

FAWEU ACTIVITY REPORT 2010



1.0 Introduction.

The Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) is a Pan-African Non Governmental Organization Formed in 1993 and registered in Nairobi, Kenya. FAWE is the fruit of five visionary and distinguished African Women Ministers of Education who resolved to walk the talk about the appalling state of girls' education in Africa. These visionary women ministers of education knew that education for all was impossible unless the girls were given a push. They therefore formed FAWE as a strategy to accelerate EFA by bridging the gender gap. FAWE's mission is to ensure that considerable attention is paid to gender imbalances in Education and that steps are taken to enable more girls access schooling, complete their studies and perform well at all levels. Today, FAWE is a network of 36 chapters on the African Continent translating her mandate at national level.

The Forum for African Women Educationalists Uganda Chapter (FAWEU) was launched in February 1997, to address gender disparities in education, that were manifested through low rates of access, retention and performance for girls starting from upper primary school through to secondary. There was no clear policy and programme to support a large number of girls who were sacrificed for boys' education, as a result of HIV/AIDS, Poverty and social cultural factors. A number of girls at that time were discouraged from persisting in school due to inadequate hygiene and sanitation to cater for the special biological needs of girls.

2.0 Program Activities January - November 2010.

This report provides the reader an update on the progress of the FAWEU activities implemented in the period of January – November 2010.

2.1 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

2.1.1 African Education Initiative Ambassador Girls Scholarship Programme (AEI/AGSP)

As you may already be aware, the AEI/AGSP programme funded by USAID got an extension for support of only the continuing students. The following were the activities accomplished during the year.

a) Renewal of scholarships

Scholarships were renewed for 225 girls and 234 boys and renewal letters were issued to them as an assurance that they are beneficiaries and enabling them to settle in school.

b) Fees payments

Fees payments for beneficiaries started in the 3rd week of February following receipt of funds from AED (Academy for Education Development) mid February. The first tranche of funds released covered 30% of the beneficiaries' fees. In mid March all the scholarship funds were released and payment of students' school fees was all concluded in June. It should be noted that fees for the beneficiaries was paid for the whole year to enable FAWEU make accountability on time as a requirement by the funders.

c) Data Update:

The AEI/AGSP program has an online database whose update is an ongoing exercise. However, the challenge has been the change of schools by scholars from ordinary level of education to higher level without notifying FAWEU and also the delayed submission of academic reports in time. This caused delay in filling in school fields as required. In liaison with MoES we were able to get all the beneficiaries UCE and UACE results that were missing. Although we still face the same challenge, we have managed to receive most of the information required for the database which was collected as different teams went for monitoring. Majority of the beneficiaries submitted their report cards for term 1 2010 while more than half of the beneficiaries have submitted for term 2 which we entered in the database. We are waiting for term 3 report cards after which we shall be able to analyze their academic performance.

d) Mentoring

Aware of the critical role of peer mentoring, 16 peer mentors in March visited 61 project schools where they reached 86 girls and 67 boys. The peer mentors had a discussion with the beneficiaries and the students were able to open up and share their views and challenges with the mentors. As a result, the mentors were able to encourage the scholars and inspire them to stay in school. The beneficiaries were also encouraged to get involved in HIV/AIDS activities as it is one of the major components of peer mentoring.

Given the fact that teachers spend more time with the scholars because they are school based, this facilitates their ability to mentor students frequently as compared to non- school mentors. Therefore, 25 school based mentors were identified, communicated to and their tasks and responsibilities were clearly defined for them. These mentors received transport facilitation on a termly basis to enable easy movement from one project school to another within their reach. This arrangement in some schools strengthened mentoring while it remained a challenge in others. This was because the busy schedule of the teachers at school.

Having realized that the teacher mentors had not reached all the beneficiaries, group mentoring by selected role models was carried out in September in 17 different centers reaching 246 students (98 girls and 148 boys). The sessions were greatly inspiring as the students interacted with role models and peer mentors discussing issues related to HIV/AIDS and life skills, their performance and discipline, future careers and friendship formation. The role models were selected from FAWEU board members, to secondary school teachers, entrepreneurs and social workers. This presented a rich mixture of abilities and motivations to the girls and boys. The team comprised of both male and female mentors to pay attention to the needs of both girls and boys.

e) Graduation party for AGSP Graduates.

