and strengthening the male engaged initiative (MEI) project in Northern Uganda. The project goal was to promote a peaceful society where the poor and vulnerable women and girls, men and boys are empowered and able to demand and enjoy their full universal rights. The project outcomes were:

1. Gender based violence has decreased in the target districts;
2. Women's rights have been strengthened;
3. Economic empowerment of women and girls strengthened;
4. Faith based actors and community members in northern Uganda are aware of climate change and able to protect the environment.

### 1. Gender based violence has decreased in the target districts

Through the household dialogues conducted by role model men to 100 selected households, the women reported that peace had returned in their homes since their husbands respected them and rarely involved themselves in any form of gender based violence like physical violence- this made them felt loved and valued. The dialogues created a great shift towards the enhancement of women's participation in leadership and management of village savings and loan association groups as a result of the increased power sharing among women and men. Some men in the community promoted positive masculinity and openly championed change in the oppressive cultural, traditional and religious norms that hampered the realization of gender equality.



### 186 survivors of GBV supported

Cases of defilement	35
Cases of rape	7
Cases of economic violence	40
Cases of emotional violence	21
Cases of physical violence	79
Cases of child neglect	4

Through the GEWEP program GWED-G facilitated and supported 186 (35 cases of defilement, 7 cases of rape, 40 cases of economic violence, 21 cases of emotional violence, 79 cases of physical violence, 4 cases of child neglect) survivors of gender based violence who accessed psychological, legal and medical services available in the referral pathway. As a result of this support, the mental, emotional and physical well-being of some survivors who underwent medical operation were restored. Justice before the court of law was achieved since some perpetrators of gender based violence were taken to court and sentenced.

Ajok Rose (not real name), 82 years of age was delighted and expressed her gratitude towards GWED-G for ensuring that her grandson who physically assaulted her 5 times was jailed for 7 years in Gulu Central Prison and she felt justice was finally served. She further expressed her happiness towards GWED-G for spear heading a resource mobilization towards the construction of a permanent house in which she now feels secure to live in since no one can break in.





## **2. Women's rights strengthened:**

The capacity of **20 police officers** (4 females and 16 males) from Amuru, Nwoya and Omoro districts was enhanced through a two days training on gender equality, gender based violence investigations and management of gender based violence scene of crime management. As a result, the police officers are now skillful and able to professionally investigate, document and refer survivors to access different services. The **450 copies of police forms** (PF3, PF24, and PF12A) that GWED-G supported the police with reduced the burden on gender based violence survivors to pay for such forms since the forms. This enabled survivors to report cases to law enforcement officers for redress since the forms were given freely at the police post without any cost.

The peaceful resolution of land conflicts undertaken by GWED-G, local leaders and the community structures like the role model men using alternative dispute resolution led to **successful conclusion of 11 land conflicts** which resulted to **recovery of approximately 678 hectares of land from land grabbers**. Peace and unity among the previously conflicting communities was promoted as a result of the local peace agreements or social contracts signed by conflicting parties. In Bwobonam A Village, Labala Parish, Guru Parish, Pagak parish, Koch Okii village, Labyei and Palwo parish where the community members have continued to utilize the same pieces of land for productive purposes.

## **3. Economic empowerment of women and girls strengthened**

The **7 women war victims** who attended the **3 weeks trainings** on tailoring skills are now able to make different types of bags that are of high quality. The bags are often sold between thirty thousand shillings (30,000shs) and fifty thousand shillings (50,000 shs) while some bags are exported outside the country. From the sale of the bags, the women have become financially independent, economically empowered and are able to afford basic necessities and also pay school fees of their children. Due to the increasing demand for the bags, a shop outlet was opened at Posta Uganda premise in Gulu for easy access and marketing to potential customers.



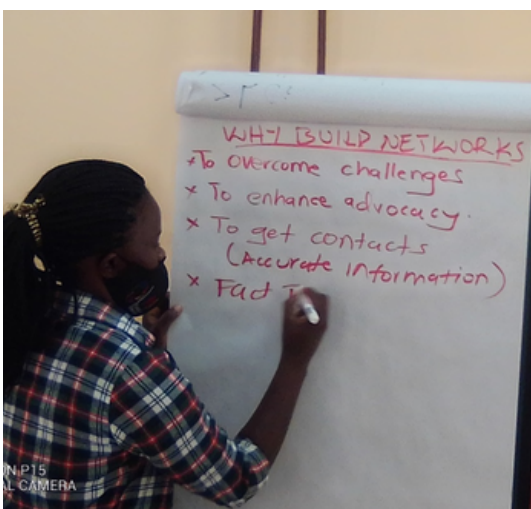
## PEACEBUILDING & TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE LAND ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

### Citizens Engagement for protection of community land in Northern Uganda

The Northern Uganda Human Rights Partnership (NUHRP) played a critical role in shaping critical discourses around land governance in northern Uganda. GWED-G and NUHRP with funding support from the Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA) and Amnesty International played a critical role in the management and resolution of a number of land disputes in northern Uganda. This was conducted through the citizen's engagement for protection of community land project which contributed towards strengthening community structures to enable them participate and influence decisions and opportunities relating to their land rights.

