UN Women Uganda
Q2 Newsletter 2022

This quarterly newsletter profiles UN Women Uganda activities and highlights voices of beneficiaries. The Q2 Newsletter covers the period of April to June 2022. Enjoy the read!
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UN Women Uganda launched the new Strategic Note (2022-2025) at a high-level event held at the Sheraton Hotel in Kampala. The purpose of the launch was to raise awareness of the UN Women’s new SN work in Uganda and give space for current partners from the government, development partners, private sector, and civil society to engage with and ensure their buy-in, as well as attract new potential donors and partners for the achievement of the priority areas.

The Strategic Note was developed in consultation with a wide spectrum of stakeholders including the UN, Government, development partners, private sector, academia, research agencies and Civil Society Organizations. It will enable the country office to consolidate the gains of the last cycle (2016-2021), while improving and addressing the emerging challenges in Uganda, such as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender equality and women empowerment.

Youth Photography Contest raises awareness on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

Leading to the launch of the UN Women Uganda Strategic Note (2022-2025), it was important to highlight the creativity and talent of the Ugandan youth while exploring the future of women’s empowerment. In collaboration with KQ Hub Africa, we put out an open call inviting young people to share photo scenes under the themes: Women in Leadership, Women in Economy and Climate and Women Overcoming Barriers. 16 of the finalists photos were displayed in a photo exhibition at the launch of the Strategic Note.
Congratulations to Ali Makka who wins an internship with UN Women Uganda. Her photo submitted under theme “breaking barriers” depicted a female community leader riding a motorcycle, an act that is not common for women due to gender stereotypes.
We Empower Documentary Video highlights programme benefits for women and girls

This 10-minute video was produced by UN Women Uganda to accompany the launch of the new UN Women Strategic Note (2022-2025). The visuals take you through the 6 outcome areas with geographical representation of results as told by implementing partners and UN Women beneficiaries, in Uganda.

“We have been trained on business management, leadership skills, using the Market Garden App and Gender Based Violence. Women have really benefited!”

Catherine Nanzige
(Vendor, Nakawa Market)
We Empower
Profiles

We Empower Documentary
The Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) in Uganda congregated to celebrate the launch of the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Training Manual for Judicial Officers. The momentous launch took place at Serena Hotel, Kampala. UN Women Uganda Country Representative Adekemi Ndieli celebrated this momentous launch noting: Uganda is one of the only countries in Africa with affirmative action regarding access to justice for women. This is a lifesaving priority.
His Lordship Mike Chibita (representing the Chief Justice) gave thanks to all involved in championing the manual. 35 Judicial Officers attended at Serena Hotel, Kampala, the launch event is of significance as the specialised manual is instrumental for all the actors in the justice, law, and order sector (JLOS) chain. Austria has entered another four-year programme for access to justice for women and girls in Uganda. Dr. Roswitha Kremser, the Head of Coordination for the Austrian Development Cooperation emphasized:

“This work cannot be done by one institution alone. Access to justice needs combination of the whole JLOS chain. From the investigator to the lawyer, to the court and to the prisons. We need them all. We appeal to you for the institutionalization and operationalization of this Manual promptly.”

Copies of the JTI GBV Training Manual for Judicial Officers was availed to all attendees (Eva Sibanda/UN Women)
Joint Steering Committee Meeting for the EU-UN Global Spotlight Initiative applauds progress made in West Nile

The Annual Spotlight JSC Meeting was held in the West Nile Region this year, this was the first decentralized meeting (held outside Kampala).

The National JSC meets bi-annually to provide strategic direction and oversight to the Spotlight Initiative. The NJSC also tracks delivery by UN Agencies and the Programme’s progress on achieving results. The Committee is co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, on behalf of the Government of Uganda.

During the meeting, the European Union Representative Nicolas Gonze spoke on sustainability of this important work emphasizing importance of resource mobilization at national level, “Uganda as one of the best performing Spotlight countries, globally,” he said.

Commissioner Angela Nakafeero, Ministry of Gender Labour & Social Development, presents overview from the 2021 Global Spotlight progress report (Eva Sibanda/UN Women)

Uganda witnessed a 3.8% rise in defilement, a concerning number of underage girls were subjected to violence in the period of 2020 - 2021 lockdown. This is a constant reminder for us to stay the course.” - Her Excellency Susan Namondo, UN Resident Coordinator
The UN Resident Coordinator Susan Namondo conducted field visits to multiple UN sites during a field visit on the helms of the Spotlight JSC meeting. The UN Women sites selected for visit in the region included TPO Uganda in Omugo II Refugee Settlement and Refugee Law Project in Bidi Bidi. During the site visit to TPO, beneficiaries shared the lifesaving impact of psychosocial support and how this has helped their social functioning. Community support structures are in place for survivors.