At the beginning of 2010, there were 27 AGSP scholars that graduated from Universities and other tertiary institutions. Therefore, FAWEU in conjunction with the FFBA alumni in March organized a graduation party for the girls and rewarded them with different presents for their commitment and good performance. The Senior Education Specialist of USAID Uganda Mission, Ms.Natasha De Marcken, officiated at the graduation party.

List of AGSP scholars who graduated from different institutions of higher learning

Name	University	Course
1.Lamwaka Stella	Makerere university	Bachelor of Computer science
2.Shida Delicate Mable	Uganda College of Commerce, Soroti	Dip. Business Administration
3.Matama Judith	Makerere University	BA.Social science
4.Kirabo Adrine	Makerere University	Bsc. Community forestry
5.Apio Matilda	Makerere University	Bachelor of Laws
6. Nankasolya Regina	Makerere University	Bachelors of Telecommunication Engineering
7.Nakitende Ritah	Makerere University	BA Social Science.
8. Nakawa Lilian	Makerere University	BA.Development Economics
9. Mukisa Doreen	Kyambogo University	Bsc. Human Nutrition and Dietetics
10. Nagitta Christine	Makerere University	Bsc. Statistics
11.Lanyaro Evely Evan	Makerere University	BA. Community Psychology
12.Tushaba Phionah	Makerere University	Bs. Science
13.Kiconco Marion	Makerere University	BA Tourism
14.Ampaire Brenda	Makerere University	BA Social work and social administration
15.Kabateraire Doreen	Makerere Business school	Bachelor Business Administration
16.Kabateraire Claire	Makerere Business school	Bachelor of Commerce
17.Washitu Hajidah	Makerere University	BA Urban and Regional planning
18.Atigo Martha	Makerere University	Bachelor of Computer Science
19.Nabaseruka Zowenah	Makerere University	Bsc. Information technology
20.Nabirwe Mary Constant	Makerere University	Bsc. industrial chemistry
21.Alele Sarah	Mbarara University	Bsc Information science
22.Acirocan Monica	Makerere University	BA Economics
23.Abaasa Isabella	Makerere University	BA Development Economics
24. Karabo Phillo	Mukono University	BA Social work and social Administration
25.Agwec Catherine	Makerere University	Bsc Mechanical Engineering
26.Nampala Jackline	Makerere University	Bsc Statistics



Former beneficiaries pose for a photo with FAWEU Board Members and a representative from USAID who officiated at the function.

f) National Examination results

Of the 70 girls and 41 boys who sat for O’level national examinations in 2009 scholarships for 80% and 72% of them respectively were renewed as they joined A’ level in 2010. 201 girls sat for A’level national examinations. Some of the beneficiaries featured among the best performers in the country. The table below shows the names, sex and results of some of the beneficiaries who appeared among the top best performers;

Best O’level performers			Best A’level performers		
Name	Sex	Aggregates	Name	Sex	Points
Amuge Gloria – Nabisunsa girls	F	10	Kayaga Flavia - St. Josephs Nagalama	F	25
Katanga Jackie – Ndejje S.S	F	14	Nabirye Phoebe – Gayaza H.S	F	25
Lutayisire Lilian – Christ the King	F	14	Rebecca Kyomugisha – Mt. St. Mary’s College Namagunga	F	24
Kaweesa Henry - Old Kampala S.S	M	11			
Kafero Enock – Ndejje	M	14			
Naiga Grace – Ndejje	F	13			
Kaweesi Elisa Emmanuel – Old Kampala S.S	M	14			

90% of the results received indicated that over 80% of the girls performed well and qualified for University Education, while the rest qualified for other tertiary education qualifications ranging from Certificates to Diplomas. However, where as many of these girls qualified for University Education, not all of them have accessed it due to the financial costs involved and the fact that they are needy children. Although the Government of Uganda promised to start a loan scheme to help needy students’ access University Education, the modalities have not yet been finalized. FAWEU is therefore, in the meantime seeking for funding from potential donors to enable these beneficiaries’ continue with their education.

g) Monitoring

Different monitoring teams visited 14 schools in East, North, West and Central regions to examine and asses the progress of the project and as well as obtain feedback from the beneficiaries about the project. The teams met and held discussion with scholarship recipients and teachers. Some of the key findings included the following:

- They all expressed appreciation to the scholarship support
- All beneficiaries seemed to have set careers as was indicated when asked of their future careers they mentioned becoming doctors, engineers, accountants, nurses, lawyers, teachers among others.
- Although mentoring by school mentors is ongoing it needs to be strengthened because the selected teacher mentors seem busy with the other school activities.

