

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

PATIICO SUB COUNTY
WOMEN WITHOUT COLONY
LEAVE NO WOMAN BEHIND
WOMEN CONCUS



Gulu Women Economic Development & Globalization

Prepared by GWED-G Staff & Technical Team

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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 2022 unfolded there were unprecedented changes, our board members faced significant challenges. In terms of governance, the Board and the Senior Management Team have proactively increased their consultations, both formally and informally, to provide essential support, oversight, and direction during this critical period. A primary goal for me was to ensure that we remained well-informed about our programming and operating environments, and throughout the past year, we successfully put this objective into practice.

I take immense pride in the fact that, despite the economic crisis, our operational systems have largely persevered, ensuring the fundamental continuity of our organization. Our mission is to support the most vulnerable individuals, both locally and globally, who lack the basic human rights and necessities that we often take for granted.

Throughout this year, we witnessed the continued challenges of climate change, natural disasters, domestic violence, gender-based violence, and various conflicts, all of which disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations. However, it also served as a testament to our commitment to partnerships, as many of our enduring collaborations were strengthened in the face of shared adversity. Notably, our primary donors, including European Union, EU-DGF, Diakonia-Sweden, USAID, AJWS, Oxfam-VOICE, NED, and CIVFUND, played a pivotal role in the successes outlined in this report. Their unwavering support reflects the mutual trust and respect that define these relationships, and we express our deep gratitude for their continued support.

With profound gratitude, I extend my sincere thanks to every member of our Secretariat and Board. Your dedication and tireless efforts throughout this extraordinary year have allowed us to continue our vital work. In every department within our organization and in every endeavor we undertook, 2022 presented unique challenges that pushed us to our limits



Sincerely,
Oryem Grace - Chairperson

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN 2022, OUR INITIATIVES IGNITED SIGNIFICANT CHANGE, SIGNIFICANTLY AMPLIFYING THE PIVOTAL ROLES OF WOMEN LEADERS ACROSS THE GREATER NORTH SUB-REGION.

Throughout this year, our efforts have been dedicated to spearheading initiatives that foster meaningful engagement and active participation among women leaders in decision-making processes and spaces. GWED-G's strategic endeavors have centered on empowering women who are survivors and leaders of organizations crucial in conflict prevention, often serving as the first responders in these critical situations.

Our engagement platforms have catalyzed change, empowering over 100 women leaders and their organizations across Acholi, Lango, Teso, Karamoja, and West Nile. These platforms have provided a unique space for these women leaders to interface with policymakers, members of parliament, line ministers, local government officials, civil society organizations, and our dedicated staff, board members, innovative thinkers, and influential leaders nationwide. Moreover, our collaborative efforts with partners have facilitated global participation opportunities for select women leaders.

Thanks to the unwavering support of our global partners, we have been able to focus on empowering female leaders by enhancing their capacities in systems analysis, self-organization, and coordination. We have collaborated with these women leaders to equip them with the necessary skills to explore innovative ideas that directly address their needs and concerns. We have also created an environment that fosters the growth and development of these ideas, resulting in tangible change and significant contributions to their communities and beyond.



We empowered women leaders economically and fostering agency centers around Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), notably through interventions aim to foster an entrepreneurial culture and create a supportive environment for entrepreneurship. In 2022, we facilitated women's access to financing and business support services, enabling them to increase agricultural production, acquire essential farm tools and inputs, significantly boost their households' income, accumulate savings, and expand their assets. Improved agricultural production has not only ensured household food security but has also helped beneficiaries meet their nutritional needs. Additionally, through VSLAs, women have established valuable social support networks.

Our efforts towards promoting food sovereignty, facilitating food accessibility, and empowering rural communities to take charge of local food systems have been widely appreciated. I have been, as the Executive Director of GWED-G, recently awarded for her exceptional leadership skills in developing innovative solutions to overcome seed poverty. GWED-G's approach to establishing an indigenous (local) seed bank has been highly applauded for enhancing seed philanthropy.



The Women's Seed Bank is a groundbreaking initiative to enhance food security. It enables women to obtain indigenous seeds and grow culturally appropriate food using ecologically sustainable techniques. This empowerment gives women the freedom to shape their food and agricultural systems using indigenous seeds that can be replanted for over four years using organic farming methods.

GWED-G's approach uses a three-pronged strategy. Firstly, we preserve native and traditional seed sources through women's seed banks. Secondly, we promote organic farming practices that enrich the soil and ensure it remains healthy and fertile. Lastly, we advocate for protecting and restoring native pollinators' populations and diversity while promoting natural resource conservation and climate justice.

Climate change is increasingly a major national concern, and at GWED-G, we understand that rural women often bear the brunt of its negative impact. Despite this, women have the potential to play a vital role in mitigating the effects of climate change and have the ability to exert significant influence in shaping environmental policies. They deeply understand its consequences and are naturally committed to protecting the environment, making them key players in this global challenge. Therefore, women's participation is crucial for achieving climate justice and responsible management of natural resources. Our initiative recognizes the unique perspectives and invaluable contributions that women can bring to the table. In 2022, we actively promoted and supported women's involvement in climate change-related activities to create a more inclusive approach to addressing the complexities of climate change.

Our caucuses have grown significantly, going beyond political boundaries to address critical issues that impact women. These platforms are now working to address important matters such as access to justice, women's participation in land governance, and equitable access to credit.

We understand that progress is interconnected and that expanding and empowering women's groups and movements can significantly improve the philanthropic outcomes of these solidarity groups. As these movements flourish, they become catalysts for transformative change at the grassroots level. They emerge as co-creators and drivers of bold initiatives that challenge the prevailing power dynamics, essential for dismantling oppressive systems perpetuating harm. They lay the groundwork for meaningful and sustainable progress by taking collective action and working in solidarity.

During the reporting period, GWED-G supported women who acted as peace mediators and actively resolved conflicts at various levels. These women collaborated to establish solid partnerships and build a robust mediators' network. This network is not only enhancing their collective influence but also setting a solid foundation for a cohesive advocacy platform.

Being situated at the grassroots level, this network created an accessible platform for local women who desired to participate in peace mediation efforts. Its inclusive nature ensured that women from all walks of life had the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the vital work of peace mediation, promoting broader community participation.

We have continuously supported women human rights defenders facing various threats and risks throughout the year. These threats include criminalization, violence, sexual abuse, intimidation, and retaliation against both Women human rights defenders (WHRDs) and human rights defenders (HRDs) who work to defend their land, territory, and environment. We also offer our backing to women who work in mines and extractive industries in the Karamoja sub-region and those who are addressing incidents of sexual and gender-based violence.

We thank our national partners, Women Human Rights Defenders Network Uganda, National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders, Defend Defenders, and their funders, whose collaboration has been invaluable. It is essential to recognize that responding effectively to women human rights defenders' crises demands an intersectional approach that blends support and risk management. It's crucial because women defending their lands, communities, and the environment encounter gender-specific risks of utmost severity.

For example, women human rights defenders who challenge extractive industries not only confront corporate power but also navigate deeply ingrained patriarchy. Consequently, they become targets, not just as defenders of rights, land, and natural resources but also as challengers of gender norms. This highlights the pressing need to escalate protective measures and persist in advocating for the adoption of policy frameworks into law to fortify the defense and safety of these courageous defenders.





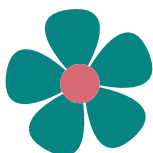
In 2022, we made significant efforts to strengthen our institutional capacity. We focused on developing our human resources, including our board and staff, and reinforcing our internal systems to optimize operational efficiency. Our overarching sector strategy to expand and refine our operations guided us in this endeavor.

To align with GWED-G's sustainability strategy, we launched a major initiative to establish a comprehensive one-stop center called "GWED-G City of Impact." We have made progress by securing three plots of land, finalizing architectural plans, and developing the Bill of Quantities (BOQ). To achieve this goal, GWED-G is committed to forming strategic partnerships and alliances to mobilize resources toward driving this initiative forward.

We strive to constantly enhance our institutional capacity, which enables us to achieve operational excellence. Moreover, it allows us to support our community partners better and cultivate a collaborative and mutually beneficial environment for sustainable growth and impact.

Lastly, GWED-G continues to work tirelessly to secure funding despite funding running low due to the closure of some projects. We have been actively lobbying and engaged in advocacy efforts to secure more funding. Our participation in various national, regional, and district stakeholder engagements and our presence at global events across multiple countries has helped us build stronger collaborations and partnerships.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to our donors for their invaluable support and partnership. Your contributions have allowed us to broaden our scope, extend outreach, and pursue our strategic mandates in the Acholi, Lango, Teso, Karamoja, and West Nile sub-regions. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in driving our initiatives forward and making a meaningful impact in our communities.



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 "Promoting Human Rights, Peace, and Inclusive Governance in Northern Uganda" project was designed to tackle several critical challenges, including: 1) Limited Understanding of Land Laws: In the targeted communities, there was a significant knowledge gap regarding the understanding and interpretation of land laws. This gap was particularly pronounced among women, young people, cultural leaders, chiefs, and local council courts. Addressing this knowledge deficiency was crucial, necessitating the translation and simplification of land laws to enhance comprehension by the project's beneficiaries; 2) Underreported Cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV): Another pressing issue that the project addressed was the underreporting of cases related to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Many of these cases remained unaddressed due to institutional inadequacies within health facilities, the police force, and the judiciary. These deficiencies acted as significant barriers, obstructing survivors' access to justice; 3) Widespread Land Grabbing and Conflicts: The communities targeted by the project faced a pervasive problem of land grabbing and conflicts stemming from land disputes. These disputes frequently escalated into violence, posing a substantial threat to community stability; 4) Limited Participation of Women and Youth in Local Leadership: An observable shortage existed concerning the involvement of women and young people in local leadership positions. This dearth hindered engagement in electoral and democratic processes. Multiple factors contributed to this low participation, including low income levels, low literacy rates, a lack of social empowerment, and exclusionary discourses that perpetuate poverty among women and youth.

In response to these challenges, the "Promoting Human Rights, Peace, and Inclusive Governance in Northern Uganda" project aimed to comprehensively address these issues. Its objectives were to raise awareness about land's laws, ensure justice for survivors of SGBV, mediate land conflicts, and promote increased participation of women and youth in local governance and decision-making processes.



240

ROLE MODEL MEN
TRAINED ON
GENDER EQUALITY



933

COMMUNITY MEMBERS
REACHED TO PROMOTE PEACE
IN THEIR HOUSEHOLDS



60

HUMAN RIGHTS VOLUNTEERS
RECRUITED AND TRAINED

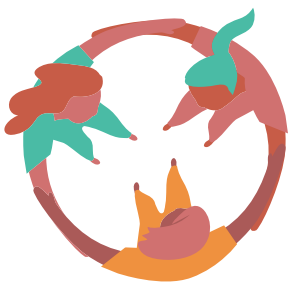
GWED-G's intervention (Outputs)

The DGF supported project operated 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 household dialogues, they were able to reach 933 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 262 human rights issues were raised to the attention of the human rights defenders and the duty bearers by the community members in 2022 which cases ranged from family fights, economic violence, land conflicts especially boundary disputes. Fourteen (14) land conflicts were peacefully mediated with the support of the community structures and the local sub-village chiefs (Rwod Kweri and Rwot Okoro).

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, where 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 is increased responsiveness of both community and duty bearers in handling human rights abuses and violations reported by our local structures Role Model Men and Human Rights Volunteers, and other stakeholders.



Inclusion of women in decision making processes improved

The project created opportunities for women to take part in political and electoral positions; through engagement with men to support women to take up leadership positions and also the willingness of their family members, Women gained support from their electorate/community, some women are now learned and they have the qualification for most of electoral positions, and the constitution of Uganda which instituted affirmative action's for women, women are actively engaged in village saving and loan association where their leadership skills are being appreciated. Women leaders whom the project team engaged have elevated from local council III subcounty to LCV at the district level. Some of the women leaders have become speakers in Amuru, Gulu City and Gulu District who are actively championing the women agenda.

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.

Challenges encountered

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

Future perspectives

The project built capacities of grassroots groups to find own solutions to community's challenges. The sustainability of this project is also guaranteed by the already established Role Model Men, and the Community Based mediators, land rights defenders, case managers, human rights volunteers who are based at the community. Furthermore, GWED-G has been nurturing partnership with local organizations, district authorities and government ministries while implementing. The grassroot groups of women and youth are capable of sustaining the project activities, outcomes and impacts after the project phase 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 project intervention, cases of GBV had significantly increased due to the impact of COVID-19. A baseline study conducted by GWED-G in 2022 indicates, out of 382, 75.39% of the respondents admitted that gender-based violence is common in their areas of residence. Amuru district reported the highest number of GBV cases being experienced with 37.5% followed by Omoro with 26.3%, Nwoya with 19% and Gulu city with 13.8%. To change the above, GWED-G used different strategies to reduce GBV incidences. These strategies included the Male Engaged Initiative approach, media advocacy, household dialogues, campaigns and sensitizations to promote gender equality.