Throughout the year 2020, NUHRP partners played critical roles in providing avenues and spaces for the peaceful resolution and mitigation of land disputes. The partnership bolstered lobbying, networking and advocacy, to influence and cause real time change through creation and use of accessible community traditional structures in the resolution of land disputes. This was done through: validation exercises to enhance better understanding of land rights; increasing the skills and knowledge of cultural chiefs and traditional leaders on land rights and alternative dispute resolution leading to the resolution of a total of 30 land disputes; conducting community awareness sessions through radio talk shows and radio spot messaging to emphasize the importance of land registration; training of community based documentation assistants on monitoring, documentation and reporting of land rights/human rights violation; and supporting activism that resulted into a responsible land investment project.

All the above achievements were made possible through the guidance of GWED-G as the lead/host institution of the secretariat under the NUHRP. The success registered during the period is attributed to continued program support by GWED-G namely; Monitoring and support visits, conducted quarterly partners review meetings, capacity building events on land and conflict mediation, reporting and documentation, trained partners finance staff on quick book accounting package that benefitted partner staffs, and commitment towards enhancing improved and equitable access to control and ownership of productive resources. Amidst the changing context of COVID-19 and the electoral processes in Uganda, the NUHRP remained focused while adhering to government of Uganda standard operating procedures (SOPs).





## MEDIATING LAND CONFLICT USING ALTERNATIVE DISPUTES RESOLUTIONS MECHANISM

### LAND MEDIATION

NUHRP has strengthened the cultural institution of Acholi Chiefs to handle land matters and promote the land rights of the vulnerable individuals. In 2020, **30 land cases** involving vulnerable sections of the community were successfully mediated, these conflicts were inter-family, intra-family and inter-clan disputes. The DGF project as well conducted land mediation through trained community structures (HRVs, sub-village chiefs). 31 land conflicts were successfully mediated; this has led to a reduction in the cases of land disputes in the community due to the sensitization on land rights and land mediation that is being done by GWED-G and local leaders. There is an increasing demand of land information and better land management practices from community to the grass root duty bearers such as Area land committee and district land Officers.



### LAND ADVOCACY DURING COVID-19

COVID-19 negatively impacted on land rights, as a result of the lock down, land grabbers took advantage and started constructing illegal structures, conducted evictions and made illegal land sale. The NUHRP partners then saw a need to change awareness raising strategy from physical meetings to conducting media advocacy. In a bid to protect partner staff, the secretariat procured **50 facemasks**, **48 sanitizers** and **6 temperature guns**. **9 radio talk shows** were conducted by partners with additional **4 spot messages** produced and **aired 308 times** to reach out to community members with knowledge on land use, management and protection mechanisms. **3 drama kits** were produced for airing at radio station on land rights, one focuses on women's land rights, importance of land registration and having clear boundaries to reduce land related conflicts.

## LAND DIALOGUES

NUHRP partners, KINGFO, WORUDET, JPC, and PNF conducted **8 district land dialogues** with affected community, leaders both at district and national levels and Acholi chiefs. These dialogues aimed at deriving local solutions to land rights issues and conflicts in Acholi Sub region. As a result of these dialogues, it was reported by partners that in areas with intense attack by land grabbers after the dialogues, the situation remained calmed and other investors started to initiate negotiation meetings with landowners in the community with local leaders.



## REGIONAL LAND DIALOGUES

NUHRP partners Pader NGO Forum organized a Regional dialogue in East Acholi while GWED-G organized another Regional dialogue in West Acholi. The two dialogues were held to respond to the contemporary land disputes in Acholi sub-region. The platform provided an opportunity for district leaders, cultural chiefs and CSO members to discuss and generate strategic and realistic remedies to protect and promote rights to land for the vulnerable women and men in Acholi. It was noted that due to advocacy and awareness creation on land rights and importance of land registration, many community members have considered land registration through applying for certificate of customary ownership in Nwoya and Pader district. Formal courts are referring land cases back to cultural leader's chiefs to mediate a sign that trust is restored on leaders to handle cases such as land.





## LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY



**42**

**FARMER GROUPS  
FORMED**



**42**

**VSLA MENTORS  
TRAINED**



**31,352,000 UGX**

**CUMMALTIVE  
SAVINGS REALISED**

Our Livelihood and Food security strategic objective targets the most vulnerable section of communities in Northern Uganda. We support diversified agriculture production, marketing and economic empowerment with a focus on women, People with Disability (PWDs), child headed houses, chronically sick and the elderly. Cross-cutting activities under this component include climate agriculture, use of local resources, gender equity and nutrition sensitivity.

In 2020 this component got a boost of funding from the 40 months EU and OPM Development initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) program. GWED-G in partnership with CARITAS Switzerland, Advanced Africa (AA) and Agency for Regional Accelerated Development (AFARD) implemented the Action for Livelihood Enhancement in Northern Uganda (ALENU) project in Acholi and West-Nile sub-region. Omoro and Agago in Acholi sub-region are the GWED-G focus districts under this project.



