

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Gulu Women Economic Development & Globalization

Prepared by GWED-G Staff & Technical Team

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2021 FINANCIALS

ABBREVIATIONS

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

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we close another year 2021 that was filled with difficulties and challenges, our effectiveness and efficiency depended on the critical alertness made for a uniquely challenging managerial environment. As Chair of GWED-G, and together with my fellow Board Members, our role is to ensure the essential stewardship of the organization ensuring that the governance structures and functions of the organization are performing optimally. The scale of decisions that had to be actioned, and the uncertainty that lay ahead, gave us a wonderful opportunity as GWED-G to provide our services to the people in need.

The Board of Directors give thanks to the Executive Director for her steady hand at the helm, and the GWED-G senior management team for their exceptional leadership throughout 2021. Most importantly, we want to recognize the determination and hard work of all GWED-G staff who delivered legendary experiences every day with dedication and care.

My reflections as Chair are that GWED-G as a whole achieved greatly and has also learnt quite some lessons:

1. The overwhelming importance of handling emergencies and other problems during this Economic Crisis with the devoted GWED-G team who have sacrificed their time and dedicated themselves to serve the people using the little resources available.
2. The initiative we began to implement for the acquisition of a permanent GWED-G land (Property) for office space.
3. We provided guidelines in the mid-term review of the Strategic and work plans which were successfully conducted.
4. Conducting Board evaluation exercise for all board members successfully.
5. We guided, reviewed and approved the organization's Travel Waiver Policy.

Our focus would therefore be on making the organization grow to the next level positively while raising the bar high in implementing defined structural guidelines with defined targets in all the program thematic areas as we make important steps to anchor a sustainability culture within the organization. We are confident that progress to recovery of lost time in project implementation will continue in 2022, driven by our strong leadership and the dedicated team of GWED-G despite the unknowns; we can count on improving trends in terms of increasing our network coverage, funding, support to all the people within our program thematic areas and make good use of the valuable lessons learned while managing the current challenges.

I also want to make special mention of the remarkable dedication of my fellow board members and the senior management team, who adapted tirelessly, and who have committed evermore of their time and energy to ensure what this report outlines.



Sincerely,
Dryem Grace - Chairperson

We extend our appreciation to our Donors, Government Institutions & Stakeholders for their ongoing support and also thank our beneficiaries for giving us the opportunity to serve them, we will continue to work every day to maintain your support and trust in GWED-G.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2021: WORKING THROUGH THE NEW NORMAL

In 2021, what we called the new normal has been an experience of working through a changing and overlapping intersectional approach that recognized the diverse needs of the women and impact groups exacerbated through the emergence of COVID-19. The situation further escalated in the post conflict region with limited and poor health and economic infrastructures and existing social, political, and environmental vulnerabilities. The impact of COVID-19 on women and girls who continue to face structural, social, cultural, and economic injustices is significant and overwhelming.



The pandemic has added to the existing structural injustices creating a far deeper social, economic, and humanitarian threat. GWED-G played a role of frontlines responder considering its critical role in preventing and responding to escalated cases of gender-based violence, violence against women and girls and teenage pregnancies described as the “The Shadow Pandemic”.

We experienced several shifts during the lockdown with more homes transitioning from safe places to patriarchal homes while critical shifts such as working from home virtually became the new normal. According to WHO an increased number of domestic violence witnessed with more cases of discriminations recorded. GWED-G therefore developed immediate response strategies to address violence against women and girls, increased resources to respond to food crisis during lockdown and gender-based violence, medical and psychosocial redress, we ensured these essential services are adapted to crisis context to ensure that survivors and victims’ needs prioritized and easily accessible.

As we continue to reflect on our 2021 journey, we successfully launched a sustained advocacy campaign in the wake of high teenage pregnancy rates in Amuru District. The campaign sparked a national dialogue and shifted the policy perspectives on the rights of pregnant teenagers and adolescent mothers to return to school and complete their education. The campaign set out to make detrimental social norms visible, helps stakeholders understand their impact on adolescent and teenage mothers, and see alternatives. Through strategic bold approaches, we mobilized support and prioritized interventions to support collective and self-led young women and adolescent girls and their families secure their livelihoods, counteract the severe threat to their incomes and health, and find pathways to bounce back from the pandemic.



Through the gender equality and women's empowerment programs, a gender responsive and transformative approach in responding to COVID-19 adopted to ensure not only women but also communities in which women's lives are supported. These included humanitarian food distributions, leading food security programs to help bolster fragile livelihoods and promoting food sovereignty programs where grassroots women-built seed banks to keep and multiply indigenous seeds as part of food security. We continued to promote women's land rights and collaborated with cultural institutions to mitigate land conflicts through alternative disputes resolutions (ADR) which provided a win-win satisfaction for redress. The Women Peace Mediators on the other hand were deployed at post conflict and refugee host communities as peace brokers, engaging in joint advocacy and outreach, promoted representations and participation of women at local, regional, and national levels platforms. Most conflict mitigated by the women peace mediators included land conflict, gender-based violence, resource conflict including addressing local and community barriers that prevented women from negotiating peace, engaging in joint advocacy, strengthened capacities and continued to work closely with local authorities at grassroots and regional levels. The women peace mediators also promoted women's participation in decision making processes and played a leading role in the implementation of National Action Plan III [NAPIII].

Similarly, with a push from effects of COVID-19 lockdown, we promoted women's access to ICT where we developed programs to change women's lives through intensive tech-skills training to enable upward career mobility and working through social media to market their product.

In terms of building women leadership, networks, and movements, we ensured that grassroots women leaders are equipped with the skills for advocacy, coalition building, government relations, peer learning and innovation, power mapping, multi-stakeholder dialogue, negotiation, policy formulation skills, convening and collaborative skills, coaching and mentorship, and documentation.

Again, through the difficult year, we noted that cultivating positive external relationships is essential to drive an agenda forward and build constituencies of support, stronger partnerships, collaborations, and institutional linkages to increase outcomes. Strengthening and enhancing the relationships and interactions of grassroots women organizations was useful in increasing effectiveness and sustainability. To this extent, GWED-G has been pushing for space and open conversations in relation to growing opportunities for women rights organization access to funding and allowing them to set their own priorities towards meeting their core support and funding as it seen something useful in crisis settings such as of COVID-19. As it is, without a mix of funding streams and mechanisms, it becomes a challenge to support groups and movement's essential part of work.

The work around capacity support of grassroots networks is critical to growing human rights education at community levels. The networks continued to conduct dialogues and advocacy addressing barriers experienced because of negative social norms through households and community dialogues. These included human rights volunteers, role model men, village savings and loan association groups, village health teams, referral actors amongst others. We are indebted to all these networks considering their levels of influence with wider sets of actors. In terms of strategy, GWED-G works more with the networks and we want to recognize their commitments towards implementing the broader GWED-G mandates.

In terms of health programming, we continued to work collaboratively with district health departments and community health systems with a focus on increasing social behaviour change communication to enable demands and uptake of health services. The GWED-G overarching focus for health programming included enhancing knowledge, advocacy and health campaigns including linking communities for health services that includes HIV, nutrition, family planning, malaria, TB, MNCH, COVID-19 and WASH. There are increasing documented changes and health outcomes in the supported projects' locations.



Within the SRHR, GWED-G supported adolescent girls with skills and encouraged attitudinal change to help foster supportive community environments where adolescents can make informed decisions and receive essential Sexual Reproductive Health services, for instance engaging adolescent girls and young women in several consultations helped us develop a more accurate picture of the realities of access to sexual reproductive health services for adolescents and shaped our advocacy campaign on teenage pregnancy. Besides, livelihoods and skills options including family support blended the work around SRHR for adolescent's girls within the supported communities.

I want to thank the GWED-G board and staff for being in the frontlines and adapting to the new normal. In 2021 more capacity building and refresher trainings were conducted for Board members and these exposed our board to exercising basic control systems and processes-scorecard approach, Results Based financing, and Result Based Monitoring, which has been an essential element of our board effectiveness and performance of the organization due to these investments. The management staff worked towards shaping the strategic plan and ensuring better visibility for GWED-G work. These included effective communications and constituency engagements to our stakeholders, beneficiaries, and partners through social media handles (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram), we increased our websites traffic and boosted our social media handles, and we are working closely with government department units at districts and regional levels to ensure effective collaborations and partnership.

These works cannot be possible without financial support from our donors and collaborative partnership with stakeholders, academia, and government ministries. We appreciate flexibility and opportunities to even get funding top-ups to respond to the emerging and crisis situations, you enabled us to sustain our staff and keep working through adapted models even though the pandemic was bad while other institutions remained closed, we remained on the frontline. We do not take that for granted, we have seen what meaningful partnership is and committed to lifting our flag higher.

We still have some gaps as most resources are coming to an end, we are working to review our strategic plan, the need for core and flexible funding support, institutional capacity building, and GWED-G new office. These require broader partnership and access to long term funding opportunities and models. GWED-G aims to become a thriving and learning organization with an enabling work environment grounded into the practice of feminist principles, health, human rights protection and defending, increasing our leadership and governance footprints, maintaining our financial sustainability and resilience, and ensuring that our monitoring and evaluations system is sharp and strengthened. On the other hand, we want to see growth in the aspects of voice, collective leadership and collaborative advocacy through alliances and relationship building that strengthen grassroots movements.

I want to thank all of you for making our 2021 possible, and we look forward to furthering engagements and partnership.

I now welcome you to read our annual report.



Thank you so much for your support

Pamela Judith Angwech - Executive Director

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS & GENDER EQUALITY

DGF PROJECT

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE IN NORTHERN UGANDA

Context

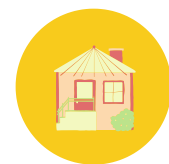
The project locations were characterized with knowledge gaps in understanding and interpretation of land laws by women, young people, cultural leaders, chiefs and local council courts, hence the need to translate the land laws. There were unreported cases of sexual and gender based violence and a big number of unaddressed cases due to inadequacies of institutions such as hospitals, the police and judiciary which deterred access to justice for survivors. Wide spread land grabbing and land conflicts as well as violence resulting from disputes over land. Low level of participation of women and youth in local leadership positions, this hindered their participation in electoral and democratic processes. The low levels of participation was attributed to low levels of income, low literacy rates, lack of social empowerment and discourses that exclude and keep women and youth in poverty.

GWED-G's intervention (Outputs)

The DGF supported project operates in four districts of Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya and Omoro. Sensitization meetings were conducted on human rights, women's participation in leadership, women's land rights awareness and conducted radio talkshows to reach out to other communities. 240 Role model men were trained on gender equality and skills to conduct house hold dialogues, they were able to reach 1,323 community members with messages to promote peace in their households. While 60 human rights volunteers were recruited and trained by the project on monitoring, reporting and documentation of human rights abuses and violations, the volunteers reported up to 64 cases in 2021 which cases ranged from family fights, economic violence, land conflicts especially boundary disputes. 11 land conflicts were peacefully mediated with the support of the community structures and the local sub-village chiefs.