GWED-G's intervention (Outputs)

The project conducted 23 dialogue sessions on dangers of GBV, harmful traditional practices, teenage pregnancies and Child marriages that created community awareness of their rights, roles and responsibilities in prevention of gender-based violence. Community members also became aware of GBV referral actors and services such as medical, legal and psychosocial support.

30 VSLA groups supported with farm inputs ; - maize seeds, bean seeds and cassava cuttings to promote food security These has increased group income as more members can borrow loan and invest to start small businesses, pay medical bills and school fees for their children.

Together with the cultural leaders, the project conducted 15 land mediation meetings using alternative dispute resolution, this made it possible for the vulnerable women and girls to access, control, and own land. Community members are now aware of importance of using dialogues as a tool of land mediation as opposed to violence.

The project trained 36 local government stakeholders on gender responsive planning and budgeting, the trainees gained knowledge on mainstreaming and incorporating different gender needs in the parish and sub-county development plans. They are more aware on the importance of participatory planning and having an integrated plan of all sectors.



15

GIRLS TRAINED IN
SANITARY PADS MAKING



4

SCHOOLS EQUIPPED WITH
TALKING COMPOUNDS



36

GOVERNMENT LEADERS
TRAINEND ON GENDER
MAINSTREAMING

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

The project increased the knowledge of 1,500 school going boys and girls on the dangers of teenage pregnancies, early child marriages, strategies to prevent child abuses and violations. This was as a result of 100 talking school compounds planted in 4 primary schools, namely;- Mount Olive Good, Shepherd Nursery and Primary School located in Gulu City, Ajuju Primary school in Patiko, Angaba Primary school in Omoro and Labala Primary school in Pabbo sub-county.

These talking compounds had different educative, informative and communication messages written on. Such messages include; *Stay in school! Avoid early sex, never accept gifts from strangers! focus on my education not bride prices, invest in my education, say no to bad touches, i am a girl, not yet a woman.*



Knowledge and skills of 15 school going girls enhanced on sanitary pad making and management of menstrual hygiene. In close collaboration with local leaders and parents, 15 girls were trained for 03 days, during which they learnt how to make reusable sanitary towels. Through this training, school retention and self-confidence for the trained girls has been increased. More girls are now managing their menstrual hygiene. During a monitoring visit to Rose Akidi (not real names) of Kasubi Army Primary School, she had this to say.

“

i am very grateful for GWED-G for teaching me how to make sanitary pads, i now make my own pads and save the money that i used for buying sanitary pads for buying what i need like underwear, i have also taught five girls in my village on how to make their own sanitary pads...”.



Knowledge of 36 (M:17 F: 9) local government leaders from Amuru, Nwoya, Gulu , Omoro district and Gulu city enhanced on gender mainstreaming, gender responsive planning and budgeting. The training was attended by sub-county community development officers, parish chiefs and LCI chairpersons. During the training, a parish chief from Amuru district local government had this to say

“

‘...i am so grateful to have attended this training...from now on if i go back to my sub-countyi will ensure that our sub-county adequately plans and allocate adequate financial resources towards mainstreaming gender and other cross cutting issues in its development plan beginning in the financial year 2023/2024 on wards’.



LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM OF CIVSAM

“

‘...for us since we had a good harvest, 150kgs of bean seeds will be replanted while 75kgs of the remaining seeds shall be given to individual group members so that they can plant the seeds at household level for both domestic and market purpose in 2023...’.

The project increased Food security and livelihood of approximately 1,120 individuals belonging to 29 VSLA groups and 01 cooperative farmer society by distribution of different variety of seeds. The farmers attained good yields after planting in the seeds and a number of them sold their first harvest which increased their household’s income and improved family members nutrition. There was further increased of organic seed multiplication as farmers continued to loan out seeds to their neighbors who have been planting and multiplying them. Nen-Odi produce and marketing VSLA group in Alero sub-county harvested 8 bags of unshelled groundnut seeds from the initial 2 bags of unshelled groundnut seeds given to them. Acoo Ki-tam VSLA group in Patiko sub-county produced 225 Kg of bean seeds from the initial 20kgs given to them; the treasurer of the group had this to say



27 land mediation through Alternative Dispute Resolutions (ADR) promoted reconciliation and unity among previously conflicting communities in Omoro, Nwoya and Amuru. 18 land conflicts were resolved. Approximately 120 hectares of land belonging to 11 vulnerable widows and 3 other relatively poor families were recovered and are currently being used for cultivation and settlement. Community members appreciated dialogues as a strategy to solve conflicts as opposed to using violence.



Challenges encountered

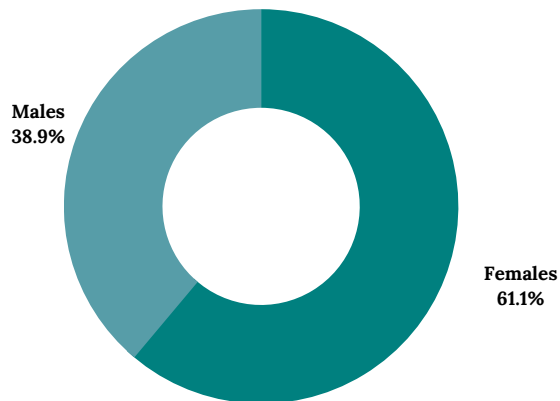
Lack of willingness by leaders at district and sub-county levels to stop illegal cutting of trees despite the many advocacy and community awareness meetings on climate change and disaster risk reduction. This has been made even worse because some districts considered taxes on forest products as their main source of revenue to finance their respective development plans.

Future perspectives

Sustainability: To ensure sustainability of outcomes even after closure of project, GWED-G intentionally identified community structures like role model men, case managers, Village Savings and Loans Associations, traditional and religious leader who have voluntarily worked under the project. These structures are in place to promote project sustainability and ownership.



18
LANDS CONFLICTS RESOLVED
61.1% OF THESE LANDS WERE
OWNED BY WOMAN



PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS & GENDER EQUALITY

CIVFUND - PROMOTING WOMEN LAND RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY SEED BANK IN ACHOLI SUB-REGION.



Context

Women in northern Uganda form the majority of land users for agriculture. However, women's ownership, access, and control of land resources is challenged due to the increasing inequalities caused by men. Conversations on land and property rights for women remains heated and processed within patriarchal dominance. Women do not enjoy the same user rights and opportunities like men and (they) women suffer systematic exclusion and denial of their land rights. 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. Thus, GWED-G believes that promoting women's land rights is critical to fostering gendered resource rights and improved productivity.

GWED-G's intervention - outputs

During the project implementation period, GWED-G has contributed towards addressing the gaps relating to women's land rights through- training women activist in Unyama and Labora Sub-County to mediate and resolve land related disputes, carrying out community outreaches on gender based violence in areas with high cases violence- resulting into better understanding of women land rights, reduced cases of gender-based violence and women have started to acquire own land.

The women activists continue to conduct community sensitizations and dialogues sessions on women land and environmental rights aplatform for the women to engage more on the promotion of production of the local seeds as a source of livelihood and income. This has translated into the formation and operationalisation of four (04) community seed banks- storing organic seeds and vegetables.

Through continuous mentorship, support visit and empowerment by GWED-G, this has translated into the women caucus being able to influence posting of a female police officers to Unyama police post which previously had no female police officers. The women activists have participated in the maintainance and opening of community roads, cleaning of health center and maternity ward, as well as influencing the construction of kitchen and bathroom for Angaya Health Center III in Unyama.

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

The project greatly responded to addressing food security and sovereignty challenge in the community through the community seed banks approach. Four (04) community seed banks were established and made functional. About 1000 individuals have borrowed and planted the seeds from the banks and are directly producing it for subsistence and commercial purposes. For details about the seedbank story titled: "Our seed bank is the best", read from our website: https://gwed-g.org/success_stories/our-seed-bank-is-the-best-civfund/

A number of women have improved access and ownership of land. Some men have developed positive attitude towards advancing women land rights, and in places spouses have allocated land for the wives with supporting documents. The women activists have successfully mediated 27 land related dispute cases. The formation and training of the women caucus and women activist on advocacy further resulted into increased number of women accessing, utilizing and owning land for agricultural production. Continued awareness sessions on peaceful coexistence, parenting is said to have resulted into reduced cases of land conflict and GBV, increased economic empowerment among the women by their spouses and as individuals.

GWED-G has already conducted three (03) different trainings on women land rights and utilization, the women status has improved in terms of land access, utilization and ownership. The women have acknowledged the training for contributing towards increasing their number to access, use, control and own land. The women activists have reported that about 137 hectares of land is currently being owned by women in their various communities, and that there are about 21 women with personal bank account all total to 9 Million shillings saved by the VSLA women, and about 628'000 UGX saved from the sale of organic seeds. Most of the women activists have reported holding leadership positions in their communities and living peacefully.



4 community seed-banks established & functional



27 land dispute cases mediated by the women activists.



137 hectares of land currently owned by women



21 women own a personal bank account

Challenges encountered

Despite registering some great milestones, the project implementation was characterized some challenges including delays in disbursement of funds; climate change that greatly affected the first season harvest and the VSLA women groups made great losses in the seed banks; some negative cultural practices, norms, and perception towards women's involvement, socialisation and participation in development work. However, the team and the beneficiaries were able to work on a catch up plan for successful implementation.



Future perspectives

The trained women activist and other women in VSLA groups remains critical structures for sustainability in the community – other community members have been able to learn from them, replicate what they are doing and they continue to build capacities of other unintended beneficiaries. The seed bank approach provides a huge opportunity for locals to borrow seeds and return upon harvest-making it easier for communities to access seeds, fight seed poverty and family hunger. While the women caucus groups remains critical in conducting dialogues and mediation to promote family and peaceful co-existence – their ability to work as volunteers provides a strong aspect for sustainability.



PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS & GENDER EQUALITY

VOICE - STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY (SPACE) PROJECT

Context

Prior to this project intervention in 2022, GWED-G between 2018 and 2019 had a similar project that built capacity of 27 women in leadership and advocacy from Gulu, Omoro, Amuru and Nwoya districts. These women however couldn't practice leadership skills effectively. Many of them could not speak up comfortably in public and neither advocated for improved service deliveries in their communities. Though 8 of the trained women became councillors in their respective subcounties, they could not deliberate discussion, their levels of council debates were so low, they were timid with low self esteem to deliberate council businesses.

GWED-G's intervention (Outputs)

The project conducted 24 community radio talk shows which amplified community voices and concerns on social accountability, governance and service delivery. This is a platform where right holders demands for improved service deliveries from duty bearers and hold them accountable. Issues that are affecting the community are presented and the women leaders advocate for change. For instance the women of Bungatira through community radio advocated for change of the incharge of Coe Pee health center II, through engagements with the different leaders in that department community are now receiving better health services.

8 Continuous engagements and monitoring of service delivery facilities by the women leaders most especially learning institutions and health facilities within their communities, this has led to improvement in social service delivery as the service users are also sensitised and are aware of their rights thus they are held accountable and different measures are undertaken to ensure compliance with the set government standards of those facilities.

2 Reflection and accountability meetings with 160 stakeholders gave community opportunities to give feedback about project implementation to the team. Challenges faced during implementation and solutions were discussed and action plans developed to re-direct implementation of the project.



24

COMMUNITY RADIO TALK SHOWS ON GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY



160

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN REFLECTION MEETING

“

“We normally don’t have any forum that brings every arm of institution together to discuss community challenges, but today even the religious leaders and cultural leaders are here to make sure that women arerights not abused.... Thanks to the project”.



IMPACT OF GWED-G’S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

The project strengthened capacities of 4 sub- county women caucuses composed of 160 members who have been instrumental in championing women causes in platforms such as council meetings and budget conferences. Through the work of the caucuses , council budgets have been re-allocated for women projects such as the recruitment of critical health staff and health infrastructure that improved women health, in addition to developing ordinances that favoured women, education ordinance in Unyama Subcounty developed by women curbed down teenage pregnancy and improved retention of girls in school.

A 3 days Capacity building Training of 100 women leaders on their roles and responsibilities, leadership, political participation and effective representation improved women’s influence in decisions making at council meetings on issues that affect women and girls in their subcounties. for instance in Awach sub-county through the effort of women councillors, the sub-county has procured 4 new delivery beds at Awach health centre IV that is now supporting safe delivery of mothers. Four women contested for the leadership positions as Subcounty Speakers for the Local Council and defeated their male counter parts. This has given hope and created more confidence for other women to rise up and take up any leadership position . Ms Joyce Akumu a member of Patiko women caucus who won the councilor seat for Patiko in the 2021 general election is also elected the speaker of the sub county.

16 community sensitizations and dialogues with the duty bearers gave opportunities for Rights holders to freely engage and challenge their duty bearers on the low levels of youth, women and PWD’s participation in decision making at the sub county level. It also gave the rights holders opportunities to interact with the religious and cultural leaders and discussed cultural norms and practices that promoted gender inequality and discriminated women from participating in decision making .

“

“GWED-G needs to frequently organize this meeting so that i canteach men to love their wives and not beat them, i always preach that in the church but its not enough”

Challenges encountered

Discrimination and marginalization of women leaders from other subcounties where the project initially operated during phase 1 .The councillors and council members from these areas feel they have been neglect and their issues are not being amplified.

