



GWED-G
Gulu Women's Economic
Development & Globalization



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Impact Assessment Report Uganda



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Uniting for Justice in Northern Uganda.

In an unprecedented convening, the Access to Justice Conference, held in Gulu on August 3rd, 2023, brought together 125 women leaders from 10 conflict-affected districts in Northern Uganda.

They were joined by community leaders, local police, justice sector officials, parliamentarians, and civil society organizations such as West Nile Women for Development, NAWUO Network, Women Advocacy Network, War Victim Children Networking, Royal Women of Faith and Trust, Karamoja Women's Association, Katakwi women group, Lwaca Girls Abducted survivors Association, Kalaki District Women Association, Northern Uganda women and children initiative, Children of Peace Uganda, NAWUO Network, WAN-Okonwa women group, WAN-Amapara women group, JLOF (U), WORUDET), and legal and medical professionals.

The conference charted innovative paths toward closing the gaps in Uganda's justice framework, particularly concerning tackling the pressing issues of justice for SGBV, and proposed innovative pathways to redress gaps in the justice framework in Uganda. Through this conference, a coordination body called the "Women Leaders Justice Response Taskforce" was formed.

This group of women comprises women grassroots and survivor leaders who were tasked with representing the broader interests of women victims and survivors on matters of justice, reparation, and feminist advancement. They also ensured that the response mechanisms, referral pathways, and support systems for SGBV were strengthened through the integration of survivor-centered justice support mechanisms.

1.1 Key Learnings and Outcomes from the Conference

1.1.2 Creating networks and fostering collaboration

Notably, the conference has been instrumental in expanding their networks and fostering enhanced collaboration among women-led organizations. Networking at the event led to strategic partnerships, promoting a collective approach to combating SGBV cases within their communities. This networking has facilitated the spread of legal knowledge among grassroots women, leading to tangible improvements in their communities since most of the women in the village still believed that they did not have rights over marriage or land.

For example, in Karamoja, women leaders, together, continued to fight against the stereotype that women bear all the burden (roles and responsibilities) at home; "most of them still have the position of the donkeys." That's how men called our women," said the coordinator of the Karamoja initiative for sustainable peace.

A significant outcome of the 2023 conference was the creation of the Women Leaders Justice Response Taskforce, which consists of 15 members from Kitgum, Gulu, Pader, Karamoja, Arua, Koboko, Lira, and Soroti Districts (Eastern region, Karamoja region, Lango sub-region, Acholi sub-region).

The task force is a dedicated group of grassroots women leaders, many of whom are survivors of SGBV themselves. This task force is charged with championing the broader interests of female victims and survivors in matters of transitional justice, access to justice, and reparations. They also aim to advance the feminist agenda in Northern Uganda.

“The conference was a good opportunity for me to connect with people, and build women’s movement.”



Perry Aritua,
Director of the Women Democratic
Network, Kampala

1.1.2 Women’s empowerment and policy integration

The positive impact of the conference is evident from feedback in post-event surveys. Women participants report increased confidence and capability in contributing to the rule of law and improving access to justice for survivors. Some women leaders have made significant strides in integrating policies within their organizations to address women’s land rights and support GBV victims by ensuring that women have a voice and control in decision-making that affects their lives, within their homes, communities, and beyond and that they can live free from violence.

“Their voices and experience inform our programming decisions and we ensure that programs meet their needs and priorities,” said Perry Aritua Director of the Women democratic network, Kampala

1.1.3 Involving men in peacebuilding is proving strategic

Another crucial insight that emerged from the testimonies of women leaders is that men’s participation is essential for the success of women in peacebuilding. Engaging men through dialogues and raising awareness about sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) has led to transformative changes in their behavior with men, turning them from idleness, violence, and drunkenness to becoming more productive, non-violent, and respected figures. This transformation has enabled men to utilize their time more constructively, empowering them to resist negative peer influences and focus on making investments that support their families.

Through awareness-raising efforts, men’s roles in peacebuilding have shifted from passive to proactive, contributing positively to their communities and families.

One particularly striking outcome has been men’s involvement in the campaign for peace and justice; most women leaders now work closely with male local leaders and have created groups where they share experiences on how to manage conflicts of women before raising their voices at a district, regional, or national level. This is notably the case of the Women Leaders Justice Response Taskforce group members who have been selected from the mainstream survivors group but are coming from all the districts. It became active directly after the conference that took place in August 2023. Not only this group, in Karamoja, women felt also more empowered and met regularly with women grassroots to inform them about their rights.

1.1.4 Cultural leaders as pillars in the grassroots women’s movement

The participation of cultural leaders emerged as a fundamental element in the strategies employed by women leaders. Thanks to the progress made by the project, male clan leaders have become increasingly aware of the needs of women in their decision-making process, though many factors affect women’s social participation, including their households, economic status, traditional customs, and attitudes that either promote or inhibit their participation in leadership.