Under this project GWED-G facilitated the formation of **42 Farmer Groups (FGs)** from 1,050 selected households with women constituting 60% membership. Using community participatory approaches in including Gross Margin Analysis for the selection of diversified agriculture and economic empowerment enterprises, the 42 FGs selected strategic crops (food/cash) and enterprises that included soy-beans (6), Onions (1), Apiary (4), Beans (1) and ground-nuts (11) and poultry (19). **46 agro-ecologists** (m 38; f 8) and **61 para-vets** (m 51; f 8) were selected from among the group members trained and equipped with training manuals, assorted drugs, tools and equipment's to support group and individual farm extension work. The para-vets trained 19 FGs in poultry management (housing, feeding, disease management and vaccination) whereas the 46 agro-ecologists trained FGs in field crop management, post-harvest handling and apiary management. Furthermore the project provided group members and their household's start-up kits for agriculture production and commercial enterprise activities. These items included **2100 hand-hoes, 1050 watering cans, 1050 spray pumps, 1050 tarpaulins, 85 kilograms(Kgs) assorted vegetable seeds, 780 Kgs beans, 2100 local chicken, 475 feeders, 150 moringa seedlings, 5250 citrus seedlings, 500 apiary equipment's, 155Kgs groundnuts, 2,280 Kgs soy-beans, 78 tins of onions and 152 sachets of rhizobia**. Using a combination of demonstration gardens and farmer field school approaches supported by **2 project staff, 8 local government extension staff, 65 peer mentors**, the project provided extension services to farmer groups and their households.



**Farmer Group institutional support:** The project registered **42 FGs** with the sub-county local government office and trained **42 Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) mentors** (m 18; f 24) who were equipped with VSLA kits that included saving boxes, passbook, stamp pad, ink pad, calculators, and counter book. By the close of the year the 42 new farmer groups had mobilized cumulative savings of **31,352,000 UGX** out of which **23,486,000 UGX** was lent out to members. 42 marketing committees were formed comprising of **210 members** (m 63; f 67), they were trained on marketing skills and provided with **84 IT devices** to enable timely collection and dissemination of market information for the strategic agriculture products of the FGs. As part of supporting the value chains for the strategic agriculture products, the project provided marketing and processing equipment's to FGs, this included: **a) 1150 pics bags for safe storage of produce, 10 ground-nut shellers (with 1 motorized) and 42 weighing scales; b) Apiary equipment's: 80 langstroth bee-hives, 2 homey extractors, 9 uncapping try, 9 uncapping fox, 9 catcher boxes, 4 honey processing tanks and 500 airtight buckets.**



## FOCUS ON LIVELIHOOD AMIDST COVID-19

COVID-19 impacted negatively on our intervention since the lock-down limited human activity that included cultivation, slow-down of input delivery, access to agro-inputs and markets.



2020 was the year of the COVID-19 outbreak, the pandemic disproportionately affected women and girls in a number of ways including adverse impacts to their education, food security and nutrition, health, livelihoods, and protection. Considering that women are the primary caregivers, the project identified two cooperative society groups and supported them with seeds and farm implements as a mitigation measure.

Through the COVID-19 emergency relief fund, quick maturing seeds were procured for household food security. The procured items included assorted vegetables, soya beans and green grams that were distributed through Adak and Olwiyo cooperative societies. **A total of 4,384 members** directly benefited from this support, **70% of whom were women.**





## PROMOTION OF CLIMATE JUSTICE



769

COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
REACHED BY CLIMATE CHANGE  
AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS



GWED-G recognizes the negative long-term impact of climate change on livelihood, health and economic well-being. During the year with support from Diakonia, GWED-G, under the project **Promoting Gender Equality through Male Engage Initiative**, supported sensitization campaigns on climate change and disaster risk reduction was conducted with a total reach of **769 (357 females and 412 males) community members**. Communities have become aware of the different causes of climate change and have become front liners in environmental protection and preservation. The continuous sensitization campaigns on climate change have made some VSLA groups to actively get involved in tree planting as a contribution towards environmental protection. Various species of tree seedlings have been planted such as pine, teak, eucalyptus and many others.





## LIVELIHOOD AND FOOD SECURITY HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



The COVID-19 Humanitarian Aid Support, known as **GWED-G Hand of Compassion**, was a rapid response to support the livelihood and food security needs of vulnerable households during the COVID-19 Pandemic. With support from Aids Healthcare Foundation (AHF), GWED-G worked collaboratively with Gulu District Local Government and COVID-19 Task Force and provided relief aid of food and non-food items to a total of **155 households**. This support provided food supplements and meal rations to the families, quarantine and treatment centers. Food and non-food items, vegetable seeds and other food security plants for cultivation like cassava cuttings were also provided.

This initiative enhanced the livelihoods options and diversifications of affected households and community members to increase on their food uptake, balance diet and choices for better health and livelihoods as well improve on their well-being. In addition, **42 Families** received psychosocial support and emotional redress services provided by GWED-G through the trained community case workers and counselors from the district COVID-19 taskforce. This response helped to reduce on the level distress of the affected population as well as stigma and discrimination by family and other community members, thus improve the emotional well-being of the affected persons.



