

UGANDA

Country Office Newsletter

UN Women Uganda Newsletter 2024

This second edition of our quarterly newsletter, covering April to June, aims to keep our partners informed about the highlights of UN Women Uganda's activities during this period. We sincerely hope you find the information in this newsletter useful.



Foreword

Dear Valued Partners,

I am pleased to share the second issue of our 2024 newsletter. This quarterly publication highlights our ongoing commitment to promote Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE).

In this edition, we present highlights of our progress in GEWE and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), featuring insights from the recent 3rd VNR Report 2024. We continue to engage our stakeholders at different levels, including the SDG Secretariat at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Ministry of Finance, and Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), to support and strengthen the capacity of government and non-government actors in integrating gender equality perspectives into data production processes and systems within the Joint Programme on Data and Statistics in Uganda.

We also look at our engagements with cultural and traditional institutions under their umbrella of Council of Traditional Leaders in Africa (COTLA) and how their role is important in tackling GBV cases in their different communities. Cultural and traditional institutions play a vital role in shaping community perceptions and attitudes towards ending GBV, making them central to our approach.

This quarter, we conducted trainings and joint visits to the UN Joint Programme on Gender Based Violence (UNJPGVB) to review the achievements of the past five years, and to assess the implementation and sustainability plans by the districts and partners. Under the Access to Justice Approach, 25 police officers received training on handling forensic evidence, which is crucial for addressing GBV cases.



Also, read about the young newly appointed State Minister of Energy, Hon. Phiona Nyamuturo, as she shares her leadership journey in an interview on how civic spaces provided by UN Women have enabled her to achieve her governance goals. We lastly, take a look at events during the African Girls Can Code (AGCC) boot camp that took place in Moroto district in early June.

We sincerely appreciate all our partners who have supported us as we fulfill our mandate to empower women.

Happy reading!

Warm regards,

Dr. Paulina Chiwangu
UN Women Country Representative

Increased Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) Monitoring and Reporting in Uganda: 3rd National Voluntary Review on SDGs 2024

3rd Uganda Annual SDG Conference



H. E. the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni signing the 3rd VNR 2024 report during the Annual SDG Conference held on 19th -20th June 2024. **Photo Courtesy** : OPM Uganda

Significant strides have been made in evidence-based monitoring and reporting of country priorities and commitments to Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) and SDGs in Uganda. The number of minimum set of gender specific SDG indicators with available data has increased from 28 out of 54 reported in the 2020 2nd VNR to 32 indicators. This is highlighted in the 3rd VNR Report 2024 that was signed and launched by the President of Uganda, H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni at the third Annual SDG Conference 19th-20th June 2024. (Click link to read [report](#))

Uganda is among the 38 countries scheduled to present its VNR to the High-Level Political Forum in July 2024.

GENDER DATA INITIATIVES IN UGANDA SINCE 2018

The report highlights key initiatives supported by UN WOMEN and other partners that have increased availability of gender data for decision-making since 2018. These include:

i. Administrative Data: Uganda expanded the National Gender Based Violence (GBV) Database and established a National Trafficking in Persons Database that generate routine timely gender data used to build evidence for informed planning, intervention design and decision making.

ii. Integration of gender perspectives in surveys: Gender Equality modules were incorporated into the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) 2022 and the 2024 Population and Housing Census to bridge data gaps in GEWE and SDGs.

iii. Increased investment in dedicated Gender Surveys: The National Governance, Peace and Security Survey (NGPSS 2017), Time Use Survey 2019, and National Survey on Violence in Uganda 2021 provided critical gender data for policy and programming to address GEWE.

UNWOMEN UGANDA CONTRIBUTION TO THE VNR PROCESS

UN Women in Uganda provided financial and technical support to the VNR process by participating in the VNR Advisory Committee and the small task team for quality assurance.



