

UGANDA
Country Office

UN Women Uganda Q3 Newsletter 2022

This quarterly newsletter profiles UN Women Uganda activities and highlights voices of beneficiaries. The Q3 Newsletter covers the period of July to September 2022.
Enjoy the read!



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Paulina Chiwangu (PhD) officially assumes duty as UN Women Representative in Uganda



UN Women Representative Paulina Chiwangu and Uganda's Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon Gen Jeje Odongo at her accreditation event at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters (Photo UN Women/Edmond Mwebembezi)

Ms Paulina Chiwangu formally assumed duty as UN Women Country Representative on 4th August 2022 after presenting her credentials to Uganda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon General Jeje Odongo. The presentation took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and was witnessed by dignitaries from MOFA and the UN Women Uganda

During the ceremony, the minister acknowledged the tremendous work by UN Women in supporting women's empowerment and gender equality. The new country representative was commended on her impressive experience as well as having worked extensively in Uganda.

"Women in Uganda are still faced with many challenges, including the effects of COVID-19, challenges in externalized labour in the countries in which they work, and patriarchy which still makes them lag behind. We want to work with UN Women to address the prevailing challenges in refugee settings and the externalization of labour. UN Women should work closely with the government to identify priority areas that can be worked on together," Hon. Jeje Odongo said.

Ms. Chiwangu remarked on her warm welcome to Uganda, highlighting UN Women's mandate to support all countries to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

"Firstly, I congratulate Uganda the launch of the Parish Development Model, and I affirm our commitment to support to ensure that it is successfully implemented to benefit women and girls in Uganda. I also extend my congratulations regarding the voting of Brenda Akia onto the CEDAW committee, the first time a Ugandan has been elected to the committee. On behalf of UN Women, I pledge our close collaboration with her on CEDAW work," she said.

Ms. Paulina Chiwangu holds a Doctorate in Philosophy and has over 20 years' experience in development and humanitarian work.

She has previously served as Deputy Country Representative with UN Women in South Sudan and as Deputy Country Representative for the UN Women Iraq Country Office, as well as Head of KRG Sub-Office.

Prior to her work with UN Women Iraq, she worked with UN Women Bosnia and Herzegovina as Head of Gender Coordination for the UNDAF. She worked with UN Women in Serbia as interim Head of Office. Prior to that she was heading the UN Inter-Agency Joint Programme on Gender Equality and she was the Acting Country Representative for UN Women office in Uganda for one year.

Before joining UN Women, she was the Head of

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, as well as Public Relations Unit for UNDP's Police Reform Programme in Dhaka, Bangladesh. She has held positions in various Southern Africa countries as well as in the United States and Ireland.

The UN Women Country Representative is an accredited representative of the UN Women Executive Director and the Regional Director and is responsible for negotiations with the host country. The Country Representative also oversees relationships and activities with the government and other partners, provides security for UN Women personnel and facilitates functional common services arrangements with other UN agencies.

UN Women Joins the Government of Uganda to Celebrate the Innovation and Creativity of the Youth, on Youth Day in Gulu City



The Guest of Honour His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni poses along with UN Heads of Agencies in Uganda including UN Women Deputy Country Representative Adekemi Ndieli (second right front row) (UN Women/Eva Sibanda)

26 August 2022 — UN Women joined the United Nations in Uganda to commemorate the International Youth Day at Kaunda Grounds in Gulu City. Representing UN Women was the Deputy Country Representative Adekemi Ndieli. Notably presiding over the day was the Chief Guest His Excellency the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni.

The theme of the day was *“Intergenerational Solidarity: The Role of the Youth in the Implementation of the Parish Development Model.”*

In addition to youth innovation exhibitions, youth cultural performance groups graced the day celebrating the talent, creativity and innovation of Uganda’s youth. Of the multiple exhibition stalls set up, one was dedicated to the United Nations materials of youth innovations. This was located next to a stall of young people exhibiting a solar powered bakery innovation supported by Plan International Uganda.

As the Guest of Honour arrived, the national anthem was heard as His Excellency was accompanied to inspect the parade and the stalls ahead of inviting speeches. Speakers represented the Government through Honourable Betty Amongi and the UN Resident Coordinator Susan Namondo Ngongi. Speakers generally reflected on the fact that Uganda has one of the youngest and most rapidly growing populations in the world, and the commitment to support this demographic.

On behalf of the UN family in Uganda, the UN Resident Coordinator Susan Namondo Ngongi shared: “Ugandan youth especially girls have been put to the test. Affected by COVID, high prices and extreme weather. The most vulnerable of these girls need better protection. We must invest more in National social systems to cushion these impacts.”

She concluded: “I look forward to how the UN system will practically interface with the Government and her other development partners to address these and other issues affecting youth.”

H.E. the President Yoweri Museveni highlighted the importance of wealth creation for the youth through the four areas of commercial agriculture, industry, services provision, and technology. The President further appealed to the UN to support interventions to mitigate the effects of climate change for national development.



