

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

20
YEARS
ANNIVERSARY



GWED-G
Gulu Women's Economic
Development & Globalization



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ABBREVIATIONS

GWED-G	Gulu Women Economic Development and Globalization
CBOW	Children Born of War
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
UWONET	Uganda Women's Network
PEP	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
PMI	President's Malaria Initiative
WOGP	Wheel of Good Practice
ANC	Antenatal Care
TBAs	Traditional Birth Attendants
PDM	Parish Development Model
NUSAF	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund
URA	Uganda Revenue Authority
URSB	Uganda Registration Services Bureau

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

DEAR FRIENDS,

The Gulu Women Economic Development and Globalization (GWED-G) extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the achievements outlined in this 2024 Annual Report.

First, we deeply thank our donors and funding partners for their unwavering support and generosity. We acknowledge the significant contributions from DIAKONIA Sweden, USAID, the European Union, the German Government through GIZ, ICTJ, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, CARITAS Switzerland, OXFAM, The National Endowment for Democracy, CIVFUND Zishaye, The American Jewish World Service, Avocats Sans Frontières, Eirene Suisse, The University of Nottingham and Tallawah Justice for Women, whose shared vision for justice and equality has enabled us to drive impactful change across Northern Uganda. Your partnership and trust in our mission empower us to continue advocating for human rights, gender equality, and community resilience.

We express profound appreciation to our dedicated staff and volunteers, whose tireless efforts and passion for systemic change have been the backbone of our programs. Your commitment to our mission is both inspiring and transformative.

We are equally grateful to our valued partners, including local governments, cultural leaders, religious institutions, and civil society organizations, for collaborating with us in amplifying our advocacy for gender equity, inclusive governance, and community development.

Special recognition goes to the women, youth, and grassroots communities who courageously lead and participate in our initiatives. Your resilience and determination to champion human rights and advocate for systemic change remain a driving force behind our achievements.

Finally, we thank all stakeholders and well-wishers who continue to support GWED-G's journey toward equitable, peaceful, and thriving communities. Together, we are creating a brighter and more inclusive future.

Sincerely

STRATEGIC FOCUS 1 - GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Context Analysis of Gender Aspects in Northern Uganda in 2024

In 2024, Gulu Women Economic Development and Globalization (GWED-G) continued its mission to promote human rights and gender equality in Northern Uganda. The organization faced several challenges that influenced its operations and strategic focus

Reparations and Transitional Justice: The International Criminal Court's reparations order in the Dominic Ongwen case highlighted the need for comprehensive support for war victims. The Ugandan government's lack of a dedicated reparations program necessitated GWED-G's involvement in advocating for and supporting victims, particularly women and children born of war.

Children Born of War: GWED-G addressed the stigma and discrimination faced by children born during the LRA conflict. Collaborating with organizations like Tallawah Justice for Women and the University of Nottingham, GWED-G organized events to discuss reintegration challenges, access to national identification, and land rights for these individuals.

Role Model Men Program: GWED-G expanded its initiatives to engage men in promoting women's rights. The program trained male community leaders to challenge harmful gender norms, support girls' education, and reduce gender-based violence. This approach fostered positive masculinity and improved community dynamics.

Advocacy and Partnerships: GWED-G collaborated with networks like the Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) and Mission Uganda to launch campaigns such as the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. These partnerships amplified their advocacy efforts and strengthened community engagement.

Throughout 2024, GWED-G remained committed to empowering women and addressing the complex gender issues in Northern Uganda, adapting its strategies to meet emerging challenges and leveraging collaborations to enhance its impact.

Donors



PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS & GENDER EQUALITY

PROJECT 1 - PROMOTING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES IN KITGUM DISTRICT (OCTOBER 2023- AUGUST 2024)

Context

GWED-G in partnership with GIZ under Governance and Civil Society strengthening programme is implemented a project with funding from the European Union and German government. The project targeted women leaders (women councillors, women council, grass root women leaders and women headed community based organizations). The project targeted Kitgum district, subcounties of Labongo Layamo and Kitgum Matidi. The context was, was characterized by limited information on local government planning and budgeting, limited commitments to attend to gender and equity issues resulting from inadequate skills, most women hardly attended meetings and not all understand the basic concepts of gender including policy implementation. Women participation and influence in the planning cycle of local government remains poor and less effective especially amongst grassroots women. This was mainly due to low civic capacity and agency in women, lack of deliberate efforts to mobilize and engage women in the planning cycles, limited interface between women structures, leaders and women population, and gender norms and roles. These factors leave only a few women to participate in available spaces and make minimal inputs in the plans and budgets of sub-counties and districts.

GWED-G's intervention (Outputs)

- Mapped and documented existing women structures in Kitgum Matidi, Labongo Layamo and Kitgum district. This provided community and other stakeholders knowledge and a reference point of the women structures which are being used for mobilization of women to participate in planning and budgeting processes at the local government.
- 5 dialogues were successfully conducted on planning and budgeting processes, which contributed to enhanced knowledge of 322 women in gender responsive planning and budgeting.
- Enhanced knowledge of community members through 5 radio talkshows 2 at Mighty fire FM and 3 at Tembo FM in Kitgum district. Callers feedback indicate knowledge gained on the local government planning and budgeting processes.



IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

Improved attitude and willingness to participate in district and sub-county level planning and budgeting processes by women .

Increased level of influence of women in the planning and budgeting processes of district and sub county levels.

The community members and the local leaders gained knowledge, GBV concepts, solution to GBV and ways of addressing/mediating GBV cases.



Challenges encountered

High expectation of monetary gain by some participants during the sessions, when clarification was made by the project team on their expectations they settled for the sensitization and became more active in the process.

Lessons learnt

The project team learnt that the community members have inadequate information on local government

planning and budgeting processes and did not know that they were supposed to participate and this posed a need to continuously create awareness on the need.

Future perspectives

The project team engaged the District community Development officer and Senior CDO to technically support the projectand as the Subcounty level, the CDOs are actively engaged in the project activities. The project is working with government and cultural leaders structures such as the VSLA groups, women council members and women leaders in the event that the project phases out,they will continue to further the goals.

The proposed project will also be sustained through other GWED-G governance and Human rights project by in cooperating some activities such as awareness and policy advocacy as well as the grassroots structures whom GWED-G will fully engage during the planning and implementation of the project.