240
ROLE MODEL MEN
TRAINED



1323
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
REACHED TO PROMOTE PEACE
IN THEIR HOUSEHOLDS



60
HUMAN RIGHTS VOLUNTEERS
RECRUITED AND TRAINED

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

Improved human rights in the post conflict Acholi region

There has been increased knowledge and understanding of communities on human rights, in which human rights materials and tools for advocacy were developed and capacity of human rights defenders were built and networks based at grassroots levels were also strengthened. These have improved observance and promotion of human rights in the community. Active participation of women during activities implementation and discussion demonstrated the high level of women knowledge and awareness in the community. There was increased responsiveness of both community and duty bearers in handling human rights abuses and violations reported by our local structures (Role Model Men, Human Rights Volunteers and other stakeholders).



Increased protection of land rights in Acholi region

Some gains from the project indicated that Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) principles of land mediation is quite effective as the legal processes in court suffered from backlog of cases with high costs attached. Actors such as local traditional leaders – chiefs (Rwodi Okoro and Rwodi Kweri), involvement of councilors and integrating women attendance at the sub-county land committee meetings generated significant success in managing land disputes. This is by them acting as mediators, created awareness on land administration and land registration and importance of having clear land boundaries to prevent conflicts. Community members prefer local disputes resolutions mechanism that is managed by local chiefs and traditional leaders including Role Model Men (RMM), Human Rights Volunteers (HRVs) as it's free of charge and less time consuming compared to the formal justice system.

Improved inclusion of women in decision making processes

The project created opportunities for women to take part in political and electoral position. Through engagement with men to allow women to take up leadership positions and also the willingness of their family members, women enjoyed a lot of love and hope from their electorate/community. Some women are now skilled and have the qualifications for all the electoral positions and the constitution of Uganda, which instituted affirmative action's for women. Women are actively engaged in village saving and loan associations (VSLA), in which their leadership skills are being appreciated. Women leaders whom we engaged have elevated from local council III sub-county to LCV at the district level. Some of the women leaders have become speakers in Amuru, Gulu City and Gulu District.

Challenges encountered

COVID- 19 interfered with normal implementation of activities at organization level. For example, lockdown restrictions in the country limiting movement and gatherings of people, it was difficult to hold community dialogues. While the use of online platforms presented an opportunity to hold virtual meetings, briefings and campaign events, it was a barrier to women as most of them in the community do not own phones or even smart phones and access to internets is always a challenge.

The suspension of our activities in the field affected the direct implementation and has also lowered the morale of our community structures like Role Model Men and Human Right Volunteers. This has limited direct monitoring of their activities as we had to virtually engage with them on phones to get updates on the human rights situations and their response thereof.

Future perspectives

The project builds capacities of grassroots groups to find own solutions to community's challenges, this is what is called sustainable partnership that embeds learning. The sustainability of this project is also guaranteed by the already established Role Model Men, the Community Based Facilitators, land rights defenders, case managers, human rights volunteers who are based within the community. Furthermore, we are nurturing partnership with local organizations, district authorities and government ministries while implementing.

The grassroots groups of women and youth are capable of sustaining the project activities, outcomes and impacts after the project phases out. Our work with the relevant district departments, traditional and religious leaders will promote sustainability of the project as well.



PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS & GENDER EQUALITY

CIVSAM PROJECT

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER SENSITIVE CULTURE FOR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE IN COMMUNITIES OF NORTHERN UGANDA

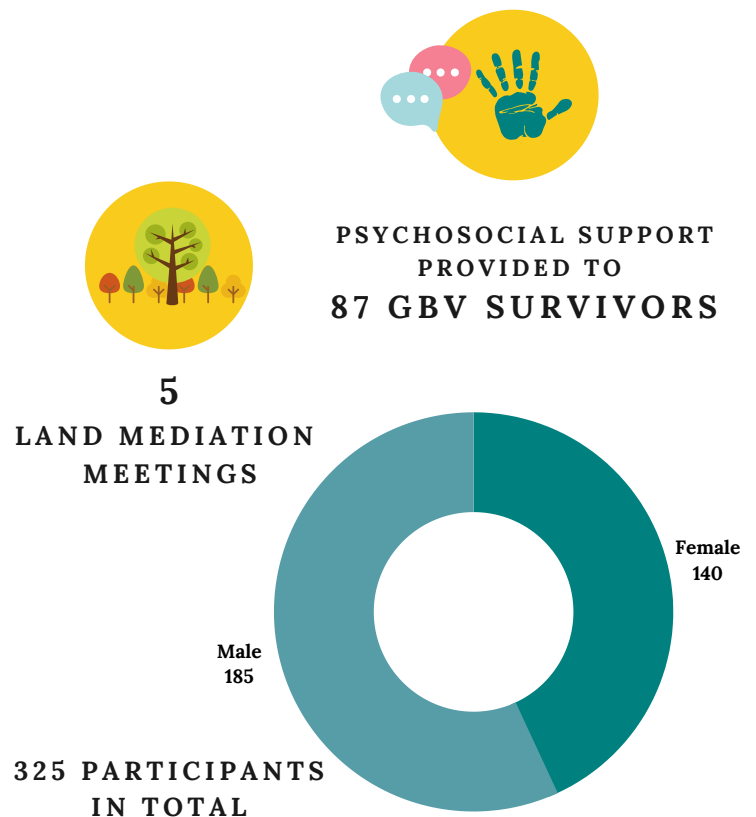
Context

Before intervention, many women and girls, men and boys had suffered silently as survivors of gender based violence (GBV) because they did not know the referral actors and the services available in relation to prevention, response and management of GBV cases. As a result of this, some survivors of physical and sexual violence like rape, defilement, intimate partner violence did not benefit from any psychological, medical and legal support. Patriarchal tendencies embedded in the local tradition and belief had promoted gender discrimination and stereotypes in our societies. Consequently, many vulnerable women and girls were unfairly subjected to many forms of human rights abuses and violations like denial to access, control and ownership of productive resources like land, capital and assets.

GWED-G's intervention (Outputs)

Community level awareness meetings with sub-county technical staffs (Community development officers, senior Assistant Secretaries), cultural and religious leaders to create awareness on feminism, strategies to combat and reduce social tolerance to GBV and VAW/Gs' where conducted. GWED-G also fully paid medical bills of 25 survivors to enable them access medical treatment while 87 survivors received psychosocial offered by GWED-G staffs, role model men and case managers. Through these support, survivors fully got healed of the physical injuries and psychological trauma that they had experienced.

5 land mediation meetings were jointly conducted with religious and cultural leaders using alternative dispute resolution (ADR) as a tool. This has promoted women land rights and has led to vulnerable women and girls regaining full access, control and ownership of their land. ADR was used as a strategy to promote peaceful resolution of land conflicts without resorting to violence. 325 members of the community (185 males and 140 females) attended the mediation meetings.



IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

As a result of community level awareness and education with cultural and religious leaders on strategies to combat and reduce social tolerance to GBV, violence against women and girls, community members are now aware of the importance of gender equality and equal rights to access, control and ownership of productive resources like land, capital and opportunities by both men and women. There is increased access and ownership of land by women who were marginalized. Community members are now able to identify and challenge negative cultural values, beliefs and practices that often promoted discrimination and gender inequality.

There is increased rate of reporting of GBV cases to health centres and police by the youth who were reached out during project intervention activities. For example, young girls from Bwonagweno parish and Gulu city are now aware and knowledgeable on where they can report and access services when faced with any form of GBV. A total of 36 youth so far reported GBV cases to Gulu central police station and Laliya police post. This was as a result of a dialogue meeting conducted for 150 young girls on the dangers of teenage pregnancy and early marriages.

The physical wellbeing and mental health of GBV survivors were restored as a result of the medical treatment and psychosocial support that they accessed from the health facilities, GWED-G staff, role model men and the case managers. 112 survivors have been properly integrated in the community and are coping up with the impact of the abuses that they experienced. Akot Grace (fictive name), a 9 year old GBV survivor who was defiled and supported to access medical treatment, testifies:



The reconstructive surgery that I had in my private part at Good Hope medical center made me stop bleeding and passing uncontrollable urine and stool. I can now play freely with my friends since they no longer laugh at me.

Challenges encountered

Negative attitudes of some men and boys to accept and acknowledge that women and girls are entitled to equal rights and freedoms. These promoted gender discrimination especially in accessing productive resources like land, capital and assets by the vulnerable persons. Late disbursements of project funds affected consistency of activity implementation. As a result of this, some activities that were planned for year one were not implemented.



Future perspectives

The project will be sustained by the established community based structures like the role model men, case managers and women VSLA groups that are in place. These structures have had their capacity built and enhanced in the areas of land mediation, prevention, response and management of GBV. To promote ownership and sustainability, the structures have been fully introduced to the community members and local leaders to make them accountable and offer the necessary support to the people in their areas.



The involvement and participation of stakeholders like Community Development Officers, Senior Assistant Secretaries, local leaders, cultural and religious leaders in project implementation created skills and knowledge that the above stakeholders will continually use to improve on their work. These includes skills in land mediation and gender responsive planning and budgeting.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

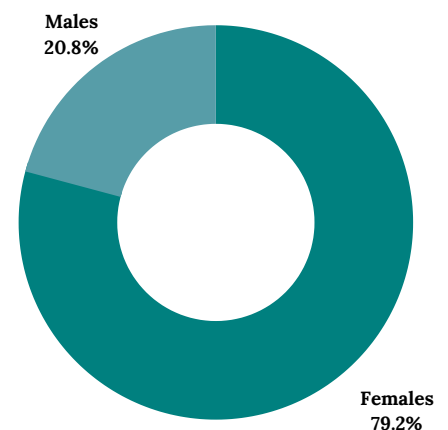


Environmental degradation through human activities like wetland reclamation, indiscriminate cutting of trees for timber and fuel, use of environmentally unfriendly technologies, poor farming methods like bush burning in preparation to open land for farming: all these activities combined with others factors have over the years led to climate change with all the negative impacts such as floods, prolonged drought, pest and diseases in Northern Uganda. Community members lacked adequate resources and knowledge to fully mitigate and adapt to climate change impact.

5 Sensitization campaigns on climate change and disaster risk reduction were conducted and attended by 357 (153 females, 204 males) from Bobi, Atiak, Ongako, Koch Goma and Amuru sub-counties. The sensitizations were jointly conducted with sub-county extension workers to create awareness among community members about the causes and effects of climate change, their roles and responsibilities to mitigate climate change impacts.