A young innovator poses outside the UN Exhibition Stall in Gulu City at Youth Day. She was displaying baked goods that were produced using a solar powered oven (UN Women/Eva Sibanda)



Youth cultural performance groups grace the day celebrating the talent and creativity of Uganda's youth (UN Women/Eva Sibanda)



Representing the United Nations, the Resident Coordinator Her Excellency Susan Namondo Ngongi addressed His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, the President of Uganda at Youth Day in Gulu (UN Women/ Eva Sibanda)

Full Twitter thread and images available here: https://twitter.com/unwomenuganda/status/1563067383044243457?s=20&t=YcohlHwV_XIBBtCFxYRXXQ

UN Women Representative to Uganda Pays Courtesy Visit to the Prime Minister of Uganda



The UN Women led by Paulina Chiwangu meets with Prime Minister, Right Honorable Robinah Nabbanja's team at the Office of the Prime Minister in Kampala. (Photo: UN Women/Edmond Mwebembezi)

The UN Women Representative to Uganda Paulina Chiwangu met with the Prime Minister of Uganda Right Honorable Robinah Nabbanja at the Prime Minister's Office in Kampala. They discussed a myriad of issues including collaboration opportunities between UN Women and the Government of Uganda, with the Hon Nabbanja commending UN Women for, "pushing for the empowerment of women and gender equality in the country."

"Support from your team at UN Women has seen Uganda make good strides in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment and notably, empowering women and girls is one of the key commitments of the Government," she said.

Hon Nabbanja, cognizant of the important role of gender equality in disaster management, recommended the addition of UN Women on the country's Disaster Management Coordination Team coordinated the Prime Minister's Office.

On her part, the UN Country Representative informed the Prime Minister of UN Women's work in Uganda and commended the Government for the increase in women's representation in the government as well as Uganda's refugee policy, "which is like no other worldwide."

Support from your team at UN Women has seen Uganda make good strides in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment and notably, empowering women and girls is one of the key commitments of the Government

Honorable Robinah Nabbanja



L-R: Prime Minister Rt Hon Robinah Nabbanja, UN Women's Paulina Chiwangu and the Head of the SDG Secretariat, Dr Albert Byamugisha



The United Nations in Uganda wins the Global Spotlight “Office Performance Award” at the Spotlight Symposium in Cancun, Mexico!



L-R Luta Shaba (Spotlight Programme Coordinator for the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Uganda), Beatrice Mugambe (Senior Gender Advisor UNDP) and Evelyn Letiyo (UN Women Programme Specialist, EVAW) celebrate the win of “Office Performance” Award (Photo Credit: UN Women)



Spotlight Initiative Award for “Office Performance” issued in Cancun to the UN team in Uganda (Photo Credit: UN Women)

Uganda has received a leadership award for the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative at the Global Spotlight Symposium to End Violence Against Women and Girls held in Cancun, Mexico. UN Women is a key implementing agency for the Spotlight Initiative that seeks to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls. Some of the key interventions have been on social norm change around harmful practices, systems strengthening, and law and policy implementation, among others. This meeting in Mexico was held to bring together EVAW Programme colleagues from

all Spotlight countries and allow an opportunity to celebrate the work conducted in Phase I and Phase II of the implementation of Spotlight. Uganda is one of 8 countries selected in Africa, and the only one in the East Africa Region. Additionally, Uganda is one of the few countries selected by the EU, based on the context and opportunities, to support a Successor Initiative which aims to continue work to end violence against women and girls. UN Women will continue to work together to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



From Where I Stand: Martha Akol



Martha Akol poses at her homestead in Lorengenchero Sub County, Napak in Karamoja Region. Martha is a beneficiary of legal aid services from FIDA Uganda, supported by UN Women through the Embassy of Sweden (Eva Sibanda/UN Women)

In Karamoja Region, majority of intimate partnerships experience elements of violence, usually related to land. UN Women and the Embassy of Sweden support the Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA Uganda) Legal Officers to mediate these cases. Winnie Agwero supported Martha's case noting an increase in women reporting cases of violence in the remote area, and women seeing a change in their lives as a result.

"In Karamoja land is very important, my husband used to beat me and chase me from our land in Lorengenchora Sub County, Napak District. After three months, I found UN Women and they referred the case to FIDA. I am the first wife, and all was fine, but then he started with alcohol. He would go to the bar, drink local brew, and come back and beat me for no reason. I could not get help anywhere else, until I got to FIDA Uganda's office.

It took four months of counselling, but he has stopped beating me and he is a changed man, the counselling showed him that it was not worth it. Since we sat down [for mediation] he is drinking less, providing for us, he has paid for our children to return to school and contributed money to my business. I have forgiven him, he apologized, he realized what he was doing was wrong. He did not want to go to prison and miss out on life with his family."

In a different case, thanks to the mediation conducted by UN Women IP FIDA, Martha reclaimed

the land that she legally contributed to. Through the mediation session conducted by FIDA, Martha laid out her demands which were: family reunification, access to land for cultivation and her husband to provide and care for the children. Following this mediation, , he agreed to grant her the use of seven acres of land and return the children to school.

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In Uganda, Refugee Women’s Leadership Drives Inclusive Humanitarian Action



Every year, on 19 August the world commemorates World Humanitarian Day as an opportunity to honour the humanitarian community and the lifesaving work they perform every day. This year’s theme, “It Takes a Village” recognizes the importance of collective action in delivering humanitarian assistance by professionals and volunteers, but also by crisis-affected people themselves.