**155 HOUSEHOLDS**  
SUPPORTED WITH RELIEF AID  
OF FOOD AND NON-FOOD  
ITEMS DURING COVID



**PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT**  
PROVIDED TO  
**42 FAMILIES**





## HEALTH & NUTRITION

GWED-G's public health interventions are aimed at increasing access to quality and affordable health services for women in Acholi sub-region. We remain committed to this call through our various projects. In 2020, we achieved the following key outputs through the USAID/RHITES –Acholi activity and the Action for Livelihood Enhancement for Northern Uganda (ALENU) project:

**12,220**

INDIVIDUALS REACHED  
WITH GBV MESSAGES

**4,492**

PREGNANT MOTHERS  
MAPPED FOR ANC

**12,748**

HOUSEHOLDS REACHED  
WITH MCH MESSAGES

**113,089**

NEW USERS OF  
FAMILY PLANNING



## IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTH THROUGH BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION

GWED-G continuously optimizes communication to influence and empower individuals to practice and seek health services. Our health communication activities during the year focused on addressing behavioral and structural barriers to accessing affordable health services especially for remote and vulnerable communities mostly women, children and the chronically ill. Using multiple channels and leveraging on community structures such as Role Model Men (RMM), Village Health Teams (VHT) and local champions.





GWED-G was able to attain the following results as tabulated below:

Area	Promoted Behavior	Channel	Structure used	Results
<b>Maternal Health and Child health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ANC attendance</li> <li>Facility deliveries</li> <li>Immunization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Dialogue</li> <li>Home visits</li> <li>Mapping, registration &amp; referral</li> <li>Integrated Out-reaches</li> <li>Advocacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RMM</li> <li>Religious &amp; Cultural Leaders</li> <li>Village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4,492 pregnant women mapped for ANC</li> <li>12,748 households reached</li> <li>19,205 pregnant women attended ANC</li> </ul>
<b>Gender, youth and social inclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GBV prevention, response and management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community sensitization</li> <li>Community Dialogue</li> <li>Mediation</li> <li>Referral and case management</li> <li>Reporting</li> <li>Counselling</li> <li>Training of health workers on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RMM</li> <li>Religious &amp; Cultural Leaders (C&amp;RL)</li> <li>Health workers</li> <li>Police</li> <li>Community Activists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12,220 people reached with GBV messages</li> <li>602 GBV cases reported</li> <li>518 GBV cases referred</li> <li>67 GBV cases mediated &amp; resolved</li> <li>162 GBV survivors counselled</li> <li>572 health workers trained on IPV</li> </ul>
<b>HIV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enrolling, retention &amp; adherence on ART</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tracing lost clients</li> <li>Enrolling clients</li> <li>Out-reaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Linkage Facilitators (CLF)</li> <li>Health workers</li> <li>VHTs</li> <li>Locum counsellors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4,425/6550 clients brought back to care</li> <li>6965 clients enrolled in the community on ART</li> </ul>
<b>Sexual and Reproductive health (SRH) for youth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uptake of family planning services</li> <li>Delayed sex debut</li> <li>Test for HIV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth pageants</li> <li>Peer to peer education</li> <li>Out-reaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth peer educators</li> <li>Health workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26 youth pageants organized</li> <li>6,079 youth reach with SRH messages</li> <li>4,587 youth reached with health services</li> <li>2000 youth tested for HIV</li> </ul>
<b>HIV, maternal health, Child health, Nutrition &amp; WASH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health seeking &amp; service uptake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IEC dissemination</li> <li>Health education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health workers</li> <li>VHTs</li> <li>RMM</li> <li>C&amp;R leaders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>114,255 health education sessions conducted</li> <li>14,125 IEC materials distributed and disseminated</li> </ul>
<b>Family planning (FP)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of contraceptive</li> <li>Addressing socio-cultural issues affecting uptake FP service uptake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Dialogue</li> <li>Home visits</li> <li>Mapping, registration &amp; referral</li> <li>Integrated Out-reaches</li> <li>Advocacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health workers</li> <li>VHTs</li> <li>RMM</li> <li>Peer educators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3,223 IEC materials disseminated and distributed</li> <li>4303 women of reproductive age participated in community dialogues</li> <li>113,089 new users of FP</li> <li>167,990 male condoms distributed at the community level</li> <li>47 FP oral pills dispensed</li> <li>894 Sayana press administered at the community level</li> <li>822 Injectable administered</li> </ul>

## IMPROVING LIVES OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN THROUGH NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS



### 65% OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS

Percentage of targeted children under 5 years assessed for malnutrition



### 2,500 HOUSEHOLDS

Provided horticulture kits



### 62% ANC ATTENDENCE

Percentage increase of women attending ANC



### 80% EXCLUSIVE BREAST FEEDING (EBF)

Percentage of mothers in IYCF groups practicing EBF

Our interventions included supporting households to diversify food production by integrating production of highly nutritious crops and opening kitchen gardens at their backyard. The introduction of fortified planting materials and vegetables was accompanied with training in good agronomic practices, food preparation and preservation. Project teams worked with community based health workers (Village Health Teams) to facilitate community dialogues and sensitization on nutrition education.