“The cultural leaders now have a better understanding and value for gender issues, particularly regarding equality, recognizing them as advantageous for communities.” said the Director of KIWEPI one of the gendered cultural institutions in Kitgum that integrates cultural practices by engaging cultural leaders as a strategy for women’s empowerment. This provides a suitable forum necessary for women’s empowerment where they rightfully claim their human rights and influence socially, economically, and politically.

Moreover, women’s leaders have also worked closely with local authorities to create forums for sharing experiences and managing conflicts involving women and to strengthen their advocacy efforts at district, regional, and national levels. The Women Leaders Justice Response Taskforce, formed after the August 2023 conference, exemplifies this collective effort.

In Karamoja, women leaders are experiencing a newfound sense of empowerment. They are actively connecting with grassroots women, working together to spread awareness and educate fellow women about women’s rights. This collaborative effort aims to bolster the capabilities of women at the grassroots level, enabling them to form strong connections with both the government and one another to champion women’s rights. The primary goal of these interactions is to cultivate a shared understanding of how grassroots women play a pivotal role in advancing the cause of gender justice. These grassroots initiatives serve as valuable sources of knowledge, skills, and insights into addressing critical issues such as transitional justice, access to legal recourse, reparations, and the complexities of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

“Women in Karamoja were not aware about justice, for example about rights of property for women. Now I have been able to inform them about their rights.”



Amodoi Teko Regina,
Women Councillor,
Moroto

1.1.5 Tackling harmful practices remains a priority

Communities are evolving, becoming more gender-sensitive, and rejecting harmful practices. Despite a decade since the cessation of hostilities in Northern Uganda, SGBV remains prevalent. Women leaders and survivors, through their organizations, have incorporated strategies into all programming areas that challenge harmful social norms that perpetuate discrimination against and disempowerment of women and girls. They have also established SGBV service mapping and referral mechanisms that encourage conversation and information sharing between partners operating in the same communities including those working on SGBV, women empowerment, and other areas. They have also encouraged partners to include women-only spaces in their programs, for moral and social support, for the development of women’s skills and power within, and collective action.

In collaboration with faith leaders, they have made significant contributions to the eradication of harmful cultural practices like child marriages, wife inheritance, and stigmatization of children born in war. They have not only considered but also utilized gendered preferences around accessing information by ensuring that information is provided and delivered in a medium that is suitable for women for example, women may prefer local community groups, markets, and churches (traditional gathering places for women), while men may prefer radios, newspapers, and local council meetings as main platforms for obtaining new information this has increased knowledge and information delivery to community and household these also champion survivor rights and support SGBV survivors and children born of war, fostering supportive attitudes toward them.

1.1.6 Strengthening referral networks

Thanks to a deeper understanding of referral systems, many women leaders at the forefront of aiding survivors now possess enhanced knowledge that empowers them to guide those needing appropriate professional services. Referral systems have been adapted to suit the specific circumstances of their respective regions. “In Arua, for example, cases of rejection of war victims are not common; instead, we have cases of women who have suffered from HIV/GBV-related stigma and discrimination, and that’s what the referral network and support services specialize in.” Women leader from the National Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS NACWOLA – Arua 23 of 43 frontline women leaders who were interviewed during the survey reported that the knowledge has bolstered the women’s capacity to make referrals, ensuring that GBV survivors are promptly linked to support services. They have also become skilled at seeking legal advice and improving community access to justice. SGBV survivors require clinical assessment by qualified medical and forensic examination, along with proper documentation from the police, alongside access to safe shelter and psychosocial support, which is essential.

1.1.7 Increasing uptake of SGBV support services

As a result, there has been an uptake in survivors seeking and receiving the help they need, as evidenced by the statistics of cases received and managed by women leaders and organizations like FIDA. Increased awareness about available services has empowered women to enhance referral networks, making it easier for SGBV survivors to access the services they require promptly and effectively.

This has significantly increased the number of survivors seeking help and knowing where to find it. Furthermore, the high number of cases mediated also demonstrates a greater involvement of female leaders in mediating cases that come to their attention.

Number of women/number of cases handled

34 women leaders interviewed during the survey	28 women	300 cases handled	136 cases mediated
			139 cases successfully closed
			43 cases referred to reliable service providers
			85 pending.
6	0	Out of the 34 women leaders who were interviewed during the survey, 28 women mediated on cases of domestic violence while 6 of the women interviewed did not mediate any GBV issues.	