When crises occur, women and girls disproportionately bear the impact. Their low participation in humanitarian response planning and decision making, however, limits their voices from being heard and their needs from being fully met.

Refugee women in Bidi Bidi celebrating one of them that won the RWC elections held in February 2022. Photo Credit: UN Women / Athanasius Oguti



Empowering women to lead in crisis settings can help catalyse more robust humanitarian action that better addresses the needs of everyone.

Over the past several years, refugee settlements in two districts of Uganda have provided a real-world demonstration of this trend.

Though women and children make up to 81 per cent of the nearly 1.53 million refugees in Uganda, refugee settlement leadership has historically lacked women's representation. Cultural barriers, coupled with limited knowledge on rights and access to education, kept women from participating in decision-making processes.

In 2018, UN Women began providing trainings for the women and youth of Adjumani and Yumbe districts, which host 30.1 per cent of Uganda's total refugee population. The trainings include instruction in literacy, numeracy, women's rights, leadership and life skills development, public speaking, debating and radio presentation. The results were striking.

"Before I participated in the leadership training, I was a shy person. I could not speak up because of fear", says Joy Aiba, a South Sudanese refugee living in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in Yumbe District. Now, she feels empowered to be heard within settlement leadership.

Joy's confidence has improved since the trainings. "The leadership skills have enabled me to speak up for women in meetings", Joy says. "Right now, I am the RWC Chairperson for my village in Zone I. In Zone I and II, most leaders are now women".

Joy's experience is echoed by other leadership training participants. "From the training we realized that as refugee women we actually have a right to contest any position on the RWC", says Rose Aliyah. Rose is a South Sudanese refugee woman living in Pagirinya Settlement in Adjumani district. She enthused: "This gave me the courage to contest the position of Chairperson of RWC I in my village. My win encouraged more women to run for leadership".

Ugandan refugee settlements are governed by Refugee Welfare Committees (RWCs), with committee members directly elected by the refugee community under the supervision of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). Elections of RWCs take place every two years. While the guidelines for RWCs provide for 30 per cent refugee representation, women had not been coming forth to run in the elections and take up leadership positions.

To add, they women have been winning! In the districts of Yumbe and Adjumani, women's representation on RWCs has increased from 10 per cent in 2017 to 48 per cent and 54 per cent in 2022 respectively, according to data from the OPM. Leadership trainings in Adjumani, Yumbe, Terego and Kyegegwa are part of the Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection (LEAP) Programme, implemented with funding from the Government of Norway and through partnerships with the OPM, UNHCR, Refugee Law Project and Care International.



UN Women with support from the Norwegian Government Builds Capacity of Implementing Partners in Programme Monitoring And Evaluation

On 16th August 2022, UN Women organized a training on monitoring and evaluation for partners that implement the Leadership, Empowerment, Access, Protection (LEAP) and Women Peace Security (WPS) Programmes.

The training whose overall objective was to enhance the capacity of staff and Implementing partners in monitoring, evaluation and reporting of LEAP II and WPS II Programmes resulted into the development of a robust Monitoring and Evaluation plan for the two programmes.

Speaking on behalf of UN Women during the opening of the workshop, Ms. Claire Hawkins called on Implementing Partners to deliberately track and communicate results ensuring that there is evidence of these results.

“As a UN Women Implementing Partner, you defend UN Women’s presence and mandate in your respective areas of operation. We are all held accountable when it comes to reporting and communicating results of the Programmes that we implement,” she remarked.

During the workshop, both UN Women staff and Implementing Partners engaged in deep discussions on the results to be achieved, defined key indicators and how progress will be measured. This enabled all partners to have a harmonised understanding of the results, data collection techniques, analysis and reporting.

The Government of Norway has committed funds to support UN Women to implement the two Programmes for the next four years until 2026. This is the second phase of the two programmes. Phase one of the two programmes was also funded through the generous support of the Government of Norway.

Under the LEAP Phase 1, (2017 – 2021), UN Women was able to deliver on its mandate at national and district level. This includes increased use of gender assessment and analyses in humanitarian response planning frameworks and programming; improved literacy and numeracy for 1300 refugee women and girls and capacity building of women in leadership and public speaking that contributed to more women taking on leadership roles on the Refugee Welfare Committees (RWC) with 48% and 54% of RWC in Yumbe and Adjumani now occupied by women.

Through WPS Phase I, (2018 – 2021), UN Women worked with the Ministry of Gender to develop the Third National Action Plan on WPS. Six districts have gone ahead to develop Local Action Plans (LAPs) with three out of the six districts committing 1% of their 2021/2022 district budget towards the implementation of the LAPs.

Through the same program, the capacity of 667 women was enhanced enabling them to lead and participate in formal and informal peace building and conflict prevention processes and to serve on peace committees at district and subcounty levels.