Chronically malnourished children cannot grow, learn, and later earn and contribute as well as their well-nourished peers. Malnutrition does not only affect children but the elderly as well pregnant and lactating women. The Uganda Demographic Health Survey result of 2016 indicated an alarming nutrition situation for Acholi sub-region with **stunting rate of 30.6%, wasting rate of 3.9%** and **underweight of 15.5%** of the population on the region. **Anemia in children is at 71%** while in women of reproductive age **47% posing a grave risk to their lives and future unborn children**. Most of these poor indicators were attributed to poor breastfeeding practices for children under-five, poor sanitation, childhood infection, lack of food and poor eating practices in the general population. In 2020, GWED-G implemented interventions to contribute to an improved nutrition situation in Acholi sub-region with special focus on vulnerable households with children under 5 years, pregnant and lactating women, chronically ill and the elderly.







### Nutrition in numbers

Women and Children screened	2741
People living with HIV screened	541
Pregnant & lactating W. counselled	630
IYCF group members	1500
Children referred for SAM	99
Cooking demonstration	84

The village health teams, health workers and project staff conducted health out-reaches and home visits during which nutrition assessment and counselling was done. Cases of malnutrition were identified and severe and acute cases referred for further management at static health facilities. In order to promote positive behavioral change for uptake of nutrition services, infant and young child feeding groups comprising of pregnant, lactating women and caregivers were formed and trained on various good nutrition practices that included exclusive breast feeding, complementary feeding practices, food preparation and growth monitoring. Through the EU-OPM funded ALENU project GWED-G **has increased early antenatal attendance** especially for first time mothers targeted by the project **by at least 62%, improved exclusive breast-feeding among lactating women to 80% and reached to 65% of children under 5 with nutrition assessment.**

## WORKING TOWARDS ACHIEVING GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY

The GlobeMed program in partnership with GWED-G promotes HIV awareness integrated with maternal, newborn, and child health. Over the last six years, GWED-G and GlobeMed at Columbia University have been deepening advocacy and scaling up community and household dialogue about HIV prevention, care, and treatment, as well as antenatal care (ANC) attendance, nutrition, and water access, sanitation, and hygiene. The main goal of the program is to enable the women to give birth to healthy babies who are HIV-negative, as well as addressing stigma and discrimination against HIV-positive lactating women. GWED-G educates people about HIV prevention and encourages lactating mothers to enroll in voluntary counselling and testing services.

### COVID-19 impact on beneficiaries



A lot of challenges were encountered during the lock down due to Covid-19, including:

- increased number of HIV positive cases
- increasing demand for HIV health services by the communities
- inadequate number of health workers in the health Centres due to lack of PPE
- staffing gap in most of the health centres GWED-G partners with
- increasing number of GBV cases

During this period of lock down, most communities and households registered a rising number of GBVs cases amongst beneficiaries. While respecting the SOPs, the group approach was effective in helping women to open up and share their problems. In addition to the usual activities, GWED-G and GlobeMed decided to help women affected by the pandemic by providing them with basic food items. These actions and the planned health activities are described in more detail in the following.





## **Ameliorating the health of Pregnant and Lactating women**

In partnership with GlobeMed, GWED-G implemented a project aimed at “Prevention of Maternal health and child health” in two sub-counties in Amuru district. The main focus of the project is on maternal health and child health with livelihoods opportunity to specific attention to sustainable agriculture. Therefore, GWED-G conducted an activity of procurement and **distribution of 500kgs of bean seeds and vegetable seeds to 60 households** to support HIV pregnant and lactating mothers during the Covid-19 period.

Community Livelihood is an essential program that can improve the nutritional health of positive and lactating mothers. These women suffer low immunity due to their health status, and with the covid-19 lockdown, the HIV positive and lactating mothers became more vulnerable and most affected compared to any other group of people.

To mitigate these challenges, GWED-G distributed seeds to support these beneficiaries to help increase on their income and improve their nutritional well-being. Moreover, the spread of HIV virus among newborn was reduced through introducing alternative feeds at an early stage. The distributions of livelihood mostly targeted small-scale beneficiaries at community-level. These demand-driven, bottom-up initiatives vary greatly simply because they reflect the needs of vulnerable target community.

Despite the long 2020 period of lockdown which has resulted into poverty, hunger, increased GBVs and maternal death among others, GWED-G and GlobeMed did not stop their intervention to support these women. The organization continues its support to HIV pregnant and lactating mothers through distributions of seeds to promote local food crops which are nutritious and healthy for the mothers and their babies. The crops they grow are relatively cheap to produce and play a bigger role on their well-being for both pregnant and lactating mothers.

## **HIV prevention and de-stigmatization**

In 2020, GWED-G also implemented GlobeMed main project aimed at contributing to maternal and child health of HIV positive mothers in Northern Uganda. The project consists of conducting comprehensive HIV/AIDS awareness sensitization, dialogue meetings, voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), family planning and family dialogues, antenatal care, elimination from mother-to-child transmission, home visits, immunization campaign, support, treatment and follow up of beneficiaries.

## **Distribution of “Mama Kits”**

While addressing the wider scope health problems, GWED-G and GlobeMed found it necessary to prioritize health interventions by focusing on the essential and realistically achievable services. Consequently, in the effort to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, “Mama Kits” distribution has proven to be an urgent and cost-effective measure to ensure that childbirth was conducted in a clean environment.