2.1.2 Forberg Scholarship

In June 2009 Pernilla Bard and Caroline representatives from a Swedish Organisation called Social Initiatives visited FAWEU to understand how the organization works so that they could see if FAWEU would qualify as an implementing partner. As a result, in October 2009, FAWEU was informed from Social Initiatives that a philanthropist, Mr. Forberg had chosen to support a three year scholarship program of 70 beneficiaries (70% girls and 30% boys) in Eastern Uganda and the North (Acholi and Lango sub regions) with the following objectives.

- To increase the chances of vulnerable girls and boys to attain secondary school education
- To inspire girls and boys to stay in school and aspire for professional careers
- To advocate to stakeholders especially at community level for increased investment in girls’ education

The following activities were thereafter implemented under this scholarship program;

a) Constitution of the scholarship committee by the board

On sharing the Forberg Scholarship with the FAWEU Board, they selected amongst themselves the following 4 Board members to constitute this particular scholarship committee:

- Edith Mbabazi, Chair
- Eng. Proscovia Njuki, Member
- Hellen Grace Asamo, Member
- Edward Kasimagwa, Member

The secretariat is represented on the committee by the National Coordinator/Programme Manager and the Programme officer in charge of the Forberg scholarship program.

The committee held the first meeting on December 8th, 2009 in which they discussed and agreed;

- 1) That the **Geographical coverage** of the scholarship be all districts in Lango (5) and Acholi (4) sub regions while 5 select districts of Bugiri, Bukwo, Bukedea, Kapchorwa and Manafwa be covered in the East. These were chosen based on their low levels of girls access to education.
- 2) That in **soliciting for applications**, the available applications be reviewed to enable selection of eligible candidates. However, for fear that not enough applicants would be got from the areas of focus and especially the 2010 S.2s, it was also agreed that publicity of the scholarships be made in the Newspaper.

b) Publicity of the scholarships

An announcement was run on 30th December 2009 in one of the daily news papers- the Newvision. Well aware again that the target population would find difficult in accessing the newspaper, it was agreed in the meeting that radio announcements be made on the following local FM stations

- Mega FM covering Acholi Sub region
- Unity FM covering Lango Sub region
- Voice of Eastern FM covering Bugiri
- Kapchorwa Community radio covering Kapchorwa and Bukwo Districts.

In addition to radio announcements, information was sent to FAWEU contact people and members in the districts, notices were put in all the District Education offices of the focus areas, churches, mosques and Local Council chairpersons were informed to notify their residents of the availability of scholarships.

c) Sorting of applications and Selection of the beneficiaries

Over 500 applications were received and a team of 2 people supported the programme officer in charge to sort and summarize the applications capturing; bio data, family and academic information of the applicants. The Eastern region presented more female applicants while the Northern presented more male applicants. The female applicants from North were few and academic performance not as good as those from the East. The applicants were summarized and presented to the committee for short listing. The Forberg scholarship committee met again on Thursday 21st January 2010 for preliminary selection in which meeting they short listed 96 applicants (66 girls and 30 boys) based on the following criteria:

- Academically excellent students
- HIV/AIDS orphans
- Orphans without support
- Children from child headed homes
- Children in Labour
- Those form difficult and vulnerable family backgrounds.

After the preliminary selection of the applicants, a team was constituted to carry out verification of the selected children to ascertain their degree of need before awarding them with the scholarship. The verification team consisted of the members of the scholarship committee and FAWEU members who traveled to the different districts where they did verification. After the verification exercise, 70 Students (49 girls and 21 boys) were awarded scholarships and they were placed in 10 select secondary schools in East and North. Scholastic and basic materials were purchased and distributed to all the scholarship beneficiaries while the girls got additional funds to buy shoes.