Some of the participants engaged in a small group discussion on indicator definitions and measurements (Photo: UN Women/ Allen Ankunda)



UN Women provides dignity kits to girls and women asylum seekers in Nyakabande Transit Centre, Kisoro district



The OPM command on the right receiving dignity kits from UN Women implementing partners CoACT. Photo (CoACT)

As the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues, the situation remains unpredictable along the Kisoro border posing challenges for asylum seekers, especially for women, girls and children. As of September 4 2022, the UNHCR daily Kisoro Emergency Situation Update No.160 reported that an estimated 15,691 individuals are currently living at both the holding and transit centres in Nyakabande with 2,171 at the transit centre and 13,520 at the holding centre. Since March 28, 2022 an estimated 49,261 individuals have been at both the holding and transit centre.

The high numbers of asylum seekers have resulted into increased competition for resources, high levels of vulnerability, especially for women and girls since

they depend on donations and humanitarian aid, and increased cases of SBGV, with stress, and mental health risks among others.

A rapid gender assessment conducted earlier in January 2022 by UN Women further observed a lack of dignity kits for women and girls among the many needs of the asylum seekers. In response, UN Women with funding from Government of Norway partnered with Coalition for Action on 1325 (CoACT) to respond to the gender needs of women and girls. 600 women and girls have to date been supported with dignity kits that include 1400 kits of sanitary pads, 1600 ladies' underwear, 900 pieces of ladies' wrappers (Kitenge), 300 pieces of soap and 500 tins of vaseline.



“Your contribution will not only protect women from SGBV but are also protecting them from the coldness. At least every woman and girl require something to cover themselves, especially now that it is raining daily. These items are well thought out and key to the women and girls within this place” remarked Mr. Daniel Kisaamo, the OPM Commandant, Nyakabande Transit Centre, while receiving the hygiene and dignity kits from UN Women Implementing Partner, COACT.

With an average 146 persons per shelter instead of the recommended 80 people, the high number poses protection related challenges with women and girls at high risk of sexual and gender-based violence and mental distress. UN Women working with CoACT has equipped 22 (15 female 7 male) from the host communities and volunteers working in transit and holding centers with knowledge and skills in awareness-raising on Human Rights, GBV, SRHR, PSEA and peaceful co-existence. The volunteers have between July 2022 and September 2, 2022 been actively engaged in daily awareness raising and managed to record a total of 196 cases including rape, sexual assault, psychological/emotional abuse, physical assault, forced marriage, denial of resources among others. 56 of these cases have been managed and closed off by COACT trained volunteers while 140 cases have been referred to other partners within the transit and holding centers for further management.



ASP Francis Ogweng supporting a group discussion during the training of Community Volunteers on psychosocial support. Photo (CoACT)



Uganda hosts **Inaugural Conference on Artisanal Fisheries** and Aquaculture to mark the United Nations International Day of Fisheries



Participants in the International Conference of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (ICAFA) at the Source of the Nile Hotel in Jinja (UN Women/ Edmond Mwebembezi)

In commemoration of the United Nations International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022), Uganda hosted a three-day International Conference of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (ICAFA) at the Source of the Nile Hotel in Jinja under the theme, “Breaking new grounds to recognize and celebrate the contribution of smallscale fishers towards food security and nutrition”.

The objective of the ICAFA was to:

- 1) Enhance awareness, understanding and actions to support the contribution and sustainable development of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture to food security and nutrition, poverty eradication and use of natural resources.
- 2) To promote a platform for sharing blue economy innovations, research findings and their translation into practice, dialogue and collaboration among artisanal fishers, governments, and other partners to further strengthen their capacity to enhance sustainability, social development and well-being.

The event was presided over by the state minister for Agriculture, Hon. Bwino Fred Kyakulaga, and he commended the event organizers who included the Fisheries department of the Ministry and their partners for convening the event. “Fisheries, like coffee and tourism, is one of Uganda’s biggest foreign exchange earners and to see you all convene here to share research and identify opportunities of growth is amazing”, he said.

Hon. Bwino further mentioned that the Government of Uganda is committed to supporting small scale farmers to scale up through ensuring quality improvement and provision of financing opportunities, “the president is highly interested in the fisheries industry and is committed to supporting artisanal and aquaculture attain the needed growth as it not only puts money in the hands of farmers but also in the government coffers.”

The International Year of Artisanal Fisheries (IYAFA 2022) was declared in 2017 by the 72nd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, with the FAO to serve as the lead UN agency, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.



IYAFA 2022 provides an opportunity to showcase the potential and diversity of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, and points to the benefits which can be gained from facilitating partnerships and cooperation with all the stakeholders to achieve the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Artisanal Fisheries or Small-Scale Fisheries are most of the time referred to interchangeably, but most important to note is that about 90% of global fisheries fall within their definition. i.e., they are Low input, low output, limited technology, limited capital investment as part of the mechanisms to enhance the exchange of ideas and recent developments in artisanal fishing and Aquaculture.

UN Women participated in the three-day event with representation the Women Economic Empowerment team which showcased their support to the Women Economic Empowerment Bugiri project that is engaged in cage-fishing.

The project, worth USD 795,000 is supported by UN Women, Standard BankSouth Africa, Government of Sweden, Msingi Ea, Pearl Aquatics and Bugiri District

Local Government. With this support, a 450 Tons per annum farm was established and the capacity of women built in fishing, packaging, storage and even engaging in fish trade, thus empowering the women in Bugiri district under this project to live sustainable livelihoods.