1.1.8 Increasing Engagement at All Levels

Moreover, the conferences have seen a notable increase in meaningful engagement at both the organizational and national levels. Women have become more involved in aiding fellow women affected by GBV, advocating for enhanced access to justice for women and girls, and taking on leadership roles across all levels. For instance, 83% of the women leaders who were interviewed during the survey reported that their knowledge of peace-building agendas has expanded, leading to more meaningful participation on their part.

Women are currently lobbying the government and advocating for reparations, particularly for victims of war, while also actively promoting women's involvement in peace negotiations. According to the survey, almost half of the women interviewed have enhanced their skills in peacebuilding through participation in conferences such as "Out of the Shadow," "Women Leaders Arise," "Women Leaders, Peace Brokers," and "For Women's Sake Justice Can't-Wait." This increased engagement is leading to a more significant societal role for

83%
of the women leaders who were interviewed during the survey reported that their knowledge of peace-building agendas has expanded, leading to more meaningful participation on their part.

women. For instance, women are now better equipped to maintain impartiality and avoid bias in conflict mediation and resolution. They are also adept at ensuring that all parties involved feel satisfied with the outcomes of negotiations, thus fostering readiness to address various conflicts with their unique challenges.

1.1.9 Changing attitudes towards women

There has been a notable increase in the acceptance of women's participation in community affairs and leadership roles. The community's more significant appreciation of women's involvement signifies a shift towards more gender-sensitive and peaceful societies, contributing to sustainable peace and economic growth. Women's increased participation in decision-making, both at home and in the broader community, is a testament to their growing influence and the successful reduction of gender-based violence.

"We see changes gradually occur at the community level; there is a newfound recognition and respect for women's involvement in leadership and decision-making, and there is now a greater sense of a shift towards more gender-sensitive and positive gender norms. Women are now viewed more positively, respected, and appreciated for contributing to community conflict prevention mechanisms and dialogue for conflict resolution" said Sofia Nangiro the Coordinator of Karamoja Women in Mining and Peace in Moroto District.

These changes directly result from women learning about their rights and engaging in project activities. Community conflict prevention mechanisms and dialogues for conflict resolution have also led to a reduction in gender-based violence both within households and at the community level.

The current societal shift towards granting women equal rights carries significant importance, especially in a society that remains predominantly patriarchal. Although granting women legal recognition is a critical step forward, it is essential to acknowledge that it doesn't guarantee

automatic acceptance or appreciation. This transition is significant because women can actively assert and uphold their rights while earning and maintaining the respect of their families and the broader community.

"Sometimes when meetings are called, men can send their wives as representatives to attend the meeting on their behalf." (Woman leader from the Taskforce)

Efforts are underway to empower women within their families, with a focus on enhancing their participation in household decision-making and granting them control over household assets, incomes, and expenses. Initially, there was limited understanding of how power dynamics influenced decision-making within families. However, through conferences and grassroots initiatives, women have gained a deeper understanding of how power relations are often gendered, leading to positive changes within communities.

The increased visibility of women in public spaces has enabled them to contribute to community restructuring, play a more active role in traditional decision-making processes, and influence community development initiatives. In areas like Lira and Gulu, programs such as the Parish Development Model and Local Action Plans are being implemented. These initiatives provide women's groups with financial access, which has significantly improved their economic well-being and reduced instances of gender-based violence, as women are now better able to meet their family's needs.

“Awareness campaigns on legal rights has encouraged protection of rights because community leaders and members are informed of their rights and responsibilities and can make informed decisions”



Atim Genevieve

Representative of Centre for Women and Children's Reintegration (CEWOCHR), Lira

High-level commitments:

1. **Ms. Lucy Ladira, Advisor in the Criminal Justice, Law and Order sector at the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs**, discussed the drivers of conflict and access to justice for survivors and victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). She highlighted the actions the Ugandan government is taking and the resources available for victims and survivors of GBV and SGBV. These include specialized units such as the Child and Family Protection Unit, the Sexual Gender-Based Violence Unit, and the Sexual Gender-Based Officer at every police station.
2. **Idi Mayanja, Principal Women Development Officer at the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development**, outlined the significant progress made in their gender-based violence programming. He mentioned that their goal is to reduce the national prevalence of GBV to 40% by 2026 by addressing two critical causes: poverty and negative social norms.
3. **Hon. Grace Kwiycwiny, Minister for Northern Uganda**, emphasized that although peace has been achieved and the guns are silent, healing is still needed. She is committed to fostering stronger partnerships to ensure that the voices of women survivors of conflict are supported through effective economic empowerment and education programs.