Community resilience and adaptive capacities to respond to the impact of climate change has been strengthened and enhanced as a result of the sensitizations and awareness campaigns. Approximately 600 (475 females and 125 males) members of the community belonging to 20 VSLA group members have now planted trees and practicing climate SMART agriculture as strategies to preserve the environment. The tree species planted included teak, eucalyptus and pine trees. In the long run, the trees planted will provide shade and the eucalyptus can be used for medicinal purposes to treat diseases like cough and flu.

600
COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRACTICING
SMART AGRICULTURE



PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS & GENDER EQUALITY

CIVFUND - PROMOTING WOMEN LAND RIGHTS, CLIMATE PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SEED BANK IN ACHOLI SUB-REGION



Context

Although women are the majority land users, ownership, access, control and use of land have been a challenge prior to the intervention, not least because of the growing inequalities between women and men, particularly in relation to land and property rights. There has been escalated land wrangles and grabbing in communities and ownership of productive resources coming from the land by the men. Women do not enjoy the same user rights and opportunities like men and they are stigmatised and marginalised, especially widows, single, separated or divorced women, orphans and vulnerable children. This has led to reduced livelihoods and agricultural productivity, reduced household income and unequal access to economic empowerment, lowered social status, threat to life and limited participation and representations at decision making platforms.

GWED-G's intervention - outputs

During this reporting period, 10 VSLA women groups were trained on women land rights. The training has increased their knowledge on women land and environmental rights, access and utilization.

Community sensitizations and dialogues sessions with women on women land and environmental rights provided platform for the women to engage more on the production of the local seeds as a source of livelihood, income generating activities and on women issues such as women land rights and ownership.

The active participation, inclusion and representation of women in governing bodies thus increases women's agency through the mobilisation and training of women activists to advocate for the protection of women's rights, as well as to demand their rights, justice and the social responsibility of duty bearers.

The trained women have also taken the initiatives to discuss with clan leaders, other male and female counterparts and their spouses of the importance of women having access and ownership to land. As a result, many women have the rights of access and utilization as the discussion still continues.

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

The project greatly responds to address the gender disparity challenges between women and men, boys and girls by empowering women and girls to know their rights to land ownership and utilization, increase women's individual agency, change structural barriers in order to shift social and cultural norms, policies and key relationship in ways that allow women and men to step into new roles. For example, there are women who are elected as speakers, women leaders in clans and the women are represented.

As a result of the trainings, a number of women gained access and ownership of land at their matrimonial and maiden homes and some men have developed positive attitude towards advancing women land rights and advocacy. Men have built trust in their wives and have allocated land to be used and managed by them to produce food for both family and income. For example, Jennifer Angwech from Koro Pageya parish was given 2 acres of land by her husband not only to cultivate in, but to have ownership over the land and the proceeds. Anenocan Filda from Unyama gained ownership of the ancestral land with the husband and children. They are processing the land title in both of their names. Ayugi Rose was granted access to and use of a piece of land by her husband.

The training on women land rights to different local leaders and stakeholders further resulted into increased women access and utilization of land for agricultural production of the local seeds. For example, Lubanga and Lakica, both members of a VSLA group, were each given 2 acres of land by an elderly person and local village leaders to grow local seeds.

Through the various trainings on women's land rights and land use, there has been economic empowerment as the lives of many beneficiaries have improved. A number of women beneficiaries appreciated the project which promotes their women's land rights and gives them economic autonomy. Here are some success stories:



Ocaya Latigo from Loyoboo now has a steady income from vegetable farming and produces pumpkin porridge flour and other mixes, which cost UGX 12,000 per kilo. She also bought a cow and goats.

Ayugi Lucy received a 4 hectare plot of land from her husband and planted cassava on it, which will soon be ready for sale, with all the proceeds going to her.

Rose from Koro bought goats with the money she got from growing vegetables.

Atimango said: 'School fees are no longer a problem in our house'.

Anenocan explained that she has already bought metal sheets and is laying bricks for a new construction.

Challenges encountered

Negative cultural practices, norms and perceptions about women's land and property ownership in some areas and the inferiority complex of some women are still a challenge, especially when they are denied access, control and ownership.

The lack of a camera and recorder for documentation and photography is a challenge, as sometimes the phone battery runs out, and if the personal phone fails during an activity, the action and photos are missed in the field.

The lack of storage tool (external drive or usb stick with enough memory) for project photos is problematic, as a phone's memory can run out of space and photos from activities have to be deleted to create space.

Future perspectives

The trained women activist and VSLA women have become community structure for the project and their capacity build on women land rights and advocacy strategies to help in decision making regarding land use and the project will continue working with them in promoting women land rights.

GWED-G INTERVENES BUT ALSO ALWAYS ENSURES THAT ITS INTERVENTIONS ARE SUSTAINABLE.

The opening of the garden aims to increase the production of local seed banks in order to improve human health, increase food security, reduce production costs in terms of chemical use, purchase seasonal GMO seeds, which is sustainable for each beneficiary as the seeds are available for multiplication in the community and GWED-G links farmers to markets for these products.

The sub-county caucus focuses on promoting women's land rights by meeting to discuss issues that affect women from the village to the sub-county. This caucus includes women councillors, the council, women leaders in the village and is sustainable because it plans when and how to meet. The project plans to obtain rare local seeds for the VSLA, which can then be multiplied by farmers for more sustainable production.



PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS & GENDER EQUALITY

PELARD-N - PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT OF LAND RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN NORTHERN UGANDA

Context

In Northern Uganda, land rights defenders (LRDs) are faced with a number of security incidences and threats as they do their work. Some of the cases and incidents reported against LRDs includes threatening violence, physical and psychosocial assault, unlawful arrest by security agents such as the police, torture by the perpetrators, harassments by some conflict parties and individuals and intimidation by the state and non-state agents. Some of the security incidents reported have continued to threaten their right to life, and restricted their freedom of movement and affected their social and economic rights and general wellbeing. As they do their work many are also subjected to mental health and psychosocial challenges and require numerous kind of support to be able to do their work with minimal risks.

GWED-G's intervention (Outputs)

We increased the knowledge and capacity of 70 Land Rights Defenders (LRDs) in 4 districts of Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya and Lamwo to work safely and securely on land rights protection and promotion. This has been done through capacity building and knowledge sharing on basic human rights concepts, land rights, monitoring, documentation and reporting of human rights abuses and violations and alternative dispute resolutions for LRDs so that they are able to do their work with minimum risks. As a result, the LRDs have been able to share a number of securities debrief with Human Rights Monitors and Programme Officers. The LRDs have continued to do their work with improved frequency of safe submission of documented reports of human rights violations and management of security incidents.

We improved human rights database and reporting system (collection & recording) for LRDs and enhanced safety and better security responses on land issues by LRDs and consortium partners. This has been done through the establishment of an online Monitoring Documentation and Reporting (MRD) software which has over 300 cases of documented land rights and human rights abuses. Land rights and human rights abuses and cases captured and documented by LRDs are feed into this system and database. The data base can be accessed through the link: www.pelard-n.org. The functioning of the MDR platform has been accompanied by digital audits of the hardware, software and communication systems of land rights organizations and land rights defenders in all the four action districts. LRDs are now skilled in communication and advocacy as well as in security management and LRD protection mechanisms and able to directly document abuses into the database.



Psychosocial needs of LRDs in northern Uganda addressed. Research to document psychosocial needs of the LRDs was conducted and a counseling manual has been developed. Before the research, most of the LRDs were not reporting issues related to mental health and psychosocial support within their communities as these issues were largely related to witchcraft and disbeliefs. The study exposed the LRDs to understand critical issues on mental health and responses. A training manual on counselling has been produced as a result of the research and is being used by LRDs as a counselling guide. Within the practical lens, the project psychologist has been of great help providing psychosocial support and therapy to some staffs affected by COVID-19, and some LRDs facing threats and distress including one LRD who was diagnosed to be having psychological issues. There is improved resilience among LRDs, they are able to easily identify mental and psychological needs, conduct and offer basic psychological first aid and referral of cases.

Supported networking among individual LRDs and Organizations at local and national levels to enhance protection and advocacy mechanisms. This has been through establishing and convening Land Rights HRD Protection Working Group meetings (by HRDs) and provision of Legal Aid Services and the convening of national consultative meeting on LRD protection mechanism. To date, GWED-G has convened 4 protection working group meetings in Amuru (2) and Nwoya (2) and actively participated in 2 mobile legal aid clinics and convened a national consultative meeting. These platforms are used by the consortium to understand, document and provide redress to land related disputes and other human rights related abuses and violations. The consultative meeting provided a platform for information and knowledge sharing on security for Human Rights Defenders between national level HRD institutions and local/grassroots HRDs. It also contributed towards improving and strengthening linkages between Human Rights Defenders protection actors as a clear referral pathways and actors were identified on HRD protection.

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

PELARD-N intervention was very relevant to the needs of targets and end beneficiaries in providing protection to Land Human Rights Defenders and addressing land disputes in the region, reporting good levels of efficiency and effectiveness. However, due to budgetary constraints, only 4 out of 8 districts of Acholi sub-region were covered by the intervention, and not all sub-counties within the 4 target districts have been directly targeted by recruiting and training LHRDs locally. Similarly, the design did not envisage specific programmatic action to address the root causes of the problem (conflicts), including (a) discriminatory customary practices towards women in connection with land management and inheritance; and (b) limited registration/titling of lands at the community level.

PELARD-N intervention presented added value in helping the communities to solve intra-community land disputes and to “protect” their territories/land from land grabbers (individuals and small/larger enterprises) and to create awareness on land issues.



98 / 369
LAND DISPUTES
RESOLVED

LRDs have exceeded their MDR tasks and have solved some of the disputes through mediation, which is helping to prevent and mitigate further escalation of aggression and violence in the communities. Out of the 369 cases recorded, 98 have been solved by the LRDs (27%) and the remaining 271 (73%) are still pending (due to postponed mediation or referral to court procedures).

The intervention presented a high degree of ownership by the main project stakeholders, LRDs and local authorities (including police) from the 4 districts targeted in the project. Stakeholders have demonstrated effective commitment to the project implementation, in monitoring, documenting, reporting and facilitating conflict resolution of land disputes in Acholi sub-region. LHRDs show effective commitment in their capacity as volunteers, offering their human capital, time and often their own resources to cover transportation and communication costs to monitor, document, report and - in some cases - to mediate land disputes within their communities.





Challenges encountered

The interruption caused by the outbreak of Covid-19 and the consequent restrictions and limitation in freedom of movement and association made it challenging for the implementation of the project timely. This also came with increased costs of operations for conducting and convening activities. The interruption by Covid-19 affected the work of HRDs in MDR and dispute resolutions resulting into a number of cases not attended to or resolved. While not all LRDs report the same level of commitment due to different personal circumstances, the overall level of ownership of the LHRD mechanism seems to be high.