“We started this program in 2018, and we have since, witnessed the power of bringing women together and empowering them. Not only have they been able to participate in the male dominated fisheries industry, but they have also managed to improve their livelihoods,” says Patricia Elotu, the WEE Program Analyst at the UN Women Uganda Country Office.

She, however, highlights some challenges including the fisheries industry being dominated by men, the cost of operating the project, the need for more women to be engaged in the project.

“We also have a challenge of getting women to appreciate the value chain system all the way from fishing, marketing, storage and conservation in order to reap bigger,” she further notes.



Members of the public and conference participants visiting the UN Women/WEEB stall to understand the work of UN Women in supporting fisheries in Uganda Photo: (UN Women/ Edmond Mwebembezi)



Ugandan women legislators trained in **effective communication and parliamentary oversight**



Officials and participants from UN Women, CPA UK, UWOPA and Parliament of Uganda attended the training. Photo: UN Women/Edmond Mwebembezi

UN Women, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch (CPA UK), and Uganda Parliamentary Women Association (UWOPA) collaborated to provide women parliamentarians with the knowledge and abilities to feel more self-assured and have a greater impact on the Ugandan Parliament for high-quality work.

The training gave the participants practical skills to help them handle committee hearings communication on the floor of parliament and media interviews, building on prior participation and focusing on effective committee work and compelling external communications.

The development of capacity for conducting investigations, speaking with witnesses, taking part in public hearings, and examining evidence in reports was also addressed. The women MPs also got knowledge and skills in areas such as policymaking, lobbying, fundamental reporting and presenting, finance and budgeting, and composing proposals to help them fulfill their responsibilities more effectively.



Hon Rose Abinga makes her submission during the training. Photo: UN Women/Edmond Mwebembezi



One of the participants, Honorable Rose Obinga is a politician from Uganda and a newcomer to the legislature. During the just completed 2021 Uganda general elections, she was chosen to serve as a woman member representing Terego district.

Rose had worked as social worker and government official, and her desire to join the Ugandan parliament was pushed by the struggles that the women in her region experienced and how they overcame them.

"I realized the necessity to represent my fellow women in parliament because the August House is the only place where we can obtain proper representation of the difficulties women in Uganda confront," she says.

After being elected to the 11th Parliament, Rose realized how crucial it was to understand a wide range of topics outside women's problems and the value of having effective communication skills in the August house.

"The value of effective communication in the media, the community, and on the legislative floor is something we often take for granted. When speaking to various groups, particularly the media, many of my coworkers find it difficult to express themselves," she observed.

Adekemi Ndieli, UN Women Deputy Representative in Uganda, spoke at the opening of the session and urged the participants to make greater use of the newfound information and skills in the parliament.

"The participation of women in decision-making is crucial for advancing democracy, so let's put our newfound knowledge and abilities to use to advance women's leadership and governance in this nation," she said.

The Hon. Kate Osamor, UK Member of Parliament for Edmonton, emphasized the value of information exchange, saying, "Let's take this chance to better our work and become strategic legislators. Peer-to-peer education is very vital."

The two-day training was well-received by the attendees, who noted that these soft skills are sometimes disregarded while being crucial for anyone in a leadership role.

The Soroti woman MP and UWOPA chairperson, Hon. Sarah Opendi, also expressed her gratitude to CPA UK and UN Women for providing her colleagues with timely assistance. She implored them to get in touch with her because she is a well-known vocal MP who can help them with their challenges both inside and outside of the legislature.

"The training is excellent, and I have no doubt that it has improved my colleagues and me. Let's go and diligently start serving our people," she said.

"Because of the abilities I have gained here," Rose says, "I now believe that I will handle my business better in this August house because they have surely raised my confidence and my expertise on parliament oversight and communications."

"Leadership is about others and not just you," the highly regarded Miria Matembe, a former MP and Minister in Uganda, remarked in her parting remarks to uplift and inspire the participants.

"Fighting fear will help you complete your work and fulfill your mandate. Some of the improvements you witness in the Ugandan Parliament wouldn't have occurred if your forerunners had been afraid."



UN Women Uganda **Convenes Women's Movement Building Training to Rethink Advocacy** for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment



Adekemi Ndieli UN Women DCR (left) sits alongside Juliana Akoryo the Director of Women's Affairs for the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (UN Women/Eva Sibanda)

On 18 July 2022, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) committed to continuously step up its collaboration with the Women's Movement and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in Uganda, to advocate and campaign for women's rights.

The commitment was made at a five-day workshop organized by the UN Women at Imperial Golf Hotel in Entebbe attracting over 80 women rights advocacy participants. The aim was to promote a shared understanding of the women's movement in advancing gender equality, women's empowerment, ending violence against women and girls and harmful practices. Opening the workshop, UN Women

Acting Representative to Uganda ad interim, Ms. Adekemi Ndieli emphasized the importance of the women's movement in achieving gender equality in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5.

UN Women owes its existence to the women's movement. As feminists in the room, we want to ensure a transformational approach to everything we do across all our areas of work from economic empowerment to ending violence. We must have feminist approach to this work," she said.

The Director of Women's Affairs at the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ms Juliana Akoryo shared a commitment from the government to support the women's movement to advance this work.