Peacebuilding and conflict prevention engagement

The peacebuilding and conflict prevention dialogue during the Uganda 3 conference titled “Women leaders, Peace brokers” brought together 75 participants, with women making up 47% of the attendance building capacity of women grassroots leaders in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. These women leaders, predominantly from survivor-led groups, joined male participants representing Civil Society Organizations

“When a woman is mediating she assures both parties of protection, peace and love for one another because they think about the welfare of every family member and human beings in general and this has made the men to have positive mindset about women leadership, gone are the days when men use to think that women’s roles is within the docket of the kitchen. Men have begun to accept that women are not weak but are equally relevant in terms of bringing peace.”



Catherine Laker,
Director of Jeremiah Lucas Opira
Foundation, Kitgum.

The dialogue was instrumental in bringing together diverse voices and perspectives on peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Encouragingly, half of the women leaders who responded to our survey after the conference now report an enriched understanding of conflict prevention and mediation, a crucial step toward peacebuilding at personal, community, and national levels.

2.1 Key Learnings and Outcomes from the Conference

2.1.1 Women Leading the Way

80% of women leaders and survivors are actively engaged in peacebuilding efforts at various levels, managing domestic conflicts and contributing to the stability of their wider communities. At the heart of their homes and communities, these women have played a crucial role in transforming people’s attitudes; they have advocated for harmony and influenced both men and women to embrace peace. As a result, their efforts have led to a shift in perspective among both women and men, paving the way for a community that values and accepts the positive influence of women. Women have also developed their skills as negotiators, tactfully and diplomatically addressing conflicts to avoid violence and escalation.

2.1.2 Knowledge Sharing as Empowerment

During the dialogue, participants stressed the need for ongoing training to stay abreast of new challenges arising from political instability, corruption, and cultural barriers. Access to justice for women remains a complex issue, with many women finding it difficult to navigate complex legal processes and confront corruption and limited funding for gender-based violence (GBV) cases.

However, women have recognized that improving their legal knowledge can empower them to overcome these barriers. Nearly half of the women leaders feel more knowledgeable about accessing justice, a testament to the workshops’ value.

Community involvement is at the heart of the Access to Justice movement. These women leaders are leading awareness-raising efforts that are key to educating and motivating the communities to expect and demand tangible actions from their government. Because while it is the responsibility of national and local governments to provide social services and maintain justice, law, and order, communities must take the lead in advocating for change. This means the community must take the initiative to improve service provision and judicial procedures. When communities are engaged, they become active participants and not just passive recipients of services. They are empowered to identify their needs, voice their concerns, and come together to fight against issues such as SGBV. Communities must have the knowledge to demand government action.

These women leaders can now also engage with relevant government agencies to make them more aware of women’s realities and to impress upon them the need to make their procedures easier for women to access the justice system and obtain the legal assistance they need.

GWED-G works closely with relevant government agencies and bodies to improve and streamline the legal processes. By collaborating with these entities, we aim to make legal proceedings more accessible to individuals. This involves identifying areas where the legal system can be improved, introducing innovative solutions, and working

towards greater transparency and fairness in the legal system. Ultimately, we aim to make it easier for people to access the justice system and obtain the legal assistance they need.

2.1.3 Building awareness of conflict prevention policies

Awareness of policies and legislation about conflict prevention and peace mediation, like the Uganda National Transitional Justice Policy 2019 and UNSCR 1325 and 1820, has grown, showcasing women's increasing awareness of their rights and the means to uphold them. Our workshops have empowered women with knowledge about policies and laws, with 25% of women leaders in our survey being able to cite specific policies, including the MAPUTO Protocol, Transitional Justice Act, Domestic Violence Act 2010, United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation, The Torture Act, The Children's Act, and the Amnesty Act.

2.1.4 Reuniting families and promoting healing

The FACER module training that was conducted in 2023 under the Uganda 3 program empowered 15 women across the Acholi sub-region with peacebuilding and conflict-resolution skills. Participants reported supporting the successful reconciliation and reintegration of families through mediation. This fosters familial bonds and contributes to psychological well-being and a sense of belonging, particularly for those children born of war with troubled childhoods. Such initiatives align with the National Action Plan III, aimed at equipping grassroots leaders with skills in mediation and peacebuilding.

“There are many challenges in being involved in peace mediation in my community for example men remain very defensive when it comes to talk about GBV at family household in Karamoja. Or on the woman's perspective, when it comes to violation of human rights, they do not open easily, they still fear to come up and talk.”



Naylor Joyce Gloria,
Coordinator at TOBARI,
Moroto

2.1.5 Economic empowerment and reduced conflict

Economic empowerment has been a focus for 57.5% of women leaders from the workshops. They have enhanced the economic self-sufficiency of mothers of children born in captivity during the LRA conflict. Having opportunities to earn income and assistance in using their skills has reduced these mothers' economic vulnerability and lessened household tensions due to financial constraints. This also enables them to care for their children and meet their basic needs.