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**WOMEN WITH BETTER
KNOWLEDGE IN GENDER
RESPONSIVE PLANNING
AND BUDGETING.**

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS & GENDER EQUALITY

PROJECT 2 - PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER-SENSITIVE CULTURE FOR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTING COMMUNITIES OF NORTHERN UGANDA

Context

In Northern Uganda, harmful traditional practices have perpetuated gender-based violence (GBV) and discrimination, limiting women and girls' access to and control over productive resources like land. Vulnerable groups, including widows, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, faced land dispossession due to weak enforcement of land rights. Community disputes often escalated due to the absence of effective conflict resolution mechanisms. Male dominance in decision-making further suppressed women's participation in governance and household economic activities. To address these challenges, GWED-G leveraged alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and community engagement strategies to advocate for gender equality and strengthen women's land rights.

GWED-G's intervention (Outputs)

GWED-G implemented targeted interventions to address gender inequality and enhance community conflict resolution mechanisms. Through community awareness initiatives, four sensitization meetings were held in Agung, Okii, Elegu II, and Ariaga villages, educating 333 participants (167 females and 166 males) on the causes and effects of gender-based violence (GBV) and the availability of referral services. These sessions empowered survivors to access medical, psychological, and legal support. Additionally, GWED-G mediated 25 land disputes across Pabbo, Koch Goma, Bobi, Anaka, Alero, Patiko, and Amuru sub-counties, recovering approximately 250 acres of land and returning it to vulnerable individuals. This intervention ensured peaceful resolutions and promoted equitable land ownership. Furthermore, GWED-G engaged men in gender advocacy by training community role models and cultural leaders to challenge harmful gender norms and advocate against GBV. These male champions actively participated in mediation efforts, conflict resolution, and survivor support services, fostering a more inclusive and supportive community environment.



IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

The impact of GWED-G's interventions has been significant, particularly in transforming gender relations and protecting land rights in Northern Uganda. Community dialogues on gender equality and positive masculinity have led to increased male advocacy for women's rights. Many men now support their spouses in decision-making processes related to reproductive health and household resources. This shift has resulted in 30 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) being chaired by women, with several women securing leadership positions. For instance, Mrs. Akot Margaret now serves as Women Councilor and heads the Works and Technical Services Department in Patiko Sub-county. Additionally, 22 vulnerable individuals, including widows and persons with disabilities, successfully reclaimed approximately 250 hectares of land through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms. This restoration of land rights has improved food security and economic empowerment, as landowners have resumed farming and income generation from agricultural sales. Moreover, the provision of psychological and medical support services has enhanced the well-being of 90 GBV survivors. Of these, 61 received psychosocial support (PSS), while 29 were referred for medical treatment. Timely referrals ensured that survivors of sexual violence accessed post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), reducing the risk of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Beneficiaries reported improved family relations and social reintegration, highlighting the project's positive impact on their lives.

Mrs. Akot Margrate who is a group member of Kica Ber VSLA group currently occupies the position of women councilor and was appointed by the Chairperson LCIII for Patiko sub-county to lead the works and technical services department of Patiko sub-county.



Challenges encountered

Despite these successes, GWED-G encountered several challenges during the implementation of its interventions. Cultural resistance to gender equality remains a significant barrier, as some cultural leaders and community members fear a loss of male authority. This resistance has hindered the full acceptance of gender equality initiatives in certain areas. Additionally, limited male participation has been observed, with some men hesitating to engage in advocacy due to social norms that discourage gender-inclusive leadership and decision-making. These challenges underscore the need for continued efforts to address deep-rooted cultural beliefs and promote broader community engagement in gender equality initiatives.

Future perspectives

GWED-G will continue strengthening partnerships with local government and community structures, including cultural and religious leaders, role model men, and case managers. The focus will remain on land rights protection, GBV prevention, and promoting gender-sensitive policies to ensure sustainable community transformation.

STRATEGIC FOCUS 2 - PEACEBUILDING & TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Context Analysis of Peacebuilding and Transitional Justice in Northern Uganda in 2024

In 2024, Gulu Women Economic Development and Globalization (GWED-G) continued to play a pivotal role in advancing women's rights and empowerment in Northern Uganda. As a grassroots organization, GWED-G focuses on transforming rural communities through various initiatives.

Empowering Women and Girls: GWED-G remained committed to empowering women and girls by enhancing institutional and technical capacities, building strong community-based models for women's empowerment, and fostering strategic partnerships.

Peacebuilding and Human Rights: The organization continued to focus on peacebuilding and addressing human rights concerns, particularly for women and individuals returning to their communities post-conflict.

Economic Development: GWED-G promoted innovative and gender-responsive agricultural activities to attract the involvement of women and youth, providing training to program beneficiaries to enhance their economic opportunities.

Advocacy and Capacity Building: The organization worked to strengthen women's leadership and participation in decision-making processes at local, regional, and national levels, enhancing women's agency and contributing to their enjoyment of fundamental human rights.

Through these efforts, GWED-G continued to address the complex challenges faced by women in Northern Uganda, contributing significantly to peacebuilding and transitional justice in the region.

Donors



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Nottingham
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PEACEBUILDING & TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

PROJECT 3 - SUPPORTING RIGHTS DEFENDERS FOR IMPROVED SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND FIGHTING CORRUPTION

Context

In the districts of Nwoya, Amuru, Gulu, and Lamwo in Northern Uganda, systemic corruption, human rights abuses, and poor service delivery were prevalent. Communities faced challenges such as land disputes, gender-based violence (GBV), and limited access to quality education and healthcare. Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) lacked the capacity to effectively monitor, document, and report these issues, while community members were unaware of their rights and unable to hold duty bearers accountable. This created a cycle of impunity, poor governance, and deteriorating public services, exacerbating poverty and inequality in the region.



GWED-G's intervention - Outputs

To address the systemic corruption, human rights abuses, and poor service delivery in Northern Uganda, GWED-G implemented a multifaceted intervention strategy. A key component of the intervention was capacity building, where 70 Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) received refresher training on digital security, mental health, and self-care. This training enhanced their ability to effectively monitor, document, and report human rights violations and governance failures. Additionally, community engagement was prioritized through eight community awareness meetings and eight social accountability (Barraza) meetings, which educated local populations on human rights, land rights, and the importance of demanding quality service delivery. Monitoring and advocacy efforts were also strengthened, with ten schools and four health centers assessed to identify service delivery gaps, the findings of which were used to advocate for necessary improvements. Furthermore, media outreach played a crucial role in amplifying awareness, with two radio talk shows and multiple spot messages aired to educate the wider public on human rights and anti-corruption measures. To directly address cases of injustice, HRDs facilitated the resolution of 76 gender-based violence (GBV) cases and 95 land disputes through local councils and traditional leaders. These interventions collectively empowered HRDs and communities to foster accountability, demand better governance, and enhance service delivery in the targeted districts.