Individual grassroots women as well as technical staff from women's organisations shared their experiences in this feminist journey in Uganda (UN Women/Eva Sibanda)

“To strengthen the representation of women, we must learn to rally and support one another. As the Ministry of Gender, we are committed to supporting the women's movement in Uganda.” - Director Juliana Akoryo.

The Moderator and International Consultant, Solome Nakaweesi-Kimbugwe, told participants: “The work we do as the women's movement is personal but collectively our pain can be lighter through sisterhood and support networks that we are forming here today.”

The workshop also strengthened the women's movement in Uganda to collaboratively advocate and campaign for women's rights and strengthen the understanding of the Spotlight Initiative, the largest targeted effort to end violence against women and girls. The women's movement aims to promote a strong and empowered civil society and autonomous movement by advocating for stronger laws and policies, ensuring civil society participation, building capacity of CSOs and strengthening networking opportunities.



Other exercises involved mapping of the history of the women's movement in Uganda and identifying as well as celebrating feminist leaders in Uganda. The exercises enabled a deeper understanding of where the women's movement is going and how. (Eva Sibanda/UN Women Uganda)

As intended, the workshop established a safe space for members of the women's movement including civil society organizations, government and individual grassroots women to share experiences and discuss how to rethink movement strengthening.

Attending the meeting were members of the civil society including the National Association of Women's Organizations Uganda (NAWOU) and National Union of Women with Disabilities Uganda (NUWODU). Other invited participants included women leading grassroots organizations, community-based organizations, chairpersons of organizations of the Spotlight Initiative Partners and UN Women Staff.



Ayikoru Patience: My Wildest Dream is to be the UN Women Executive Director



Patience, makes a presentation during one of the sessions

The African Women Leadership Institute (AWLI) is an experience of a lifetime that every emerging leader ought to tap into. With support from UN Women Uganda, from AWLI, I gained skills in medium for progressive leadership values, robust feminist skills, desired political and governance understanding, interaction and networking with various young leaders, sharing our dreams and aspirations.

My first session at AWLI began on September 9, 2021, with our first lesson on Personal Development. I learned a lot about locating and understanding oneself, as well as linking the past, present, and now and aligning my leadership toolkits as strengths in my leadership path.

Other sessions were just as engaging as the first, and I learned about gender consciousness, power and patriarchy, and feminism. At the end of it all, I was able to understand the oppressive mechanisms in my culture. We had an open discussion about why feminism was important.

Have you ever pondered why you are a feminist?

The question appears simple, but with careful consideration, one realizes that there is a lot more to feminism than simply proclaiming it and acting on what we want to see in our community. Sisterhood, femininity, feminist consciousness, power, and solidarity were the core feminist notions that I unpacked.

The AWLI programme taught me the value of having a dialogue about the need for women's rights and my role in campaigning for such rights to benefit all women. I was aware of Advocacy and Planning.

These amazing sessions were facilitated by; Hope Chigundu, Maria Alesi, Eunice Musiime, Perry Aritua, Asiimwe John, and Monicah Amoding. The Akina Mama Wa Afrika team and UN Women team were well coordinated and quick to responding to any queries from the participants.



Today, I am able to have a consistent effect on my life as an individual and in my community. I exemplify feminist leadership ideas and have learned the value of consciousness, accountability, and ethical leadership.

As if the sessions weren't enough, we had a healing circle a few months after our cohort graduated, we were invited to a physical meeting, and in addition to engaging with the fellows, we were tasked with writing down our visions and mission statements; it was the icing on the cake, everything I learned at the institute became so tangible.

At the time, I was going to handover office as Guild Speaker; I drafted a Sexual Harassment Policy for my University and tried to front for its implementation together with the entire Guild, we however did not see it to its completion but rather handed it over to the next leaders, a lesson I learnt while at AWLI to create a chain of effortless leaders.

I was later featured in 2022 in the New Vision newspaper among leaders of influence in the women's movement in the year 2021. I have since been able to meet with the Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda and discussed my opinions on women's financial independence and its role in gender equality.

I have also been a voice bringing together young activists under Forum for Women in Democracy, Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Uganda), and Akina Mama wa Afrika, in order to champion advocacy campaigns. AWLI helped me gain knowledge from different leaders in Uganda and this has enhanced my skills in identifying new global sustainable solutions for gender equality and women's political participation.

I am in touch with the fellows at the cohort, we share so many leadership opportunities with each other in the WhatsApp group and on many other platforms. We have been unstoppable I tell you. I personally have been able to enroll and successfully completed the Young African Leadership Institute (YALI) Regional Leadership Centre recently; and I have been able to share my experience with the world.

I am not yet done, I know this program has brewed so much confidence in me, given me mentors and a mantle to be a great force in the next generation of African leaders.

My wildest dream is to be the UN Women Executive Director some day in future after fulfilling my vision of fronting for gender responsive governance, policy reforms and legislations that work for the good of all and specifically creating a safer world for all women. Like the saying by Madeleine Albright, "It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent."

Without knowing who I am, it would be difficult to understand those around me. I was so privileged to be a part of the esteemed African Women Leaders' Institute convened by Akina Mama wa Afrika in partnership with UN Women 2021 Cohort.