Poor road conditions affected access to some communities. The project team had to park the vehicles and instead walk on foot to the village meeting venue.

Low and late turn-up of communities for meetings during the farming season was a challenge, Most project activities were therefore planned for late evenings so as to ensure effective participation especially of women.

Future perspectives

Activities will continue as the project rides on the existance of the established women caucus groups who are a forum that is recognized by the subcounty and district level. Most of the activities and engagements of the group do not require funding since they are based within their communities and report to the office of the subcounty Community Development Officer.

The caucus group is comprised of women leaders who have gained knowledge and skills in leadership , they have the skills and capacity to Lobby from other well wishers and donors to implement their activitie



PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS & GENDER EQUALITY

GIZ - STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

Context

The systemic exclusion of women from the development process is evident both formally and informally. According to the GWED-G Oxfam/Voice baseline study in 2019, the participation of women in development planning and other public spaces was estimated at less than 45%. This statistic highlights a significant issue: district development plans do not adequately address women's development priorities. Women remain disengaged, with limited opportunities to participate and voice their concerns in the management of public affairs.

This problem is further compounded by the quality and effectiveness of women's representation in councils at the district and sub-county levels. The data indicates that women councillors often lack the capacity to effectively address development issues and influence the outcomes of debates to improve the social and economic circumstances of women and other vulnerable groups.

Additionally, there are still significant gaps in service delivery and accountability, such as the untimely completion of projects, failure to hand over offices by individual officers when transferred, denial of access to project information for women, and limited involvement of women in monitoring community projects. These issues are exacerbated by women's limited access to knowledge and information, which can be attributed to the factors mentioned above.

GWED-G's intervention (Outputs)

GWED-G in abid to resolve the problem organized a series of activities; Organized a project inception meeting for implementers to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each partner, Conducted a project briefing workshop /launch with key stakeholders which enabled the project team to introduce the project, its goal, main activities and geographical coverage to the stakeholders, conducted 6 Barraza meetings on public service delivery and accountability where 350 people participated, conducted 6 community dialogue meetings at sub-county on women's participation in public service delivery and accountability targeting 240 participants, the meetings provided opportunity for interactive sessions between the duty bearers and the rights holders on issues that affected them mainly in the areas of health, education, and leadership. The project team conducted 3 Radio talk shows on the importance of women's participation in public service delivery and accountability including providing information on Kitgum district gender priorities for FY2022-2023. Callers feedback over radios during the talkshows were positive and clearly indicated the and need and relevance of the project.



3

RADIO TALKSHOWS ON
THE IMPORTANCE OF
WOMEN'S
PARTICIPATION IN
SERVICE DELIVERY



240

PARTICIPANTS IN MEETING
AROUND HEALTH,
EDUCATION AND
LEADERSHIP

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

The project increased women's demand for financial accountability in Kitgum District local government, some of the project participants had this to testify;



“I am happy that this financial year 2022-2023,I know what activities will be implemented. This will give me the opportunity to monitor as a community representative said a district councilor during district baraza”.

Elected leaders are appreciative of the project activities which closed information gap and enabled their active participation in monitoring implementation of projects and programs. The leaders actively monitored government service delivery points and implementation of the annual district and subcounty workplans and budgets.

Community members believe that the project approach of baraza and dialogue helped to reduce corruption since the civil servants and leaders interact more with community members and community members openly discuss service delivery gaps to be worked on with suggestion of practical solutions to the challenges in the various subcounties and sectors.

The project actions gave platform for leaders to account to the electorates, in all the barazas the chairman LCIIIs gave accountability for the one year they were in office. These were some of the gains of the accountability meetings, the leaders gave an account of the progress made in their respective subcounties in the past one year, challenges and recommendations and request to development partners to support areas of improvement.



Challenges encountered

High demand for the project activities in different locations, leaders and community members requested for more accountability meetings (barazas) and dialogues since they hoped that the approach could greatly improve service provision.

During project implementation, more than expected number of participants attended for instance the activities planned for 40 there were over 50 -60 participants which constrained the project team when it came to giving refreshments and transport facilitation.

The community leaders had inadequate knowledge in their field of work, leadership, monitoring of service delivery and advocacy. This hindered achievement of project results in some subcounties especially the newly elected leaders who had not received any training on the subjects above.



Future perspectives

GWED-G collaborated with various government bodies, particularly the technical and elected officials of the District Local Government, to ensure the sustainability of project efforts beyond its phased-out period. These collaborative partners included the District Executive Committee (DEC), Office of the District Speaker, Heads of Departments, members of the Social Services Committee, representatives from the Women's Caucus (comprising women councilors, women council members, VSLA representatives, women activists, women civil servants, and public officers), as well as community members, particularly local women and those who are part of women leaders' constituencies. Additionally, the project engaged with the Sub-county Executive Committee, Senior Assistant Secretary (SAS), Agriculture Extension Officers, Veterinary Extension Officers, Community Development Officers, Health Assistants, Accountants, and women-led Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), with five CBOs per sub-county/town council.

The initiatives undertaken during the project are anticipated to continue through other GWED-G governance and human rights projects, incorporating valuable learnings, best practices, and activities such as awareness and policy advocacy. These efforts will build upon the groundwork and relationships established with grassroots structures during the planning and implementation phases of the project.

PEACEBUILDING & TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

EWOP-NU - EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR PEACE IN NORTHERN UGANDA

Context

The empowering women for peace in norther Uganda project was supported by the women peace and humanitarian fund (WPHF) and the UN-Women. The project aimed at increasing women's leadership and active participation in conflict prevention in Acholi Region, particularly in the districts of Gulu, Amuru and Lamwo. The targeted districts were experiencing high prevalence of gender based violence, women's land rights conflicts, sexual violence and conflicts between host communities and refugees in lamwo due to scarce resource such as land, fuelwood, water sources among other with very low women's participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The project targeted 1,094 participants who included ; Women peace mediators, Community activists, local leaders, Role model men, Women council members, Female councilors, Representative of local women's organizations and district local governments as key stakeholders.

GWED-G's intervention (outputs)

GWED-G employed the following approaches to resolve the conflict lines mentioned above; Training and capacity building of peace mediators, networking and linkages, Joint community human rights structures activities ,community dialogues, advocacy and social media campaigns, mediation and referrals. With these approaches, the milestones realized included but were not limited to ; 90 community women's peace mediators' capacity enhanced to provide them knowledge and foundation of engaging in conflict prevention, 5 women peace cycle activities conducted, peace circle members participated in 2 voluntary community services that were conducted in Padibe town council, Lokungsub county and Unyama Sub county, 6 interface meetings were conducted (2 per district) the meetings led to improved network, coordination and formation of women's peace committee, 3 Women committee and District Women's Peace Committee Meeting conducted, action points were developed to respond to identified community issues raised such as; joint community dialogues on teenage pregnancy and sensitization on land acquisition.

Enhanced the community's knowledge on Sexual Gender Based Violence and its related services through 12 community dialogues. These dialogues focused on influencing positive attitude to prevent and respond SGBV during COVID19. This improved reporting to community structures, 10 peace hours radio talk shows were conducted in Radio Rupiny, Mighty Fire and Tembo. Discussion focused on creating visibility of women peace mediators, increasing knowledge of mediation as conflict prevention and mitigation mechanism and roles of women in conflict prevention. The communication team as well conducted social media campaigns where 5 tweets were posted with over 350 followers including individuals and organizations.



EWOP-NU in figures

Community women peace mediators trained	90
women peace cycle organized	5
Women committee and District Women's Peace Committee Meeting conducted	3
Peace hours radio talk shows were conducted on Radio	10
Tweets posted on roles of women in conflict prevention.	5

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

The project contributed to reduced conflicts in the community through mediation conducted by the trained community women peace mediators, this resulted in over 150 community conflicts resolved through mediation. Increased knowledge of community members on women's participation in promotion of gender equality, and dangers of sexual gender based violence through 10 peace hours radio talk shows on radio Rupiny in Gulu and Tembo in Kitgum targeting the population of Acholi Sub region. Enhanced knowledge of 288 community members on the dangers of teenage pregnancy and alcoholism through 3 community dialogues.

Increased Acholi women's visibility in leadership and participation in conflict prevention work through one televised activity of community women's peace committee of garbage collection and energy saving stove construction which was aired on NBS television and a regional women peace summit which brought members of parliament, district stakeholders and women peace activists across Acholi subregion to advocate for peacebuilding initiatives with the support of both national and local governments.

Improved understanding of early warning conflict signs by community women peace mediators through production of early warning system and response policy. Fostered a supportive and enabling environment for women's meaningful participation in conflict prevention through annual Acholi women's peace committee meeting.



150

COMMUNITY
CONFLICTS
RESOLVED
THROUGH
MEDIATION.

288

COMMUNITY
MEMBERS TRAINED
ON THE DANGERS
OF TEENAGE
PREGNANCY AND
ALCOHOLISM
THROUGH 3
COMMUNITY
DIALOGUES.



Challenges encountered

The project team experienced post election conflicts between victors and losers of the last general elections for various positions, which continued to split communities along partisan and individual candidate's lines, these were witnessed in a number of project sites and affected community cohesion. Dialogues were encouraged among those conflicting parties and in 2022 as the project phased out, some leaders were already uniting and working together.

Intimate Partner Violence and other domestic violence including child neglect, abandonment of pregnant and lactating mothers (these were reported in Gulu and Lamwo in the media and during inter-face meetings respectively this negatively affected the project outcomes which focused more on cohesion and peaceful communities. Furthermore, the normal social interactions were hindered with because of the COVID-19 lockdown; this had psychological effect on individuals, families and more particularly women and girls because spaces for expression such as Village Savings and Loan Associations and other groups were suspended.

Futures perspectives

GWED-G linked the 90 women peace mediators to the District to continue working with and a comprehensive list of Mediators already availed to Districts and Subcounties), These community structure will continue to monitor, mediate, report and refer conflicts in their respective constituencies. The project team also introduced the project participants to other NGOs promoting peace in the project locations. Furthermore, GWED-G developed information, education and communication materials that the community structures will continuously use for awareness raising and response as well as referral of rights abuses and violations whenever the cases arise. During implementation, GWED-G continuously worked with Voluntary Savings and Loan Association groups who meet on a regular basis and have integrated peace building messages and updates after their usual saving activities. These initiatives are anticipated to sustain the project intervention even after the project phase out.

PEACEBUILDING & TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

UGANDA 1 - EMPOWERING GRASSROOTS WOMEN LEADERS TO SOAR STRATEGISE | ORGANISE | ADVOCATE AND | RISE

Context

During the COVID-19 global pandemic, the world saw the power and fortitude of women leaders. They stood up and stood out in their communities, districts, and countries- in politics and on the global stage, responding to a crisis that descended on humankind and threatened to destroy the fabric of modern society. Yet, while the world has trumpeted the remarkable leadership of women in corporate and political settings, not enough has been said about women who lead at the grassroots level, about their life-saving response and resilience amidst COVID-engendered economic chaos and unprecedented levels of domestic and sexual violence within families and communities.

GWED-G's intervention - Outputs

Tallawah Justice for Women, Gulu Women Economic Development and Globalization (GWED-G), partnered with the University of Nottingham School of Law and commissioned a mapping exercise and needs assessment survey of women leaders of survivor, grassroots, and community-based organizations (SGCBOs) in the conflict-affected regions of North and North-Eastern Uganda. The project's main aim was to acquire data to understand better grassroots women SGCBO leaders' lived experiences and perspectives, identify constraints and opportunities to improve their work and reflect on possible solutions in solidarity with them. A secondary goal was to provide Ugandan policymakers with crucial data to inform and support ongoing policy efforts to advance transitional justice in the region and implement national strategies to combat gender inequality and gender-based violence.



“Over 140 women survivors of violence who now lead grassroots organizations participated in the interviews or Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).”



IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

At the root of the problem is a misperception about women grassroots leaders and the nature of their organizations. Despite their critical role in providing human services, they struggle to attract meaningful and sustained public and political support due to a misperception among the public and policymakers that their work is merely charitable assistance provided by volunteers with the help of benevolent donors. There is also a perception that the main task of grassroots organizations is to respond to crises where there is an immediate or urgent need.

Challenges encountered

The findings of the need assessment shows that there is a considerable gaps in staff capacity and resources at the local government level to ensure that the social care and support services respond to urgent needs are indeed being filled by many grassroots organizations.

Also, the interventions that attempt to address and change the effects of the problem, for example, by deploying tactical interventions, projects, and information campaigns to influence specific behaviors related to GBV are hampered by limited resources, lack of access to sustainable sources of funding, lack of access to critical political platforms, and limiting beliefs among the women leaders themselves.

Additionally, women-led grassroots organizations indicated that the vast majority of available funding for GBV prevention and response is for short-term projects that can deliver measurable outcomes quickly and often do not include financing administrative costs. A lack of financial resources, including general operating costs, insufficient technical and operational capacity to deliver effectively, and obstacles to forging partnerships that can help them circumvent/overcome constraints they face, means that progress is suboptimal.