UNWomen participates in the 3rd VNR 2024 Quality Assurance team retreat 15th -17th May 2024. Photo: UN Women



UNWomen Uganda Country Rep. Dr. Paulina Chiwangu (2nd right) and the UN Resident Coordinator, Susan Namondo take a picture with President Museveni at the Uganda 3rd Annual SDG Conference 2024. Photo Courtesy: OPM Uganda

Leaders of Cultural and Traditional Institutions Convene to Strategize on GBV Prevention



UNWomen's Deputy Country Rep. a.i, Evelyn Letiyo (seated in blue jacket) in group photo with some of the Prime ministers and officials from different cultural institutions in Uganda during a meeting in Kampala. Photo : UN Women/Samuel Wamuttu



Simon Peter Nangiyo of Karamoja gives his views at the meeting. Photo Courtesy: CCFU Uganda

On 4th April 2024, Prime Ministers of cultural and traditional institutions in Uganda under the Council of Traditional Leaders in Africa (COTLA)- Uganda Chapter met in Kampala to develop their workplans and put in place their full leadership structure.

During the event, COTLA Uganda Chapter and Cultural Institutions developed their workplan and commissioned a leadership structure that will spearhead activities for the first financial year 2024/2025.

UN Women is working in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and the Cross Cultural Foundation of Uganda (CCFU) to rally Cultural and traditional institutions in the prevention of violence against women and girls in Uganda.



We are trying to strengthen the Karamoja Elders' Association and cultural values that can reinforce peace because violence against women and girls is rampant during instabilities,

said Simon Peter Nangiro, a participant from the Karamoja region in north eastern Uganda.

Under the umbrella of the COTLA Uganda Chapter, UN Women efforts bring together 17 gazetted cultural institutions in Uganda, to work towards obtaining a common objective of ending violence against women and girls in its various forms, including but not limited to child and forced marriages, Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C), all forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV), gender discrimination and inequality in education.

Police Officers Receive Cutting-Edge Forensics Training



SOCO trainees listening to a senior Police officer as he facilitates a session on fingerprint identification process. Photos: UN Women Samuel Wamuttu



The UN Women Access to Justice Specialist, Beatrice Mulindwa delivering opening remarks at the event. Photo: UN Women

On May 13th, 2024, UN Women, in collaboration with the Uganda Police Force, convened over 24 Scene of Crime Officers from different regions of the country for a 3-day workshop on gathering evidence at crime scenes involving gender-based violence cases, as part of the Access to Justice Initiative.

The comprehensive capacity-building training covered topics such as crime scene management, exhibit management and chain of custody, handling DNA exhibits, developing latent prints, managing e-crime scenes and digital evidence in SGBV cases, and the influence of drugs and substances in SGBV cases.

In her opening remarks, Beatrice Mulindwa, UN-Women's Access to Justice Programme Specialist, encouraged participants to stay attentive and take advantage of the opportunity to learn new skills and techniques from the course facilitators, thereby improving their understanding and performance in the field.



SOCO trainees undergo a practical session on gathering evidence at a scene of crime Photos: UN Women Samuel Wamuttu

After the training, each SOCO was equipped with knowledge to support evidence gathering, particularly in defilement cases, which will be used in courts of law to prosecute perpetrators of these crimes.

The trainees are to use the knowledge in improving the gathering of GBV related cases in their different localities.

"I now know how to collect and preserve evidence and maintain the chain of custody. I understand that this can make or break a case, and I will follow the guidelines diligently," exclaimed Brenda Were, one of the participating police officers.

With UN Women support, the Uganda Police Force now has a total of 135 police personnel (61 Female and 74 Male) officers trained in forensics since 2021 and these will aid in resolving gender based violence and sexual reproductive health cases across the country. This initiative is part of the United Nations Joint Programme on Gender-Based Violence (UNJPGVB) implemented across 14 districts of Uganda with funding from the European Union together with the Embassy of Sweden.



Beatrice Mulindwa (seated in black, white dotted dress), UN Women Access to Justice Specialist takes a group photo with members of the Uganda Police force during their SOCO training in Kampala. Photo: UN Women

UN Women team Kickoff G4DU Initiative



UN Women staff members hold a meeting with some of the proposed beneficiaries of the G4DU project.

The Gender for Development Uganda (G4DU) project was kicked off in early April 2024 involving field visits to some of the beneficiary areas in Karamoja and south western Uganda.

The initiative will enhance awareness of gender equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours that prevent GBV and advance SRHR in schools, communities, institutions, and refugee settlements.