Women are breaking ceilings, and it doesn't matter what field you are in; farming, civil society, academia, legal, sciences, journalism, name it; it starts now. We got this.



Second Chance: Electrical Installation and other skills for adolescent girls and young women in Uganda



Ateame Salami at her workplace at an electric shop in Soroti City, Uganda. Photo: (FAWE)

UN Women with support from the Swedish government, is implementing the “Promoting Second Chance Education” Programme in Uganda for vulnerable and marginalized adolescent girls and young women.

UN Women is providing skills for life, including vocational skills to vulnerable and marginalized adolescent girls and young women such as teenage mothers, girls and young women living with HIV, women in sex work, people with disabilities, and survivors of sexual gender-based violence and child brides.

One such recipient of the program is Ateame Salami, originally from Amuria district in eastern Uganda

but now residing and working in Soroti district in an Electronic Installations shop.

“In 2019, after my Senior Two, my parents were stuck and did not have enough funds to further my education,” she explains.

As a result, Ateame, who is the third child in a family of seven, was forced to drop out of high school in 2019. She was upset and stressed because her future prospects had come to a halt due to a lack of funds to further her education.

“Life was difficult until UN Women came along with the Promoting Second Chance Education programme and I got a chance of joining school again,” Salami says, smiling.



Salami enrolled in and completed a six-month certificate course in Electrical Installation from Wera Technical Institute in Amuria district, before moving to Soroti where she interned and later landed a job as a salesperson in an Electrical Installations shop in Soroti city.

Salami points out that at Wera, she acquired critical skills in electrical installation, including domestic and commercial installation, which enabled her to find a job.

“I was extremely fortunate to be given this opportunity at the electronics workshop. During my internship, a district engineer recognized me and asked me to work for him. In addition to running the shop, I occasionally assist with electric installation and termination when needed,” she says.

She goes on to say that thanks to the Promoting Second Chance Education programme, she didn’t have to return to the village where there was no work and has been able to earn a living.

“I now support my family with basic groceries like soap and sugar, which my parents couldn’t afford,” says Salami.

According to Elizabeth Mushabe, Leaving No One Behind Program Specialist, UN Women Uganda, implementing the Promoting Second Chance Education programme, the effects of COVID-19 on many financially disadvantaged families were adverse affecting all members in unequal proportions.

She further mentions that most families opted to trade off their girl children in exchange for food, many women were trapped with violent partners while others separated due to harassment by partners and the extended family, and many girls could not return to school because they were pregnant and or nursing babies.

“With the help of the Swedish Government, UN Women, working with the Forum for African Women Educationalists – Uganda identified and supported a total of more than 1,200 young women to return to and complete various vocations, while close to 100 learners were supported to complete their UCE and UACE certification courses,” Elizabeth articulates.

She further highlights the common vocations, which include plumbing, carpentry, electrical and solar installations, motor vehicle and auto engine mechanics, catering, automobile repairs, tailoring, agriculture and extension services, driving, metal welding and fabrication, building, and concrete practice.

Until 2021, the project was implemented in 14 districts selected from Karamoja, Acholi, Bukedi, Teso, and Ruwenzori sub-regions of Uganda. These include Napak, Nakapiripirit, Kaabong, Abim, Kotido, Moroto, Gulu, Amudat, Pader, Amuria, Kitgum, Kaberamaido, Tororo, and Kasese based on the prevalence of HIV, teenage pregnancy, and GBV among the beneficiary populations.

In 2022, the project was further extended to eight other districts of the Rwenzori region including Bunyangabu, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, Ntoroko, Kabarole, Fortportal city, and Kitagwenda.

Despite her achievements, Salami believes she has more potential.

“My dream is to acquire more knowledge in electrical engineering so that I can find the bigger opportunities because they are very many,” she says.



Uganda's Commemoration of Women's Month **Casts Spotlight on The Heroes** Who Paved the Way for Women Empowerment in Africa



Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Hon Amongi addressing the guests as UN and South African High Commission officials look on at the commemoration of the Women's Month (Photo: UN Women/Edmond Mwebembezi)

UN Women joined the South African High Commission in Uganda to recognize the heroes who paved the way for women empowerment. This was at an event organized by Her Excellency, Lulama Mary-Theresa Xingwana, of the South African High Commission in Uganda in partnership with the United Nations Family, represented by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, UN Women and UNDP, under the theme: "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building back better for Women's Improved Resilience".

"Today, we honour and celebrate the lives of these courageous women by acting more audaciously and strategically to advance gender equality and Women's Human Rights. I want to see that commitment from everyone, men and women", Hon. Betty Amongi, the Minister of Gender, Labor and Social Development stated at the commemoration.

Hon. Amongi also emphasized, "we need to understand the dynamics of political economics when it comes to effective economic networking between men and women, in most cases because of restrictive gender social norms women tend to be left out because of their gender roles and social norm expectations," stressing the need to look beyond these norms when advancing the rights of women and girls.

H.E Lulama Mary provided a brief history of women's month, informing everyone that the month of August is recognized as women's month in South Africa and as such 9th of August was officially declared a National Women's Day in South Africa since independence in 1994.

"The celebration is a tribute to the more than 20 000 women who on 9th August 1956 marched to the Union Buildings to protest the extension of Apartheid and Pass Laws to women," she said.