Beneficiaries verifying the scholastic materials delivered by FAWEU member

d) Payment of school fees

The payment of school fees for all the beneficiaries of all the terms was done including the purchase and distribution of the students' basic and scholastic materials. Beneficiaries settled in their new schools as shown by their second term performance which was fairer than first term. However, a few who still performed poorly have been warned and encouraged to work hard.

e) Group Mentoring

As we are all aware, mentoring is a major component of the FAWEU scholarship program. Therefore, different teams set out to carry on group mentoring of the students as indicated below;

S/N	Centre	School mentored
1	Tororo Girls School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tororo Girls' School ● St.Peters College, Tororo
2	Wanyange Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Iganga SS ● Jinja College School
3	Ngora High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ngora High School
4	Gamatui Girls School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sebei College School ● Gamatui Girls' School
5	St. Joseph's College Layibi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. Joseph's College, Layibi
6	Sacred Heart Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sacred Heart Girls School
7	Dr. Obote College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Obote College ● St. Katherine SS



f) **Monitoring**

A monitoring team visited all the project schools with the purpose of checking on the beneficiaries, identifying some of the challenges they may be encountering and providing solutions. Although performance is still a challenge to some of the beneficiaries who were transferred from poor rural schools, the teams took some time to encourage the beneficiaries to work hard for better performance. Also all beneficiaries acknowledged receipt of the basic requirements and were grateful for the provision. The teams observed through the discussions held with the beneficiaries that there is regular mentoring of the beneficiaries by the mentors trained in April 2010. It was established that two boys dropped out due to various reasons. When the funders were contacted, they accepted replacement to be done from the same schools and class.

2.1.3 **Irish Aid Scholarship Program**

Following the completion of the three year contract 2007 – 2009 of the Karamoja scholarship program, FAWEU entered into another one year contract (for the period 2010) with the Embassy of Ireland to enable the Karamajong children continue to access secondary school education while evaluation of the three years is carried out. The following activities have been accomplished during the year;

a) **Distribution of application guidelines and collection of scholarship applications**

The process of distribution of application guidelines, soliciting for applications and recommendations of the children as beneficiaries was carried out in January and beginning of February through different categories of people from the communities and schools including:

- The contact persons, mentors (some of whom are district officials)
- The head teachers of primary schools in Nakapiripirit, Moroto & Kotido

Announcements were also made on the local radios creating awareness and informing the targeted population about the program scholarships and application procedures. Although not all the people in Karamoja region can access a radio, measures were put in place to ensure that the announcement covered a large area of the region. This was done through making announcements in church and other gatherings that the Karamajong like to go to. All applications from the sub county chiefs, head teachers primary schools, mentors and individuals were forwarded to the education office at the district.

b) **Short list of applicants and verification of preliminary selected candidates by the national and district task force**

Following the collection of applications in Karamoja, the FAWEU team joined the district task force to carry out preliminary selection and final selection of the beneficiaries. Basing on the following criteria, 300 applicants were selected.

1. Must have obtained grade I, II or III in the national primary leaving examinations in 2009
2. Must be a Karamajong and studying from Karamoja
3. Must be needy (HIV affected, orphaned, with very poor parents/guardians)
4. Priority was also given to those from child headed homes.

The lists of preliminary selected beneficiaries were used to carry out verification to be able to come up with the final list of the required beneficiaries. After the verification exercise was carried out, 200 beneficiaries were awarded scholarships and the lists of the awarded scholarship recipients were shared with the contact persons to be pinned on the District Education Office notice boards for the scholarship applicants to access and get notification of who has been awarded. Other lists were given to different head teachers of FAWEU core secondary schools in Karamoja for their information as the children reported to school.

c) Payment of school fees and other school requirements

Due to technical challenges from the funders, there was a delay in the release of funds which also caused a delay in payment of fees and other school requirements for the beneficiaries. A letter was written by the funders to all the schools informing them about the delay and requesting for their patience and cooperation. When money was transferred on the FAWEU account in April, payment of fees and other school requirements such as school uniform, sports uniform and in some schools out of class uniform was done with the presented fees bills and today payment of all the fees for all the beneficiaries in school has been accomplished.

d) Purchase and distribution of students' basic needs

With the approval from the procurement and contracts committee, FAWEU contracted Kangaroo LTD to supply the beneficiaries' basic scholastic materials and other personal needs. They were distributed to all the beneficiaries on time to enable the beneficiaries settle in school. These included; exercise books, counter books, pens, washing soap, sanitary pads, bathing soap, mathematical sets, calculators, knickers/panties, etc) to all the beneficiaries in equal share. The beneficiaries acknowledged receipt of the different items by signing. Having realised that giving the items to the beneficiaries for the whole year at ago they would misuse them and run short of them, it was agreed that the distribution of the basic items be done on a termly basis. However, there have been challenges that have led to delayed distribution; some of the children delay to come back to school because of the heavy rain that has affected the roads and as well as insecurity in the area. At the beginning of term II, Moroto high school opened two weeks after the other schools had opened due to the cholera epidemic in the district at that time.