GWED-G is committed to ensuring that every pregnant woman has access to the basic needs and support required to enhance her delivery. The Mama Kits include assorted items such as cotton, gloves, preparatory sheets, cord ligatures, soaps, Kavera and razor blades, among others. In total, **125 HIV pregnant mothers received these Mama Kits.**

The outcomes of reproductive service utilization are assessed at two levels: one is child deliveries at health centre and the second one at ANC regular attendance. So far, there has been no case of resentment or refusal of the kits by vulnerable expectant mothers. “Mama Kit excites mothers, gives mothers sense of ownership in services delivery and makes them gain confidence” says a Village Health Team member. Mama Kits have increased the appreciation of the importance of ANC services. Most of the health facilities where GWED-G works reported increase in ANC attendance and delivery since the provision of the kit started.

The behavioral change interventions was reinforced by provision of WASH resources that included soap and hand washing equipment targeting schools, markets and other public spaces.

During these interventions at community level, we found out that factors contributing to maternal mortality are many: late referrals by traditional birth attendants, delays at the household level, distant health centres, lack of equipped labour wards and theatres, poor infrastructure such as poor roads and lack of ambulances among others. Mama Kits addressed only part of the problem, calling for a greater need to support the maternal antenatal health. Although the Mama Kit support only covers a portion of the community, the intervention makes a major contribution by ensuring that mothers deliver children in a clean and safe environment.



## SOCIAL CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In partnership with Caritas Switzerland, GWED-G implemented the Moringa Value Chain COVID-19 Social Cooperative Responsibility (SCR) for Local Communities project in Awach and Patiko sub-county Gulu district, Northern Uganda. The SCR intervention supported communities within the catchment area of Moringa value Chain Development for Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods project that is implemented by Caritas Switzerland and Advance Afrika.

The SCR project was implemented within the established framework of Government of Uganda COVID-19 prevention and response. The project addressed gaps and supplemented the efforts of the local government in preventing and mitigating the consequences of COVID-19, which negatively impacted the health, livelihood and social services for local communities within the Moringa project catchment area, schools, markets, churches and government extension services including health was affected. The gaps included limitation of government and community structures like the Village Health Teams (VHT) to provide health education, COVID-19 awareness, SGBV counselling and referral and Maternal Neonatal Child Health (MNCH) services.

The targeted beneficiaries of the project included vulnerable households, VSLA groups, farm workers, women, sub-county task forces, schools, markets and public offices in the Moringa project area. Women/Youth Village Savings and Loans Associations were prioritized for financial literacy and cash grants as a means of limiting the economic shock and vulnerability of members and their respective households.

The SCR project provided social protection support by providing seed capital/cash grants for 9 VSLA groups as measure to strengthen the resilience of the group members in the face of biting economic hardship caused by COVID-19 lockdown that limited opportunities for savings in the VSLA groups. Other interventions included COVID-19 prevention, behavior change and communication that targeted **1,538 households in 4 villages** by use of 8 Village Health Teams and Role Model Men (RMM). The focus was mainly on passing COVID-19 prevention messages using the approved Ministry of Health guidelines, referring mothers and children for health services in addition to conducting household dialogues that aimed at mitigating and addressing conflicts arising out of SGBV.

The behavioral change interventions was reinforced by provision of WASH resources that included soap and handwashing equipment targeting schools, markets and other public spaces.



## THE SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS (SRHR)

In 2020, American Jewish World Service (AJWS) funded a project collaborating with GWED-G in *Promoting the Sexual Health and Rights for adolescent girls and young women in Northern Uganda* through community and school-based programming on Sexual and Reproductive Health. The sexual and reproductive health (SRH) of adolescents is strongly influenced by a range of social, cultural, economic factors and inequalities. These factors increase adolescents' vulnerability to SRH risks such as unsafe sex, sexual coercion, early pregnancy and ignorance on how to acquire proper sexual information and services which limits them to access SRH information and services.

Through the project, GWED-G is reaching young adolescent girls and women in and out of school with adolescent centered and age appropriate messages on health and psycho social development in safe and open dialogue so that young people can make informed and responsible choices about their reproductive and sexual health, to avoid unsafe sexual relationships and activities, school dropout and early childbearing. The project focus is on advocacy and empowerment, capacity building, working with parent support groups, and promoting girl's leadership, mentoring and coaching.

### Sexuality Education

Sexuality education was conducted in **3 primary schools** of Awer, Pagak and Keyo. A total of **970 children (550 girls, 420 boys)** were reached with sexual and reproductive health messages of promoting girl's education as a way of providing life skills, looking at future employment opportunities and career development. The approaches used include school levels sensitization campaigns and education, school related group dialogue and discussions. Through those engagements, the children were engaging and asking questions and they were able to develop skills for negotiating sexuality issues in relationships.





### Teenage pregnancy/child marriage

The project conducted 8 awareness campaigns on the dangers of teenage pregnancy and early marriage among adolescent girls in 4 different locations within Lamogi sub county where **605 adolescent girls were reached** with the knowledge on the dangers, causes, effects and prevention, measures related to response to **the dangers of early marriages and teenage pregnancy**. The program established referral pathways that were used by young girls in the communities.