The project will be implemented in 3 districts of Yumbe, Terego and Kyegegwa, and in addition, Amudat district which will be primarily completion of the Start, Awareness, Support, and Action (SASA), an evidence-based community mobilization approach aimed at preventing violence against women and girls that was earlier implemented by UN Women.

Its an action phase as a follow-on from EU-UN Spotlight initiative on ending Violence against Women and Girls.

The UN Women team visited some of the schools with partners who will implement the project to discuss some modalities.



Jennifer Acio, UN Women's Programme Specialist interacts with pupils of Wisdom Primary School, in Kakoni Subcounty, Kyengegwa District, in south western Uganda.

Wisdom Primary School, one of the targeted schools for the G4DU intervention, has a student population of 2,291. Of these, 515 are Ugandan nationals, while 1,776 are refugees, the majority of whom are from the Democratic Republic of Congo, where armed conflict has displaced many families.

Joint Monitoring of JP GBV in Karamoja Region and Gulu District.



A team of partners on the UNJPGVB in a meeting with the CAO of Moroto District Photo: UN Women/Beatrice Mulindwa

A joint field monitoring mission involving partners of the United Nations Joint Programme on the prevention of gender-based violence (UNJPGVB), was conducted in the districts of Moroto in Karamoja and Gulu in northern Uganda in April.

This 5-year initiative (2018-2023) has significantly impacted lives in the Karamoja, Teso, and Acholi regions, focusing on ending GBV and improving SRHR for the most vulnerable across 14 districts. Currently, during the no-cost extension phase, we are ensuring that community structures and services continue to provide quality support.

UNJPGVB is a collaborative effort involving several UN agencies in eliminating violence against women and girls. The programme receives funding from the Embassy of Sweden in Uganda.

Technical focal points from the implementing agencies (UNFPA & UNWOMEN) convened for a week-long joint monitoring mission in Gulu and Moroto alongside Officials from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), and Representatives from the Embassy of Sweden. The purpose of the mission was to follow up on the achievements registered over the past five years and review the implementation of the sustainability plans by the districts and partners with the key objectives of:

Technical focal points from the implementing agencies (UNFPA & UNWOMEN) convened for a week-long joint monitoring mission in Gulu and Moroto alongside Officials from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), and Representatives from the Embassy of Sweden. The purpose of the mission was to follow up on the achievements registered over the past five years and review the implementation of the sustainability plans by the districts and partners with the key objectives of:

- i. Undertake a field visit to select JP GBV project sites and share experiences on GBV prevention and response and SRHR integration in the district and communities.
- ii. Identify the existing gaps in GBV prevention and response and integration of SRHR to generate a forward look for JPGBV where need be.

iii. Ascertain the level of implementation of the district sustainability plans for continuity of the gains made from the implementation of JP GBV and share any lessons/good practices to take forward.

Expected Outcome

- A deeper understanding of the JP GBV delivery models, results achieved, and promising practices to build on.
- Opportunities, challenges, and recommendations



The SIDA representative being introduced to the community activist at Patiko HC



The SIDA representative interacting with health Centre staff.



The team interacting with the role model men at Patiko HC



SIDA representative making his remarks during the meeting with Gulu district leadership



Community activist welcoming the team at Paicho S/C



The Ag. DCDO Moroto giving the opening remarks during the meeting with the district leadership at the Ag CAO's office.



ULS representative welcoming the team by giving a brief about ULS interventions

Securing Justice for GBV Survivors in Uganda



Her Worship Ajuna in her office during the interview in Tororo District. (Photo: UN Women/Samuel Wamuttu)

Her Worship Doreen Ajuna serves as the Chief Magistrate of Tororo district in eastern Uganda. In her role, she is responsible for handling criminal cases, including those related to gender-based violence and sexual reproductive health and rights, aiming to address violence against women and girls. UN Women Uganda collaborates with Justice Centres Uganda (JCU) to provide legal services to the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable populations in the country.