e) District Task Force Meeting

Every end of term a District Taskforce meeting (DTF) is held in each of the 5 districts where the District Education Officer is the chairperson. The end of term I&II meetings were held in all districts. The purpose of the meeting was to provide members with an update on the activities of the program implementation and also some of the findings from the school visits. It is in these meetings that some of the challenges and gaps encountered are shared and solutions jointly agreed on. Members also used the meeting to select needy children from those preliminary short listed by the Karamoja region coordinator to replace those that had dropped out due to various reasons.

f) Mentors training

FAWEU in consultation with the headteachers organised a 2-days training for the mentors which, was hosted by Moroto High school in Moroto District. 40 teachers and headteachers attended the training which was new for some and a refresher for others. The purpose of the training was to equip the participants with mentoring knowledge and skills to be able to mentor adequately the beneficiaries and inspire them to stay in school. At the end of the training period, members together with facilitators agreed on the mode of reporting and as well agreed on other issues of concern raised by the old mentors.

g) Community meetings

FAWEU has so far attended six community meetings with the parents and the beneficiaries in Abim Secondary school, two communities of Kotido secondary school, two communities of Jubilee 2000 S.S and the community of Morulem girls school. It was observed that despite the provision of all requirements to the beneficiaries, the beneficiaries especially girls continuously dropped out of school before completion due to other difficulties most of which emanate from the community. Therefore, in order to change the situation, FAWEU in conjunction with the District Taskforce embarked on parents/community sensitization meetings across the Karamoja region. The aim of the community meeting is to explain to the parents about the Karamoja Scholarship program and as well as clearly create awareness on the roles and responsibilities of the parents in the education of the children. The attendance for parents and beneficiaries was as follows;

District	Parents		Beneficiaries	
	Male	Female	Boys	Girls
Abim	20	42	15	23
Kotido (nakapelimoru & panyangara)	77	93	14	09
Kotido	84	118	73	101
Morulem				
Jubilee (Karenga)	7	10		
Jubilee (Kaboong)	10	20		
Moroto High school	51	44		
Total	249	327	102	133

Some of the recommendations as suggested by the parents during the meetings include the following;

- The girls who got pregnant be accepted and returned to school
- Work with the police and other authorities to arrest and prosecute parents who negotiate and marry off their girls early.
- Arrest and prosecute boys responsible for the pregnancies
- Meet constantly for FAWEU to get to know more about the parents and share challenges.

h) Karamoja Region Coordinating Office

We wish to share with you that in order to have more impact on the ground, a Karamoja Scholarship Project Coordinator was recruited following the recruitment process and he is based in Kotido district. 13 applications were received, out of which 5 were interviewed and Mr. Calvin Okello emerged the best. He signed a contract and has been facilitated to coordinate the activities in the region. The Local Administration in Kotido district offered FAWEU free space for the coordinating office. An office attendant has also been recruited by the name of Ilukol Jesica Ruth. A motorcycle was purchased to facilitate movement of the officer throughout the whole region. However, we later discovered that because of insecurity in the region, it could not be possible to move from one district to another using a motorcycle. The officer has been using the motorcycle within Kotido district.

The Embassy of Ireland contracted a consultant who carried out an evaluation exercise of the whole program in the region meeting with different stakeholders of the program. We still wait to receive the report on the findings and what may be some of the recommendations.

2.1.4 Higher Education Scholarship

As we may already be aware, FAWEU during the girls education week celebrated in August 2009 launched the Higher Education scholarship Program to continue supporting girls at university and other tertiary institutions. This was because of the high costs that are involved in higher education which has led to many needy children especially girls being left out despite the good performance. As a result, FAWEU constituted a board to provide technical guidance on the way forward of the program implementation. The first meeting held agreed to place emphasis on developing the right appeal materials – both print and electronic that has proved instrumental in promoting the program by attracting potential partners. The inauguration breakfast meeting was on 15th July 2010 and the Fundraising dinner on 25th August 2010. A lot of positive results have been seen through the various personal pledges and contributions that have been made towards sending the girls to University.



Other companies have indicated intentions to partner with FAWEU. The committee also requested FAWEU to have separate auditors who are among the big four audit companies in the East African Region since we are dealing with corporate companies and this would boost confidence for FAWEU. Therefore, FAWEU approached Deloitte Uganda who accepted to be the auditors for the higher education scholarship program. A higher education scholarship selection committee has already been constituted and it is hoped that 40 girls will be supported to access University Education.