70

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (HRDs) RECEIVED REFRESHER TRAINING ON DIGITAL SECURITY, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SELF-CARE



76

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) CASES RESOLVED

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

The interventions implemented by GWED-G led to notable improvements in social accountability and service delivery. A significant impact was observed in case reporting, as Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) documented and reported 346 cases related to murder, GBV, land disputes, and assault. Out of these, 171 cases were successfully resolved at the community level, while others were referred to relevant authorities for further action. The mental health support provided to HRDs also proved beneficial, as they applied their training to manage both personal and community mental health challenges, leading to four individuals being referred for specialized treatment. The collaboration between HRDs, local government authorities, and GWED-G was strengthened through district protection working group meetings, which facilitated better coordination and improved responsiveness from duty bearers. Community empowerment was another key outcome, with 657 individuals (448 men and 209 women) gaining the confidence and knowledge to demand accountability and report violations. In terms of service delivery, monitoring efforts led to tangible improvements, including the construction of new classrooms and latrines in primary schools, as well as enhancements in health facility infrastructure. Additionally, community dialogues helped mitigate tensions in conflict-prone areas, enabling local residents to propose and implement their own solutions to disputes. These outcomes illustrate the effectiveness of GWED-G's approach in combating corruption, promoting human rights, and improving service delivery, ultimately enhancing the well-being of the affected communities.

Challenges encountered

Despite these successes, several challenges hindered the full realization of the project's objectives. One of the primary challenges was funding delays, as late disbursement of funds from donors disrupted planned activities and slowed down implementation. Additionally, HRDs faced harassment and intimidation from state actors and their collaborators, particularly in border sub-counties, which posed a significant risk to their safety and ability to operate effectively. Poor infrastructure, including broken bridges and inadequate road networks, further constrained access to remote areas, making it difficult for HRDs and project teams to reach some of the most vulnerable communities. Land grabbing emerged as a persistent issue, with cattle keepers (Balalu) exploiting community members' ignorance and poverty to seize land, destroy crops, and escalate conflicts. Another key challenge was the low participation of women in stakeholder meetings and community engagements. Despite concerted efforts to encourage inclusivity, cultural norms and occupational responsibilities continued to limit women's involvement in critical discussions on governance and service delivery.

Future perspectives

To ensure sustainability and build upon the successes achieved, GWED-G has outlined key strategies for the future. Continued awareness campaigns will remain a priority, with efforts to sustain community engagement on social accountability and human rights issues. Expanding civic education, particularly targeting women and youth, will also be emphasized to promote inclusive leadership and informed participation in governance. Given the increasing demand for HRDs in newly created administrative units, GWED-G plans to recruit and train more individuals to strengthen human rights monitoring and advocacy efforts. Strengthening partnerships with local governments, traditional leaders, and other civil society organizations will be essential to sustaining advocacy efforts and enhancing the impact of interventions. Additionally, leveraging media platforms such as radio talk shows and social media will help amplify messages on accountability and rights, ensuring broader community outreach. Even after the project's completion, beneficiaries are expected to continue applying the knowledge and skills gained, supported by local structures and networks established during the implementation phase. GWED-G remains committed to fostering a culture of accountability and human rights protection in Northern Uganda, working towards a society where governance is transparent, service delivery is improved, and communities are empowered to demand justice.

PEACEBUILDING & TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

PROJECT 4 - NOT WITHOUT OUR CHILDREN : WOMEN LEADERS ADVOCATE FOR MULTI-SECTORAL AND MULTI-LEVEL RESPONSES TO ENT INTERGENERATIONAL GENDERED HARMS AGAINST CHILDREN BORN OF WAR (CBOW)

Context

This project recognised that Children Born of War (CBOW) and Women Grassroot Survivors Leaders Network continued to face somethreat in Uganda. They remain stigmatized and ostracized, a number of them also lack access to proper registration which renders them vulnerable to exploitation and limits their access to social benefits and other development programmes. Yet the CBoW are the legacy of gendered harms suffered by their mothers during Uganda's protracted lord resistance army conflict. Importantly, the project aimed at empowering women survivor leaders to advocate for an end to inter-generational harm against CBOW through an integrated, multi-sectoral, and multi-level process, including building concerted efforts as part of a transitional justice framework; reconciliation and reintegration processes.

GWED-G's intervention (Outputs)

The project sucessfully contributed towards a number of critical interventions. The "Not Without Our Children" project targetted to reach a total of about 500 people in Gulu and Nwoya district. This included, the convening of three (03) interface dialogues in Gulu and Nwoya district; supported two (02) awareness sessions and sharing on transitional justice in Kitgum and Pader; and (03) sessions of community led reintegration exercises in Loyoboo – Gulu district. The project worked with CBoW, women survivors grassroots leaders (WGSL) to become advocates and take lead in the promotion of peaceful co-existence and reintegration. One (01) radio talkshow was convened at radio rupiny to create awareness on the plight of CBoW and their mothers – the radio talkshow was a powerful platform for discussing pressing community issues, it also opened up spaces for vital conversation about the challenges facing survivors of war and their integration back into the community. Importantly, the project provided a platform for women survivor's leaders of organizations, and their children born of war (CBoW), cultural and traditional leaders (clan), local districts authorities, to discuss re-integration problems. It also focused on addressing the barriers that exist and affects the re-integration of women and children born of war – CBoW into families, clans and communities.



500

**CHILDREN BORN OF WAR
(CBOW) AND WOMEN
SURVIVORS GRASSROOTS
LEADERS (WGSL) REACHED
OUT**

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

The reintegration dialogues provided avenues that improved influence and participation of women survivors taskforce response groups and grassroots leaders in policy debates and advocacy concerning the discourses on reintegration as the women survivor's leader task force of Pader meaningfully participated in guiding conversations and mobilization of fellow women and victims during the dialogue; and sustained engagement of women leaders and CBoW in subsequent Transitional Justice processes. Similarly, Ker Kal Kwaro Paicho and clan committee members have continued to support reintegration of CBoW through conducting mediation. The clan leaders and traditional leaders continue to play a critical role in the promotion of reintegration by performing cultural rituals and cleansing which is a critical aspect of reception, acceptance and reduction of trauma attacks. The cultural institution is also supporting in family tracing through clan lineage, and improving access to land for the CBoW and their mothers. "It is only the clans that can help us, without the clan and clan leaders there is nothing for us".^[1] At the community/grass root levels, it has been noted that the reintegration dialogues have contributed towards the improvement and the participation of women survivor's leader's organisations and mothers of CBoW to play critical role in mediation and reintegration discourses.