Lastly, it has been observed that many women-led grassroots organizations lack critical skills for advocacy, coalition building, government relations, peer learning and innovation, power mapping, multi-stakeholder dialogue, negotiation, policy formulation, convening and collaboration, and documentation. These gaps limit their effectiveness and efforts to achieve a broader, sustainable impact.

Future perspectives

Meeting women's strategic gender needs (structural/systemic change) and achieving scale and sustained impact requires looking for ways to catalyze systemic change through policy implementation, women's equal participation in governance and decision-making, innovation in intervention design and delivery, and sustained behavior change. Based on this needs assessment, the recommendations are to strengthen the role of women's organizations in delivering GBV prevention and response services across five pathways: (i.e., Influence, Income, Impact, Innovation, and Identity).



PEACEBUILDING & TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

UGANDA 2 - WOMEN ARISE CONFERENCE “OUT OF THE SHADOW”



Context

The Findings from [the needs assessment survey among women grassroots leaders](#) in ten districts in conflict-affected Northern Uganda commissioned by Tallawah Justice for Women, Gulu Women Economic Development and Globalization (GWED-G) and the University of Nottingham in March-April 2022, indicated the need for a complete reframing, repackaging, and communication of the work of grassroots women leaders and their organizations to attract increased public financing and make the investment in their work a policy priority.

These women leaders are noticeably absent and palpably invisible in decision-making spaces, and their voices rarely resonate beyond the limited spaces that many of them occupy. Accordingly, women leaders must be part of processes and initiatives if systemic change is to be realized, in the : local government processes, legislative and policy developments, social restructuring exercises, and programmatic initiatives designed to address inequalities. These processes need to be deliberately structured through relationships and networks that include the women leaders as well as policymakers and critical powerbrokers to ensure sustained and scalable impact. Women leaders must be ensured a seat at the table and be included in change processes, not absent from them.



100

**WOMEN LEADERS AND
SURVIVORS ATTENDED
THE CONFERENCE**

GWED-G's intervention - Outputs

Tallawah Justice for Women, Gulu Women Economic Development and Globalisation (GWED-G) and the University of Nottingham convened a conference entitled ;-'Women Survivor Leaders Arise, as part of the project Out of the Shadows': Increasing the visibility and influence of women grassroots leaders in SGBV decision-making processes in Uganda. The conference was held on 12th August 2022. The Conference brought together 100 women leaders of grassroots, community-based organisations, war victims groups and networks from the Eastern, Lango, Acholi and West Nile regions, local government women leaders in Council including the Speakers to Council and women leading committees, policymakers, donors, community and cultural leaders, civil society representatives and other key stakeholders.

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

Amplification of the voices of grassroots women leaders by creating a platform for exchange of ideas and perspectives on conflict prevention, SGBV and other women specific policies for advancing peace and security with key stakeholders including policymakers, parliamentarians, donors and civil society groups. For the women leaders this was critical as many lack vital skills for advocacy, coalition building, government relations, peer learning and innovation, power mapping, multi-stakeholder dialogue, negotiation, policy formulation, convening and collaboration, and documentation.

Formulation of strategies to reduce grassroots women's political and social exclusion and to strengthen their participation and representation in political decision-making at the micro and macro level.

Strengthened the capacity of grassroots women leaders to engage effectively in movement building, conflict mediation, partnerships and collaborative working and to strengthen their internal organizational systems, identify and access resources.

Advanced the women, peace and security agenda in Uganda by creating space for women leaders to advocate for reform and accountability for conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, share best practices and make specific demands for change.

Challenge encountered

The women mainly highlighted the lack of reliable services when it comes to helping women survivors, which is why they became the first to respond. However, funding remains scarce and limits their activities.

Future perspectives

Women's survivors led organisations need their capacity to be strengthened, particularly in terms of access to funds. In addition, their work still needs to be recognised at national level. The next phase of the project is willing to increase the interest of policymakers to listen to and engage with women leaders and to take their perspectives on board

More conferences of this kind should be organised.



PEACEBUILDING & TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

UGANDA 3 - BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF WOMEN GRASSROOTS LEADERS IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE BUILDING

Context

The project aimed to provide training and mentorship to women survivors of sexual violence who are grassroots leaders in Northern Uganda and created a platform for them to influence decision-making processes on conflict prevention and conflict mediation. The project context was characterized with unfavourable social norms and gender attitudes which lead to inter-ethnic conflict and violence against women and girls, lack of participation and ownership of the national action plan NAP III from different actors including women, and limited public awareness about what it entailed. The project promoted female leadership and collaboration in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and reduced violence against women and girls.

GWED-G's intervention - Outputs

One workshop to train and mentor 11 WGSL who currently lead survivor organizations in Northern Uganda. The workshop happened on the 20th February 2023 with 10 participants and 21st February 2023 with 11 participants

A field exercise where 10 WGSL have been coached by a facilitator to practically apply the skills to address real life situations in their communities on the 22nd February 2023 at Cwero, Paicho Sub county in Gulu District.

A training manual on FACER for WGSL

A strategic Interface Dialogue on Inclusive Processes in Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention with 75, 35 females, 40 males, men were more since most of the CSOs invited were represented by male participants and the cultural leaders as well, participants from women grassroots leaders' survivors, civil society actors working on peacebuilding and transitional justice, cultural and religious leaders, parliamentarians and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. The interface dialogue took place at Bomah Hotel in Gulu City on the 24th March 2023).

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

Increased Women Grass root Survivors leaders (WGSL) skills and practical knowledge in peace, transitional justice processes and conflict prevention strategies; ensured the effective participation of (WGSL) in localized peace, Transitional Justice and mediation processes that impact women and girls;

“Victims’ voices have been heard and spaces were provided for the victims to express themselves at the highest levels of leadership.”

Increased access of WGSL to decision-making platforms on women, peace and security; Connected the trained WGSL with other peace brokers, local and cultural leaders working on conflict prevention and mitigation.

Increased WGSL skills and practical knowledge in peace, transitional justice processes and conflict prevention strategies;



Today we had a good platform to redefine who a victim is, so that we can inclusively have them in the development processes – we also need a real data and records documenting the nature and category of the problems faced by victims in northern Region,” said a Civil Society Organization representative during the peacebuilding dialogue.

In the present situation if you are not empowered, you will suffer and be landless, that is the experience I got in relation to the vulnerable children with regards to land I appreciate GWED-G and its development partner for training us”.

Commitment from the State Minister for Northern Uganda while responding to issues concerning registration for national identity cards for children born of war, she indicated that this issue was raised in the Cabinet of Uganda and that there will be consideration made for Children born of war in the next registration process for obtaining a national Identity Card.

The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs committed to returning to Cabinet of Uganda and take lead in reigniting discussions, and debates on development initiatives for victims and survivors of conflict in Uganda.



Challenges encountered

- The women war survivor’s leaders need more healing for them to better do their work
- The WGSL have inadequate knowledge on conflict mediation skills and pro-women advocacy.
- The project interventions are few in terms of activities and are short term in nature, this curtails realization of project results.

Future perspectives

The project will contribute to and align itself with ongoing initiatives on women, peace and security in the region including in alternative dispute resolution of local conflicts; reducing violence against women and girls through community awareness and household dialogues; promoting and training women in leadership; and facilitating women mentorship and caucuses. Involving women leaders organizations from grassroots level this is direct investment in training which will be a multiplier effect by providing skills, knowledge as well as key networking and linkage opportunities.



PEACEBUILDING & TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

SAFERWORLD - “ADDRESSING DRIVERS OF CONFLICTS IN UGANDA” PROJECT



Context

GWED-G in partnership with Saferworld is implementing the: “Addressing drivers of conflicts in Uganda” project. The project focuses on four thematic areas; Natural resource governance; Inadequate transitional justice; refugee influx and electoral violence. Issues that affected project programming in Amuru, Nwoya, Lamwo and Adjumani included; high prices of fuel and food; unresolved land conflicts and disputes; refugee influx; natural disasters like hunger and drought; budget cuts and salary discrepancies for public servants; policy mismatch that led to poor implementation of policies at lower levels; operationalization of Parish Development Model; gender based violence; mental health and physco-social issues; increased indiscriminate tree cutting and charcoal burning; human – wildlife conflicts and government interferences with CSO interventions.

GWED-G’s intervention - outputs

The following interventions were made in this reporting period;

Conducted participatory issue identification, prioritisation and analysis with 16 Community Action Group (CAGs) in four districts of Adjumani, Amuru, Nwoya and Lamwo. This was to create a platform for CAGs to identify, prioritise and analyse conflict issues, including trauma and psychosocial elements related to peace and security concerns so that they are able to respond to underlying causes of conflicts.

Supported 16 Community Action Groups in the four districts of Adjumani, Amuru, Nwoya and Lamwo to develop and implement action plans in a timely manner with high degree of accuracy. This was to contribute towards the improvement of community security and social cohesion, including relationships between communities and local authorities and the enhancement of their abilities to be able to respond and address prioritised conflict issues.

Carried out four (4) conflict and gender-sensitivity training to community-level dispute resolution mechanisms: these included Area Land Committees (based at Sub County level), Sub County Court Committees, cultural leaders, religious leaders, Refugee Welfare committees, police and Sub County/Parish Chiefs. Additional support and mentoring was done on land laws and land rights. Micro grants were given to the structures to be able to do their work.

Conducted eight (8) community level awareness raising meeting with CAGs in Adjumani, Amuru, Nwoya and Lamwo on environmental protection and land acquisition procedures and provided the CAGs and the community with necessary information on relevant processes and procedures including channels for raising concerns and grievances linked to land and natural resource related disputes. This meeting was attended by a total of 918 participants (438 males).

Facilitated three (03) community level awareness raising with CAGs in Alere and Ayilo II refugee settlement in Adjumani district and Palabek – Ogili refugee settlement in Lamwo on refugee policies and relevant laws affecting refugees and host communities. This included the provision of information and better understanding of ways of addressing tensions between refugees and host communities, in coordination with relevant authorities.

Convened eight (08) community level awareness raising meetings with CAGs on the Uganda National Transitional Justice Policy and the role of Traditional Justice Mechanisms (TJMs) and created a platform where community information needs on Transitional Justice were addressed in a structure's way with reach to the marginalised population.

Facilitated and conducted one (01) awareness with Amuru district local government, investors and other key private sector players to understand and improve their knowledge on conflict and gender sensitive investment, conflict sensitive land acquisition processes, mental health and psychosocial support so that participants are empowered with information and knowledge to recognise the need for MHPSS services and integration of MHPSS needs in their planning.

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

Community Action Groups (CAGs) are now responding to land conflicts in communities; After the CAGs training on conflict sensitivity and conflict resolution. CAGs resolved a land dispute that had existed for about five years. Before, there existed a number of land conflicts in the community, however, with the training and knowledge gained on conflict prevention, resolution and mediation, CAGs are now able to resolve community land disputes.

This is also linked to the fact that CAGs are better able to identify, prioritize and analyse and refer issues. For example, a land conflict that had not been resolved for over five years in Lusulua village, Bana Parish in Lakang Sub County, Amuru district was resolved by the CAGs.

The formation of CAGs has provided a platform for building relationships among conflicting parties in Lamwo district; Identification of CAGs representing all the parishes has brought different communities to work towards peaceful co-existence and dispute resolution which was not the case before. The formation of the group was inclusive of gender and other marginalized groups. Before the formation of the group, there was an ongoing conflict and disunity among the clan members of Pobira and Pobura such that members from the two clans would not stay together in a particular location. However, after the formation of the group whose members were drawn from the two clans as other clans were, the members started working together for a common cause and this has created was unity among the Pobira and Pobura clan as was seen during the conflict sensitivity training and action planning.

District local governments starting to respond to conflict issues in the communities; officials from local governments are now better able to identify and effectively respond to conflict in communities. For example, Amuru district officials have mapped out conflict hotspots across the district and have been working with other relevant stakeholders such as religious and cultural leaders to resolve those conflicts.



918
PARTICIPANTS ON
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND LAND ACQUISITION
PROCEDURES



8
COMMUNITY LEVEL
AWARENESS RAISING
MEETINGS ON TRANSITIONAL
JUSTICE HELD

Challenges encountered

- There are coordination challenges at sector, zonal, inter-agency and national levels due to many and demanding meetings
- There is communication challenge especially when providing services to blind and deaf persons, there is need to seek support from other partners like Humanity and Inclusions, as well as national level advocacy for capacity enhancement of medical workers to effectively communicate with the deaf and blind persons
- There is growing demand for Mental Health Psychosocial Support(MHPSS) and peace building interventions as its was observed that communities outside the scope of project implementation have requested CAGs to extend their services to those villages

Future perspectives

- Integrating MHPSS and peace building in to refugee response can improve peaceful coexistence among the host communities and refugees as a result resources and skills sharing.
- Continuous engagement of community-based structures in the identification, referral and follow-up of program interventions and beneficiaries fosters ownership.
- There is need to increase involvement of men in gender activities in refugee settlement as most of the reported suicide cases are majorly males

PEACEBUILDING & TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

NED - SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS FOR IMPROVED SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND FIGHTING CORRUPTION

Context

In Uganda, particularly in Northern Uganda, Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), including journalists, face an unstable and hostile environment. This results from the introduction of increasingly restrictive legislation and the lack of independence in state institutions, suffocating public discourse and silencing critical voices. The 2021 elections witnessed escalating violence among restless youth and HRDs, with restrictions on civic mobilization and political activities. HRDs working on land matters confront violations and abuses of human rights standards but are thin on the ground and lack proper capacity building and documentation skills. Their vulnerability increases as they lack knowledge to protect themselves. Rural HRDs face constraints such as the absence of functional courts and access to justice, exposing them to torture, illegal detention, and killings. Government-backed investors use their status to evict indigents from land, remaining untouchable and exacerbating the challenges faced by HRDs.