Women leaders' initiatives have also focused on facilitating the reintegration of these mothers and their children born in captivity into the community. Such initiatives have led to meetings with key stakeholders, such as justice, law and order society, clan leaders, political and opinion leaders such as the State minister for Northern Uganda, Minister of Justice and constitutional affairs Hon Norbert Mao, former MP for Gulu municipality Hon Lyandro Komakech, Woman MP Balmoi, Speaker of Omoro district and Resident City Commissioner and Councilor 5 of Gulu district. Together, they participated in addressing issues of mothers and their children born in captivity. For example, the Gulu District Local Government has responded by developing by-laws to combat the stigmatization of survivors and the mobilization of survivors into community groups to receive support through income-generating activities. This economic empowerment has not only met basic needs but also restored confidence in survivors who previously faced discrimination.



2.1.6 Improved service delivery and advocacy for female victims of war:

Following the conferences conducted under Uganda 4 program titles “For women’s Sake, justice can’t wait”, 87% of participants have been actively delivering services in their regions, all aimed at improving the lives of women who are war victims and advocating for their rights and access to justice. Through these women leaders’ initiatives, survivors can access a wide range of services that cater to their needs, ranging from counseling and psycho-social support, skill-building in various trades, sharing of lived experiences, legal aid, help advocating for land rights, support in achieving economic independence, guidance in starting a micro business, referral services, access to a safe space for those who have experienced gender-based violence, and material aid exclusively for those living with HIV. Their efforts are reshaping and improving outreach and support for women and girls’ access to justice.

Commitments at the national level include:

Commitments at the national level have been made to address the challenges faced by survivors of the war. The state minister for Northern Uganda, Hon. Grace Kwiwucwiny, has taken steps to improve the registration process for national identity cards for Children Born of War (CBoW).

The Irish Ambassador, Kevin Colgan, reaffirmed his support for addressing gaps at the community level. He also emphasized the importance of prioritizing the Trust Fund for survivors of the war, even as the echoes of conflict fade.

2.1.7 Transforming community perceptions through grassroots legal advocacy

Grassroots knowledge dissemination concerning legal safeguards in marriage and land access is already proving effective in altering community perceptions of women’s rights, particularly in areas where traditionally embedded patriarchal socio-cultural norms, which give preferential treatment to males vis-à-vis females, still pose a significant challenge. There is an expectation for women to shoulder all domestic responsibilities and family obligations. However, in the Karamoja region, women leaders actively dismantle deep-rooted stereotypes and societal burdens traditionally imposed on women.

The impact of war and conflicts has led to significant changes in family and community dynamics. As women take on more economic responsibilities and assume a more prominent role in communities, men are witnessing a shift in their traditional masculine identities. Some men respond to this shift by abandoning their household duties to reassert personal power over women. As a result, women’s workload has increased as they continue to juggle their family obligations with the new economic roles they face as they strive for a better future for themselves and their families.

Catalyzing Change Through the Women Arise Movement

The “Women Leaders Arise” conference conducted on 12 August 2022 under the Uganda 2 program drew participation from over 100 women across 11 districts in the Greater North Region, including Teso, Karamoja, Lango, Acholi, and West Nile sub-regions. This initial phase sparked a call to action for strengthening leadership roles for women and capturing the attention of government and policymakers.



“To participate in the Women, arise conference has strengthened my leadership and gave me courage to stand firm in front of people and advocate for my fellow women. I can also now see, during budget process, where to fix women issues in it.”



Adoch Jennifer,
Amuru District Councilor 5,
Amuru

3.1 Key Learnings and Outcomes from the Conference

3.1.1 Amplifying grassroots women's voices

Grassroots women have discovered the power of unity over isolated efforts, leading to amplified impact and reduced duplication of work. This sense of solidarity has reinforced their identity as part of a collective movement, regardless of their organizational affiliations. There has been a noticeable rise in women leaders who confidently engage with the public and policymakers to transform societal attitudes. The conference has boosted their confidence, fostering an environment where women at the grassroots level can raise their voices.

“I'm now able to work together with women and speak for the voiceless and became a stronger partner in advocating for women's rights by raising women up and continuously educating people about the women's movement” (Adongo Elizabeth, Chairperson of Obalanga Women Peace)

In Lira District, for instance, Jane Ekayu, a task force member, leveraged this momentum to organize a significant event during which issues affecting the girl child were tabled before ministers, members of parliament, and dignitaries a critical meeting was held between Ugandan policymakers and women survivor leaders to push for the national Transitional Justice Policy implementation by parliamentarians and the Ministry of Gender.