The young girls and women in the targeted communities are able to enjoy their rights equally to men and boys such as the rights to education, good health, social economic and access to sexual and reproductive health. **30 community members** such as women and men, parent support groups, and young girls and women were targeted for community levels education and sensitization on the dangers of teenage pregnancies, early marriages and girls dropping out of schools. This resulted to development of skills on life planning, skills for negotiating sexuality issues, positive attitudes and behavioral change as well as reduction in incidence of premarital sex.

### Referral of 80 SGBV case for medical and legal redress

The project witnessed a big number of cases however there were limited resources allocated towards these cases. These include **44 cases of sexual and gender-based violence**, **20 cases of teenage pregnancies** in the process one girl impregnated and infected with HIV/AIDS, **5 rape cases** (3, 6, and the rest 7 and above years old), **11 cases related to early and child marriages**. Perpetrators arrested were 4 in numbers while one is still on the run. The project social workers and GBV Specialist support the aspect of psychosocial redress, while others referred for medical treatment. Also, to strengthen the GBV response and management, **310 copies of police forms** like PF3, PF24, PF12A given to two sub counties of Lamogi and Amuru police posts. The challenges that survivors usually meet has been reduced especially paying for such forms have been reduced since GBV survivors are able to access the forms freely without any payment.

### Livelihood support

**62 Households** received soya bean seeds benefiting **720 families** directly and educated them to gain skills on VSLA methodology, trained them on agronomic skills, and enabled them to attend a linkage meeting to gain access to better markets. **A total of 4,850 kg of soya** was harvested and sold to an organized private sector market. The families were able to feed during food insecurity, they managed the lockdown shocks, and some others are able to pay for their medical bills and gained increased wellbeing and others managed to join active VSLA group with continuous savings.



### Awareness on SGBV/IPV

Conducted Awareness and Education on the dangers of Sexual Gender Based Violence and intimate partner violence (IPV) reaching **390 participants (120 males & 270 females)**. The program conducted **6 awareness and educational campaigns in 3 communities** of Amuru. Amidst COVID-19 lockdown protocols a large number of girls and young women suffered intimate partner violence.

Therefore, **390 community members** gained knowledge and understanding **on early detection of such violence**, where to report and related protection concerns.

### Mentorship and coaching

**545 adolescent girls and boys** were reached through mentorship and Coaching: Increased support and mentorship from female role models who conducted mentorship and coaching of **400 girls and 145 boys supported** through peer to peer mentorship and coaching. These were also able to reach girls who were at home and waiting for schools to open, they engaged with mentors and asked critical questions related to what adolescents' girls go through including issues of sexuality and growth.





### House hold Dialogues

**10 RMM reached 500 households** with adolescents and their parents in promoting sexual and reproductive maternal and child health including availability of health care services in their communities, strengthened support provided by men to women and girls to access services and improve the delivery of services in respect of gender sensitivity, the girls are motivated by their father's support, and were able to discuss their sexuality issues with their parents. This has led to increased power sharing between men and women.

Men have increasingly shared their experiences in opening spaces for their spouses to take up leadership positions and participate in decision-making processes, in health like on matters regarding sexual and reproductive health rights including child marriages/pregnancy, use of household assets and property, child education. This has resulted into happy living and unity in the families.



### Women War Victims Supported with Craft Skills

The project supported **re-skilling of 5 women** under the crafts groups whose focus has been making very good hand and carry-on bags through tailoring services. The women war victims were affected by the LRA war abducted and suffered from sexual exploitation and abuse.

They needed physical rehabilitation, psycho social and emotional redress. The women have been economically empowered to meet their basic needs and **7 of their children supported with school fees for secondary**. The women procured all materials required for their tailoring concepts from Kampala, quality materials, **160 bags were made and sold, 30 shipped to USA**, the women gained skills in designing and managed to open their own shop with this support from AJWS.

The biggest learning from these small initiatives is that promoting all round development for women and inter sector convergence of skills, facilitate the processes of coordinating all the women's welfare and socio-economic aspect of their lives, their agency, thanks to AJWS seed grant. These therefore, means that imparting knowledge only is not enough.

# 2020 FINANCIALS

## INCOME

	2019	2020
Donations/Grants	2,413,564,288	4,129,187,625
Other	1,421,492	16,077,946
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,414,985,780</b>	<b>4,145,265,571</b>
<i>Programme Costs</i>		
Diakonia Project	228,395,615	182,516,172
HURICAP Project	2,950,500	37,649,300
USAID RHITES-North Acholi	214,706,389	436,573,754
AJWS Project	18,794,000	37,798,310
Open Society Fund II	108,116,600	204,195,624
Trust Fund for Victims	10,696,085	---
HUM Project	243,548,600	---
DGF Project	201,392,715	154,975,940
Oxfam/Novib VOICE Project	223,833,020	69,890,150
MSH SWoCA	21,778,795	---
ALENU	---	912,196,234
CIV - FUND	---	18,388,188
<b>Subtotal Programme Costs</b>	<b>1,274,212,319</b>	<b>2,054,183,672</b>