GWED-G's intervention - Outputs

In the context of achieving NED-funded project, the following activities were conducted by GWED-G

- 4 District Working Group meetings in Amuru, Nwoya, Gulu, and Lamwo, inviting key political and civil servants alongside CSOs and HRDs were conducted. These meetings aimed to build a good working relationship and ownership of the project, assigning District Community Development Service Coordinators as focal persons for implementation.
- 3-days training for 70 HRDs in mediation and conflict management, aiding community mobilization.
- 250 (131M 119F) members of community reached in 4 Community awareness sessions on human rights, land matters, and HRDs' work were organized in 3 districts of Nwoya, Amuru and Lamwo. These sessions addressed land conflict causes and solution
- 28 land disputes mediated by the help of HRDs and local leaders in 11 sub-counties, of Amuru, Lakang, Paboo, and Lamogi in Amuru; Purongo, Anaka, and Alero in Nwoya; Awach and Palaro in Gulu); Madi Opei and Palabek in Nwoya using Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).
- 4 Community sensitization meetings on health/education rights and social accountability took place in communities at Lamoki Primary School in Anaka Sub County, Kal Village in Toro Parish in Amuru Sub County, Awach Trading Centre, and at Madi-Opei. This amplified demands for improved service delivery from leaders.
- 3 primary schools of Lamoki Primary School in Anaka Sub County, Aparanga Primary School in Purongo Sub County, and Olaa Amilobo Primary School in Pabbo Sub County and Okol Health Centre II in Madi Opei Sub County were monitored and assessed. Resulting to issues affecting facilities for better service delivery were identified.

- 4 community awareness meetings on social accountability were held in Awach, Madi Opei, Anaka, Purungo, Paibona, Sub Counties, enlightening communities about the concept and demanding better services.
- 3 community dialogues at Ola-Amilobo Primary School in Oguru Parish, Pabo Sub County, Lamoki primary school in Nwoya and Aparanga primary school with support from District Education Offices of the two districts of Amuru and Nwoya, resulted in improved management and performance after identifying mismanagement and implementing changes.
- 1 radio message on land, health, and educational rights was aired for increased project publicity. Two success stories on land mediation were documented from Anaka and Pabbo sub-counties as evidence of project success.



70

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS
TRAINED IN MEDIATION AND
CONFLICT MANAGEMENT



28

LAND DISPUTES MEDIATED BY
LOCAL LEADERS AND HUMAN
RIGHTS DEFENDERS



3

AWARENESS MEETING ON SOCIAL
ACCOUNTABILITY AND SERVICE
DELIVERY

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

- 70 HRDs have better understanding of their protection and ability to conduct their work with minimum risks while advancing the rights of community members.
- 70 HRDs gained skills to handle cases related to human rights abuses and land conflicts, promoting the acceptance of Alternative Dispute Resolution among communities, resulting to 28 land conflicts and 19 human rights abuse cases being successfully mediated and 8 SGBV cases to the police for further investigation in the sub counties of Anaka, Paboo Awach, Koch Lii, Lakang, and Madi Opei. HRDs shared their knowledge with sub county executive council members and local traditional leaders, leading to improved conflict resolution in various sub counties.
- District and sub-county officials, like the RDCs and Chairman Local Council Vs., embraced the project and committed to supporting and monitoring the work of HRDs. They recognized the project's importance in addressing human life and dignity issues that affect citizens' livelihoods in the region and the country as a whole.
- Moreover, the project brought to light cases of land grabbing by state and non-state high-ranking officials, raising awareness among district and sub-county officials. The identified hot spot sub counties for land conflict include Lakang, Paboo, Pogo, and Atiak in Amuru district; Lungulu, Got Apwoyo, Alero, and Koch Lii in Nwoya district; Palaro, Paibona, Paicho, and Unyama in Lamwo district; Nyimr, Palabek Abera, and Madi Opei in Lamwo district.
- School monitoring uncovered poor conditions at Lamoki Primary in Anaka sub-county Aparanga Primary in Purungo sub-county and Olaa Amilobo in Lamwo district.
- Aparanga and Lamoki primary schools underwent significant improvements, including the construction of 2 classroom blocks, administrative offices, and pit latrines at Aparanga and a new two classrooms block with administrative facilities thus reducing overcrowding and enhancing sanitation. These interventions resulted in reduced congestion, better sanitation, and notably, Aparanga Primary achieved its first Grade 1 PLE result in 40 years
- Participants demonstrate knowledge gain on mediation of conflicts measured by 22 local leaders trained by HRDs and 28 land related conflicts successfully resolved.
- Community members are informed on their rights and have the ability to report and take action on rights abuses and violations, as the cases found mismanagement of schools funds in Lamoki and Olaa Amilobo primary schools.

- Community members assert their rights and have capacity to amplify their voices to duty bearers to access government services as the case where they have demanded them to explain on why Parish Development fund has not been reaching them
- Increased responsiveness of duty bearers towards concerns raised by citizens and HRDs. This will be measured by the number of service delivery points monitored, number of monitoring visits, Number of platforms that bring together citizens and duty bearers, number of case documented, reported and acted upon.
- Participants gain knowledge on rights provision and are able to demand for their rights to access quality services. This will be measured by the number of engagements, number of media events conducted.

Challenges encountered

- HRDs continue to be harassed especially by people who have been exposed to be the Land grabbers.
- The number of HRDs still remains low as more sub county administrative units have been created thus making them to demand for their own HRDs.
- The team experienced shortages in fuel as a result of inflation thus affecting activity implementation especially in Lamwo which is far from GWED-G headquarters in Gulu
- Low turn up of women in the District protection working group meetings continued despite affirmative actions taken to invite women councilors in the 4 district protection meeting as many key positions are largely occupied by the men.
- Poor time keeping as a result farm activities and unexpected rain disruption during community sensitization meeting

Future perspectives

- The project needs to be continued as new administrative units are being created with more HRDs to be brought in and trained as the case with the current 70 HRDs especially on mental Health and Social Accountability
- GWED-G needs to continue to mobilize resources to contribute towards enhancing sustainability in HRD work in the protection of human rights, social accountability self-care, and psychosocial, physical and medical protection.
- Focus on building capacities of HRDs in regards to safety and security (physical, personal and digital) concerns where people/ workers in the field can take advantage of the digital technologies but also keep safe at the same time.
- Encourage stakeholders and the Human Right Defenders to fall in love with the human rights declaration literature and also practice voluntary work to impact on other people's lives.
- Encourage the stakeholders to strongly uphold the experiences of the HRDs/Land Right Defenders and be their ambassadors at various levels.
- District and sub counties needs to incorporate and absorb HRDs in the various committees so that they can get those committee allowance as they do their work.



HEALTH & NUTRITION

ALENU PROJECT - ACTION FOR LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT IN NORTHERN UGANDA

Context

Under the DINU program, GWED-G has implemented the ALENU project in partnership with Caritas Switzerland, Advanced Africa, and AFARD. The project aims to improve livelihoods in northern Uganda, targeting six districts with a population of 1,388,400 people. The project focuses on addressing poor health indicators, including high prevalence of stunting, underweight, and wasting among children under five. The project also aims to improve dietary diversity and household food consumption.

GWED-G's intervention - outputs

In 2022, the ALENU project focused on leveraging religious and cultural structures to create awareness and educate beneficiaries on family planning, nutrition, and gender-based violence (GBV). They conducted 34 sensitization sessions, reaching a total of 1,449 beneficiaries. These sessions addressed myths and misconceptions around family planning and discussed different methods, including natural family planning. The sessions also addressed the root causes, consequences, referral pathways, and mitigation measures of GBV. Couples who participated in these sessions committed to addressing GBV within their households and adopting family planning methods of their choice.

The ALENU project also aimed to increase access to prevention and curative health services at the community level.

They used multiple social behavior communication channels such as community dialogues, home visits, and health education to create demand and increase uptake of services related to maternal and child health, nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and family planning.

They mapped and referred pregnant women and children for health services in both static and outreach points, providing services such as antenatal care, postnatal care, family planning, malaria testing and treatment, immunization, vitamin A supplementation, and deworming. Another focus area for the ALENU project was improving household hygiene and sanitation. They ran a WASH campaign in 12-targeted sub-counties, conducting community sensitization, dialogues, home visits, progress reviews, and distributing information, education, and communication materials on handwashing and the elimination of open defecation. They reached 50,113 individuals and 5,000 households adopted recommended WASH interventions.

The project also participated in nutrition multi-sectoral coordination meetings at the district and sub-county level, aiming to improve nutrition governance activities. They collaborated with local leaders, Village Health Teams, health assistants, and other implementing partners to share lessons learned, avoid duplication of activities, and leverage government structures and resources.



To prevent teenage pregnancies and promote effective family planning methods, the project conducted community dialogues reaching 13,920 individuals. They discussed social norms, beliefs, and gender stereotypes that promote GBV and encouraged men to support their spouses in accessing family planning services and ensuring good nutrition for pregnant and lactating women and children.

Additionally, the project engaged out-of-school adolescent girls through dialogues, peer-to-peer conversations, and health outreach programs. They provided health services, education on reproductive health, and life skills training to these adolescents.

The project also advocated for adequate supplies of family planning commodities, ensuring consistent and adequate stock through regular assessments, ordering, and redistribution. They provided both artificial and natural family planning commodities based on beneficiary preferences.

Lastly, the project promoted adolescent-friendly services in schools by working with teachers and health workers to create safe spaces and provide education on reproductive health, menstrual hygiene management, nutrition, life skills, and GBV. They reached 647 students and provided incentives such as IEC materials, solar systems for showing educational content, reusable sanitary pads, and school bags. They also collaborated with the Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau to train Village Health Teams on fertility awareness methods.

Overall, the ALENU project successfully collaborated with various stakeholders to create awareness, provide education, and increase access to essential health services in the community.



5000
HOUSEHOLDS REACHED
WITH WASH
INTERVENTIONS



647
STUDENTS REACHED
WITH SEXUAL EDUCATION



21%
INCREASED IN FAMILY
PLANNING SERVICES
AFTER SENSITIZATION

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

GWED-G implemented various nutrition activities that had a positive impact on households. Home visits were conducted to provide support and advice on nutrition, while WASH assessments were carried out to assess the water, sanitation, and hygiene practices of households. Cooking demonstrations were also conducted to promote healthy cooking and eating habits. Additionally, family planning services were provided to encourage appropriate child spacing and informed reproductive decisions.

These activities had a significant positive effect on households. 64% of pregnant and lactating women (PLW) received counseling on optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding, leading to improvements in key IYCF (infant and young child feeding) indicators. The proportion of infant's breastfed within one hour of birth increased from 70% to 83%, indicating better breastfeeding practices. Furthermore, 69% of children aged 6-23 months received growth promotion and monitoring, ensuring their healthy development. In terms of WASH practices, 66% of households adopted at least five recommended practices, indicating improved hygiene and sanitation practices.

The organization also prioritized promoting healthy reproductive behavior and encouraging family planning. Through communication channels, households received messages aimed at increasing their awareness and understanding of these issues. As a result, there was a significant increase in the demand for family planning methods, rising from 27% to 48%. Among individuals aged 18 to 24 years, 70% utilized injectables as their preferred family planning method. This increase in family planning adoption is expected to enable families to effectively plan for the welfare of their children by having fewer or well-spaced children.

Furthermore, the organization conducted awareness-raising activities on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), with a particular focus on reducing teenage pregnancies. The organization provided SRHR orientation to teachers and equipped schools with televisions and educational materials on life skills and the consequences of risky behaviors. These efforts had a positive impact, as indicated by the decrease in the number of reported teenage pregnancies. A senior teacher at a school noted a decrease from five cases in the previous year to only two cases reported this year.

Overall, the implementation of nutrition activities, WASH assessments, family planning support, and SRHR awareness raising had significant benefits for households. Improvement in key IYCF indicators, increased adoption of family planning methods, and a decrease in teenage pregnancies all demonstrate the positive impact of these interventions. By promoting healthy reproductive behavior and providing access to essential services, the organization is empowering households to make informed decisions about nutrition, child spacing, and reproductive health.