During the engagement, UN Women Programme Specialist Evelyn Letiyo raised the important linkage between TPO’s provision of lifesaving services to the need for access to justice & institutional strengthening through Spotlight. Overall, UN Women access to justice work is generously supported by the Austria Development Cooperation and the Embassy of Sweden.
Through Justice Centers for Uganda (JCU), supported by UN Women, Linda was able to get legal representation in the courts of law and in the end, they agreed to work out their differences. Linda shared: "I was distraught and desperate because I could not afford to go to court and my children were losing out on their hereditary rights."

Ms Sarah Hendriks, UN Women’s Director for Policy Programming and Intergovernmental Division commended Justice Centres for empowering women who find themselves vulnerable, ensuring gender equality is met in communities where JCU provides services.
The Resident District Commissioner for Terego District, Ms. Ajilong B. Modestar hailed UN Women in Uganda and the Norwegian Embassy in Kampala for partnering to empower women and girls in refugee settings.

Speaking on behalf of the Government of Uganda, at the launch of a four-year project entitled, “Enhanced Women’s Leadership, Empowerment, Access, and Protection” (LEAP) 2021-25, Ms. Ajilong said, “the government has an open-door policy that allows refugees to walk in, settle and work to forge a livelihood. We are therefore thankful to our partners for identifying this important need to empower these women and girls and working to address it through various projects.”

The LEAP project which is funded by the Government of Norway through their Embassy in Uganda will be implemented for four years (2021 – 2025) and is worth 48,000,000 NOK ($5,764,381).


The LEAP II Programme will be implemented in Adjumani, Kyegegwa, Terego, and Yumbe in partnership with Office of Prime Minister, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework Secretariat, district local governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations, local women’s organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector. The Programme will benefit 56,310 refugee and host community (40,610 women and girls and 15,700 men and boys) as direct beneficiaries and 1,300,000 refugee and host community women and men.
A local drama group showcased the effects of Gender Based Violence on families through a skit during the event. (Edmond Mwebembezi/UN Women)
Documentary Video highlighting impact of LEAP Program on the lives of Refugee and Host Community Women and Girls in Yumbe and Adjumani

This 10-minute video was produced by UN Women Uganda to the impact of the First Phase of the Leadership, Empowerment Access, and Protection (LEAP) Programme implemented with funding from the Government of Norway. The LEAP Program aims at ensuring that the refugee and host community women and girls affected by crisis lead, participate in, and benefit from humanitarian response and recovery efforts.

Link to the documentary: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6k6s63Hik8c
Molly is Transforming the Lives of Women and Girls Through Mediation

UN Women with support from Norway, through CoACT, is building capacity of women leaders at the community level to mobilize and train women within their communities. Molly Musabe, is one of the 36 leaders CoACT engaged in 2021. CoACT equipped her with skills in leadership, conflict prevention and resolution, mediation, gender and advocacy. At the end of the training, women leaders design action plans on how to reach more community women, identify and resolve conflicts. They train women in conflict prevention, mediation and resolution to work jointly in identifying community issues, resolving them and referring some of them to the local authorities for further management and follow up.

Molly shared her experience as peace mediator: “Before the training, I felt that women in my community were barely recognized and there was little or no attention from the leaders at the Sub County or even within the community. While we have Community Development Officers that are tasked with handling issues relating to women and girls, they are overwhelmed with a lot of programmes and activities.”

Molly Musabe, a retired teacher from Rwentuha Subcounty, speaks to women in her community on peace building and mediation. (Photo credit: CoACT)
UN Women Global Director Lauds Uganda for Empowering Urban Refugees in Kampala

May 2022

The Global Director for Programming, Policy, and Intergovernmental Division at the UN Women headquarters, Sarah Hendriks interacted with urban refugees supported by UN Women Uganda through Institute for Social Transformation (IST) Uganda.