However, it should be noted that prior to the launch, some well wishers had already started to provide support for needy girls for University Education although it is still on a small scale. Below is the update on some of the FAWEU partners in higher education.

a) Kenny Family Foundation

The Kenny Family Foundation has since 2007 been supporting needy girls for University Education. Two of the beneficiaries have so far graduated (1 bachelors & 1 post graduate) remaining 5 girls under this scholarship. They are all in the final year for completion. Their progress results indicate good performance. All their semester fees for the academic year 2010/2011 have fully been paid.

b) Busitema University

FAWEU is also in partnership with Busitema University for higher education since 2008. So far there are 3 girls benefiting from this support undertaking science courses. Two of the students are going to their second year while one has completed her second year. We are glad to report that the University offered FAWEU another 2 slots for science students starting this academic year which makes a total of 5 beneficiaries this year.

2.1.4 Individual Sponsors

The 3 individual sponsors, ((Tabure Terek, Laura Keihas & Rebecca O’Hallan) have continued to support 5 students (one boy and 4 girls). The details about the 5 students are as below:

Name of beneficiary	School	Class
1. Amina Muteesi	St. Mathias Kalemba Ss	S.2
2. Akiteng Everline Mary	St. Mary’s girls secondary school Madera	S.2
3. Aciro Creddy	Sacred Heart S.S, Gulu	S.2
4. Ilomu Margaret	St. Joseph, Nsambya	S.2
5. Sagal Thomas	Equatorial College	S.3

All their school fees for the year have been paid and their performance is good. Akiteng Everline has had outstanding performance for the past year and she was awarded partial scholarship by the school. However, Amina Muteesi’s performance has continuously deteriorated. The secretariat has several times talked to her, her guardian and her teachers but the situation has still not improved.

2.1.5 Former FAWEU Beneficiaries Alumni (FABA)

As you may all be aware, with support from FAWEU secretariat, the former scholarship beneficiaries formed an association to keep in touch and inspiring one another. They elected a new executive this year under the chairpersonship of Ms. Grace Nanyonga. Through FAWEU secretariat, they are in the process of registering as an affiliate organization to FAWEU. 20 of the members with financial support from FAWE Regional Secretariat recently attended training in entrepreneurship to give the young people knowledge and skills in business management for self sustainability. Each of the participants also got start up funds to be able to develop the acquired skills.

2.2 ADVOCATING FOR GIRLS EDUCATION AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

a) Awareness creation and mobilization for promotion of girls’ education

As earlier reported in the previous quarters, this is the final year of the 3-year Oxfam Novib funded program on awareness creation and mobilization for community support in girls’ education. The program that has covered 5 primary schools in each of the districts of Gulu, Amuru, Pader, Kitgum, Yumbe, Moyo, Adjumani, Nebbi, Kapchorwa, Oyam, Dokolo and Amolatar has incredibly delivered on improvement in girls’ education.

During the year, monitoring and support supervision was carried out to gauge progress so far made, identify the challenges and through discussion with the project stakeholders agree on the way forward. The findings from the school visits revealed that a number of schools have improved in terms of record keeping, management of menstruation and making the school environment friendly and as a result, the girls retention has also improved.

There is however, still a challenge of community involvement and majorly as a result of lack of financial capacity. The community livelihoods are vulnerable and although they are in support of the cause the best they can offer is moral support.

All the items for capacity building (basic text books and science equipment) were procured and distributed to the 60 project schools. We are optimistic that this will go a long way in improving the teaching and learning processes at school though it has been observed that there is need to make an effort to improve academic grades of the children especially the girls.

FAWEU staff has thrice accompanied a group of donors from Oxfam Novib during the visit to some of the project schools in Yumbe, Arua, Nwoya, Pader and Gulu districts to see the progress of the activities. They have expressed their appreciation of the good work being done in the schools and as well as the challenges registered.

Oxfam Novib provided funds for the comprehensive evaluation of the project. A consultant was identified and contracted to carry out the exercise. We are now waiting for the report of the findings and recommendations that will inform the next activities to supplement the efforts already made.



A senior man teacher demonstrates the use of home made sanitary wear to a team of funders of Oxfam Novib

b) Adolescent Sexual and reproductive Health and Rights of Young People

The Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health rights (ASRH) project funded by Tides Foundation came to an end in August. Adolescent sexual reproductive health project aimed at increasing awareness on issues of reproductive health and rights among young people and the community at large. This project was implemented in five districts of the Eastern region covering 10 schools (5 secondary and 5 Primary).