Challenges encountered

Nutrition interventions at healthcare facilities and outreach sites were hindered due to a lack of assessment tools and weighing scales. Additionally, there was inadequate staffing, leading to a reduction in the number of staff and days for outreach activities. The procurement process for health commodities, such as moon beads and nutrition supplements, was delayed and complicated, resulting in stock-outs of essential medicines and supplies for maternal and child health (MCH), family planning, and nutrition activities. The project addressed this issue by directly procuring some commodities and working with supervisors to ensure the availability of essential supplies and medicines through timely ordering and redistribution.



Future perspectives

The ALENU project supports and strengthens the existing community and formal health systems by working in partnership. This has enabled the project to build technical capacities of health workers and community structures such as Village Health Teams (VHTs), religious and cultural leaders. The social networks and linkages supported by the project through training and provision of reporting tools and information Education and Communication (IEC) materials will enable these structures outlive the project after closure next year in April, 2023.



HEALTH & NUTRITION

USAID-RHITES - PROMOTING BEHAVIOUR CHANGE FOR BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES

Context

GWED-G is a member of the USAID/Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services – Acholi Activity (USAID/RHITES – North Acholi), aiming to boost health behavior adoption in the project's focus district over 5 years. Challenges in the Acholi sub-region include insufficient awareness of healthy behaviors, low risk perception, limited male engagement, cultural norms, poverty, and unequal access to healthcare due to gender disparities, education, remoteness, and youth idleness. Behaviors contributing to vulnerability encompass multiple concurrent partners, early marriages, teenage pregnancies, and poor health seeking practices.

GWED-G collaborated with District Health Teams, Community Service Departments, and local structures (VHTs, activists, CLF, peer educators, leaders) to promote health service access, positive behaviors, and utilization. Efforts aimed to bridge gaps in community and facility capacities, especially for women, youth, and marginalized groups. Strategies included raising awareness about health-seeking, enhancing provider commitment to risk reduction, minimizing healthcare-seeking delays, dismantling socio-cultural and structural barriers, and delivering gender-sensitive and youth-friendly services. Through these approaches, GWED-G sought to empower communities to adopt healthier behaviors and improve overall health outcomes.

GWED-G's intervention - Outputs

Promoting awareness and fostering demand for health services: A total of 5,722 SBCC materials, which included job aids, flyers, posters, talking points, and charts, were effectively disseminated and distributed by our dedicated project staff, along with the assistance of health workers and prominent community figures such as local councilors, religious leaders, and cultural influencers. These comprehensive materials comprehensively addressed a range of technical subjects, encompassing malaria prevention, Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC), family planning, Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health, COVID-19 awareness, TB prevention, HIV/AIDS education, Maternal Newborn Child health (MNCH), and the sensitive topic of Sexual Gender-Based Violence. The successful distribution of these materials played a pivotal role in elevating the level of understanding within the targeted community concerning healthy behaviors and essential health practices. As a direct result, we observed a substantial increase in the demand for and utilization of vital health services. This accomplishment underscores the profound impact of strategic and well-executed Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) initiatives.





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**PEOPLE REACHED WITH ESSENTIAL
HEALTHCARE PROVISION**

Reduced delays in seeking appropriate care:

GWED-G adopted a multifaceted approach to tackle the issue of delayed seeking of health services. 57 integrated community health outreaches were conducted across the districts of Nwoya, Gulu, Amuru, and Agago. A total of 9,200 individuals (4,316 males and 4,884 females) were reached during the outreaches. The spectrum of services rendered encompassed a wide array of essential healthcare provisions, including Antenatal Care (ANC), HIV testing and subsequent enrollment into Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) programs, malaria testing and treatment, nutritional assessment and counseling, Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC), family planning, deworming treatments, immunization initiatives, and TB screening.

The meticulous process of mapping, registration, and efficient referral of clients to the designated outreach centers was competently managed by the dedicated Village Health Teams. The implementation of these services was done by personnel from public health facilities. These integrated community outreaches have been pivotal in bridging the gap to accessible healthcare services for rural and marginalized communities situated in remote pockets of Acholi sub-region.

Decreasing sociocultural barriers to uptake of health services:

GWED-G harnessed the influence of 60 religious and 57 cultural leaders to champion the adoption of healthier lifestyles and catalyze behavior change within the community. Through this collaborative effort, a series of 10 impactful community dialogues were organized.

These dialogues, with a primary emphasis on transforming attitudes and behaviors pertaining to Water, Sanitation,

and Hygiene (WASH), family planning, facility-based delivery, child immunization and Antenatal Care (ANC), were thoughtfully facilitated by both religious and cultural leaders. This concerted approach effectively reached and engaged a total of 986 community members (711 females and 275 males) with crucial health-oriented messages.

Gender-based Violence (GBV) Prevention:

GWED-G recognizes the pivotal role that GBV awareness, prevention, and support play in safeguarding the health of families, particularly women and children. Through collaboration involving healthcare providers, law enforcement, and community structures, GWED-G has been effective in both preventing and addressing the impacts of GBV. In the year 2022, we engaged a group of 30 Role Model Men (RMMs) who were equipped with comprehensive resources including talking points, a GBV referral pathway, and Police Form 3. The role model men played a crucial role in raising awareness and facilitating household dialogues focused on GBV prevention and response. They reached a total of 60 households, comprising 391 females and 155 males. During these dialogues, a remarkable impact was observed. A total of 40 cases were formally registered, 15 of which were successfully mediated within the context of the household dialogues. Additionally, 10 cases were referred to the local traditional chief, Rwot Kweri, resulting in their resolution. Five cases were escalated to the police due to their severity. The registered cases encompassed a range of issues, including the sale of produce, land disputes, defilement, domestic violence, and theft of animals.

In addition to addressing GBV concerns, Role Model Men extended valuable information regarding essential healthcare services to households. This included educating families about the importance of routine immunization (EPI), Antenatal Care (ANC), Family Planning (FP), and the advantages of facility-based delivery for pregnant women. 87 pregnant women were successfully referred for ANC services during their first trimester, highlighting the holistic approach that GWED-G employs in promoting the well-being of communities.

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

The implementation of Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) initiatives under the USAID-RHITES Acholi Activity has yielded remarkable outcomes. The effect has been a substantial raise in the demand for and utilization of essential health services. Beyond addressing gender-based violence concerns, the Role Model Men program have been pivotal in imparting crucial information on health to households. This included comprehensive education of households on the importance of routine immunization (EPI), Antenatal Care (ANC), Family Planning (FP), and the merits of facility-based delivery for expectant mothers. Notably, 87 pregnant women have been effectively referred for ANC services during the crucial first trimester. This accomplishment distinctly showcases the holistic approach that GWED-G employs in health for rural communities.



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REGNANT WOMEN WERE SUCCESSFULLY REFERRED FOR ANC SERVICES DURING THEIR FIRST TRIMESTER,



Challenges encountered

Numerous challenges were encountered during this period, encompassing persistent shortages of Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) materials across various topics. Misconceptions about family planning contributing to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) at the household level were prevalent. Scarce testing kits and family planning commodities, combined with negative attitudes from health providers and cultural barriers, posed obstacles to implementation. Insecurity caused by the presence of Karamojong warrior's restricted access to remote areas, notably Lapono Sub County in Agago district.

Religious resistance to contemporary family planning methods emphasized the necessity of endorsing shared commitment to Family Awareness Methods (FAM) or natural family planning. Limited male involvement and weak documentation of GBV cases were evident. Shortages of Police Form 3 hindered the reporting of GBV cases by survivors. The shortage of trained youth peers impacted the handling of GBV cases, while men's hesitance to report domestic violence continued to persist

Future perspectives

The USAID/RHITES North Activity, with the involvement of GWED-G, has significantly enhanced community health interventions by enhancing the capabilities of community structures to conduct SBCC (Social and Behavior Change Communication) initiatives. This enhancement includes refining case identification, proficiently mapping and referring various disease conditions, and improving overall reporting processes. Through the application of innovative SBCC methodologies and a productive partnership with district local governments, the initiative has generated a powerful impact on the Acholi sub-region. A consistent and impactful dissemination of health-related messages has been achieved, leading to heightened demand for and utilization of health services. This collaborative effort has effectively bridged the gap between the community and healthcare services, bolstering the overall health landscape in the area.

HEALTH & NUTRITION

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

Context

The Globe-Med Project was initiated by students from Columbia University in the USA to increase HIV prevention efforts for pregnant women in Lamogi sub-county, Amuru district, Uganda. The project has expanded to include Amuru sub-county in the same district. Once a year, Columbia University students travel to Gulu to participate in integrated health camps. During these camps, various Maternal Newborn Child Health (MNCH) activities are carried out, such as ANC, immunization, nutrition assessment and counseling, HIV testing, malaria prevention, and de-worming. Health workers and village health teams from Awer, Kaladima, Olwal, Lamogi, and Amuru public health facilities are involved and provide support. The University students have also been providing birth kits/mama-kits to HIV positive mothers, ensuring safe deliveries

GWED-G's intervention - Outputs

Increasing access to Integrated health services for remote rural communities :

In 2022, Globe-Med students partnered with health staff at the health facility and the local government of Amuru to sponsor three integrated health camps in rural communities in Northern Uganda, specifically in Amuru district. These camps were set up in temporary facilities, such as tents, market areas, schools, or any public open space, to address the poor access to health services in these remote areas.

The integrated health camps allowed health care workers to reach out to the communities and provide essential health services. These services included family planning, antenatal care (ANC), postnatal care (PNC), immunization for children under 5 years, nutrition assessment and counseling, HIV counseling and testing, malaria testing and treatment, and general health education.

In total, 1,247 people received various health services through these camps. Among them, 209 children under 5 years were immunized, 91 women benefited from ANC and PNC services, and 5 severe malaria cases were referred to the health center for further treatment. Additionally, one gender-based violence (GBV) case was reported to the police for investigation, legal redress, and treatment. Furthermore, 55 women of reproductive age received family planning services during these camps.

Overall, the integrated health camps sponsored by Globe-Med students made a significant impact on the health and well-being of the rural communities in Amuru district, bridging the gap in access to essential health services



Promoting safe delivery :

GLOBE-MED and GWED-G are actively committed to providing ongoing support to vulnerable HIV-positive pregnant and lactating mothers in the Amuru district of the Northern region. As part of their efforts in 2022, mama kits were distributed to assist pregnant mothers in safe, skilled supervised deliveries. These kits included essential items such as plastic sheeting, razor blades, cotton wool, gauze pads, bathing soaps, surgical gloves, immunization child health cards, laundry soap, and a basin. A total of 364 vulnerable pregnant and lactating mothers were beneficiaries of these kits.

The primary goal of the distribution of these kits was to promote facility-based deliveries among mothers. However, despite these efforts, it is concerning that there is still a lack of sufficient treatment and care, which has deterred women from accessing these services, even when available. Disturbingly, some women have reported instances of abusive behavior from healthcare personnel, including offensive and demeaning language. Furthermore, they have faced ridicule from healthcare providers regarding their clothing, odor, and hygiene. These issues emphasize the urgent need for improved healthcare infrastructure and training to ensure respectful and inclusive care for all women, especially those who are part of vulnerable populations such as HIV-positive pregnant and lactating mothers.

GLOBE-MED and GWED-G remain dedicated to continuing their support for these women and are committed to advocating for better healthcare services in the region..

**364**

**MAMA-KITS DISTRIBUTED TO
VULNERABLE PREGNANT AND LACTATING
MOTHERS**

**3**

**INTEGRATED HEALTH CAMPS IN RURAL
COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN UGANDA**

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

The GlobeMed program, in partnership with Gulu Women Economic Development and Globalization (GWED-G), has been making significant strides in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness alongside Maternal and Child Health (MNCH). Over the past 8 years, the program has focused on advocating for the expansion of community and household discussions around HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment, as well as other important aspects of healthcare like ANC attendance, nutrition, WASH, malaria testing, COVID-19 screening integrated with TB, facility delivery, and immunization. This comprehensive approach has been implemented in 16 parishes, specifically in Amuru and Lamogi sub-counties within the Amuru District.

One of the primary goals of the program has been to reduce the stigma faced by lactating mothers living with HIV/AIDS. Discrimination against these women has been addressed by providing education and support. The ultimate aim is to enable women to give birth to healthy babies who are free from HIV/AIDS infections, thereby reducing stigma. Through the program's support, a total of 197 babies out of 203 HIV-positive mothers have been born free or negative of HIV. This achievement can be attributed to regular attendance at ANC through the distribution of mama kits, which have encouraged mothers to complete all their visits. Additionally, early testing of infants below 18 months, enrollment in the test and treat program to initiate ART early, and the introduction of solid foods to babies at 6 months have all played a significant role.

The program has also emphasized the importance of antenatal check-ups, immunization, postnatal care, and good nutrition for both mothers and their babies. Mothers living with HIV have been made aware of the benefits of giving birth at health facilities to minimize HIV transmission to their babies. This has resulted in an increase in the number of mothers attending ANC, from 286 to 344 per month since March of last year. The number of health center deliveries has also increased, from 86 to 109 in most of the facilities visited.