During the visit Sarah interacted female urban refugees who are beneficiaries of the LEAP I Program supported by Norway. Under LEAP, IST received support from UN Women Uganda to respond to the social economic impacts of COVID-19 on urban based refugee women and girls including survivors of violence. The urban refugees showcased products made from the financial support received including artifacts, disinfectants, and soaps.
A study conducted by Makerere University Rotary Peace Center on perceptions, knowledge and implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1325) in Uganda revealed that despite being represented in peace building processes (negotiation, mediation, conflict resolution), women do not wield much influence and their views are frequently ignored.
Speaking at the report launch on 20 April 2022, the UN Women Country Representative a.i. Ms. Adekemi Ndieli called for concerted efforts from all actors including parliament, judiciary, academia and government to allocate resources towards implementation of the third NAP WPS 2021 – 2025 if these limitations are to be addressed and the role and participation of women in peace processes enhanced. Ms. Adekemi appreciate Makerere University through the Rotary Peace Centre for incorporating UNSCR1325 in its training curriculum as one of the course components noting that this is a very strategic approach to advancing the Women Peace and Security agenda.

Makerere University Deputy Vice Chancellor Pro. Umar Kakumba noted that the “findings of this study should lead us to find ways of enhancing women’s meaningful participation in peace and community development. You cannot talk about development outside of the shadows of Women Peace and Security.”

Officiating at the launch, Lady Justice Luswata called for inclusion of training on UNSCR 1325 in the training of the Judiciary noting that “as Judiciary we always interface with all the pillars of UNSCR 1325.”

UNSCR 1325 on women, peace, and security was adopted unanimously by the UN Security Council on 31 October 2000. The resolution acknowledged the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women and girls. This resolution calls for the adoption of a gender perspective to consider the special needs of women and girls during conflict, repatriation and resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration, and post-conflict reconstruction with its 4 pillars based on; Participation, Prevention, Protection and Relief and Socio-economic recovery.

The study which was conducted in 25 districts across Uganda has elaborated on how knowledge levels on UNSCR 1325 vary across the districts with districts affected by conflict or those at risk of conflict demonstrating more awareness of the UNSCR 1325. The study also profoundly notes that Women’s robust and holistic participation in peace processes have been invariably undermined by structural and systemic issues. The single greatest challenge to women’s robust participation in decision making processes and peacebuilding in particular, is patriarchy that is reinforced by cultural and religious values that persistently view women as ‘inferior.’ The study was supported by UN Women and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kampala. Four policy briefs specific to the 4 pillars of UNSCR 1325 have been produced in line with the research findings for easier reference especially for WPS actors and MDAs.
Civil Society Organizations Urged to Advance Women Peace and Security Agenda

On 22 April 2022, Women Peace and Security (WPS) Actors from Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) gathered in Kampala together to review and discuss progress, challenges, emerging issues in advancing the Women Peace Security agenda in the region. This year’s forum was organised CoACT in partnership with MGLSD, GNWP, UN Women, the Women’s International Peace Centre (WIPC) and Austria Development Agency (ADA). The National Peace Forum which was organised by civil society organisations provided a platform for different players from Kenya, DRC and Uganda to share experiences, best practices, progress made, challenges and recommendations on how to best implement NAPs on WPS agenda

Officiating as the chief guest, Ambassador Roswitha Kremser recognised the outstanding role of government in advancing the WPS agenda and the CSOs for contributing towards the achievement of the National Action Plan III (NAP III) on Women Peace and Security objectives. Ambassador Roswitha challenged the WPS actors not only to talk but to act. “We need not only to talk but we need to see action. This year’s forum should enable us to evaluate what we are doing collectively to achieve peace and prosperity”.

The UN Women Country Representative a.i. Adekemi Ndieli called for concerted efforts in abating conflict issues that women increasingly face observing that there is growing conflict in different parts of Uganda including the ongoing insecurity and animal raids in Karamoja and the growing refugee influx in south western Uganda due to the ongoing conflict in DRC. Adekemi appreciated the role CSOs are playing in implementing the first, second and now the third NAP on WPS especially implementation of the localisation strategy. She reiterated UN Women’s commitment to support programs and advocacy efforts that urge donors to fund grassroots women’s leaders and to mobilise resources to adequately finance and implement the third NAP on WPS.