# 2020 FINANCIALS

## EXPENDITURES

	2019	2020
<b>Personnel Costs</b>		
Salaries	1,180,016,568	1,359,490,542
10% NSSF	---	136,073,183
Medical insurance	4,684,260	18,647,000
<b>Subtotal personnel costs</b>	<b>1,184,700,828</b>	<b>1,514,210,724</b>
<b>Administrative costs</b>		
Office rent	28,554,000	25,700,000
Office Consumables	---	21,162,699
Office supplies	-38,643,729	10,023,654
Office stationery	24,560,805	13,457,335
Office utilities	8,649,225	1,134,755
Office communications	2,087,735	29,030,825
Per diems & travel	10,650,285	33,062,260
Fuel	13,625,600	30,726,527
Service & repairs of vehicles	14,137,667	31,764,780
Service & repairs of equipment	5,287,320	3,107,520
Vehicles Insurance	---	13,895,639
Procurement of motorcycle	1,399,250	---
Computers & accessories	2,576,000	5,050,000
Board meetings	3,588,700	5,555,000
Bank charges	24,299,313	15,782,536
Audit fee	---	33,682,097
Security	---	2,970,000
Refund of fund balance to Donor	---	7,177,957
<b>Subtotal (Admin)</b>	<b>100,772,171</b>	<b>283,283,584</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>2,229,685,318</b>	<b>3,851,677,980</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit for the year</b>	<b>-144,699,538</b>	<b>293,587,591</b>

## STORIES OF CHANGE



### *The Transformation power of my husband*

When girls marry before 18, their lives are all too often marked by an unspoken, yet very real, kind of violence. Gender-based violence (GBV) is a human rights violation, a public health challenge, and a barrier to civic, social, political, and economic participation. It undermines not only the safety, dignity, overall health status, and human rights of the millions of individuals who experience it.

Lalam Agnes 22 years of age now, married five years ago to Okello Charles of 27 years of age. Together, they now have 2 beautiful daughters of 4 and 2 years in the household, from Biwang Village, Omongo Parish, Lira Palwo Sub-county Agago District. "I have been married and lived in this village for five years."

Me and my husband are all in different savings groups but I belong to Women Youth Group and through this we also get various teachings related to how to live in household, hygiene and sanitation and how do live peacefully in the house with your partner by the DREAMS team and Hope for life.

Because I got married when I was very young, I went through a lot of difficulties and challenges in life. I was subjected to both physical, emotional and social violence because my husband would not only get very drunk but was also very violent, not only self-centered but would also deny me the right to get acquainted and connect with the people around me. Due to lack of understanding amongst us, our children were not well spaced because my husband didn't want me to go for any type of family planning. Even during my menstruation periods, he would not allow me to go to the center and buy sanitary towel but only him would go to the trading center to buy me pads.

Due to the teachings we have got from USAID-RHITES North Acholi activity, we have increased our level of savings and my husband was in position to appreciate my parents my taking some dowry and also bought some livestock like cow and goats. Now we plan to venture into large scale farming so that we are able to sell out some of the produce and inject it into business.



## STORIES OF CHANGE

Stella Mono, a mother of four, often struggled to provide for children including her 13-month-old daughter, Brenda, with enough nutritious food to keep her healthy despite being married to Warom, a fisher man of modest means. Over time, her last born Brenda became extremely underweight and lethargic, almost reaching a point where she was not strong enough to eat. Stella's husband Warom left home and got another wife in Panyimur leaving Stella to struggle with Brenda and the three other children.

A health worker noticed Brenda's condition during integrated community outreach at Vungadik outreach post and referred her to Pakwach health center IV with support from ALENU ambulance service. Brenda received food high in nutrients and her health was monitored, while her mother Stella learned new skills to keep her daughter healthy.

To combat malnutrition and its effects, ALENU supports a health and nutrition project that empower parents and communities to prevent and treat malnutrition in the short and long term.

Brenda and her mother were linked by the health assistant of Pakwach Sub-County to a self-support group of pregnant and lactating mothers created by the ALENU project.

Stella takes part in a community complementary feeding and learning session that the group conducts every week. In these sessions, malnourished children like Brenda are fed while caregivers like Stella attend group meetings and learn healthy child-feeding and caregiving practices. Caregivers also learn to prepare process and preserve nutritious food using locally available, nutritious crops.

The ALENU project also focuses on improved agricultural production, health and nutrition as well as preparing for and responding to shocks. Mothers learn to grow more nutritious and sustainable food for their families in backyard gardens. Mothers of Pakwach expressed their



*Left to fend for her children*

appreciation for how the lessons they learned in the project help them provide healthy lives for their children. As one mother of Winjiriber IYCF group noted, the project "opened our eyes, we were in darkness."

These small changes have helped give many children a new lease on life. Previously fatigued and sickly, Brenda gained 2.3 kilograms — over 5 pounds — in two months. "I am no longer embarrassed with my child's frail body", Stella narrates. She has gained weight and is able to play and eat just like any other child. "My husband has also returned back to us", Stella happily proclaimed.

While there is more to be done to improve nutrition in Northern Uganda, ALENU remains committed to helping vulnerable communities gain the skills and tools to keep their families healthy.



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