In addition to the HIV services provided to lactating mothers and children, other essential services such as family planning, immunization, nutrition assessment, Covid-19 screening, and TB testing have been carried out. The program has witnessed improved healthy lifestyles among HIV-positive mothers, and their babies have shown positive health outcomes, as no deaths have been registered among the clients. Adherence to treatment and achieving suppressed viral loads has played a crucial role in these outcomes. Furthermore, babies with negative HIV results receive breast milk from their mothers for up to 6 months while being closely monitored at the mother baby care point (MBCP) until 18 months. Antibody tests are then conducted to determine if the child is HIV positive. By implementing these measures, all babies born to HIV-positive mothers have continued to test negative for HIV infection.

Challenges encountered

Challenges that have been faced during implementation include stock-outs of essential medicines and drugs, a scarcity of human resources for health at the community and facility level to meet the growing demand for quality healthcare services and follow-up visits. Additionally, negative cultural norms and beliefs have had an impact on the demand and utilization of healthcare services, particularly in the case of family planning services.

Recommendations to these challenges include close track and monitoring of stock levels of essential medicines and supplies, advocating for increased human resources for health and addressing cultural barriers to uptake and demand of health services through targeted community dialogues.

Future perspectives

To ensure the sustainability of the GWED-G-Globe-Med program, GWED-G has implemented a strategy that leverages existing government and community structures to deliver the intervention effectively. Through capacity building initiatives, community structures such as Village Health Teams, Role Model Men, and peers have been empowered to play an active role in the program's activities. This not only strengthens the community's ownership of the project but also ensures that the interventions continue even after the project's completion.

Additionally, a crucial aspect of ensuring sustainability is the establishment of linkages between women participating in the program and nearby public health facilities. By connecting these women to existing health resources, they can continue to access the necessary support and services beyond the lifespan of the project. This approach further enhances the long-term success and impact of the GWED-G-Globe-Med program, promoting sustainable change in the communities it serve.



HEALTH & NUTRITION

AJWS - PROMOTING THE SEXUAL HEALTH AND RIGHTS FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN NORTHERN UGANDA.

Context

The project aims at reaching out to 1200 adolescent girls and young women in Northern Uganda to promote the sexual health and rights for adolescent girls and young women through mentorship sessions, debating clubs, dialogue on sexual reproductive health rights, sensitization on sexual related GBV in schools and out of school, promoting girls leadership in schools and working with parent groups to promote real fathers and encourage second chance to the adolescents who have dropped out of school.



GWED-G's intervention - outputs

Building confidence through debating clubs: The project facilitated and promoted debating sessions in two schools. With support from the project, the school management and the teachers of five schools (Awer, Keyo, Agwayugi, Pagak primary schools and Keyo secondary school) held a total of 48 debates focusing on the following topics that were selected by the debating clubs;- Causes of teenage pregnancies and marriages, better education, future career and development. Total number of pupils who participated in the debates was 540 (210 boys and 330 girls). Through the debates, the self-esteem and speaking skills for the girls have improved; they were able to openly speak about issues that affects their growth and development into better adulthood. The debate thus has increased girl's participation in the school programs and as a result, many pupils joined the club.

Sexuality education: with 600 adolescents in schools of Keyo, Awer, Pagak and Agwayugi in Lamogi sub county, Amuru district. Sexuality education session provided a safe environment for the adolescent growth and development, improvement in menstrual hygiene and management and further strengthened network and referrals between SRHR actors. During the talks, the girls were also trained on making the sanitary towels for proper management of their menstrual hygiene while at school, Girls who have gained the skills in making sanitary towels have reported improved performance and concentration at schools because they no longer worry on where to get money to buy sanitary pads,



"I now make my own pads and also taught 5 other girls in our village to make it. I don't spend money on buying pads any more, instead the money I should have used to buy pads, I now use it to buy other scholastic materials." - Girl of Pagak primary school

The issue of menstruation was preventing many girls from attending school, however, this intervention of making sanitary towels have made more girls to resume back to their normal studies from 2020 girls from primary six alone were 66 compared to 2022 which was 96 girls.

AJWS project beneficiaries

Participants in the debates to build confidence	540
Adolescents provided with sexual education	600
Teenagers sensitized on child marriage and early pregnancy	300
Survivors of GBV assisted	89
Young women and girls mentored in leadership	460
Girls participants in the monthly meetings on sexual education	1030
Adolescents provided with sexual education	600



Sensitization campaign against child marriages and teenage pregnancies: This was conducted in Lamogi and Amuru, consisting of 10 sensitization sessions involving 300 teenagers from schools and the community. The campaign focused on providing girls with knowledge about preventing pregnancy, self-defense against rape or attacks, and negotiating safe sex. Peer groups played a vital role in offering a supportive environment for adolescent girls, fostering skills, economic assets, and connections, resulting in an 80% increase in girls' school enrollment and reduced vulnerability during external shocks.

Support and referral of SGBV cases: the project assisted 89 survivors with medical, psychosocial, economic, emotional, and legal support. Cases ranged from physical assault and defilement to rape and emotional torture, mainly affecting women and girls. Improved involvement of police and local leaders led to increased confidence in reporting GBV cases.

Support linkage meetings, learning meetings, and coordination meeting at national levels: The project facilitated 6 coordination, linkage, and learning meetings across Gulu, Amuru, and Gulu City districts. Stanbic Bank's collaboration resulted in young women's participation in International Day celebrations, fostering networking and opening opportunities. Several groups and individuals gained access to low-interest loans for retail businesses and VSLA groups, with the bank providing business training and financial literacy. Celebrations brought together farmer groups and partners, conducting planning meetings and 2 conferences showcasing women's achievements in diverse businesses. These events empowered staff and groups to open bank accounts, enhancing financial inclusion and knowledge-sharing.

Mentorship of girls in 4 schools using eminent women leaders: The project mentored adolescent girls in four schools through engagement with eminent women leaders, this has yielded positive outcomes. The program involved group-based mentorship and coaching initiatives both within schools and the community. These efforts have demonstrated significant potential in enhancing the protective assets of young women, fostering reproductive health awareness, knowledge, and behavior, as well as reducing violence experiences among them.

The mentorship initiative reached 460 young women, forming peer groups and leveraging the expertise of prominent leaders and health officials. This ensured that vital information about reproductive health was accessible to all girls in a confidential and safe manner, thus empowering them to assert their rights effectively.

Monthly meeting with Adolescent girls and young women on sexual and reproductive health right education: Monthly meetings were conducted, benefiting 1,030 adolescent girls and young women. These sessions utilized diverse teaching aids such as visual materials to enhance understanding, leading to improved knowledge and skills in sexual and reproductive health. Practical exercises, like creating reusable pads, were employed, enhancing preparedness for menstruation. Peer groups used these gatherings to strategize their support mechanisms and address issues like gender-based violence (GBV).

Supporting girls affected by Covid19 lockdown: Twenty girls affected by Covid-19 lockdowns were supported with income-generating activities tailored to their preferences. This initiative broadened income options and empowered young women in various businesses. Notably, one woman trained others in baking using a provided machine, while another learned driving and metal fabrication, becoming a lorry truck driver. This financial support improved household incomes, reduced dependency on family heads, and enabled personal expenses.

Supporting parents with seeds and land opening: The project supported four parents' groups in Lamogi sub county with organic bean and maize seeds to combat seed poverty. One group achieved a successful bean harvest, earning approximately UGX 250,000, some of which covered school fees and materials. The groups replanted seeds, yielding up to 10 bags of beans, enhancing nutrition and reducing expenses. Additionally, they cultivated organic vegetables, okra, African eggplants, and cassava for local markets. The sales boosted parents' savings in the VSLA credit scheme, enhancing credit management and entrepreneurship. The agricultural efforts empowered group members economically, enabling investments, meeting household needs, and supporting children's education. This has positioned the groups as economic pillars, fostering growth while children attend primary and secondary school.

Supporting 'She craft women': The She Craft women, which specializes in high-quality bag production, made 1,000 bags, generating UGX 5,000,000. Sales occurred locally and globally, spanning Karuma, Kampala, Gulu, UK, and Switzerland. The support facilitated skill enhancement, allowing them to mentor others and diversify bag production. Beyond GWED-G office, they sold bags at international events, conferences, cultural festivals, and city gatherings. Consequently, these women support personal needs, children's education, and even property investments, showcasing remarkable progress in self-sufficiency

Tackling Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): Eight intimate partner violence awareness sessions supported by the project, engaged 980 community members (240 males, 740 females) in Lamogi and Amuru sub-counties, including youth, elders, local leaders, men, and women. Parabongo, Labongo-Ogali, Toro, Amilobo, and Palema, identified as most affected, exhibited high levels of intimate partner violence, impacting children's psychological and emotional well-being. Resulting from these sessions, communities acquired knowledge of early warning signs, enabling reporting to police, LCs, and agencies.

Supporting Role Model Men (RMM): During the year, Role Model Men (RMM) held household dialogues, gaining community recognition for conflict resolution. This shifted reliance on local leaders towards RMM, building trust with both community and authorities. In Lamogi and Amuru, 500 households and 1,720 girls were reached, this resulted into peaceful families, increased school enrollment, less child labor, and reduced gender-based violence in the community. Engaging girls led to positive behavior changes, fostering respect and domestic peace. Beyond households, RMM forged stronger community bonds, enhancing cohesion and social stability. Through dialogues, RMM transformed relationships, earned trust, and mitigated issues, creating understanding and cooperation among households and the wider community.

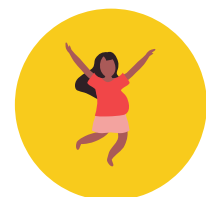
IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

Outreaches impacted men positively, in that they started reaching out to Role model men for counseling and guidance on how to promote women and children's rights. The use of key resource persons like peer educators and Role model men created wide spread impact of the project to every category of people including men, girls, elders, women and boys. .

The parent support groups under the program have increased production, assets and ownership of land, livestock and other non -farm enterprises and diversified forms of livelihood, access to financial services like loan with reduced dependency on money lenders for credit, increased surplus from economic activities as well as reduced consumption expenditure and livelihood of the more vulnerable have improved. In terms of food security, the project helped many parents both directly and indirectly, many individuals accessed seeds from the parent's group through loaning seeds to other community members. The project also greatly contributed towards livelihood through empowering the young women and their families with seeds /seedlings and other farm inputs that made them to increase income and sales through market linkages, the young women were equipped with value chain processes which have enabled them sell quality farm products.

The project promoted active participation and leadership at every level in adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) that built their capacities and promoted their personal and professional development as well as contribution to stronger organization and more responsive policies and political movements.

Through the project, the level of girl's enrollment in school has improved by 80 percent especially in the school where the project is being implemented. This was through regular awareness creations in schools and community about leadership, life skill training and debates which has instilled knowledge/skills to the adolescent girls and young women and have developed their communication skills, confidence, and leadership skills.



80%

**INCREASED IN GIRLS
ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOL**

They are able to articulate their development issues ranging from education to institutional level in term of information.

Through coaching and mentorship meetings, young women have been given the opportunity to openly share out their views/opinions and resolve issues amongst them. This has built their confidence to plan future engagement meetings with their local leaders and other duty bearers to lobby for better qualitative and quantitative SRHR service delivery. This is a big achievement because initially adolescent girls and young women were shy and inhibited in expressing themselves given the patriarchal society that gives more voices to men. Empowering young women with ability to express themselves is one step to fighting exploitation of young women and violation of their rights especially sexual Reproductive health rights.

[Read success stories report](#)

Challenges encountered

The exclusion of young women due to patriarchal socio-cultural norms hinders their development and empowerment, leading to low self-esteem and feelings of inferiority. To address this issue, a strategy was devised, involving peer-led introductions to meetings.

The entrenched traditional gender roles, defining men as breadwinners and relegating women to homemaking, contribute to women's lower socio-economic status. This has resulted in poor attendance of out-of-school girls in project activities. GWED-G, addressing this through peer educators and community structures, seeks sustainable transformation.

Lack of access to productive resources, particularly land and employment, further impedes their socio-economic progress, perpetuating gender disparities.

The problem of early marriages prevails due to parental consent even after police involvement. Some local leaders' high expectations for allowances hindered project implementation, complicating cooperation.

Early and child marriages persist as challenges, hampering the development and empowerment of young women.

Traditional roles diminish decision-making power and legal protection for young women, impeding their access to economic opportunities and leaving them reliant on parental decisions. In summary, patriarchal norms, traditional gender roles, early marriages, and limited agency shape the struggles faced by young women. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive strategies that foster gender equality, empower young women, and engage communities in transformative efforts.

Future perspectives

Through the project use of the community structures like the school senior women and men teachers, role model men and the peer educators at the community, the project will still exist in the away that these community structures will continue to implement the the activities even when the project is no more since the community structures are at the community continuing to implement the activities and do follow ups.

GENDER, EQUALITY AND WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM - GEWEP



Gender equality at GWED-G: It's at the heart of all we do. At GWED-G gender equality isn't just another program. Gender is at our core, embedded within everything we do.

Context

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been increases in poverty and inequality across Northern Uganda. The challenges posed by ongoing land conflict, climate change and the escalating hunger continue to disproportionately affect women and girls. The 2022 GWED-G CIVSAM project baseline indicate that about 65% of women compared to 35% of men reported food insecurity and 75% of women reported stress and mental health and sexual reproductive health issues, with unpaid work burdens, limited livelihood, and gender-based violence. Fewer women than men used mobile internet/digital financial system. Quality of women's debates in councils is lower compared to that of men.