Speaking on behalf of CSOs implementing WPS, the Executive Director Coalition for Action on 1325 (COACT) called upon all CSO partners including those at the grassroots level to be champions of reporting NAP III WPS progress and to continue working on strengthening strong partnership between governments, development partners, and CSO players at the national and grassroot level.
Japan contributes US $ 3.3 Million to Support Efforts Towards Refugees and Host Communities

Government of Japan in March this year, committed approximately US$ 3.3 million (US$3,306,120) to support refugees and host communities protect refugee women from Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) with a strong focus on mitigating the COVID-19 impacts, over a period of one year from April 2022 to March 2023. The support has been channeled through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Entity for the Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

UN Women received US $ 1,000,620 to empower over 6,360 women, men and youth refugees and hosts (direct) and 10,000 (indirect) to mitigate the impact of covid-19 on their livelihoods, protect themselves from exposure to gender-based violence, and participate in decision-making processes within their communities in 3 refugee hosting districts of Adjumani, Yumbe and Kyegegwa. The proposed project builds on UN Women’s experience and achievement in promoting the resilience, self-reliance, leadership, and protection of refugee women achieved in the last eight years in Uganda’s refugee hosting districts. Key strategies will involve support to women’s access to ICT facilities and skills training, and access to protection services, COVID-19 prevention and mitigation services and protection form SGBV. Transformational leadership skills, as well as positive gender norms will be promoted in support of women’s participation and leadership in the management of covid-19 interventions within refugee and host community, and protection from violence.
UN Women through the Women Peace and Humanitarian fund project (WPHF) in Uganda supported the Paradigm for Social Justice and Development (PSD) to train Women Peace Groups with 30 members (all women) and 30 Peace Coordinators (12 M/18 F) to acquire skills and knowledge to identify early warning signs and resolve conflicts as well as to advocate for the participation and leadership of women in effective early warning and conflict prevention mechanisms. The WPHF funded project “Empowering women to promote peaceful and gender equal societies in Wakiso District” aims at increasing number of women participating in conflict prevention processes and response.

The 60 Peace Ambassadors contribute to producing knowledge products on conflicts and early warning signs on a quarterly basis which content is used to advocate, mobilise community for awareness sessions on the meaningful participation of women in early warning, conflict prevention and peaceful co-existence at community level.

“As a result of this training, the Peace coordinators have ably identified 256 conflicts, mediated 107 and referred 149 cases to the police and other relevant authorities,” reported Mary Gorreth Nagayi (one of the Peace coordinators) during a courtesy visit by UN Women officials in Wakiso District.
UN Women WEE Programme Specialists Paul Okello and Patricia Elotu Eyio attended an assessment with FAO, the Deputy CAO and Community Development Officer (CDO) on developing a joint programme for skilling young women and girls in settlement camps (Obongi District and Yumbe).

The WEE team also visited the supported climate smart agriculture project in Nwoya.
WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Strengthening the leadership of Female Members of Parliament to engage effectively in national Development agenda

New female MPs have greatly benefited from the mentorship program funded by UN Women. They testify that they now have people to look up to and consult on issues affecting their constituencies. Hon. Opindi Sarah (one of the mentors) encourages the Speaker of Parliament, during plenaries, to allow UWOPA mentees to speak on the floor during debates. This has created confidence among mentees. Mentees are now able to debate on Gender Equality Bills directly benefiting their constituencies. Hon. Busingye Harriet (Hoima DWR) succeeded in pushing for the East African Crude Oil and Processing (EACOP) Bill following guidance from her mentor Hon. Amoding Monica.
It is a great achievement that on 10 April 2022 the Succession Amendment Bill 2022 was assented to by H.E The President of Uganda. UWOPA would like to ensure that the Succession Amendment Bill 2022 is implemented by all stakeholders and duty bearers across the country. The Succession Amendment Bill 2022 is an Act that seeks to amend the Succession Act, Cap. 162, to bring it in conformity with the Constitution to provide for gender equality in accordance with Articles 21 and 33 of the Constitution to repeal sections that were declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court; to refine the definition of customary heir or heiress to remove discrimination; to provide for the protection of the principal residential property for the benefit of the surviving spouse and lineal descendants to revise the percentages of distribution of the estate of an intestate; to provide for the appointment of a guardian for a child by either parent; to provide for the powers and duties of a guardian; to introduce modern terminologies and definitions of persons who suffer from mental illness and repeal repugnant terms such as “lunatics” and “insane” to provide for the duration of probate and letters of administration and execution of wills of deceased persons; to enhance penalties for certain offences and to prescribe penalties for contravention of the Act; and to provide for related matters.
The Austria Development Cooperation (ADC) supported the POWER Program on Women’s Empowerment in Sexual reproductive Maternal Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (SRMNCAH) between December 2019 and June 2022.

The program enhanced women’s sexual reproductive maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health rights, through increased demand for quality and timeliness SRMNCAH care and services and their utilization across the three refugee hosting districts of Adjumani, Yumbe and Terego targeting mostly the refugees.