Future perspectives

The future perspectives is embeded in our partnership approach and working with a net work of community resource persons. GWED-G has developed partnership with Nottingham University and Tallawah Justice for Women and this partnership has resulted into anoher project titled: "Leave No Child Behind: Strengthening Youth Leaders to Advocate for an End to the Discrimination and Exclusion of Uganda's Children Born of War (CBoW)". This project aims at aims at strengthening youth leaders to advocate for an end to the discrimination and exclusion of Uganda's Children Born of War (CBoW).

[1] Narration by a returnee mother during follow -up dialogue on community led reintegration in Loyoboo - Unyama Sub-County in Gulu district on the 12th July, 2024.

PEACEBUILDING & TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

PROJECT 5 - SUPPORTING AN INCLUSIVE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE PROCESS IN NORTHERN UGANDA

Context

The Supporting an Inclusive Transitional Justice in Northern Uganda project, supported by the ICTJ and Ministry of foreign affairs of Netherlands is contributing towards the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children affected by violent conflict so that they can enjoy their human rights, live peacefully and co-exist. The LRA conflict left a number of victims with different needs, and the conflict related human rights violations have had unique consequences inclusive of deprivation of property rights and reintegration challenges. Despite the absence of active armed conflict in northern Uganda, the return, resettlement, and in particular reintegration of CBoW - Children Born of war and their mothers continues to be a challenge. This project interventions indicated that the realization of land and property rights for CBoW, their mothers and other returnees was a difficult thing to achieve, including skills and knowledge in the resolution of land related disputes through mediation.

GWED-G's intervention (Outputs)

2 round table discussions were conducted in Pader and Lamwo district, where a total of 27 people were reached with information of the project, activities, participation in the interventions and an update of the transitional justice discussions in Uganda.

Train 40 war victims on land, property rights and conflict mediation skills in Lamwo and Pader. Conducted a two days training on land, property rights and mediation. This training was conducted at Paidbe Town Council and Pader town council. The content of the training covered - understanding land ownership, rights, interests and acquisition in Uganda; key considerations for land transactions; documentation of land transactions; contents of a good land agreement. The next aspect of the training included: understanding conflict and conflict analysis, mediation -assessing the conflict; ensuring mediator readiness; ensuring conflict ripeness; constructing a peace agreement; and key tips for mediation.

2 Regional transitional justice working group meetings conducted in April and August in Gulu City with a total of 172 participants from the civil society, ministries, departments and agencies, cultural institutions, religious leaders, the war victim groups and the local government representatives.

“We thank CSOs for amplifying the voices of the victims in Uganda. The voice could have been buried long time. Victim centered approach to planning, programming budgeting and resource allocation is critical, we need to take advantage of existing government programs like PDM and NUSAF 4 to support victims.”

Hon. Douglas Peter Okao, Chairman LCV Omoro District.



IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

- There is improved collaboration and partnership with local governments and cultural institutions in regards to human rights and transitional justice discourses in Lamwo and Pader district.
- The project has contributed to improved knowledge and skills of the war victims on issues relating to land and property rights so that they can enjoy their rights.
- “Without GWED-G our voices would have not been heard, we are happy because we are involved, they are our partners”. Says a representative of women war survivors from Lamwo district’.
- Improved knowledge and skills of the community members relating to understanding conflict resolution and living harmonious lives.
- Revamped the Regional transitional justice working group meeting in Northern Uganda and the transitional justice needs and discussions bounced back on the floor of parliament.
- Recognition of children born of war and their need to be registered for national identification cards is attributed to advocacy conducted under the project.

Future perspectives

Perspective for the future focuses on sustaining project initiatives through a multifaceted approach aimed at fostering healing, reconciliation, and community resilience. Continuous dialogues and counseling will be prioritized to address the trauma experienced by war victims and children born in captivity, helping to reduce stigmatization and promote emotional recovery within the community. Additionally, there is a need to map and build the capacity of religious leaders by equipping them with mediation skills, enabling them to effectively resolve conflicts and foster peace at the grassroots level. Furthermore, women war victims will be encouraged to form groups and initiate savings programs, which will not only provide economic empowerment but also create opportunities for social integration. By mixing with other community members, these women can break down barriers of stigmatization, fostering unity and collective healing. Together, these efforts aim to create a more inclusive, supportive, and harmonious community for the future.

Challenges encountered

There was high expectation for material support from the project by the groups, the project team explained that the project aims to build their capacity to lobby and advocate for their needs from the relevant authorities which they appreciated but recommended that consideration be made for both material and software support in future projects.

There are many victims who want to participate but are limited by the numbers as per the planned budget and work plan. This has posed a challenge of choosing who participates in the activities, the project team have advised that participation be on rotational basis since there are many members in the groups being targeted.



STRATEGIC FOCUS 3 - LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY

Context Analysis of Livelihood and Food Security in Northern Uganda in 2023

In 2024, GWED-G played a crucial role in addressing gender disparities in land access, agriculture, and economic opportunities for women in Northern Uganda. Despite the region's heavy reliance on agriculture, women continued to struggle with land ownership, access to farming inputs, and market opportunities due to entrenched socio-economic barriers.

GWED-G intensified efforts to promote women's land rights through legal awareness campaigns and community dialogues, ensuring women had greater access to and control over land. The organization also supported female farmers by facilitating access to quality seeds, training in climate-resilient agriculture, and connecting women to local markets.

Beyond agriculture, GWED-G worked to strengthen women's economic resilience by offering vocational training and microfinance support, helping women and youth establish small businesses. However, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure and climate-related shocks continued to hinder progress.

By advocating for policy changes and mobilizing resources, GWED-G remained at the forefront of efforts to close the gender gap in agriculture and economic empowerment in Northern Uganda.

Donors



LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY

PROJECT 6 - PROMOTING WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY SEED BANKS IN ACHOLI SUB-REGION.