Future perspectives

There are good prospects of sustainability of the volunteer-based LRDs' mechanism. Most trained LRDs are expected to continue engaging in Monitoring Documentation and Reporting (MDR) and mediation of land disputes beyond the end of the project. However, motivation of LRDs might decrease over time due to the voluntary nature of the mechanism and the personal circumstances of LRDs, resulting in a reduced coverage in the region. Also, district/sub-county authorities have not allocated budget to cover running costs of the LRDs (mostly travel costs and internet data bundles) in their involvement in remote areas, which might impact the overall effectiveness (LRDs' engagement) of the mechanism beyond the end of the project.



PEACEBUILDING & TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

EWOP-NU - EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR PEACE IN NORTHERN UGANDA

Context

With funding from Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund, GWED-G is implementing the "Empowering Women for Peace in Northern Uganda (EWOP-NU)" project. This 15-months project-EWOP-NU will be implemented in Lamwo, Gulu and Amuru districts of Northern Uganda and aims at increasing women's leadership and active participation in conflict prevention in Acholi Region, where women's meaningful participation is lacking, impeding the acceleration of peaceful relations. EWOP-NU seeks to accomplish this through focus on trainings and facilitating strategic interactions from the communal to international level.

GWED-G's intervention (outputs)

90 community women peace mediators were identified and trained on conflict prevention and transformation in the districts of Amuru, Gulu and Lamwo. These women have engaged in conflict prevention through community dialogues, mediation, and participation in community peace committees' activities. 125 cases (84 in Gulu, 30 in Amuru and 11 in Lamwo) have been managed in total.

3 voluntary community services were conducted to date: garbage collection, tree planting and energy saving stoves construction in Padibe T/C, Lokung sub county and Unyama S/C respectively, 66 (Female 42, Male 24) women peace circle members participated.

3 interface meetings that led to formation of the district women's peace committee were conducted. A total of 109 (F 71, M38) participated. The meetings comprised community development Officers, LCIII, community structures (Role model men, community activist, child protection committee), women council and councillors.

3 district women committee and women's peace committee interface meetings were conducted with a total of 116 (F 71, M 45) participants. These comprised of the women's peace committees and district women peace committee who derived action points to address community conflicts issues raised.

Annual Acholi Women's Peace meeting was held in Gulu to build solidarity for women peace actors on conflict prevention and was attended by 45 (Female 37, Male 8) participants from Gulu and Amuru. This provided platform for experience sharing and derived recommendation for better implementation and networking. Some of the recommendations included: Enhance male inclusion in all project activities, support police with PF3 & PF3A, establish parish level women peace committees in all parishes, provide logistical support to police, more training for women peace mediators & stakeholders, increase number of peace mediators and provide them with means of transport, and support exchange visits amongst women peace mediators from Amuru, Gulu & Lamwo.

EWOP-NU in figures

Community women peace mediators trained	90
Cases managed in total	125
Women peace circle members participating in voluntary community services	66
Participants in district women's peace committees	116
Participants in the annual Acholi Women's Peace meeting	45
People sensitized to gender equality and women's strengths and roles	1261
Peace hours radio talk shows	6

9 community peace dialogues were conducted promoting gender equality and women's strengths and roles in peace building, conflict prevention and mediation in Lamwo, Gulu and Amuru districts reaching 1261 (Male 504, Female 757).

6 peace hours radio talk shows were conducted in Gulu and Kitgum targeting population of Lamwo, Amuru and Gulu districts on women's and NGO's roles in conflict prevention. To date a total of 18 (F=14, M=4) panellists were hosted comprising of community peace mediators, community development officers, elected councillors, GWED-G staff, Police and members of women led organisations. Discussions focused on SGBV, understanding of mediation, role of women in peace building.

Early warning system and response policy developed, will be validated, printed and will be disseminated to the districts of Gulu, Amuru and Lamwo. This targets women peace committees, District Local Government (Local elected councillors and technocrats). The policy will be used to kick start discussions on conflict early warnings and development of lower-level early warning tools for timely conflict prevention and transformation. This is also crucial in identifying service gaps in conflict prevention as well as provide basis for advocacy.

10 tweets were posted on GWED-G twitter handle, televised video clip is ready for airing on one of the national television houses.



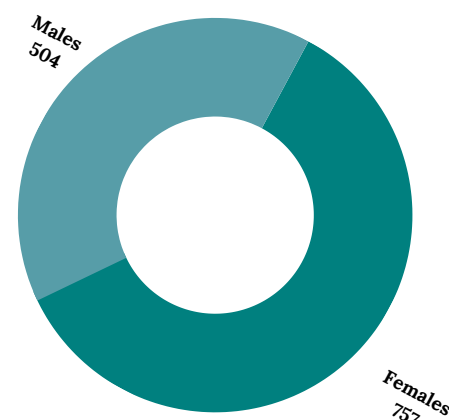
IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

90 trained community women peace mediators are taking active roles in providing mediation to resolve community conflicts at community level and refer conflicts to other informal and formal government structures such as cultural leaders, community development offices, FIDA(U) and police. To date a total 125 community conflict issues has been managed through mediation and referral thus the community is adopting to peaceful approach and dialogue rather than formal justice system.

Increased visibility of women leadership through collective action on garbage collection in Padibe Town Council market, this was achieved by the women peace circle that was composed of women peace mediators, Role Model Men (RMM), household mentors, SASA activists and Rwodi Okoro (women cultural leaders) in partnership with the civil and political leaders of Lamwo district local government.

1261

PEOPLE SENSITIZED TO
GENDER EQUALITY
& WOMEN'S STRENGTHS
AND ROLES





Increased knowledge on the existing conflict issues among the community members. These conflict issues were identified, mapped and actions for mitigation developed through 3 interface meetings of the women peace circle across the project areas.

Increased awareness on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) through mediation as a means of resolving conflict at the community level.

This was achieved through radio talk shows, panelist such as community development officer, a peace activist and project staff were hosted to the radio talk shows. The shows targeted the general population in Lamwo, Amuru and Gulu. A total of 6 peace hours radio talk shows has to date been hosted on Rupiny FM in Gulu, Mighty fire and Tembo for Lanwo district.

Enhanced knowledge of community members on dangers of SGBV, Women's land rights, teen age pregnancy and substance abuse through 9 community dialogues and 6 peace hours radio talk shows resulting into increased reporting of land cases, seeking for mediation of conflicts, reduced SGBV and alcohol consumption.

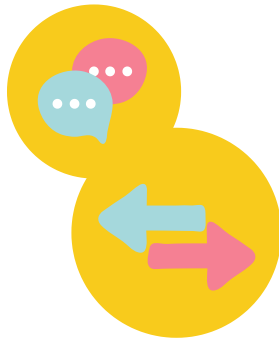
Raised awareness on women's participation in conflict prevention processes and response through sharing information on activities implementation on GWED-G social media platforms; Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and website with 1296 followers in total, including WPHF.



1414

**FOLLOWERS IN TOTAL
ON GWED-G SOCIAL
MEDIA PLATFORMS**

 **+52%**
SINCE 2020



220
ON INSTAGRAM



858
ON FACEBOOK



336
ON TWITTER

Future perspectives

The trained women peace mediators will be incorporated and engaged in other GWED-G running projects in the districts of Gulu, Amuru and Lamwo.

The project focal persons - office of community development officers at Sub county level - have lists of community women peace mediators and will continue to work with them in conflict prevention processes and responses. Reports on such engagement will be shared with GWED-G. These structures have already trained people on conflict prevention, had local legitimacy and acceptance, mobilized community members and actively participated in the project activities. The project focal persons are staff of district local government - the sub county ie Community Development Officers.

The project further maintained consistent involvement and participation of all stakeholders, including elected councillors and cultural leaders. These together will ensure sustainability when the project ends.

Challenges encountered

Long distance travelled by participants to the training venue could not match the budget for transport refund as in budget. As a result participant were trained from their respective sub county. This had direct implication on training period, which doubled the planned 3 days training per district to 6 days.

COVID-19 lockdown significantly slowed down implementation, especially for activities that required public gatherings at the peak of the pandemic - this was mainly in the month of July 2021. Until October, numbers of people gathering in field activities were limited to 20, this further affected activities such as community dialogues as well as interface meetings.



PEACEBUILDING & TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

WOMEN IN CRAFTS - REINTEGRATION OF FORMER LRA ABDUCTEES

Context

The consequences of the 20-year LRA war (1986-2006) in northern Uganda have been terrible for women, particularly in the Acholi sub-region. As a contribution to long-term reconstruction, GWED-G supports 14 women (8) and girls (6) war victims from Amuru, Nwoya, Kitgum, Gulu and Omoro districts, with the aim of empowering them through a sustainable livelihood that may give them a meaningful life, restore their dignity, confidence and self esteem by creating work opportunities.

GWED-G's intervention - Outputs

- 14 women war victims' were trained in tailoring and cutting, which has enhanced their skills in fashion design and craft bags making. This was through tailoring and pop tab knitting. Of the 14, 8 have specialized in tailoring and 6 in pop tab knitting. A total of 365 bags have been produced by the women. 250 bags were bought locally and 115 exported, each bag costing from 5 \$ to 50 \$.
- Linkages have been made to both local and international markets and financial institution. This has improved on their financial literacy, record keeping as well as savings. To date, the women groups have saved 5 million UGX in total.
- One women group has been registered and licensed at Laroo division and operates under the title **THE SHE CRAFT WOMEN GROUP**, attracting a wide range of customers at local, sub-national, national and international level. As a result, they have been able to obtain 4 contracts and made 1'120 masks during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- One operating workshop and stall has been established at post office of Gulu which acts as a platform for display of their hand and craft products.
- 6 exhibitions were carried out, these were conducted during international women's day, launch of 16 days of Activism for Gulu city and Gulu district respectively, international Disability Day and displays at post office in Gulu. This enabled them advertise and showcase their products, network and acquire new ideas and fashions of making bags.

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

The project has successfully contributed to the women's household incomes, enabled them send their children to school, meet their medical and other basic needs, all of them are now economically independent and are earning income through the sales of bags. Moreover, the social network created by the women group has acted as emotional and psychosocial support. The project has also contributed to environmental protection through waste management from the use of beverage cans and plastics as raw materials. The waste cans are used for making the bags.



"I feel very empowered and confident with the tailoring knowledge and skills that I have gained. I can now train other vulnerable women and girls so that they can also make good bags and be like me. I have become financially empowered and can afford to buy good meal, pay school fees for my 3 children, pay house rent and medical bills for my family members in case of any sickness. In a week, I makes about 7 bags which are sold at between 5 \$ and 50 \$ per bag."