Through POWER, UN Women supported the establishment of POWER women’s clubs, where a total of 26 clubs were formed, including 10 in Adjumani, 9 clubs in Yumbe and 7 clubs in Terego. These clubs provide competence capacity building trainings which enhance knowledge, skills and evidence of SRMNCAH rights. Through this the club members gain competence to claim bodily autonomy. The direct beneficiaries proactively participate in gender responsive SRMNCAH planning, budgeting and advocacy which has further led to increased demand and utilization of quality SRMNCAH care and services in the three refugee hosting districts where the POWER program is being implemented, as a result, a total of 4,358 received different SRMNCAH related services through POWER. Other trainings include positive coping mechanisms, financial literacy, elementary numeracy, skills building in business enterprise development assistance (EDA), economic empowerment options and Village Savings Local Association (VSLA).
Nancy Asibazoyo, the POWER program officer of FAWE-U interacting with Unity women’s club beneficiaries of the POWER program in Maaji II refugee settlement in Adjumani district during a sensitization awareness raising session on SRMNCAH and modern family planning utilization. Nancy is showing the beneficiaries female condoms online using her telephone. These women are also engaged in various small-scale business enterprises as a result of the ADC and UN Women support. Photo credit: UN Women / Emmanuel ACHAR

“We are now different from other women, because we now live peacefully, share and help each other get solutions to challenges. As a group, we support our family from our businesses, pay school fees, feed the family buy better foods and diet and treat our children when they are sick,” says Elizabeth Ayen a 34-year-old a single mother of 7 seven children living in Maaji 2 settlement in Adjumani district.


These clubs are in Adjumani – Okusiloni and Ciforo subcounties, Maaji 1, 2, 3 and and Agojo, in Terego – Odupi and Uriama sub counties in Rhino camp siripi and ocea zones and in Yumbe – Bidi Bidi – Kochi, Lori and Romogi sub counties in bidi-bidi Zone 2.
Second Chance Education, My Right!

In April 2022, UN Women in collaboration with Toro Kingdom and other stakeholders launched a pilot second Chance Education Project in Toro region to enroll 150 girls aged 15 to 24 years back into formal education. This was premised on the learnings from the most recent population-based HIV impact assessment survey results showing a very high prevalence of 14.8 percent in Toro region, way above the national average of 5.5 percent among adults 15-59 years (UAC Fact sheet 2021). This is fueled by multi-dimensional poverty, early start of sexual activity, culture, power imbalances in negotiating safe sex or even choosing a sexual partner, sexual gender-based violence - compounded by dysfunctional infrastructure for delivery of key services such as health, education, social and child protection among others. The 2010-2020 UNAIDS estimates that over 30 percent of all new HIV infections globally occurred among youth ages 15 to 25 years with the greatest rates of new infections occurring among adolescent girls and young women. The studies also indicated that keeping girls in school reduces the risk of early sexual activity and therefore teenage pregnancy and exposure to new HIV infections. The launch gathered commitment from the different stakeholders to increase opportunities and empowerment avenues for women and girls such as through education and other avenues for empowerment; and advocate for improvements and modifications in norms and practices that propel teenage pregnancy.
Uganda Bureau of Statistics and UN Women Launched the Citizen Generated Data Toolkit to complement official statistics with data captured from non-traditional data sources

1 June 2022

The Citizen Generated Data Toolkit (CDG) that aims to guide producers of CGD to monitor and report on SDG 5 and other SDG gender related indicators and development frameworks. The toolkit was produced by UBOS in partnership with UN Women to increase reliability and usefulness of CGD through operationalization of the data value chain using the Human Rights Based Approach to Data to fulfil the adage of “leaving no one behind”.

“Citizens play a crucial role in data and information gathering however, vulnerable populations risk being underreported which is why the CDG toolkit is an important tool for government planning,” said Hon Amos Lugolobi at the launch event.

State Minister for Northern Uganda Hon Grace Kwiyucwiny signs the CGD toolkit dummy to launch the tool at the launch event at Protea Hotel in Kampala. (Edmond Mwebembezi/UN Women Uganda)
In Memory of Ulrika Lindberg Labasauskas

UN Women Uganda joins the Embassy of Sweden in remembering our dear colleague Ulrika. Ulrika was a wonderful friend and a highly appreciated diplomat dedicated to the protection of human rights, the promotion of gender equality and deepening of democracy.

She will always be in our hearts, our thoughts are with her family and loved ones.