Context

Promoting women's land rights and community seed banks is a project designed based on the need to address land rights problem-facing women in Acholi sub-region especially access, control and utilizations rights for vulnerable women to enhance food security and community seed bank at local levels, increase food productions, promote health and nutrition, and eliminate food insecurity within the communities while promoting voices and local advocacy in favor of women land rights. It aims at building capacity and engaging women councilors and district leaders to garner their support in advocating for women land rights and community seed banks. The project is being implemented in Gulu and Omoro in Unyama and Labora sub-counties.

GWED-G's intervention - Outputs

The project successfully contributed towards a number of critical interventions. The "Not Without Our" conducted 4 land mediation cases using alternative dispute resolution to promote women's land rights in Olano, Coopil, Agung and Obyela village, Angaya and Oding parish, Unyama sub-county. 3 is successful while 1 case is pending.

5 interface meetings between women VSLA groups and sub-county land committees on women's land rights conducted reaching out to 289 community members with knowledge on women land rights and the tenure system of land management and utilization.

Supported 6 seed banks with weighing scales in Unyama and Labora. This is to enable the seed banks have accurate records of the quantities of seeds harvested, loaned and sold out. 1 monitoring visit conducted to all the 12 VSLA group in Koro and Unyama to assess the functionality and progress made by the farmers. It was assessed that seeds are available, stored and being preserved traditionally.

Conducted 1 training with 28 women advocates from VSLA group to support mediation, advocacy and dialogue meetings in the communities. This has increased confidence and knowledge of the women to identify, prioritize, and take action on issues that affect their communities and report to the relevant authorities.

Conducted 1 training on value addition with 15 VSLA women representatives reaching them with knowledge and skills on organic pesticides, and fertilizers making, disease and pest identification and management, and post-harvest handling methods.



IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

4 land cases in Unyama sub-county mediated with the support of the Area land committees through the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in Oding and Angaya Parishes in the village of Obyela, Coopil, Agung and Olano, 3 cases successfully conclude and the women have gained their land rights while 1 case of Obyela is pending.

5 interface meetings conducted, reaching out to 289 community members (108 men and 186 women), with knowledge on women's land rights. For instant 333 women have been reached indirectly with the land rights advocacy message through the VSLA group meetings, and house hold dialogues, 203 women own land (300 hectares) and are participating in decision making processes, about 400 women have access to and are utilising land for production. A lady testified of saving 15 hectors of land belonging to her father because of the knowledge gained from the project.

The distributed 6 weighing scales to the 6 seed banks in Labora and Unyama sub-county has ensured accurate record-keeping of seeds harvested, loaned, and sold. It has also reduced cheating between buyers and farmers in the banks and farmers are documenting records which has improved the seed banks record

1 monitoring visit conducted to 12 VSLA groups and it is established that women are now owning and accessing land for productive use. Forinsatnce, 203 women own land (300 acres), about 400 women have access to and are utilizing the land for productive use, 304 household planted organic seeds, 114 borrowed and recived seeds from the bank, 35 women are processing land titles while more women are advocating for the women land right access and utilization.

The 28 trained women advocates on conflict resolution mechanism through (ADR) alternative disputes resolutions method to support mediation, advocacy and promote women's land rights has gained confidence and skills in conflict analysis, mediation skills, and awareness creation knowledgethat enable them to support communities through mediation, counselling and household dialogues on GBV and related land cases. without courts or fight. For instance 10 land conflict related GBV cases and 15 land conflict case resolved

The trained 15 VSLA women on value addition pesticide and fertilizers making, using the local raw materials has resulted to farmers producing and using own fertilizers to increase and improve quality yields and it is a life time benefit, the VSLA have manage to reach 602 farmers with the practical knowldege and skills in producing fertilizers use to manage pests reduce on the level of toxic in the soil, it is cheap and affordable and healthy by nature

Challenges encountered

- Illiteracy, women have limited access to education, most of them cannot read and write hence reducing their ability to understand land laws, and thus impairing their participation in land rights advocacy.
- Harmful traditional and cultural practices among some communities led to denial of women to access, control and own prodcutive resources especially land, assets and capital.
- Lack of inheritance Right is still evidence among the women and make them face economic dependency and insecurity due to exclusion from land inheritance, leaving them vulnerable in land disputes impacting their use, access and ownership of land.

Future perspectives

- The peoject is still on going however, the project works with community structures who are leaders and are directly involved like the cultural leaders, councilors, land committee, LCs, VSLA and appointed and elected leaders so there is continuity
- The seed banks is community owned and manage by the VSLA farmer groups who are members of the community and their activity is contnous yearly like farming and saving. And they are the trainer of the trainee for many VSLA farmers group who are willing to become part of the movement in promoting women's land rights and seeds multiplications.
- The trained TOT women are the community leaders who are responsible in mediation, and awareness creation on GBV and land rights.

STRATEGIC FOCUS 4 - HEALTH & NUTRITION

Context Analysis of Health and Nutrition in Northern Uganda in 2023

In 2024, GWED-G remained at the forefront of addressing Northern Uganda's persistent health and nutrition challenges, particularly in maternal health, malaria prevention, and HIV/AIDS care. Despite improvements in healthcare access, rural communities continued to struggle with under-resourced facilities, limited medical supplies, and high disease burdens.

GWED-G expanded its community-based health interventions, focusing on maternal and child health through mobile clinics, prenatal care support, and training for traditional birth attendants. These efforts aimed to reduce high maternal mortality rates by ensuring more women accessed skilled care during childbirth. The organization also strengthened malaria prevention by distributing insecticide-treated nets and promoting community education on prevention strategies.

On HIV/AIDS, GWED-G intensified awareness campaigns and advocacy to reduce stigma and improve access to treatment, particularly for women and adolescent girls. Additionally, the organization continued its work on nutrition, integrating malnutrition screening and support into its health programs.

Despite progress, challenges such as donor dependency, weak health infrastructure, and climate-related disease surges underscored the need for sustained investment in healthcare. Through its advocacy and direct interventions, GWED-G remained a key player in improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations in Northern Uganda.

Donors



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HEALTH & NUTRITION

PROJECT 7 - USAID-UGANDA HEALTH ACTIVITY INNOVATION GRANTS - GWED-G

Context

Northern Uganda, particularly the Gulu District, faces significant health challenges, including low antenatal care (ANC) attendance, high rates of home deliveries, poor immunization coverage, malnutrition, limited access to family planning services, and inadequate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) practices. Geographical barriers, cultural beliefs, limited health infrastructure, health worker shortages, and frequent stock-outs of essential supplies exacerbate these issues.