3.1.2 Women Driving Governance and Advocacy at the Grassroots

The movement has identified women's leadership as a pivotal force in driving change, enabling more women to step into roles of governance and accountability since the project's inception.

There has been a significant increase in women's involvement in leadership roles at both local and district levels using a scale of 1–5 to 4–5 ratio. Women interviewed have played vital roles in various positions, such as chairpersons, school board members, councilors, mediators, peace committee members, and task force members to prevent conflict, peacebuilding, and GBV. Their roles include advocacy, conducting legal awareness campaigns, building the agency of women and girls, participating in coordination meetings, working closely with local government and leaders, and engaging with regional stakeholders to uphold victims' rights. This involvement has led to a greater understanding of rights and responsibilities, resulting in more informed and gender-sensitive decisions within communities.

3.1.3 Women Shaping Peace and Security

Women are increasingly participating in decision-making platforms related to women, peace, and security, advocating for women's rights, and engaging with policymakers. These conferences have underscored the need for advocacy and funding for women's issues, sparking collaborations with various stakeholders. Their participation in decision-making has extended to platforms at all levels. Nationally, they engage with local government stakeholders and parliamentarians, they participate in councils and conferences; regionally, they utilize digital media and workshops to advocate for women's issues, leading to more comprehensive gender mainstreaming in policies. Women's participation at the decision-making table has empowered them to influence policy formulation. Through organizations like FIDA Uganda and WORUDET, women have impacted laws such as the

Domestic Violence Act, sharing perspectives and mobilizing affected women and girls to voice their experiences to legislators. At the community level, organizations such as the Women Democratic Network provide legal training, and women partake in advocacy individually, achieving a 100% engagement rate in this survey.

100%

At the community level, organizations such as the Women Democratic Network provide legal training, and women partake in advocacy individually, achieving a 100% engagement rate in this survey.

3.1.4 Raising visibility of women's plight:

Awareness of the challenges faced by women survivors has grown through engagement with stakeholders and victim groups, leading to initiatives that meet women's needs. Women leaders have shed light on these issues through conferences, Women's Day celebrations, and round table meetings with policymakers. In the Eastern region, assessments have improved the acceptance of formerly abducted individuals, and reconciliation efforts have promoted social cohesion among families, especially for children born in captivity.

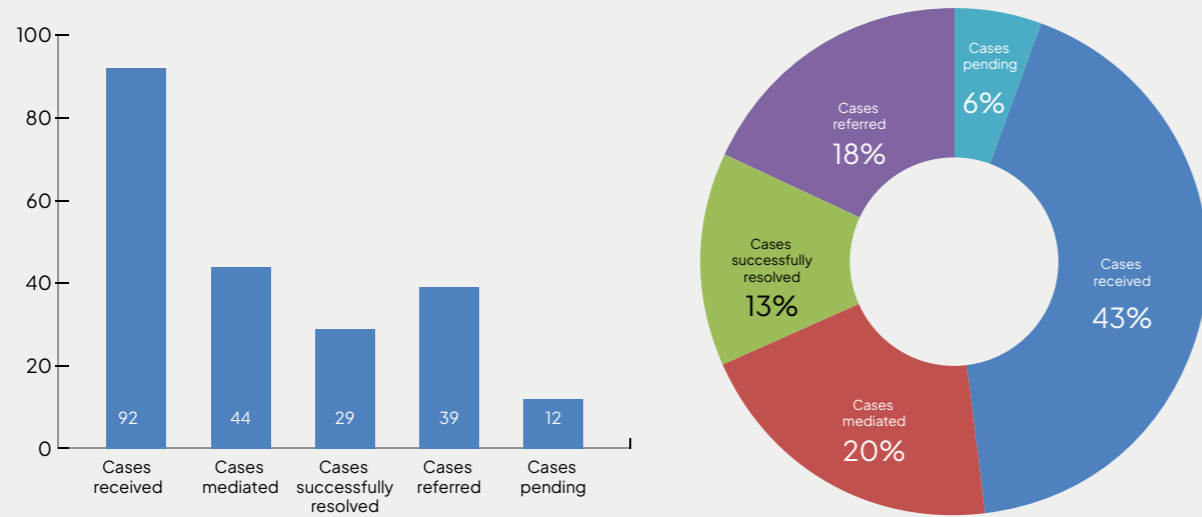
Through these efforts, the Women's Arise Movement is shaping a future where women's voices lead the charge in societal transformation and policy reform.