GWED-G's intervention - outputs

GWED-G has supported about 650 VSLA groups (35,500 women & girls) to increase their empowerment & gender equality in the year 2022, this was done through a number of interventions across all programs. 275 Community sensitizations and 73 capacity building sessions addressing gender-based violence, promoting women's voices and leadership, and ensuring equal access to property, assets and quality education were conducted.

GWED-G worked with and trained 225 men and boys to shift harmful social norms in support of gender equality – as part of broader efforts to promote health, climate justice, food and nutrition security, and economic justice.

GWED-G worked with 35 women rights organizations to launch the Feminists in Action project (Women Arise project). Through this collaboration, more than 150 women in Northern Uganda have tailored to their realities, needs, and strengthened their operations, deepen their expertise, and build collective action.

137 women trained in leadership skills development, promoting girl-led activism, and engaging with women leading new forms of social change initiatives.

In 2022, we made a concerted push to amplify our gender impact through new guidance for teams in training of 35 staff in PSHEA and 15 gender department staff in Responding to GBV in an emergency context.

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

In response to increasing rates of gender-based violence resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 AJWS project of “Mitigating the impact of COVID -19 on adolescent girls in Northern Uganda”, CIVSAM, RHITES and ALENU projects took action to prevent further increases in violence and improved access to support services for survivors. The projects worked with more than 12,500 people to shift social norms which normalize intimate partner violence, creating more equal power dynamics within relationships and strengthening services to support those who have experienced violence. Participants reported reduced intimate partner violence and increased ability to speak up about their rights. 590 people rejecting intimate partner violence, 530 women and girls accessed and obtained life saving GBV prevention and response services.

Through capacity building and mentorship in leadership skills development, 668 women and girls have participated in formal/informal decision-making spaces. 37 girls have led advocacy initiatives, 144 women and girls reporting confidence in their own negotiation and communication skills. 101 women and girls influencing public decision making and structural changes of which 83 of them have taken up leadership roles in their various platforms.

More girls are enrolling in school and fewer are dropping out as a result of the Adolescent Girls' Education and SRHR project, evidence shows girls are acting as role models to lead change in their communities and there are shifts in social norms which were preventing girls from going to school, such as girls previously being kept home to do household chores. 100, More women can meet family planning needs, 740 women made informed decisions regarding their reproductive health care.

Through community sensitization on women land rights, access and ownership of agricultural proceeds, 431 women have participated in decisions about agricultural production and households' income

Through awareness creation and capacity building on climate change and smart agricultural practices, 359 men and women were able to build their resilience to the effects of climate change, 250 women have participated in households decisions relating to climate change and resilience. 123 women have actively participate in climate decision making spaces.

2500 women increased their capacity to participate equitably in economic activities, this was made possible through training in business skills, enterprise development, selection, management of income generation activities, financial literacy and linkage to financial institutions. Over 750 women are using formal financial services, 657 women have participated in household financial decisions.



12500

PEOPLE TRAINED ON GENDER
RELATED TOPICS



688

WOMEN HAD VOICES IN
DECISION-MAKING SPACES



2500

WOMEN WERE EMPOWERED
ECONOMICALLY

Challenges encountered

Limited funding in the gender department to build capacity of staff, partners and community structures in the ever changing and dynamic gender integrating strategies and concepts. GWED-G believes that achieving gender equality requires change through our programming, but also within ourselves as an organization, due to limited funds, this cannot be achieved.

To promote equality in all we do, staff must lead by example and model the behaviors we seek to challenge and change, however, most GWED-G staff view this as entirely the role of a gender specialist, this thus overwhelmed the designated staff.



Future perspectives

Centering gender equality means ensuring women, girls and other marginalized people are equally represented at all levels across the organization. We go further than this to integrate gender equality principles as part of our organizational culture, through initiatives such as feminist leadership training and women movement building.

GWED-G Addresses inequalities through integration of gender into our programs in other sectors. This means we include approaches which address the root causes of gender inequality; - such as activities to shift harmful social norms or engage men and boys in support of gender equality – as part of broader efforts to promote health, climate justice, food and nutrition security, and economic justice, as well as in humanitarian programming.

GEWEP department in numbers	
Village saving loan groups supported	650
Men and boys trained to be Role Model men	225
Women trained in leadership skills	137
Staffs trained in Safeguarding, Sexual Harassment & Abuse	35
Women and girls accessed GBV prevention and response services	530
Women have taken up leadership roles in their various platforms	83
Women can meet family planning needs	100+
Women made informed decisions on their reproductive health care.	740
Women have participated in household financial decisions.	657

PROMOTING COMPREHENSIVE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN COMMUNITIES OF NORTHERN UGANDA.

Context

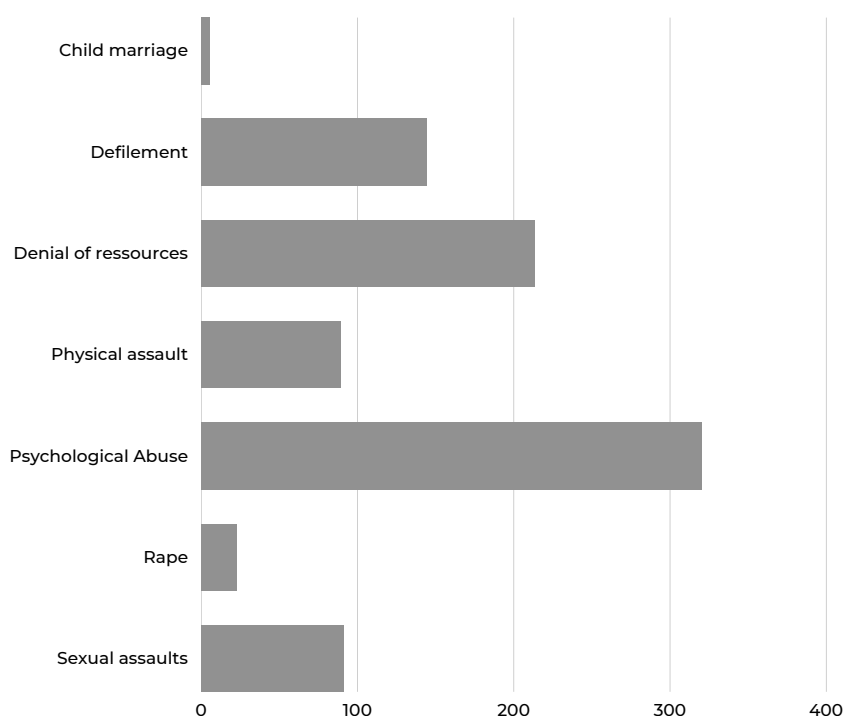
Although both women and men in Northern Uganda experience gender-based violence, GWED-G 2021 research reveals, that majority of the victims have been women and girls with the common forms of GBV being physical violence, psychological violence and sexual violence. These numbers have risen in the recent past due to COVID-19 pandemic and consequent lockdown. The 2021 Uganda Police Report indicates 667 cases of domestic violence during COVID-19 lockdown; this was mainly attributed to prolonged social isolation, increased alcoholism, loss of livelihood, Parents' inability to provide basic necessities, and closure of schools which exposed young girls to unsafe conditions including GBV.

GWED-G's intervention - outputs

GWED-G Mentored 240 Role Model Men on positive behavioral change strategies for prevention of gender based violence. The mentored role model men subsequently reached out to 2400 household with behavioral change messages for gender equality. Community sensitizations and dialogues sessions with women, men and other stakeholders on GBV prevention and response provided platform for the women to engage more on the protection of their rights. GWED-G through its various programs conducted case management through recording, supported and referred GBV cases to other service providers; A number of projects at GWED-G conducted capacity building for police officers, Health workers and local leaders these has promoted access, quality and timely deliveries of GBV responses services for vulnerable communities.

2022

Status of GBV cases, recorded, supported and referred by GWED-G to other services providers



GBV cases by type

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

Reduced cases of GBV in northern Uganda as a result of awareness created on prevention and root causes of GBV.

There has been improved and timely provision of quality GBV services at facilities, police and psychosocial as a result of linkage and coordination with service providers and CSOs.

Program conducted capacity building for police officers, Health workers and local leaders these has promoted access, quality and timely law enforcement, legal aid and justice ensured functioning law enforcement, judicial system, legal aid and adequate responses.

Improve mainstreaming of SGBV prevention and response across most GWED-G program and projects (including education, Health livelihood, food security), improve District level coordination and advocacy.

Through GBV interventions, GWED-G has been an active member of the GBV working groups at national, regional and district levels.

Involving men and women in information sessions on their rights has encouraged some men to modify their behavior – less drinking, less domestic violence and prepared to discuss issues with their wives and applying holistic approaches considering the role of men as partners and change agents.

Challenges encountered

- The Lack of effective referral mechanisms makes it difficult for cases to be successfully prosecuted in a court of law, this is further exacerbated by limited access to state-funded legal aid mechanisms.
- The Limited number of judicial officers contributes greatly to case-backlogs, which affects the speed of dispensing justice.
- Unsupportive Caregivers leading to lost of interest in the cases and dropping of the cases from courts.
- Solicitation of money from Health workers for filing PF3s and some police out post are selling the forms.
- Inadequate funding support to GBV programing by the donors.

Future perspectives

GWED-G shall continue to use the existing community structures like the community activist, Role Model Men and the peace committees to create respond and prevent GBV within communities. The already existing local structures at the community levels like the community activists who are part of the existing SASA groups, Senior Women Teachers, School Patrons, religious and cultural institutions, and the existing structures trained by the gender department on SASA methodologies will from part of the sustainability programs. They will be able to roll out support to reduce SGBV in communities and schools.



ADVOCACY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

1697
FOLLOWERS IN TOTAL
ON GWED-G SOCIAL
MEDIA PLATFORMS



342
ON INSTAGRAM

+36%
SINCE 2021



937
ON FACEBOOK

+8%
SINCE 2021



418
ON TWITTER

+20%
SINCE 2021



Data Analysis

The proportion of followers on GWED-G's social media platforms is of 53.7% male and 46.3% female. With a predominance of people between 25-34 years old (48.7%), followed by 18-24 years old (22.5%) and by 35-44 years old (15.3%).

Website management

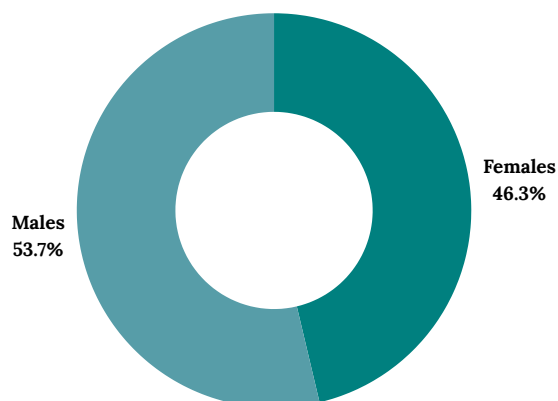
Throughout the year 2022, the website has been updated regularly. Tallawah justice for women, The Nottingham University and GIZ are two new partners that came on board and have been added on the website's home page. Four new projects have started in 2022, their respective project's pages have been created. Two articles have been published as well as two success stories.

One of the major website's innovation launched in 2022 was the addition of a donation page. With the creation of 2 fundraising campaigns.

Additionally, a section on disability inclusion has been added under GWED-G's programs' description.

The top countries are

Uganda	48%
United States	25%
Switzerland	4%
United Kingdom	2%



2022 FINANCIALS

INCOME

	2021	2022
Programme Costs		
ALENU- From Caritas	1,037,564,400	1,192,164,550
Diakonia	273,750,000	430,700,067
DGF	423,293,488	359,510,753
PELARD - N	159,399,296	14,214,673
RHITES URC Sub contract	751,317,370	389,802,046
AJWS	120,888,850	72,274,000
VOICE	---	277,163,838
NED	---	86,691,372
CivFund	68,012,300	51,987,700
Interest income	4,277,654	1,422,337
Subtotal Program Costs	2,838,503,358	2,875,931,336
Total income	2,838,503,358	2,875,931,336

EXPENDITURES

	2021	2022
Expenses		
Salaries	1,220,518,413	1,119,948,903
Benefits	52,630,596	101,889,419
Travel	7,696,000	3,000,000
Office supplies	61,288,320	118,684,254
Program costs	1,432,521,125	1,392,976,028
Admin costs	245,520,913	229,653,906
Vehicle and Motorcycle repairs	16,806,617	10,507,057
Communication costs	905,850	465,000
Board Costs	---	4,200,000
Total Expenditures	3,037,887,834	2,981,324,567
Surplus/deficit for the year	- 199,384,476	- 105,393,231



Gulu Women Economic Development & Globalization (GWED-G)

Plot No. 7B Kitgum Road
Laroo Division, Gulu City, Uganda
P.O. Box 1257 Uganda

Email: info@gwed-g.org

Web: www.gwed-g.org



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