GWED-G's intervention - Outputs

In 2024, GWED-G implemented the "Community Assistance for Maternal and Child Health" project under USAID's Innovation Grant to enhance access to integrated family health services. The intervention mobilized and trained 91 Village Health Teams (VHTs) and 51 Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) in the Wheel of Good Practice (WOGP) approach, promoting antenatal care (ANC) attendance and facility deliveries.

To strengthen immunization coverage, 18 integrated health outreaches were conducted, reaching 2,629 individuals and re-engaging 535 immunization defaulters. Family planning services were enhanced through 84 adolescent peer mentors, addressing myths and misconceptions. Nutrition interventions included community-led cooking demonstrations and the distribution of Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes to VHTs for screening 598 children under five.

In WASH, 45 villages with high diarrhea burdens were mapped, and sanitation education on handwashing and safe drinking water was conducted. Additionally, 32 community dialogues and participation in quarterly health sector reviews strengthened collaboration between health facilities and communities.

These activities contributed to increased ANC attendance, institutional deliveries, immunization coverage, and improved hygiene and nutrition practices, reinforcing GWED-G's commitment to holistic, community-based health interventions in Gulu District.



51

TRADITIONAL BIRTH
ATTENDANTS (TBAS)
TRAINED



45

VILLAGES WITH HIGH
DIARRHEA BURDENS WERE
MAPPED, AND SANITATION
EDUCATION ON
HANDWASHING AND SAFE
DRINKING WATER WAS
CONDUCTED.



2,629

INDIVIDUALS REACHED
THROUGH INTEGRATED
HEALTH OUTREACHES

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

The intervention led to significant improvements in maternal and child health outcomes. ANC attendance increased, with 2,454 households enrolled in WOGP and 1,148 pregnant women registered for ANC services. Facility deliveries rose as TBAs referred expectant mothers to health facilities, and first-trimester ANC attendance saw an increase due to intensified community dialogues. Immunization outreach efforts benefited 2,780 children, ensuring they received missed vaccines. HPV vaccination was provided to 27 adolescent girls, while 311 immunization defaulters were successfully traced. Nutrition activities helped identify 63 malnourished children who were referred for therapeutic care. Cooking demonstrations improved community knowledge on utilizing local foods for better nutrition. Family planning uptake improved, with 2,005 contraceptives distributed and 557 reproductive health messages disseminated through peer mentors. WASH activities contributed to improved hygiene, reducing diarrhea cases in targeted villages. Additionally, monthly VHT review meetings strengthened referral systems and improved health data documentation, ensuring better follow-up on health outcomes.

Challenges encountered

Despite positive progress, several challenges affected the full achievement of targets. The number of TBAs requiring orientation (51) exceeded initial projections, straining resources. Seasonal disruptions such as heavy rains delayed some planned outreaches. Health facilities faced stockouts of essential supplies like HCG test kits, affecting service delivery. Documentation gaps persisted, as some health workers failed to record VHT referrals, impacting data accuracy. Male engagement in ANC and family planning remained low, limiting broader community participation. Additionally, some VHTs failed to submit reports on time, delaying progress tracking.



Future perspectives

To ensure sustainability, GWED-G plans to integrate TBAs into future VHT training programs under the District Health Team's supervision. Continuous mentorship and capacity building will enhance VHT skills in documentation and referral tracking. Strengthening collaborations with community leaders and local health facilities will foster community ownership of health initiatives. Advocacy efforts will focus on increasing government support to mitigate health worker shortages and stockouts. Expanding successful interventions, such as integrated health outreaches and peer mentorship programs, will extend benefits to more underserved populations. Additionally, GWED-G aims to secure mama kits for teenage mothers and enhance male engagement in ANC and family planning. Through these strategies, the project's impact will be sustained beyond its implementation period, ensuring long-term improvements in maternal and child health in Gulu District.

Engaging local leaders like the councilors, LC, youth leaders, sub-county leaders and religious leaders within the community in mobilization and conduct activities will motivate them and make them participate actively to Address social norms and barriers that contribute towards the increase of teenage pregnancies, early marriages and SRHR abuse in community own thire own

HEALTH & NUTRITION

PROJECT 8 - RESIDENTIAL MALARIA INITIATIVE USAID MALARIA REDUCTION ACTIVITY (MRA)

Context

Malaria remains a significant public health challenge in Uganda, particularly in high-burden districts like Nwoya and Zombo. Before GWED-G’s intervention, communities faced high malaria prevalence due to limited access to preventive measures, poor health-seeking behaviors, and inadequate community awareness. Vulnerable groups, including women, children under five, and pregnant women, were disproportionately affected. Myths and misconceptions about malaria prevention, such as vaccine hesitancy and inconsistent net use, further exacerbated the problem. The lack of coordinated community engagement and insufficient capacity of Village Health Teams (VHTs) hindered effective malaria control. Using funds provided by PMI USAID Malaria Reduction Activity, GWED-G’s intervention aimed to address these gaps through targeted community-based strategies.



GWED-G’s intervention - Outputs

GWED-G implemented a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to combat malaria in Nwoya and Zombo districts, focusing on strengthening community capacity and promoting sustainable prevention practices. A critical component of this strategy was hotspot mapping, which identified 136 high-burden villages in Nwoya and 49 in Zombo using malaria case data from health facilities. This enabled targeted interventions in areas with the highest need. To build local capacity, GWED-G oriented 98 Village Health Teams (VHTs), comprising 67 males and 31 females, on the Household Action Against Malaria (HAAM) model. These VHTs were equipped with essential tools such as household mapping guides and antenatal care (ANC) resources to enhance their effectiveness in malaria prevention efforts.

Community engagement was prioritized through the conduct of 302 community dialogues in Zombo, reaching 2,542 individuals, including 1,332 males and 1,210 females. These dialogues aimed to promote malaria prevention practices and raise awareness about the importance of environmental hygiene and proper mosquito net use. Additionally, GWED-G sensitized 6,159 households, achieving 86% of the target, on key practices such as the use of mosquito nets, environmental hygiene, and the cultivation of mosquito-repellent plants. To incentivize and recognize community efforts, a recognition system was established, designating 251 households as “malaria-smart homes” for their exemplary practices in malaria prevention.

To ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of these interventions, GWED-G conducted bi-annual supervision of 230 VHTs and held 20 quarterly review meetings. These activities not only strengthened community capacity but also improved health-seeking behaviors and fostered long-term malaria prevention practices. Overall, the multi-pronged approach adopted by GWED-G contributed significantly to reducing the malaria burden in the targeted districts.