Challenges encountered

The outbreak and spread of COVID-19 in Uganda greatly disrupted the work of the women as their stall was closed for sometime which later decreased production, limited sales, networking and exhibitions and as a result affected their source of livelihood.

Unpredictable flow of income from exported products and low usage of social media platforms also affected the work progress of the women group greatly.

Future perspectives

The project has supported the individual women in the group with knowledge, skills and equipments that enables them to perform both as individuals and group. The women group has gained legal status by registration. They have a sound group dynamics through which they ensure accurate records and book keeping. It worth noting that some of these women have acquired business stall and independently operate their business. These coupled with market linkages that already exist will go along way in ensuring the project sustainability.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & LIVELIHOODS

ALENU PROJECT - ACTION FOR LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT IN NORTHERN UGANDA

Context

The Government of Uganda through a presidential directive and standard operating procedures (SoPs) issued by the Ministry of Health, instituted lockdown restrictions that included suspension of gatherings, inter-district movements and curfew as measures aimed at minimizing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Exceptions to the restrictions were issued for emergency situations and essential services but only with express permission granted by the respective district COVID-19 task force established to enforce and monitor adherence to the SoPs and guidelines. In the course of the year, some of the restrictions were lifted.

The 2021 general elections saw most stakeholders and even target beneficiaries engaged in political activities to exercise their rights. Due to the above, ALENU activities including beneficiary registration, group formation and enterprise selection for year 2 of implementation moved a little below pace and behind planned schedule but were eventually successfully implemented. The second year of implementing the Action for Livelihood Enhancement in Northern Uganda (ALENU) reached additional 1050 households (HH). Therefore, the project target outreach of 2,100 HHs was attained.

Because of the initial delay, it was not possible for the project to fully benefit from the 2021 first season rainfall. This led to the implementation of some of the activities later than planned for example while some of the beneficiaries planted their crops during the first season, others could not do so and concentrated on second season planting.

Owing to the continued lockdown restrictions and closure of markets, the project could again not organize agro input fairs as was initially planned. Using the year 1 experience, the project did a direct procurement and distribution of startup agro inputs kits and all beneficiaries received their production inputs in the planned quantities. The same approach was used to procure and distribute food security inputs to all 2100 beneficiary HHs.

GWED-G's intervention - outputs

GWED-G identified 1,050 critically vulnerable households from two districts and formed 42 farmer groups with total membership composition of 60% women to receive support from the project. Using gross margin analysis, the project extension staff supported groups to select different enterprises for support by the project. All 42 Farmer Groups (FGs) selected strategic enterprise each for market commodity and among the enterprises include: apairy (8), soyabeans (17), g-nuts (14), beans (1) and poultry (2). The project also selected, trained and equipped with manuals, tools and assorted poultry drugs and equipments 102 peer trainers (Agro-ecology champions (M65, F15), poultry para-vets (M39, F5) and VSLA mentors (M25, F17).



Table 1: Quantity of inputs distributed for establishment of demonstration gardens

Inputs	Number of FGs	Quantity/ group	Total Quantity
Beans (kg)	01	30	30
Soybeans (kg)	17	30	510
Fertiliser/ Rhizobia (sachets)	17	2	34
Groundnuts (kg)	14	30	420



Table 2: Startup agro-input kits distributed to beneficiary households.

Inputs	# of FG	Qty/gp	Total Quantity
Apiary			
Hives (KTV hives)	8	125 units	1,000
Bee suits, with veils and gloves	8	25 sets	200
Smokers	8	25 pieces	200
Bee brushes	8	25 pieces	200
Beans (NABE 4)	01	375 kg	375
Soybeans (Maksoy 3N)	17	375 kg	6,375
Fertiliser/Rhizobia	17	25 sachet	425
Groundnuts (Red beauty)	14	375 kg	5,250
Poultry (Local Poultry)	2	3 birds/HH (25M,50F)	150
Solar driers	42	1 set	42

Additionally, the project procured and distributed: 2100 hoes, 1,050 watering cans, 1,050 spray pumps, 10 grams of assorted vegetable seeds (okra, sukuma wiki, eggs plants, african eggs plants, amaranthus and 1 kg of cowpeas to each household and 2100kgs of NAROBAN1 for food security.



42
FARMER GROUPS
FORMED



116,848,400 UGX
CUMMALTIVE SAVINGS
REALISED



2100
HOUSEHOLDS
REACHED IN 2020-2021

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

Following meetings with the groups, all 2,100 year-1 and year-2 (84 groups) beneficiary households developed their individual family development plans. Some of the plans included construction of semi-permanent houses, purchase of motorcycles, bicycles, iron sheets, making of bricks and acquisition of livestock such as cattle, goats, pigs and more chicken.

All the 84 groups formed have either started or continued savings and loaning activities. During the year, 40 year-1 cohort groups shared out savings amounting to 116,848,400.- UGX, which will contribute to the implementation of the family development plans.

Through the Peer trainers there has been increased access to extension services as well as increase in contact hours with extension agents. Using the seeds distributed for demonstration, 32 demonstration gardens were established, managed and harvested by the 32 groups.



Challenges encountered

Political interference: activities were greatly affected in term of attendance and adherence to guideline this was because a number of beneficiaries were to attend campaign and rallies during meeting hours. However a efforts has been made to ensure that the meeting hours be readjusted and dates be sheduled on a much cconvined days. The peer trainers were also used since they are on close proximity to the group to train, distribute and reach the individual farming household.

High illiteracy rate among the female beneficiaries: Much as 60% composition by women was achieved at registration of the beneficairees, the peer trainers and leadership positions were dominated by the man since majority of the wowen in the group couldn't read and write.

Weather interfearence: While all the districts generally received near normal rains in the second growing season, the first season received rains that were below normal and they were too short (late March – May). This affected crop growth for the beneficiaries that targeted the first planting season. However, more planting was done in the second season.



Perspective for the future

The involvement of the local and lower local government officials in the implementation of the project (beneficiary selection, monitoring and backstopping) has enabled commitment of the different local government officials to support implementation.

The use of the peer extension approach has led to easy access to extension service within the groups and since the peer trainers are members of the group, this service can be accessed even when the project ends.

Support to the sub-counties with a cold chain will ensure that the beneficiaries have access to vaccination services to the communities as these will remain for use by the paravets and sub-county veterinary staff.

VSLA will help to keep the group members together as they have a focus on their savings and this will keep the groups working together. The agro-input fund component within the VSLA will ensure sustainable access to finance for inputs incase the crops fail in one of the seasons.

Aside from VSLA activties which brings group members together on weekly basis, groups are being encouraged to have a group enterprise whose activities would help to bring them together on a regular basis as periodic interactions, labor sharing helps to create cohesion among group members.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & LIVELIHOODS

UCC PROJECT - 'WOMEN IN BUSINESS'



Context

A survey conducted in 2007-2008 survey by ICT works revealed that only 13% Ugandan women owned a cell phone as against 29% Ugandan men. The survey also revealed a gender gap in access to ICTs like TV, radio and computers. The same gender gap could be observed in Internet access: 1.1% women used the Internet (as against 3.7% men) and 0.8% women had an email address (as against 3.4% men). Only 3.5% Ugandan women knew what the Internet was, as against 9.4% Ugandan men. These figures might have changed over the years but not significantly.

GWED-G's own baseline survey concerning the use of ICT in Gulu, lead in November 2020, has shown that only 25% of the 99 respondents expressed their confidence in the use of internet and 78% noted that they were interested in learning ICT skills. Our research also showed that over 90% of the respondents have interest in accessing internet, but they are majorly limited by genuine reasons: the biggest barrier is the access costs which they said is too high (76%), followed by equipment costs being too high (72%) and lack of computer or internet skills being the third main reason (70%) and having problems with electricity (62%), unavailability of internet infrastructure (51%), and privacy or security concerns coming last (48%).



GWED-G's intervention - outputs

As part of first tracking integration of women business in ICT, the project designed modular trainings on ICT with a number of 10-15 trainees to run for 10 weeks at a time for effectiveness. A total of 87 women (this includes 40 disabled women) participated in this training. The trainings typically cover both theoretical and practical aspects of ICT:

- Understanding a computer, name computer parts and start a computer
- What internet is and advantages of online marketing
- Opening an email address, composing, attaching and sending files
- Using search engines to look for products online so as to be able to brand and set price.
- Using smart phones for downloading and installing social media platforms.
- Download, install, open, use (post and reply) social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp)
- Building on-line network with other entrepreneurs

In terms of business trainings, areas covered included understanding what business is, what entrepreneurship is and who an entrepreneur is, incorporating qualities that entrepreneurs need to possess in order to have profitable business. Furthermore, the participants were taught life skills required for effectively leading productive daily lives and proper running of businesses, this included creative thinking and critical thinking, problem solving decision making, self-awareness and empathy, coping with stress and coping with emotions, communication skill and interpersonal relationships.

After this training, trained women entrepreneurs would courteously communicate with customers, suppliers, business partners and people they encounter for more sustained business relationships that would eventually result into a boost for their business. Critical thinking skill empowers the women to make the right decisions and choices on how to package and deliver their products besides coping with stress, challenges and emotions that are faced by business persons.

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

GWED-G successfully carried out this project with 87 women and girls in Gulu. Here are the main results we were able to achieve through this project funded by UCC:

The project has enabled more than half of the women to discover the main ways to use the internet. They have increased their level of awareness, confidence and interest in using technological tools to expand their business. The areas in which they have made the most progress were in sending and receiving e-mails, participating in social networks, video calls and telephoning over the internet, selling goods or services online and searching for potential customers. The survey conducted at the end of the training allowed to get useful feedback from the trained women in order to identify areas for improvement. Here are the main results:

- 88% found the training easy to understand and 96% would recommend it to others.
- 67% estimated that the training (the 4 hours per day) was of an appropriate duration. 84% agreed that the training space (the hub center at GWED-G) was appropriate.
- 98% of the women surveyed felt that the trainers were knowledgeable on the topic, that they communicated the material well and that the training was well organised.
- 76% felt that the trainings in general were well paced (number of hours, logical, etc...) and 80% that the material/tools were appropriate to help them learn.
- 94% would be interested in attending another training on ICT.
- 98% said they felt supported during the training and that it was helpful for their life.
- Because of the training, 96% of participants say that their level of confidence in managing their business and in using ICT is better than before the training.
- The same percentage think that their earning will be better than before the training.
- Finally, 90% thought that their future would be better thanks for the new skills they learned.

Challenges encountered & future perspectives

Overall, the project was well received by the women trained in Gulu. The training as it was designed suited the participants both in form and content. It also created a lot of expectations for the women who could not participate in this first phase.