Commitments at the national level include:

1. The Principal Gender Officer of the Ministry of Gender and Development confirmed that the Ministry has funds allocated for capacity-building activities for women leaders. Additionally, if community issues arise due to a lack of policy, the Ministry will step in to provide assistance.
2. A speaker from Gulu City Council expressed willingness to forward the conference's petition to Parliament, advocating for increased support for women-led organizations and greater representation of women in decision-making processes.
3. Hon. Betty Aol Ochan, Member of Parliament for Gulu City, announced the recent acquisition of an ambulance dedicated to emergencies involving women leaders. She emphasized that her communication in Parliament would prioritize women, particularly concerning maternal health.
4. Lillian Papanu, Member of Parliament, highlighted the slow implementation of the Transitional Justice (TJ) policy due to the absence of a necessary law. She is committed to building a new movement with emerging actors to garner political will and push for the enactment of the TJ law. This was a verbal commitment made during the visit to the Parliament of Uganda and engagement with members of the Greater North Parliamentary Forum (GNPF).

Appendices

Appendix 1 – GBV Cases Received, Mediated, Resolved, Referred and Pending



Cases Mediated

- Unlawful sale of land by husband
- Teenage pregnancy
- Child marriage
- Conflicts between Parents and teenage daughters
- Domestic Violence
- Child Neglect
- Land conflicts(boundaries)

Appendix 2) List of women interviewed

1	Alaroker Linda	Local Government	DP Speaker	Nwoya
2	Awor Stella Grace	Women in action for women	ED	Gulu
3	Adongo Elizabeth	Obalanga Women Peace	Chairperson	Kapelebyong
4	Elizabeth Alyano	CEWOCHR	ED	Lira
5	Akong Jackline	ACT	ED	Gulu City
6	Nyaga Jeneth	Local Government	Chairperson Women Council	Gulu City
7	Adoch Jennifer	Amuru	DLCV	Amuru
8	Achola Joyce Assimwe	Adowol	Cordinator	Lamwo
9	Anena Lily Grace	Dii Cwinyi child Mother	Chair person	Amuru
10	Margaret A. Elem	LFCLA	ED	Lira
11	Perry Anthna	Women democratic network	ED	Kampala
12	Amodoi Teko Regina	Women councillor	Cordinator	Moroto
13	Rita. H. Aciro Lakor	UWONET	ED	Kampala
14	Atibuni ROSE	West Nile Women 4	Cordinator	Arua City
15	Kipwola Susan	Local Government	women Councilor	Gulu
16	Nayor Joyce Gloria	TOBARI	Cordinator	Moroto
17	Ajio Vicky	NAWUO Network	Woman Leader	Madiokollo
18	Amoy Evaline	Women Advocacy Network	ED	Gulu
19	Akullo Betty	WORUDET	ED	KITGUM
20	Achiro Beatrice Okeny	Northern Uganda women and children initiatives(NUWECHI)	ED	KITGUM
21	Lalam Stella	War Victim Children Networking	Director	Gulu
22	Okot Beatrice	Royal Women of Faith and Trust	Probono Coordinator	Karenga
23	Nangiro Sophie	Karamoja Women's Association	Cordinator	Karamoja
24	Apolot Stella	Katakwi women group	ED	Katakwi
25	Itola Doreen	Lwala Girls Abducted survivors Association	Cordinator	Soroti
26	Alilim Joyce	Kalaki District Women Association	ED	Kalaki
27	Abalo Christine Otim	Northern Uganda women and children initiative	ED	Kitgum
28	Jane Ekayu	Children of Peace Uganda	Coordinator	Lira City
29	Laker Catherine	Jeremiah Lucas Opira Foundation Uganda	ED	Kitgum
30	Aol Sarah	WAN- Okonwa women group	Woman survivor	Pader
31	Auo Beatrice	WAN - Amapara women group	ED	Adjumani
32	Neno Jesca	Women activist	ED	Gulu City
33	Canogura Gladys	Kitgum Women Peace Initiative	ED	Kitgum
34	Anena Lilly Grace	Dii Cwinyi mothers group	Woman survivor	Amuru

Appendix 3) questionnaire
EVALUATION QUESTIONS ON PEACE BUILDING, CONFLICT PREVENTION, REFFERAL PATHWAY AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN UGANDA.

PROFILE

Name:				
Title				
I'm a (please select)	women survivor	women leader		
Organization :				
District :				
Region (please select)	Acholi	Lango	Karamoja	West-Nile

1. Have you been trained on or participated in any conference organized by this project?

	Type of Training/ conference	Lessons learnt	What do you do differently now as a result of the above training/ conference?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

- a. If Yes, what have you learned on Transitional Justice ?
- b. What have you learned on the Peace-building agenda ?