PMI in numbers	
households designated as “malaria-smart homes”	251
Individuals reached with 52% male and 48% female	2542

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

GWED-G's interventions significantly improved malaria prevention and control in Nwoya and Zombo districts through a community-centered approach. Key outcomes highlight the program's success, including a 29% increase in mosquito net usage (from 37% to 66%) and a 26% rise in mosquito repellent use (from 21% to 47%), driven by community dialogues and sensitization sessions. Households adopted preventive measures such as planting mosquito-repellent plants like lemongrass and clearing mosquito breeding sites. Follow-up visits revealed a 9% reduction in malaria cases, from 34% at baseline to 25% after six rounds of household assessments. Access to timely treatment within 24 hours increased from 24% to 35%, with 3,903 households receiving timely treatment compared to 1,484 at baseline. Community engagement was strengthened through the involvement of local leaders, Village Health Teams (VHTs), and influencers, fostering ownership of malaria prevention efforts. For instance, 37 out of 53 households in Anjat village planted lemongrass to repel mosquitoes. A recognition system for Malaria-Smart Homes incentivized 251 households to adopt and sustain best practices, such as consistent net use and environmental cleanliness. Additionally, VHTs were equipped with tools and knowledge to conduct household assessments, follow-ups, and community dialogues, ensuring sustained malaria prevention efforts. These outcomes collectively demonstrate the effectiveness of GWED-G's approach in reducing the malaria burden and improving health outcomes in the region.

Challenges encountered

The implementation of the project faced several challenges that impacted its effectiveness. Inaccessible roads, exacerbated by heavy rains and poor road networks, hindered community engagement and delayed follow-up activities, making it difficult to maintain consistent outreach. Data quality issues further complicated efforts, as incomplete patient records in OPD registers and spelling errors in village names compromised the accuracy of collected data, affecting decision-making and reporting. Additionally, delayed payments to VHTs (Village Health Teams) and health workers reduced their motivation and support for project activities, creating a ripple effect on overall performance. Commodity shortages, particularly insufficient iCCM (integrated Community Case Management) supplies, limited the ability of VHTs to provide essential curative services, undermining the project's health objectives. Competing priorities among health assistants, who were often burdened with multiple responsibilities, also led to delays in activity implementation. To address these challenges, mitigation measures were put in place, including rescheduling activities to accommodate weather conditions, using alternative routes to reach communities, and advocating for timely payments and consistent commodity supplies to ensure smoother operations.

Future perspectives

GWED-G's malaria prevention activities will persist through community-led initiatives and partnerships with local stakeholders. Key sustainability strategies include fostering community ownership through VHTs, local leaders, and influencers who will drive regular dialogues. Capacity building will ensure VHTs receive ongoing training and supervision for sustained service delivery. The malaria-smart home initiative will expand to incentivize households to adopt preventive practices, while integration with local health systems will align malaria prevention with existing health programs. Youth engagement will be prioritized to drive long-term behavior change. Exit strategies involve transitioning responsibilities to local health structures and equipping communities with the knowledge and resources to maintain prevention efforts. GWED-G will also advocate for continued government and donor support to sustain project gains. These interventions have significantly reduced malaria burden in Nwoya and Zombo districts by promoting community ownership, building local capacity, and establishing sustainable practices, creating a strong foundation for long-term malaria control.

HEALTH & NUTRITION

PROJECT 9 - PROMOTING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN NORTHERN UGANDA



Context

In Northern Uganda, adolescent girls and young women face significant challenges related to sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). High rates of teenage pregnancies (28%), early marriages (17%), and sexual/gender-based violence (SGBV) persist due to limited access to SRHR information, stigma, and cultural barriers. Communities in districts like Amuru and Lamogi lack adequate health services, and social norms often discourage open discussions on SRHR. This has led to increased school dropouts, unsafe abortions, and limited economic opportunities for young women. The absence of structured platforms for dialogue and advocacy further exacerbates these issues, leaving adolescent girls vulnerable and underserved.

GWED-G's intervention - Outputs

GWED-G implemented a comprehensive SRHR project to address these challenges. The project focused on empowering young girls, strengthening community health systems, and promoting gender equality through advocacy and education. Key activities included training 30 young girls' advocates, youth councilors, and community leaders on SRHR to address teenage pregnancies and early marriages. Additionally, 12 community sensitization campaigns were conducted, reaching 1,000 participants and focusing on SRHR, SGBV prevention, and access to health services. Three community dialogues were organized to end child marriage and address SGBV, engaging 50 duty bearers and community leaders. The project also supported and referred 51 SGBV cases for psychosocial and medical redress, while distributing 200 Mama Kits to adolescent girls in hard-to-reach areas. These efforts aimed to create a supportive environment for adolescent girls and young women to access SRHR services and advocate for their rights.

IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

The project achieved significant outcomes, demonstrating its effectiveness in addressing SRHR challenges and improving the well-being of adolescent girls and young women. Through the training of 30 young girls' advocates, peer-to-peer education was conducted, contributing to a reduction in teenage pregnancies and early marriages in their communities. Adolescents gained increased awareness of family planning methods, sexual rights, and health services, leading to improved health-seeking behavior. Community engagement was strengthened through sensitization campaigns and dialogues, fostering collective action to end child marriage and SGBV, with local leaders committing to enforce protective bylaws. The project also improved health systems by strengthening linkages between health facilities and communities, ensuring better access to SRHR services for adolescent girls and young women. Furthermore, there was a notable reduction in SGBV cases, with increased reporting and referrals, and perpetrators being held accountable through legal action.

Challenges encountered

Despite its successes, the project faced several challenges that hindered its full implementation. Shrinking funding opportunities limited resource mobilization for SRHR programs, affecting the scale and sustainability of interventions. Political and civil society restrictions in Uganda created barriers to advocacy and community engagement, complicating efforts to address SRHR issues. The high demand for SRHR services in newly created sub-counties like Lakang and Layima strained project resources, making it difficult to meet the needs of all beneficiaries. Additionally, parental neglect and cultural perceptions of girls as sources of income hindered the utilization of SRHR services, as families often prioritized economic gains over the health and rights of their daughters. These challenges highlight the need for continued advocacy, resource mobilization, and community sensitization to address systemic barriers to SRHR.