"It is sad to note that 80% of the cases I handle involve defilement, with the highest number coming from our neighboring district of Butaleja. This is largely due to cultural and religious beliefs in some communities where girls as young as 14 are married off instead of being given the opportunity to further their education. In September 2023 alone, 50 cases were heard, and over 50% of them were related to gender-based violence in Tororo district."

UN Women through the Spotlight Initiative has since 2018 worked with Justice Centres Uganda to address violence against women and girls across 14 districts in Uganda.

UN Women Uganda collaborates with the Justice Centres Uganda to implement the Joint Programme on Gender Based Violence from September 2018 until December 2023. Under the project, a total of 9,497 community members were sensitised on legal aid services through mobile clinics and outreaches. The project was made possible through the generous support of the European Union in Uganda.

The Spotlight initiative is a collaborative partnership between the Government of Uganda, the EU and UN, civil society, religious and cultural institutions, academia, as well as the private sector. Spotlight pilots innovations and scales-up evidence-based models to comprehensively address violence against women and girls. The initiative combats harmful practices, promotes sexual and reproductive health and rights, and addresses underlying negative gender norms and inequalities.

In working together with the Justice Centres Uganda, a series of trainings were conducted targeting paralegals and justice actors. This was aimed at providing legal services to particularly vulnerable and marginalized women and girls.

Previously, the accused perpetrators of defilement would get away with their crimes for lack of sufficient evidence. They would also collude with clan elders to silence the parents of the victims either through bribes or intimidation.

Collecting Evidence on Defilement Cases

To tackle such challenges, UN Women supported courts in setting up child friendly rooms. These rooms are specifically designed to help child victims feel more comfortable to testify against the accused in the court rooms.

Together with Justice Centers Uganda, the court carries out community sensitisations where parents are told about the penalties of involving themselves in defilement cases.

Despite these improvements, there is a long way to go in tackling gender-based violence. One reason for this is that some communities still have entrenched cultural beliefs that undermine women and slow down their progress realise equal rights.

There is also a culture of fundraisings during funerals where music is played throughout that period exposing these young girls to dangerous substances of alcohol leading to defilement and gang rape incidences in the communities.

The rooms are furnished with play materials such as toys and even refreshments to enable the victims to relax before a court session. Personnel in court were also trained in how to handle child victims of sexual violence.

Her Worship Ajuna showing Moses Ojok, the UN Women Gender and Coordination Officer some of the items in the child friendly room. (Photo: UN Women/Samuel Wamuttu)





‘Refugee women’s voices matter’ – Meet Grace Neima Khemis, the first woman Chairperson of her Refugee Welfare Committee

Nearly half of all refugees are women and girls, yet their voices are often absent from decision-making. A UN Women programme in Uganda trains women refugees to lead. On World Refugee Day (20 June), get inspired by the story of Grace Neima Khemis.

It’s 9 a.m. at the Bidi Bidi refugee settlement in Uganda’s Yumbe District, and Grace Neima Khemis’ phone is buzzing every five minutes. Callers are mainly village leaders preparing for a meeting taking place later that day. With enthusiasm, Khemis responds to each call.

Khemis, a 34-year-old South Sudanese refugee, was elected in April 2024 as Chairperson of the Refugee Welfare Committee III, the highest leadership role in the committee for the Bidi Bidi Settlement. She is the first woman to be elected to the position, and it wasn’t an easy journey.

Fleeing war and hunger in South Sudan, Khemis arrived in Uganda with nothing more than the clothes on her back and her five children. She embodies the resilience and determination of refugee women who refuse to be defined by their circumstances.

At first, she felt hopeless. "I lost everything I had worked for," she recalls. Back in South Sudan, Khemis was a bank manager, but when conflict erupted in her hometown, she had to flee, leaving behind a promising career and the comforts of her home.

Arriving in Bidi Bidi, the largest refugee settlement in Africa, life was harsh. Yet she persevered, driven by the desire to rebuild her life and help others do the same. That's when her leadership journey began.

In 2019, Grace participated in a series of leadership training organized by the Refugee Law Project, as part of a UN Women programme funded by the Government of Norway. The training helped her learn to articulate issues and advocate for change. Khemis then decided to stand for election for the Chairperson's role in the Refugee Welfare Committee. "I realized that there were more women refugees than men, but we were not in leadership," she said. "If a woman can lead, why can't we start from our [settlement] zone? I returned from the training determined to compete for the seat."