UN Women Representative in Uganda Dr Paulina Chiwangu and South African High Commissioner to Uganda H.E Lulama called on women and girls remember those who paved the way for women to be where they are today (Edmond Mwebembezi/UN Women Uganda)

The UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Suzan Namondo highlighted that over 43 percent of women-led businesses closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We need to address the stereotypes against women. When you’re told what you should be and how you should be, it gets much harder to discover who you are. We should strive to create a space for women to find out how they can contribute to the world.”

UN Women Uganda Country Representative, Paulina Chiwangu applauded the South African government for collaborating with the UN family to “celebrate this historic day where we recognize the heroes who came before us and paved the way for the advancement of women’s empowerment, not only in Uganda and South Africa but around the world.”

She further said, “we need to use the existence of technology to empower women-led enterprises

to compete equally with the rest of the world.” Collaboration with the private sector is also critical to uplifting African women.”

A panel discussion on women’s economic empowerment and financial inclusion highlighted the business options available for women to pursue and succeed, as well as financial institutions’ willingness to provide women with finance to establish or grow their businesses.

The Women’s Month commemoration brought together officials from the government, development partners, the private sector, and women networks to discuss trade-related experiences, achievements, lessons, and measures to strengthen the resilience of women entrepreneurs to multiple shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate-induced food insecurity, and loss of economic livelihood options.



Uganda commits to **Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls** at the 66th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

Uganda attended the 66th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 66), which took place from March 14th to March 26th, 2022. The event’s key theme was “Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering All Women and Girls in the Context of Climate Change, Environmental, and Disaster Risk Reduction Policies and Programs.”

A debrief meeting was held at the Naguru Skyz Hotel convened by the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) with support from UN Women where participants were informed that Uganda committed to empowering women through strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks to enable inclusiveness in the design and implementation of policies and programmes for resilience against climate change and environmental degradation that have a great impact on women and children.

Specifically, the government will take actions to fully implement existing commitments and obligations in the context of climate change, environmental, and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination of any kind.

Moreover, the government will integrate gender perspectives into the design, funding, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes on climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity protection, environmental degradation and pollution, including by chemicals, pesticides and plastics such as microplastics, as well as into needs assessments, forecasting and early warning systems, and disaster prevention, preparedness, response, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction plans at the national, regional and international levels, as appropriate.



The debrief meeting had participants from Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, UN Women, Civil Society and Academia (Photo: UN Women/Edmond Mwebembezi)



Furthermore, the participants agreed to foster partnerships and foster collaboration through efforts that are sensitive to the needs and experiences of women and girls bearing in mind their capabilities and giving credit to their potential.

Addressing inter-linkages among the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development was also highlighted through strengthening institutions and capacities to foster integration at all levels of government and the political spectrum.

The debrief meeting also emphasized the importance of generating and using high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated, including by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts to better understand the impacts of climate change and disasters and help drive gender-responsive policy responses.

On behalf of the Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development, Ms Nakafeero Angela Commissioner appreciated the team for their participation in the pre and post CSW events that saw Uganda's full participation at both regional and global levels. "Uganda successfully attended the main sessions in

New York and that the Ministry looked forward to the Actions and way forward to the implementation of the agreed conclusions," she said.

The UN Women Deputy Country Representative a.i, Mr Dan Bazira, noted that during the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women that took place in March, the member states recognized with concern the disproportionate impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters on the lives of women and girls.

"There has been loss of homes, destruction infrastructure, livelihoods, water scarcity, damage service points such as schools and health facilities and stressed the urgency of eliminating persistent historical and structural inequalities, discriminatory laws and policies, negative social norms and gender stereotypes that perpetuate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination," he said.

Mr Bazira also emphasized that there was need to expand financing for Gender equality climate smart actions to accelerate implementation of SDGs and realize women and girls' full human rights which are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive, and equitable economic growth and sustainable development.

VIDEOS

UN Women Uganda - We Empower
- Women & Girls Enjoy Quality Basic
Social and Protection Services



UN Women Uganda - We
Empower - Gender Equality
and Women Rights Fulfilled
in a Culturally Responsive
Environment



The Role and Impact of GBV
Shelters in Uganda





We've been busy on Twitter. Here are some highlights from our twitter accounts

Our Country Representative is now on Twitter! Follow her page

← **Paulina Chiwangu**
26 Tweets

Paulina Chiwangu
@PaulinaUNWomen Follows you

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📍 Kampala, Uganda 📅 Joined July 2022

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UN Women Uganda @unwomenuganda · 20h

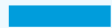
Thank to the @EUinUG/@EU_Commission, the @GlobalSpotlight supports @unwomenuganda to train Male Champions who are ending violence against women and girls! #FundingForGenderEquality #PartnerRecognition

🔗 Read more: spotlightinitiative.org/news/how-male-... #WithHer @unwomenafrica

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Amb. Maria Håkansson @SwedEnvoyUganda · Aug 18

Happy to welcome @PaulinaUNWomen to Uganda as new @unwomenuganda country director. Strategic partner to Sweden in advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls, and looking forward to working together to this aim.




The work of UN Women Uganda Country Office is
generously supported by the partners below:



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