Future perspectives

GWED-G plans to sustain and expand its impact by addressing the challenges encountered and building on the successes of the project. This includes expanding training for young girls' advocates and community leaders to cover more villages, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. Strengthening partnerships with local governments, cultural leaders, and health facilities will be prioritized to enforce protective laws and improve SRHR service delivery. GWED-G also aims to advocate for increased funding and policy support for SRHR programs at national and international levels, ensuring that resources are available to address the growing demand for services. Additionally, promoting youth-led advocacy platforms will ensure continued dialogue and accountability on SRHR issues, empowering young people to take ownership of their health and rights. By fostering collaboration and empowering communities, GWED-G aims to create a sustainable environment where adolescent girls and young women can thrive and achieve their full potential.

These interventions have significantly reduced malaria burden in Nwoya and Zombo districts by promoting community ownership, building local capacity, and establishing sustainable practices, creating a strong foundation for long-term malaria control.



STRATEGIC FOCUS 5 - ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND CIVIC RIGHTS

Context Analysis of Economic Empowerment and Civic Rights in Northern Uganda in 2023

In 2024, GWED-G played a pivotal role in advancing economic empowerment and civic rights in Northern Uganda, despite ongoing challenges rooted in post-conflict recovery. The organization intensified efforts to support women and youth through skills training, economic initiatives, and advocacy for inclusive governance.

With slow infrastructure development and limited job opportunities, GWED-G expanded vocational training programs, particularly for young women, equipping them with skills in entrepreneurship and financial literacy. The organization also strengthened advocacy for women's land rights, ensuring greater access to economic resources.

On civic rights, GWED-G remained a key player in promoting political participation, focusing on empowering women leaders at the grassroots level. Through capacity-building sessions and civic education, it worked to increase women's engagement in local governance structures.

Despite progress, challenges such as political interference, corruption, and resource constraints persisted. However, GWED-G's commitment to fostering resilience, economic independence, and civic engagement reinforced its critical role in shaping a more equitable future for Northern Uganda.

Donors

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ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND CIVIC RIGHTS

PROJECT 10 - EMPOWERING YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN UGANDA

Context

Youth in Lira and Gulu cities continue to face systemic challenges that hinder their full participation in socio-economic and governance processes. Despite previous interventions, many young people remain unaware of government programs, lack advocacy skills, and face barriers to accessing economic opportunities. Persons with disabilities (PWDs) are particularly marginalized, with limited representation in decision-making platforms. Poor communication between youth and duty bearers persists, exacerbating disengagement and limiting youth influence on policies that affect their lives. The absence of structured platforms for dialogue and advocacy further restricts their ability to demand accountability and access opportunities for socio-economic development.

GWED-G's intervention - Outputs

In 2024, GWED-G implemented the Empowering Youth of Uganda (Empower YOU) project to address critical challenges faced by youth through a series of targeted initiatives. The project conducted 20 mentorship sessions, equipping 800 youth leaders with essential knowledge on legal frameworks, government programs, and advocacy skills. Additionally, 10 social accountability meetings were organized, providing a platform for youth to engage with duty bearers and advocate for improved service delivery. To further strengthen their impact, GWED-G facilitated 5 youth advocacy meetings and 3 linkage sessions with key institutions such as the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), and financial institutions, enhancing participants' financial literacy and access to resources. Media engagement also played a pivotal role, with radio talk shows and social media campaigns amplifying youth voices and advocating for policy changes. Collectively, these activities empowered youth to actively participate in governance, access economic opportunities, and hold leaders accountable, fostering a more inclusive and accountable society.



IMPACT OF GWED-G'S INTERVENTION (OUTCOMES)

In 2023, the Empower YOU project, implemented by GWED-G, achieved significant milestones in youth empowerment and community development. The initiative reached over 2,500 individuals, including 75 persons with disabilities (PWDs), fostering active youth participation in governance and advocacy. Key outcomes included improved service delivery, such as enhanced security in Bardege-Layibi and better access to clean water in underserved areas. Financial literacy was bolstered through linkage meetings with institutions like URA, URSB, and banks, equipping youth with knowledge on savings, loans, and business registration. Youth leaders also gained strengthened advocacy skills, leading to increased inclusion in government programs like PDM and Emyooga. Media campaigns and Youth Day celebrations further amplified the project's visibility, driving community engagement and awareness of youth issues. The project successfully bridged the gap between youth and duty bearers, fostering dialogue and collaboration, with youth leaders reporting increased confidence in advocating for their rights and duty bearers showing greater responsiveness to youth concerns.

Challenges encountered

Despite these successes, the project faced challenges, including low attendance due to poor time management among youth, limited technology access with approximately 70% lacking mobile data for social media advocacy, and resource constraints that occasionally delayed activity implementation.

Future perspectives

Looking ahead, GWED-G plans to enhance sustainability by strengthening partnerships with local governments and institutions, expand reach through grassroots social accountability meetings and mobile data provision, and continue capacity-building efforts through mentorship and training programs. The organization also aims to establish youth-led advocacy platforms to ensure ongoing dialogue with duty bearers, fostering accountability and inclusion in decision-making processes. By promoting active citizenship and collaboration, the Empower YOU project envisions a future where youth are not just beneficiaries but key drivers of development in their communities.



2024 FINANCIALS

INCOME

	2023	2024
Programme Costs		
ALENU- From Caritas	181,464,650	--
AJWS	97,216,500	109,971,800
CivFund	244,627,000	87,700,500
Diakonia	266,045,812	288,958,338
ASF	--	133,750,782
EMPOWER-YOU	395,171,790	345,807,721
GIZ	54,239,500	97,631,100
ICTJ	22,250,000	57,744,370
NED	171,954,526	98,618,235
USAID /PMI / NWOYA	--	58,383,218
RHITES URC Sub contract	--	389,802,046
USAID/PMI/JSI	76,812,700	11,105,708
VOICE	240,283,375	--
Subtotal Program Costs	1,750,065,853	1,289,671,772
Interest income	136,210	--
Total income	1,750,202,063	1,289,671,772

EXPENDITURES

	2023	2024
Expenses		
Salaries	708,935,718	545,013,875
Benefits	66,716,180	84,419,142
Travel	78,637,046	14,725,893
Office supplies	77,774,329	24,608,532
Program costs	716,573,085	656,998,230
Admin costs	123,117,095	41,507,233
Vehicle and Motorcycle repairs	27,164,694	23,463,220
Communication costs	23,889,225	12,766,175
Board Costs	16,685,250	2,800,000
Audit costs	--	4,000,000
Total Expenditures	1,839,492,622	1,410,302,300



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