Empowered with newfound confidence, Khemis competed against four male candidates for the Chairperson's seat. Although she didn't win initially, her determination and hard work earned her an important role representing refugees at the national Refugee Engagement Forum. This platform allowed Khemis to amplify the voices of countless refugees. She advocated with decision-makers to address their needs and priorities, such as access to clean water and healthcare referrals. Her dedication resonated with the community, and in April 2024, she was elected as the Chairperson of the Refugee Welfare Committee – the first woman to hold the position.

Majority of refugees in the settlement are women and girls – their voices matter

Khemis understands the unique challenges that refugee women face, having experienced them herself. "Women are the majority," she says, "and a woman leader can empathize with them." Her vision extends beyond her term as the Chairperson – "I want to make sure more women take up leadership roles," she adds.



Grace Neima Khemis interacting with her children before she leaves home for her office. Her daily routine includes preparing the family's meal for the day before she leaves home to perform her RWC III chairperson roles. Photo credit: UN Women/ Allen Ankunda

Khemis knows that boosting refugee women's leadership cannot be taken for granted. "Even today, there are some women who are afraid to talk in public, some people who think that women are not supposed to talk in public." In the Bidi Bidi settlement, Khemis says that some roles in education and finance are now reserved for women to encourage their leadership.

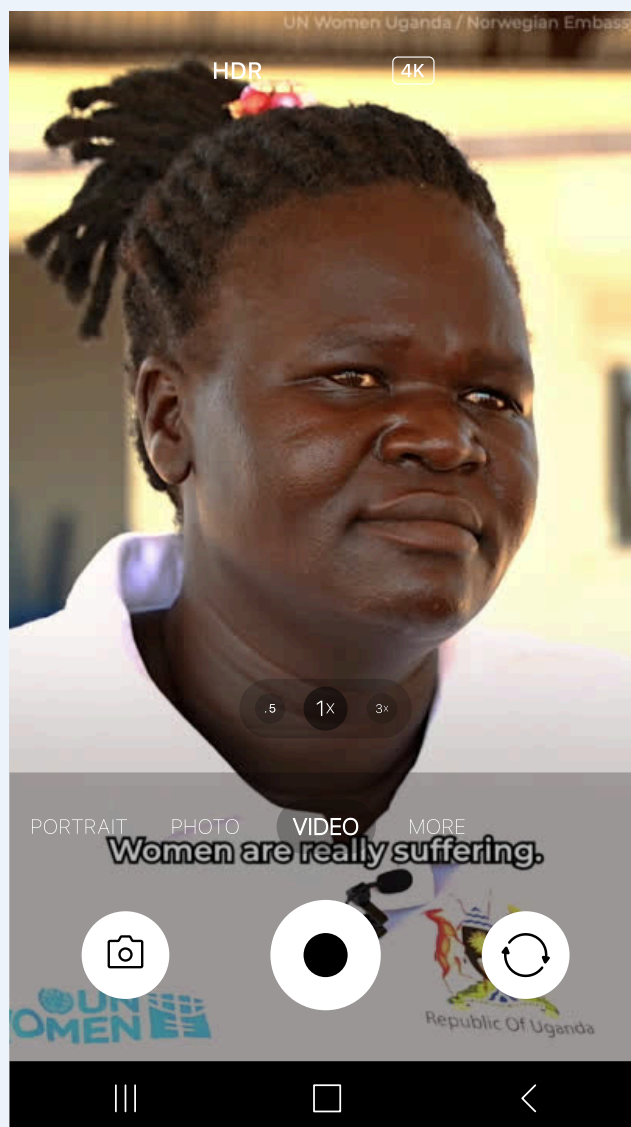
Of the 120 million people forced to flee their homes in 2023, 49 per cent were women and girls. In the past year alone, 96,889 refugees arrived in Uganda, increasing the total number of refugees from 1,547,981 to 1,644,870 as of May 2024. Majority of them came from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"In these protracted crises, it is imperative that services and policies are informed by refugee women's voices and their lived experiences," says UN Women Country Representative in Uganda, Paulina Chiwangu, adding, *"leveraging women's leadership is not only a way to ensure that humanitarian efforts respond to the gender-specific needs of affected communities, it is also a strategic investment for stronger community engagement, resilience and self-reliance."*

In the past five years UN Women’s work has contributed to more women taking on refugee leadership roles in Bidi Bidi and Adjumani settlements, where women’s representation stands at 47 and 54 per cent respectively.