Over 80% of beneficiaries found the training was too short, reason why we recommend a duration of at least 4 months for the training courses. While the training provided an introduction to the use of smartphones and Internet, it was only a first exploration for most of the beneficiaries. Further training would allow for more in-depth exploration of the different uses of these online tools. Computer use was briefly covered but not enough in such a short period of time. At least not enough for the beneficiaries to feel comfortable with this tool.

One of the main reasons for dropping out of training is the cost of travel, reason why we recommend that transport costs should be budgeted in the training.

The progress in the different areas taught has been impressive, especially in such a short period of time. As many beneficiaries are starting from scratch, the learning potential is immense. The benefits of such trainings in ICT are numerous for women active in selling to grow their business.

The training allowed them to discover the use of smartphones but most of them do not have one, reason why we recommend that beneficiaries be given financial assistance to acquire their own smartphone and/or be provided free or cheap access to computers purchased by GWED-G to enable them to continue to use ICT and not lose their skills.

Almost 90% of the beneficiaries showed interest in further training in ICT. This shows the high interest from women (but, by extension, from the entire population) to be trained in these very practical areas. As a conclusion, let us remember that the first step is always the hardest to take. Now that it has been done, GWED-G believes that the next step is to broaden the base of beneficiaries of this past project by continuing in this way that will allow for the success of the greatest number of people and the economic development of Uganda. This is exactly why GWED-G continues applying for proposals to enhance ICT adoption through digital literacy for the women in the informal sector.



HEALTH & NUTRITION

ALENU PROJECT

IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Context

In 2020, GWED-G in partnership with other 3 other partners (Caritas Suisse, AFARD and Advance Africa) won an award to implement Action for Livelihood Enhancement in Northern Uganda (ALENU). This 40 months project is funded by the European Union and Office of the Prime Minister as part of the consolidation of security and stability in Northern Uganda. The project operates in 6 districts of West Nile and Acholi regions. These 2 regions have the highest poverty rates (34.7% and 27.2%, NURDs), high levels of stunting and anemia and a lower minimum dietary diversity of children under 2 years (UDHS 2016). The population is growing rapidly due to early marriage and childbirth and low demand for family planning. The target districts are a home to 1,388,400 people (UBOS 2019) (51% women), of whom only a minority have access to socio-economic services. In West Nile, less than 47% of the population have an acceptable food consumption score and mainly access only 3-5 types of food (FAO, 2017). 60% of the HHs eat two non-nutritious meals a day, 48% of children are deprived of food. Unmet family planning needs generated from USAID/RHITES-North Acholi Activity (LQAS report, 2020) indicate high levels of unmet family planning needs for Acholi sub-region with Amuru recording only 25% uptake while Pader 29%. The main barriers to uptake of Family Planning (FP) services for adolescents include lack of adolescent's friendly services at health facilities, limited access to correct and consistent information on FP, myths and misconception (including cultural and religious myths), limited decision-making power among teenage girls and stock-outs of FP commodities.

GWED-G's intervention - Outputs

During the year GWED-G implemented various activities geared towards improving nutritional status and health for project beneficiaries. 14,024 Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials were reproduced to support training and community based household activities in the areas of: a) family planning, b) nutrition; c) sexual reproductive health for in-school and out of school adolescents; d) training of community health resource person; e) training of youth peers for adolescent health and senior women teachers (male and female) and f: general maternal new-born and child health (MNCH). 200 Village Health Teams(VHTs) were trained on nutrition(categories, signs and symptoms, identification, referral, management of MAM & SAM cases); b) Optimal infant and young child feeding (EBF, CF, childcare, food demo & cooking demo); c) Maternal nutrition (pregnancy preparation, recommended feeding practices for PLW, ANC/PNC, managing complications); Growth monitoring and immunization; Community health linkages strategies; Use of various HFMS tools for VHTs; Community Led Total Sanitation (CTLS) concept and methodologies of hygiene promotion at household level. During the orientation VHTs were provided kits to motivate them and support their work. The kits included job-aid, reporting and referral forms, branded bags, branded aprons, gumboots, and MAUC tapes.

Community SBCC on nutrition, child health, family planning and WASH was further strengthened by training religious and cultural leaders on how to conduct community dialogues. The project leveraged its SBCC efforts on the cultural and religious leader's institutions and platforms to reach out to the community, a total of 2,830 people were reached with health information.

Access to prevention and curative health services was achieved by leveraging on the human resources, supplies and equipment's of public health facilities who conducted 432 health out-reaches. Alongside the curative efforts behavioural change and demand creation for health services was done by 400 Village Health Teams through home visits, community, mapping, registration and referral of children and pregnant mothers for health services.

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- 16,433 home visits conducted
- 127 community dialogues were held with 6,063 adolescents (2,425 M, 3,638 F) on reproductive health, teenage pregnancy, and sexuality.
- 60 community dialogue sessions were held for 4,505 PLW (2,703 F, 1,802 M), inclusive of their husbands and wives the sessions covered Exclusive Breast Feeding (EBF), complementary feeding, benefits of ANC, nutrition for PLWs and cooking demonstrations.
- 40,540 children 0-59 months (24,324 F, 16,216 M) benefited from child health services provided during out-reaches.
- 131 PLW, and care givers of children (6-23 months) were referred to public facilities for nutrition management.
- 49 children with SAM were referred for further management to public health facilities.
- 10,516 (6,310 F, 4,207 M), children 1-14 were reached with deworming and Vitamin A services.
- 329 People Living With HIV (PLWH) (198 F, 131 M), were reached with Nutrition assessment and Counselling (NACs).



400 Infant and Young Child feeding groups (IYCF) composed of PLW and caregivers participated in sessions on Exclusive Breast Feeding (EBF) , complementary feeding practices, general nutrition, and health, the learning sessions attracted , 2,714 project beneficiaries. To further strengthen House-Hold (HH) nutrition the project procured quick maturing and high nutritious vegetables with accompanying farm inputs to support the kitchen gardens of 2,500 HHs.

Community hygiene and sanitation campaigns were conducted for improving household hygiene and sanitation. This is done by sensitizing targeted HHs to improve related behaviors and practices and e.g., reduce diarrheal diseases and other infections. VHTs, health assistants and LCI Chairpersons reached 2,903HHs with an estimated population of 20,321 people.

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Results and Activities	Indicator	Baseline	Total project target	2021 target	2021 achieved	Remarks
Activity 1.3.1 – Developing and promoting community-based nutrition initiatives including micronutrient supplementation & deworming, promotion of maternal and young child feeding practices, hygiene, and sanitation and	The proportion of women of reproductive age (pregnant, breastfeeding & non-pregnant) counselled on optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices.	71%	80%	80%	71%	Outreaches facilitated by the project brought services close to the farmers at the communities' level.
	Proportion of children 6-23 months reached through growth promotion and monitoring	84%	80%	80%	84%	Positive outcome relates to community outreaches and provision of individual services.
	Proportion of infants breastfeeding within one hour of birth	92%	70%	70%	92%	Training and involvement of the health units in providing training to the farmers on optimal breastfeeding to the farmers.
	% of HH practicing recommended WASH practices with improved sanitation and hygiene	20%	50%	50%	60%	Achievement relates to extensive WASH campaigns under ALENU.
	% of children & women dewormed	8%	80%	80%	84%	Extensive community outreach and provision of services to beneficiaries.
	% of women, children & adolescents supplemented with micronutrients.	7.95%	80%	80%	78%	Involvement of health units and VHTs have contributed positively in terms of achieving this progress.
	% of women, children & adolescents receiving proper Maternal, Infant, Young Child and Adolescent Nutrition practices (exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months, timely & quality complementary feeding & min. acceptable diverse diet.)	14%	60%	60%	71%	Involvement of health units and extensive training and monitoring of the VHTs and the project team were key to this success.
Activity 1.3.2 – Increase the use of effective FP methods to decrease the # of teenage pregnancies and increase child spacing which address both nutrition and population growth issues	% Increase in the demand for FP and SRH services	22.6%	40%	40%	62.6%	Knowledge sharing, provision of training by health units and free access to FP services to farmers contributed highly to this achievement
	% Increase in the use of FP methods	32%	50%	50%	16.20%	Positive achievement due to training aimed at reducing bias on FP use.
	% of beneficiaries reached with information about modern FP method	71%	80%	80%	71%	Focus on information flow and awareness on FP by involving health units, VHTs and religious leaders in passing out the information.
	proportion of beneficiaries reached with information about natural FP method	71%	80%	80%	65%	Involvement of VHTs, health units, and religious leaders in providing information and training on FP to the farmers.

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

According to the project mid-term assessment undertaken in 2021 the highest consumed services under the project was nutrition education taking 29% followed by family planning services representing 28%. This was followed by immunization (24%), Vitamin B supplements (18%) and Covid-19 testing taking 2%. 60% of the HH started practicing hand washing; 48.7% started preparing balanced diet meals for their households; 17.1% started going for antenatal check-ups; 34.6% embraced immunization activities hence improving their health-seeking behaviors; 21.2% started following medical guidelines when on the treatment; 37.7% started buying complementary food for a balanced diet. Furthermore, some HHs have adopted several family planning methods namely condom use, implant, injectables, moon beads, pills, safe days, IUD, vasectomy, and withdrawal.

The engagement of Local Government leaders, local VHTs, health facilities increased legitimacy, local ownership and sustainability of the project since they are structures that are institutionalized in the local government system.

HEALTH & NUTRITION

RHITES - REGIONAL HEALTH INTEGRATION TO ENHANCE SERVICES

Context

GWED-G is a consortium member of the USAID/Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services – Acholi Activity (USAID/RHITES – North Acholi). The focus of GWED-G in the 5 year project is to make contribution towards increased adoption of health behaviors in the focus district of the project. The main reasons for failure to adopt healthy behaviors in Acholi sub-region include lack of knowledge and awareness of healthy behaviors, low risk perception, low male involvement, cultural norms, beliefs, practices and poverty. Furthermore access to health services is inequitable due to gender, low educational services, remoteness of some communities, highly mobile farming communities, idleness among the youth, and limited youth-friendly services at the community and facility level.

Behaviors and practices that contribute to vulnerability include; having multiple concurrent partners, early marriages, early sexual debut, high teen pregnancy rates, poor health seeking behavior, and gender imbalances with respect to access to health services and income thus leading to high SGBV. Due to the prevailing demographic profile, many key and priority populations (e.g., Female Sex Workers (FSWs), Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), Persons Who Inject Drugs (PWID), Prisons and other close settings among others) need tailored health interventions to address their vulnerability (USAID/RHITES 2021 report).