2. What have you learned on the access to justice for women ?

3. What valuable personal skills/knowledge have you gained and is being used in your families, work and communities;

	at Family Level	at Work Space	at Community Level	At any other level
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

- 4. What activities do you/your organization organize related to peace building, conflict prevention and transitional justice ?
 - a. Tell us about the positive experiences resulting from your involvement in these activities.
 - b. Tell us about any gaps experienced resulting from your involvement in these activities.
- 5. Do you believe that you are better informed on conflict prevention and mediation now? If Yes
 - a. What can you do now that you couldn't do before ? Please explain.
 - b. How many cases of conflicts have you mediated? How many have been successfully mediated? How many have you referred? And How many are still pending?

Number of Cases Received	Number of Cases Mediated	Number of Cases Successfully done	Number of Cases Referred	Number of Cases Pending

- 6. Did new challenges emerge since you gained knowledge after the conference? If Yes what kind of challenges
 - a. What kind of training/support you think can be helpful now to address those challenges?
- 7. State key leadership roles that you play at local and district levels in peace or mediation.
- 8. What roles do you/your organization play in advancing Uganda's peace, security and transitional justice agenda ?
- 9. Do you know any policy or law on conflict prevention and peace mediation ? please name it
 - a. If yes, have you contributed in influencing the decision-making process of those policies or laws ? If yes, how ?
- 10. How many decision-making platforms on women, peace and security do you have access to and participated in it?;

	Number of Platforms	Category of Platform
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

11. Have you received any other training on the TJ and Peace-building agenda ? From who ?
 - Access to resources for women
 - GBV
 - Land Conflicts
12. Do you believe that the involvement of women in Peace Building activities can change the way men think about or relate with women? If yes, how?
13. Do you believe that the involvement of women in Peace Building activities can change the way women think about or relate to men ?
14. Do you believe that the involvement of women in Peace-building activities can change social perception of women’s roles and gender relations?
15. How do you/your organization help women to be reintegrated in the communities ?
Stand together with a woman during her challenges of life
16. How do you/your organization help the children to be integrated in the communities ?
Advocacy at schools and talk to girls about teenage pregnancy
17. How do you/you organization address the issue of stigma around women survivors and children born of war ?
 - a. Reported the cases of people spearheading stigma to the LC and the LC talked to them and this stopped
18. What’s your understanding of reparation for victims/survivors ?
 - a. Have you participated in any government program or frameworks, to ensure greater responsiveness in the provision of remedial reparations for victims and survivors;
19. What services are available for women survivors that are close to you ? Are they reliable and how?
 - a. AT sub-county -Parish model challenged by corruption
20. Do you/your organization provide services for women survivors ?
 - a. Give loans
21. How have been able to improve service provision since the conference ?
 - a. If Yes, how many cases of GBV have your reported ? How many have been mediated by you/your

organization? How many have been successfully resolved? How many have you referred? And How many are still pending?

Number of Cases Received	Number of Cases Mediated by me / my organization	Number of Cases Successfully resolved	Number of Cases Referred	Number od Cases Pending

22. In your opinion, to what extent did the projects strengthen the capacity of women survivors and grassroots leaders, to respond, prevent and manage conflict, as well as respond to GBV in your Region

	Respond to Conflict	Prevent Conflict	Manage Conflict	Respond to GBV
1				
2				
3				
4				

23. In your opinion, how responsive were the training’s or conferences attended, on the conflict dynamics, i.e. did they adapt to emerging socio-economic and political developments in the country ? in other words did they correspond to the needs in your region ?

23. Is there anything else you want to share ?

Appendix 4.



Women leaders from the Task force that were part of the Delegation Team

From left to right : **Elizabeth Alyano** - Executive director of Center for Women and Children's reintegration (Cewochr), **Beatrice Okot** - Royal women of Faith and Trust, **Sylvia Acan** - Golden women vision in Uganda, **Sophie Nangiro** - Karamoja Women's association.



The Delegation Team with the Minister of Northern Uganda, Grace Kwiyuwinyi.



The Delegation team

From top left : Hon. Lyandro Komakech, Senior Attorney – At law, Komakech and Associates, Former MP, Lorraine Smith van Lin - Executive Director Tallawah Justice for Women, Beatrice Okot - Royal women of Faith and Trust, Olympia Bekou – Nottingham University School of Law, Elizabeth Alyano - Executive director of Center for Women and Children's reintegration (Cewochr).
From bottom left : Sara Cucci - PGH student at the University of Nottingham, Charlotte Ziegler – Gender & Technical Advisor at GWED-G, Pamela Angwech – Executive Director GWED-G.



The Delegation team at Parliament – Kampala



Lorraine Smith van Lin and Olympia Bekou with the 15 women from the Task Force



The Delegation Team with the Irish Ambassador, HE Kevin Colgan.



The Delegation Team with the Irish Ambassador, HE Kevin Colgan.



The Delegation Team with Idi Mayanja, Principal Women Development Officer at the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development



pictures