Grace Neima Khemis dreams of a future where refugee girls prioritize education, a path she believes unlocks opportunities and leadership roles. Her message on World Refugee Day is clear: “Refugee women’s voices matter.” She urges world leaders to provide more education, leadership and livelihood opportunities for refugee women and girls and to recognize their resilience.

Click the link to watch a video of Grace narrating her leadership work



World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. It falls each year on June 20 and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution.

According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), an estimated 117.3 million people were forcibly displaced in 2023. The scale of the global displacement crisis is unprecedented. Today, more people are displaced than at any other point in modern history.

In Uganda, the day’s activities took place in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement in Terego and Madi-Okollo Districts in the West Nile region of Uganda.

The theme of this year’s celebrations was “In Solidarity with Refugees”.

A Conversation on Governance with Uganda's Youthful New State Minister of Energy & Minerals, Hon. Phiona Nyamutoro



*Hon. Phiona Nyamutoro
during the interview in her
office Photo: UN Women*

Question: What has been your experience as a young woman in a leadership role?

Response : My experience has been a double-edged sword, both fascinating and challenging. It's fascinating because there's always something new to learn, but it's also challenging due to the daily exposure to numerous tasks and responsibilities. Leadership seems straightforward from afar, but it's entirely different when you're in the role. You start to appreciate the significant influence you have on people's lives. Unfortunately, you also witness how many take this power for granted, hindering development and human progress.

The challenging aspect is always being on the edge of how to best change the narrative, crafting a compelling vision that resonates with everyone's interests and needs at any given time. This has been particularly thought-provoking for me, as I frequently find myself among leaders with differing perspectives. At times, I am led by those in higher positions and must creatively find ways to either convince them to align with my vision or, if that's not possible, independently advance it and attract others to join.

Question: What kinds of support systems have you found beneficial as a young woman in a leadership position?

Response: Contrary to common beliefs, I think Uganda is doing quite well in terms of youth representation. While it might not be highly visible at the national level, Uganda has one of the strongest youth structures in Africa. Many countries come to benchmark our youth political structure, which is representative from the smallest unit up to the national level. The appointment of young people, including myself, to critical ministries further highlights this progress. I encourage young people to take advantage of these opportunities. This framework has been instrumental in grounding me in the politics of our country.

I have benefited greatly from civic spaces that offer various workshops on governance, democracy, and politics, some of which are supported by UN Women. Unfortunately, there hasn't been enough support from the government. That's where we come in—to ensure that ministries establish connections with young people on different aspects. One of the reasons as to why I'm finding it easy to settle in and have work going in the ministry is because I know the background of youth politics and I have been grounded well and nurtured within the structures and I'm familiar with the operations of government, I understand the bureaucracy and I understand what needs to be done where which would not be the case with any young ordinary person that would be hand picked. They would struggle a lot and be frustrated along the way. So young people take up leadership positions but also acquire enough information.

Question: From your perspective, what do you consider to be the primary challenges impacting young women?

Response: One of my greatest challenges has been the assumption that, as a young woman in leadership, I am naive. People often sexualize my appearance and attribute my success to factors other than my skills and abilities. It is a very wrong perception that is very common.

This stereotype and objectification can deter young people from pursuing political careers and exclude them from important discussions, despite their efforts to make their voices heard.

It also distances young women from discussions that matter. Because you really have to have a thick skin to relentlessly have your voice in there and yet if you already have an environment that is disruptive of their existence, then you are not going to have many young women in leadership to be reaching out and advocating for affirmative action of women entering the space which should not be the case.

The other challenge is the commercialisation of politics where largely the access and control of resources is in the hands of the man. This is challenging to women because men to a large extent are determinants which kind of women enter certain spaces in terms of elective politics. It has helped some raise but it has limited a great number because very few women have resources and very few are economically empowered to have a voice strong enough to challenge the decisions of men.