In order to address health vulnerabilities related to poor adoption of health behaviors, GWED-G worked with District Health Teams (DHTs), Community Service Departments, and community structures (VHTs, Community activists, Community Linkage Facilitators (CLF), peer educators, religious and cultural leaders) to mobilize and create demand to increase access to and utilization of health services and adoption of positive health behaviors by individuals, communities and caregivers. GWED-G continued to build community and facility capacity gap in addressing the health needs of communities especially women, youth and other socially excluded groups. The key strategies employed included increasing awareness of health seeking behavior and commitment to addressing health risks by individual providers, reducing delays in seeking health care; reducing socio-cultural and structural barriers to uptake of health services and focusing on provision of gender and youth sensitive services.





6184 PEOPLE

ADVISED ON MEDICAL ISSUES
THROUGH 174 COMMUNITY DIALOGUES



1065 MOTHERS & WOMEN

COUNSELLED AND PROVIDED WITH FAMILY
PLANNING SERVICES

GWED-G's intervention - Outputs

During the year our commitment towards increasing awareness of health seeking behaviors and addressing health risks was demonstrated in our work with the District Health Teams (DHT) and community structures. Our project teams oriented health workers and community structures on Interpersonal Skills (IPC) in-order to improve their effectiveness in mobilizing individuals, families and communities. The oriented community structures were provided Social Behavioral Communication Change (SBCC) materials for dissemination and distribution. The focus for SBCC was on increasing ANC attendance, HIV services, up take of TB services, nutrition and Maternal Newborn and Child Health. 6184 (56% women) people were reached through 174 community dialogues with messages on family planning, MNCH, TB, malaria, WASH, HIV, Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) and COVID 19 vaccination.

The dialogues were conducted by Role Model Men (RMM), Village Health Team (VHT) and Community Linkage Facilitators (CLF) with the aim of enhancing behavioral change for increased uptake of health services. 62 peers were used to reach 1351 people using the Enhanced Peer Out-reach Approach (EPOA). The peers conducted IPC sessions with fellow peers, moved house- to -house to deliver key health messages and referred those in need of health services to an out-reach point or a nearby health facility. The services provided included VMMC, TB testing and treatment, family planning services (long and short term, ANC services and GBV referral services.

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

Access to family planning services continues to be a challenge to most individuals and families in the region. Under the project, GWED-G worked with health workers and community structures (VHTs, satisfied users/champions, religious and cultural leaders) to conduct targeted mobilization and referral of eligible family planning clients especially adolescents, first time mothers and women of low parity. 1065 mothers and women were counselled and provided family planning services of their choice.

In order to improve reach of health information various platforms were utilized to disseminate health information. 16 days of Gender activism was used to disseminate health information during which 882 people were reached with information on family planning, Gender Equality and GBV especially on teenage pregnancy and early marriage.

International water day and sanitation week was utilized to mobilize 276 (M 94, F 182) communities by VHTs, RMM, peer and cultural leaders to improve water indicators especially hand washing , access to clean water and open defecation. 826 children (M 377, F 499) were reached with immunization and nutrition screening services during the Day of the African Child . 203 women Village and Loans Savings Associations (VSLA) were used to educate women on GBV prevention, WASH and COVID-19 home based care.



826 CHILDREN

REACHED WITH IMMUNIZATION AND
NUTRITION SCREENING SERVICES

Reduced delays in seeking appropriate care

Reducing delays in seeking appropriate care is critical in managing health conditions, during the year 5277 community members mainly women and children were mapped and referred promptly to out-reach points and to health facilities. VHTs and CLFs were mainly used to conduct these referrals for ANC, nutrition assessment and counselling, TB, malaria and HIV services .

Using the Decentralized Services Delivery Model (DSD) recommended by Ministry of Health and adapted by the project, retention of clients on ART and Viral Load suppression was improved in 64 community drug distribution points (CDDPs) and Community Client Led ART Distribution (CCLAD) groups. The CCDP and CCLAD improved access to HIV services for ART clients. The project provided ARVs, patient monitoring and intensive care counseling, and dialogues to troubleshoot challenges of retention on care/VL suppression.

Overcoming sociocultural barriers to health

In order to overcome sociocultural barriers to uptake of health services, GWED-G engaged 355 Religious and Cultural leaders to champion mobilization for health services. They used their platforms, conducted door-to-door visits, facilitated dialogues and general sensitization. The project provided talking points on COVID-19, nutrition, TB, malaria, MNCH, HIV and VMMC. Through their efforts 11,052 community members were reached with health information. Other structure used to address sociocultural barriers included the use of RMM who were trained in IPC skills and provided SBCC materials to conduct household and community dialogue on, GBV, family planning, ANC, EPI, nutrition, deworming, malaria testing and treatment, HTS, TB and PMTCT. The RMM have particularly been useful in counselling, mediating and referring cases of GBV.



5277

COMMUNITY MEMBERS MAPPED AND REFERRED TO HEALTH FACILITIES



Challenges

Male involvement in health service delivery is a huge challenge that impacts on their health and the family. The project strengthened male involvement in all areas of health activity. Other challenges include delayed seeking of appropriate health care that has been solved by use of community structures to map and refer cases and conducting of integrated health services that has brought services closer for remote and isolated communities.

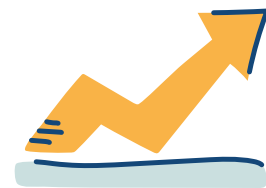
Through the USAID/RHITES North Activity GWED-G has strengthened community health intervention by building capacities of community structures in conducting SBCC activities, improving case identification, mapping and referral of diverse disease conditions including reporting. Intense and consistent health messaging through use of innovative SBCC approaches and collaboration with district local governments has created demand and uptake of health services in the Acholi sub-region.

HEALTH & NUTRITION

LOBEMED - SCALING UP HIV PREVENTION INTEGRATED WITH MATERNAL HEALTH AND CHILD HEALTH

Context

Globe-Med Project started with funds raised by students from Columbia University to scale up HIV prevention and treatment for vulnerable women that are at risk or already infected. The project initially focused on enrolling HIV positive mothers and children into ART and maternal child health services. Initially, the project was being implemented in Lamogi Sub-county in Omoro district only. However, due to increasing community demand to address the high HIV prevalence, low ANC attendance, SGBV/GBV among others. The organization scaled up intervention to Amuru Sub County in Amuru district. The targeted communities in these two sub-counties are entirely dependent on farming, petty trade, produce buying and selling. The VSLA that are common in these communities enable them to save and borrow money to finance their business with the surplus earnings used for household expenditure including food, clothes, medical care and education for their children. Sale of surplus farm produce is another source of revenue for the community. Despite all this income, widespread poverty continues to pervade the local community, along with poor access to public services, including health. Women in the community suffer more from gender inequality and discrimination. The prevalence of GBV, unwanted pregnancies, early and forced marriages. is still high. These challenges were further amplified during the COVID-19 epidemic.



GWED-G's intervention - Outputs

Community Sensitization: Despite Covid-19 Pandemic, the project was able to conduct the following activities while adhering to the Ministry of Health COVID-19 SOPs of handwashing/sanitizing, seeking approval for convening meetings and wearing facemasks. Community sensitizations were conducted in Coke, Labongo and Agwayugi Parishes in Lamogi and Amuru sub-counties in Amuru district. The activities were carried out with the help of 2 mid-wives from public health facilities, 2 Role Model Men (RMM), 3 Care givers and 6 VHTs. The topic discussed included COVID-19 risk communication, family planning, ANC, immunization and nutrition. The discussion on COVID-19 focused on adherence to government SOPs, home based care for the infected, hand-washing through setting up of tippy-taps (locally made hand-washing facility) with soap at all homestead entry points for family members and visitors. Participants were provided IEC materials on COVID-19, WASH, family planning and ANC. Family planning awareness included information on the different family planning methods (long and short-term methods), discussion on myths and misconception on family planning, family planning benefits and service availability. The need for early attendance of ANC in the first trimester and 8 ANC visits overall and its benefits was discussed, the discussion on ANC also included birth preparedness and safety of facility delivery involving spouses and safety. Child care discussion evolved around the need to adhere to immunization schedules, prompt treatment of all fevers within 48 hrs. especially malaria, ensuring that children sleep under treated mosquito nets and eat nutritious local foods (vegetables, legumes, eggs, fish, milk etc.). A total of 632 people attended the meetings (F= 430 & M=202)

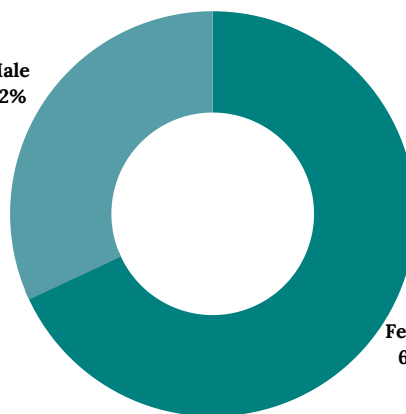
The sensitization meetings were in a cluster of 10 groups with a composition of 20 people per group as recommended by the COVID-19 task force at the sub-county. The sessions were interactive, participatory and inclusive. Questions were raised by community members for each session topics and responses were provided either by the facilitators or participants. The facilitators used a lot of graphics, pictures and diagrams as illustrated in the different IEC materials that were used for the sensitization.



200

HOME VISITS & PSYCHOSOCIAL
SUPPORT COUNSELING SERVICES

Male
32%



Female
68%

632

PEOPLE ATTENDED
COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION

Dialogue meetings: 2 Role Model Men (RMM), 6 VHTs and 2 health workers conducted household cluster dialogues that had at least 15-20 for a given dialogue session. The issues discussed during the dialogue included family planning, HIV and ANC.

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

The GlobeMed program in partnership with GWED-G is promoting HIV/AIDS awareness integrated with Maternal and Child Health (MNCH). Over the last 6 years, GWED-G and GlobeMed Columbia University chapter program has been deepening advocacy on scaling up community/household dialogue on HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment (HIV Testing Services, Linkage to care and EMTCT), ANC attendance, Nutrition and WASH, COVID-19 screening integrated with TB, facility delivery and immunization in 16 parishes of Amuru and Lamogi sub-county, all in Amuru District.

The program has contributed to reduction of stigma amongst lactating mothers and women living with HIV/AIDS, it further addressed discriminations affecting these women. The main goal of the program is to enable the women give birth to healthy babies free from HIV/AIDS infections. With the support of the program, therefore, a total of 65 babies out of 100 HIV positive mothers were born free/negative of HIV. This has been done by encouraging lactating mothers to enroll for HIV testing, through this program, the mothers were made aware of the importance of antenatal check up, post natal care and good nutrition for themselves and the babies, breastfeeding and care for newborn. With this information, the HIV positive mothers were able to give birth to HIV free babies. There has been increased in number of mothers attending ANC from August last year to date from 55-106 per month. Health centres delivery has also increased from 48-79 in most of the facilities visited.

Through the programme, all HIV positive babies born to HIV positive mothers were initiated on ART same day and transferred to ART clinic for subsequent treatments and viral load taken at 6 months to determine suppression levels. In addition to HIV services provided to lactating mothers and children, other important services such as FP to mothers, immunization, nutrition assessment, screening for TB were done. The programme has witnessed improved healthy lifestyles of HIV positive mothers and their babies and no death amongst the clients. All mothers and their babies are adhering to treatment with suppressed viral load.

Additionally, babies with negative results are kept on breast milk up to 6 months by their mothers while are monitored at MBCP up to 18 months and antibody test done to determine if the child is HIV positive or not. With this measures in place, all the HIV born negative babies continued to be negative of HIV.

Challenges encountered

- COVID-19 restrictions still limiting access to maternal and child health
- The loss of a senior mid-wife at health facility has negatively impacted on maternal health services in the facility e.g at Labongogali health centre.
- Few VHTs trained on integrated community child management (ICCM) for the treatment of childhood diseases.
- Persisting negative Culture norms and practices still have an effect in the demand and uptake of health services such family planning, ANC and nutrition among others.
- Inadequate number of health workers at the health Centers, there is a staffing gap in most of the health centre we partner with due to Covid-19 some lost their lives and not replaced until now.
- There is dare need for HIV awareness sensitization on teen age pregnancy. Many people have given up on prevention messages they were practicing in the past. Instead they are engaging in risking sexual behavior.

Recommendations to resolve those challenges

- Organize segmented dialogues involving men on participation in family health
- Address myths and misconceptions on ANC and family planning through local influencers like RMM, cultural and religious leaders
- Facilitate the formation of mother care groups as a supportive mechanism for pregnant and lactating women.
- Organize couple dialogues on family planning to address GBV in family planning
- Conduct nutrition education and cooking demonstration on preparation of balanced diet.
- Support RMM and VHTs to conduct home visits to map and refer mothers for ANC and facility delivery and children for immunization.

Futures perspectives

- Strengthen the existing trained structures to work independently on their own with the government structures and the health centres staffs to support the program: nurses, mid-wives, counsellors, VHTs.
- Linking beneficiaries with other GWED-G similar health program involving same trained structure like the VHTs, RMM, and care givers to continue mobilization and conducting awareness sensitization on those activities they have been engaged in before like ANC, FP, Home Visits, immunization, nutrition education, referral of clients and organizing Dialogue meetings targeting men only by the RMM especially on Family Planning to address GBV in Family planning.
- Building relationship and creating Linkages between VHTs and care givers with at least qualified health workers at the health facilities to accompany them to conduct integrated health activities in community.
- Working with elderly people to be part of the dialogue meeting because they will influence the lives and behavior of men to accompany their wives to health facilities and access family planning services.
- Conduct segmented male dialogues.
- Engage men to support their spouses during ANC and birth preparation through RMM , since they have been instrumental in changing mindset of men, especially in respect to men in accompanying their spouse for antenatal care.
- Engaging local leaders within the community in mobilization and conducting activities will motivate them and make them participate actively.

HEALTH & NUTRITION

AJWS - SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS (SRHR)

Context

Due to issues like high rate of school drop outs, domestic violence, sexual related case like unplanned pregnancies, sexual transmitted infections, early marriages, increased morbidity, mortality, gender inequality and harmful cultural practices and beliefs, involvement of parents and local authorities and lack of SRH information led to GWED-G intervention in the communities of Amuru District since many adolescent girls lacked confidence to face reality about Sexual reproductive health and rights. Therefore, sexual reproductive health intervention through, sexuality education, household dialogue, debate sessions, mentorship, life skill training and livelihood support aimed to streamline adolescent health concerns into national development process to improve young people's quality of life and standard of living to address issues of SRH.



GWED-G's intervention - outputs

Mentorship: GWED-G supported 135 adolescents in Pagak and Awer primary schools in soft skills and behavioral change. Experienced mentors and educators were engaged to discuss with the girls the positive behaviors that could lead them to future leaders. The girls were encouraged to take part in school leaderships. As a result of the session, the girls' self-confidence was boosted in that despite all the challenges, they faced, they became free to report all cases of abuses inflicted on them to their senior women teachers at school and the teachers were able to counsel and guide them regularly. The adolescent girls formed peer groups where they are able to share their issues before bringing to senior women teachers. A total of 379 girls were mentored and given psychosocial support during the lockdown hence their attitude towards education positively changed.

Support 20 young women affected by covid19: The project has supported 12 young women out of the 20. During the lockdown they could not afford to take their children to school and the impact was felt much in the informal sector where most of these women were doing casual labor jobs such as cleaning in offices/hotels, bars, schools and others, which were mostly closed. They were supported with businesses such as bakery, beads and basket making, salon/hair dressing, mechanic courses, livelihood support, nursing and kitchen farming. The enterprises given to the women enabled them become business owners, independent and furthermore the support empowered them to improve on their lives and manage socio-economic impact of covid19 which enabled them support their families and siblings.

AJWS SUPPORTED LEARNING EVENTS

AJWS project beneficiaries	
Adolescents mentored in Pagak and Awer primary schools	135
Young women affected by Covid-19 supported	12
Parents supported with seeds and opened land	62
Households reached out by 10 Role Model Men	100
Pupils mobilized through debating clubs in schools	70



Supported 62 parents with seeds and open their land: In Lamogi subcounty, 62 parents were supported with a total 1000kgs of both maize and bean seeds (maize 500kgs and beans 500kgs), 8 acres of land opened. Each of the three groups receive 30 kgs of maize and 20 kgs of beans respectively. The seeds distributed to farmers are local indigenous seeds without chemicals and produces high quality yields which have given high yields to farmers. In fact, Group 1 harvested two and half sacks of beans- 250kgs, and 1 sack- 100kg of maize; group 2 harvested 3 sacks of beans - 300 kgs, and 100kgs of maize, while group 3 harvested 200 kgs of beans and 100kg of maize. The harvest was good that the farmers have sold some of the products to buy scholastic requirement and also paid school fees. Surplus of the seeds harvested are being consumed at home and some seeds are kept for multiplication and through the sales of produce some parents have managed to buy their own land where other people seasonally hire for plantation, rearing pigs' local birds and goats for sale.

Support 10 RMM to reach out to 103 households: through household dialogue conducted by our RMM at the community, a total of 103 households were directly reached and 944 households indirectly benefitted from community dialogues and awareness sessions on different issues raised this resulted to change in behavior, early childhood development and real fathers, the RMM acted as a turning point for the community members when faced with challenges and they clearly pointed out the referral pathways for the community making it easier for them to report cases to them.

Support debating clubs in schools: With the support from the school senior women and male teachers, the project mobilized 70 pupils (Male=22 & Female=48) from 2 schools of Pagak and Awer primary schools in Lamogi sub county. Debates were conducted on increase teenage pregnancy and child marriages in communities. This debate helped pupils improved their debating and communication skills as well as confidence to speak out on issues that affect them. The girls who are usually victims and vulnerable to sexual abuse because of fear of speaking out were motivated and encourage to always speak and defend themselves in case they were attacked or being rape by men. The debate motivated them to become good leaders in school. In Pagak and Awer primary schools, we have Head girls, health prefects, disciplinary prefect, as a result of being in the school debating club.

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

From the advocacy on teenage pregnancy, different forms of awareness conducted, such as monthly meeting, sexuality education with the adolescent girls, 59 cases of teenage pregnancies and 30 cases of school dropout were identified only from Lamogi sub county and through this meetings, the adolescent understood the consequences, effects and dangers of teenage pregnancy/ marriages on them directly therefore, The advocacy Increased knowledge of girls on how to respond to danger and threats/violence in their community by reporting to their parents, peer educators or authorities have empowered them in reporting cases of sexual advances and harassment.

As a result of GWED-G support under livelihood for parent groups, at least 08 acres of land were opened for planting of beans and maize and were encouraged by GWED-G to grow vegetables, cassava, millet and more to generate money. The livelihood support to parents was comprised of village saving and loan association which was formed by GWED-G initiative aiming at helping the parents to save money to help pay school fees, buy sanitary pads and scholastic materials as well as expanding to top other businesses. This have Increased level of income in the house holds as parents are engaged in more income generating activities like, local birds rearing, goats and pigs rearing as most parents have become landowners where other people seasonally rent from them.

The mentorship program provided inspiration in the adolescents to share their experience freely especially in their mentorship groups, this enabled them share their problems and needs, to encourage and supporting others both within and outside the schools this created an enabling environment that empowered young girls in realizing their SRHR knowledge and skills, growth & development, leadership skills, and life experiences.

Challenges encountered

COVID 19 still remain a challenge as it continued to instill fear among parents and entire community and making our young women/girls to loose interest in education hence high rates of pregnancies, GBV and Child marriages among girls and young womensince the more they stay home, the higher chances of getting pregnant and eloping with men. This resulted to high rate of school dropout despite our effort to reduce such cases through awareness.

Due to COVID19 pandemic lockdown, some parents have lost interest in paying their children at school due to prolonged school closer by government. A number of parents feels their teenage girls are off age to study,

The important of the project was felt with continuous psychosocial support and counselling to the parents and adolescent girls to instill the importance of education, through mentorship and peer to peer support, A number of girls have testified of improvement in their positive behaviors.

Perspective for the future

AJWS project is deeply rooted in the community with our RMM, parents, teachers, peer educators and local leaders who are continuously engaged with different sessions like dialogues and sensitization, mentorship, livelihood activities and SGBV referrals hence helping in the sustainability of the community at large.

2021 FINANCIALS

INCOME

	2020	2021
<i>Programme Costs</i>		
Diakonia Project	182,516,172	273,750,000
HURICAP Project	37,649,300	---
USAID RHITES-North Acholi	436,573,754	---
AJWS Project	37,798,310	120,996,085
Open Society Fund II	204,195,624	---
DGF Project	154,975,940	623,249,925
Oxfam/Novib VOICE Project	69,890,150	---
RHITES-URC	---	751,317,370
ALENU	912,196,234	1,041,215,343
CIV - FUND	18,388,188	68,012,300
PELARD-N	---	159,596,100
Subtotal Programme Costs	2,054,183,672	3,038,137,123

EXPENDITURES

	2020	2020
Expenses		
Admin. costs	283,283,584	733,531,369
Program costs	---	1,416,787,011
Human Resource costs	1,514,210,724	862,576,469
Accounts payables - Rhites	---	24,175,539
Total Expenditures	3,851,677,980	3 037 070 388
Surplus/deficit for the year	293,587,591	1,066,735



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