What specific issues do plan to prioritise as the new State Minister of Minerals?

Response: Uganda so far has 57 confirmed, discovered minerals and I want to pursue this in line with the country's development. Secondly, I want to cement the contribution of youth and women and that starts at the smallest scale of artisan miners. We have had a review on how to regulate these artisans so that we can safe guard the mining environment. I'm coming in a office at a time when Uganda has already finalized the certification of minerals in the country which enable the streamlining of the sector.

UN Women holds African Girls Can Code (AGCC) camp in Moroto



Participants of the African Girls Can Code (AGCC) initiatives engaged in a practical session.
Photo:UN Women/Martin Ninsiima

This year's African Girls Can Code (AGCC) initiative camp was held from May 27th to June 6th, 2024, in Moroto District, located in the northeastern region of Uganda, Karamoja. The camp involved 74 girls.

The boot camp kicked off with an official launch, featuring opening remarks and introductions of the facilitators. Participants engaged in an expectation-setting session, which helped align their goals with the program's objectives. This was followed by an introduction to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment GEWE . The day concluded with the first part of the basic computer usage training, which provided a solid foundation for the participants, and the initial segment of the baseline survey to gather preliminary data.

The coding camp participants, all of whom were girls from various vocational colleges across five districts in the Karamoja region: Napak, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Kaabong, and Kotido.



All 74 AGCCI participating girls were awarded laptops to foster their development in coding and robotics.
Photo:UN Women/Martin Ninsiima



Girls participating in an interactive robotics session at the AGCCI coding bootcamp. Photo:UN Women/Martin Ninsiima

During the 10-day camp in Moroto, the girls were trained on how to assemble robots.

The AGCCI Coding Bootcamp in Karamoja successfully empowered young women with essential coding and ICT skills, fostering gender equality and increasing digital literacy. The structured program and the enthusiasm of the participants, created a dynamic and impactful learning environment.

This collective effort has laid a strong foundation for furthering the impact of AGCCI initiatives, empowering more young women to pursue careers in technology and contribute to their communities.

UN Women Welcomes Norwegian Officials to Bugiri Women Cage Fish Farmers' Project



From Left - Right: Lisa Dardis, UN Women Coordination, Resource Mobilisation & Partnerships, Linda Marie Rustad, Senior Advisor for Gender Equality in Development & Marie Rustad, Senior Advisor for Gender Equality in Development, from the Government of Norway during their visit to Bugiri. Photo: UN Women/Samuel Wamuttu

On June 11, 2024, UN Women had the honor of hosting Anne Magdalena Solbu Kleiven, Deputy Director of the Directorate for Children, Youth & Family Affairs, and Linda Marie Rustad, Senior Advisor for Gender Equality in Development, from the Government of Norway. Their visit highlighted the impactful Bugiri women cage fish farmers' project at Wakawaka Landing Site, Bulidha Sub-County in Bugiri District, an initiative supported by UN Women since 2019.

The Bugiri women cage fish farming project has been instrumental in empowering women by involving them in various value chain activities, thereby enabling them to earn a sustainable income and drive economic transformation. Immaculate Were, CEO of the Women Economic Empowerment Bugiri (WEEB), proudly reported that the initiative has benefited 1,400 rural women to date.

Between 2020 and 2023, the women harvested 594 tons of tilapia, generating approximately UGX 4.4 billion (about \$1.2 million). Currently, the project involves 28 fish cages on Lake Victoria, each producing between 10 to 12 tons of fish. The women harvest three times a week, primarily supplying the local market.

Below: Were, narrates to the visitors the journey of the fish cage project. Photo Credit: UN Women/Samuel Wamuttu



“This project has transformed lives,” said Were. “The women earn from their labor, and in 2023, we were able to pay dividends of up to UGX 100,000 (approximately \$27) to each member.”

Anne Magdalena Solbu Kleiven commended the women for breaking into the traditionally male-dominated field of fish farming. “I’m glad to see women engaged in such transformative activities. This project reflects significant progress in gender equality, thanks to the efforts of UN Women,” she remarked.

The success of the Bugiri women cage fish farmers' project showcases the potential for economic empowerment and gender equality. It stands as a testament to the positive impact of targeted support and collective effort in transforming the lives of women and their communities.

UN Africa family mourn ESARO Deputy Regional Director, Ms. Zebib Kavuma, with a funeral service in Uganda

On April 25, 2024, representatives and staff from UN Women Uganda and the East and Southern Offices gathered at St. Philips Church in Sagala-Buwaya, Wakiso District, Central Uganda, to pay their respects to the late Zebib Kavuma, the Deputy Regional Director for UN Women ESARO.



Several mourners described the late Zebib Kavuma as a dedicated member of the UN Women family who championed the cause of gender equality in Africa and beyond.

Dr. Paulina Chiwangu, the UN Women Country Representative for Uganda, described the late Zebib Kavuma as a selfless individual who supported various UN Women offices in fulfilling their mandate on gender equality and women's empowerment.

"She was always willing to listen to challenges and swiftly find solutions. I found that so extraordinary, and for that, we will always miss her," she said.

"Stepping into Zebib's shoes after her promotion to UN Women Deputy Director for ESARO was daunting. Taking over from someone so accomplished isn't easy," said Anna Mutavati, the UN Women Country Representative for Kenya, who succeeded Zebib when she was promoted to Deputy Regional Director for ESARO.



UN Women Uganda Country Representative, Dr. Paulina Chiwangu (hold portrait) together with UN Women Kenya Country Representative, Anna Mutavati talking to mourners at St.Philips Church Wakiso District in Central Uganda
Photo: UN Women/ Samuel Wamuttu

UN Representatives' from the Africa region joined the family of the late Zebib for a night vigil at their home in Mutungo Hill, Kampala -Uganda. Photo: UN Women/Samuel Wamuttu



UN Women`s Engagement In The Digital Realm

X Social Media Engagement

UN Women Uganda @unwomenuganda · Apr 4

Happening now!
 @unwomenuganda in collaboration with @CCFU @Mglsd_UG are engaging with Prime ministers of the cultural institutions under the Council of Traditional Leaders in Africa – Uganda Chapter in developing a workplan for 1st year activities 2024/25. @SwedeninUG

UN Women Uganda @unwomenuganda · Apr 23

Today we have kicked off a 2-day @wphfund Grantees Onboarding Workshop with our partners who will implement the next phase of our Women, Peace, & Humanitarian Fund projects. Present are EDs & reps of 12 #CSOs that were recently selected! #WomenPeaceSecurity #CSOPartnerships

UN Women Uganda @unwomenuganda · May 9

"Leadership looks basic at a distance. It's totally different when holding a position. You begin to appreciate the powers you hold to impact on pple's lives," says @PNyamutoro, State Minister for Energy & Mineral Dev't, sharing her leadership journey as #young #woman.#Governance

UN Women Uganda @unwomenuganda · Jun 6

Final day of @AGCCIAfrica coding camp conducted by @unwomenuganda in Moroto and the girls have demonstrated the skills they have acquired and pledge to train more girls in their communities. @unwomenafrica

UN Women Uganda @unwomenuganda · 22h

Today, on #WorldRefugeeDay, and every day, we stand #WithRefugees. Their voices must be heard. Their lives must be accounted. Their rights must be respected. Their dignity must be protected. @NorwayUganda @refugeelawproj @UNOCHA

'Refugee women's voices matter' – Meet Grace Nelma Khemis, the first woman ...

From africa.unwomen.org

UN Women Uganda @unwomenuganda · Jun 11

Yesterday, we were honored to recieve Anne Magdalena Solbu Kleiven, Dept.director, Directorate for Children, Youth & Family Affairs & @LRustad, Senior advisor, Gender Equality for Dev't, Government of #Norway who visited our Cage Fish Farming project in #Bugiri. @NorwayUganda

UN Women In The News



Lokur Pasca's Life Transformed: From Domestic Violence to Entrepreneurship and Education | UN Women – Africa

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From Despair to Dreams: Selina's Story of Resilience | UN Women - Africa

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