During the 8 months period, support supervision was carried out as well as radio talk shows and development of spot radio messages. The support supervision exercise looked at the progress of the school based activities such as record keeping of questions discussed from the suggestion boxes, community outreach activities for awareness creation on issues related to ASRH issues. It was found out that some schools are hesitant to introduce suggestion boxes because the students use them to abuse teachers. Instead salient issues are discussed in groups or through direct chatting with the students. Some schools were able to form drama that is presented to the community at school and church whenever an opportunity comes. There is evidence in some of the schools for minutes of ASRH club meetings carried out, reports on topics discussed, copies of poems presented, list of club members, etc. In general, there is a registered improvement in some schools although about 40% of others still need technical guidance and support supervision.

All schools expressed gratitude to the project which they said has done a lot in building confidence among students/pupils even on issues that society considers private. This was evident during discussions on issues regarding sexual reproductive health. Unlike before the ASRH project, it was hard for young people to approach teachers and instead sought guidance from peers who in most cases misdirected them. A total of 5 girls one of whom had even started cohabiting with a fellow student came back to school as a result of advocacy messages through the students and the radio talk-shows and spot radio messages that were carried out.



Health centres were also visited and discussions held with the health providers about the response of the students and pupils in accessing and using the health services following the training carried out. The health providers have also kept a record of some of the students that have come for support.

Radio talk shows were organised and held on three radios in Kapchorwa (trinity radio), Mbale (Open Gate FM) and Kumi (Continental FM) both in the local languages and English for the benefit of a wider public. The response from the community through call in was overwhelming. The radio talk shows attracted a good number of listeners who called in to appreciate FAWEU for the project and also to ask various questions. One of the key issues that came out is that the program is good and the good practices should be scaled up to cover more schools. Spot radio messages were developed in both English and local languages for the benefit of all in the community. The ASRH messages were run twice a day on the three different radios for one month

It clearly came out among others that the 18 months project was timely in the region as shown from the responses from the beneficiaries at school level, the community response during the radio talk shows and how actively involved the schools have been. The final narrative activity and financial reports were submitted to the funders on time as required. Basing on the lessons learnt and the recommendations made, the project has been extended for another 18 months to strengthen the good practices that are already in place. The good practices shall be documented and shared with other partners especially MoES for replication in the future.



c) **Inclusive Education**

FAWEU with support from Mobility International USA (MIUSA) is implementing a pilot project on inclusive education in four project schools in Uganda. This is done with an aim of transforming schools from ordinary to an environment which is academically, socially and physically conducive for all children including Children with Disabilities (CWD's). This year a steering committee was constituted to provide technical guidance in the implementation process. The steering committee is composed of representatives from; MoES – SNE department, UNAPD, USCD, Combra and FAWEU. The committee identified 7 schools in Iganga, Mbarara, Mukono & Luwero as learning sites which were visited and the findings from the schools were shared with other organisations of persons with disabilities and shall be used as a learning experience that will also inform the way forward during the implementation of the pilot project.



FAWEU also organised a one day Parent Support Group (PSG) meeting in Bukomero- Kiboga district. The Parent Support Group meeting was attended by 35 parents of children with disabilities and was facilitated by a representative from UPPACLED and FAWEU staff. The PSG met was formed by UPPACLED; parents that attended came from 6 sub counties with in Bukomero community. The PSG has 10 members of the executive based in Kiboga town. The parents of Children With Disabilities (CWD) requested to be brought in touch with other parents who have successfully raised children with disabilities [share sessions], they need professional and parent sessions to learn more on how to handle CWD.

During the year, FAWEU was invited to be part of the 5th Women's Institutes on Leadership and Disability (WILD) program in Oregon State for one week as a resource organisation participating in Inclusive Education for girls with disabilities in Uganda. From Uganda a team of 4 delegates (3 WILD women- Melda Tumukunde, Olivia Nakato and

Florence Mukasa and 1 resource person Kalemera Elizabeth from FAWEU traveled to Eugene for the program) this was the biggest team as the rest of the countries had 1 delegate. The theme of the camp was *“Working to create a world as it should be”*. 36 countries from around the world attended the camp. Some of the outcomes from the meeting among others included; the need to make the FAWEU secretariat more accessible to all by improving the physical environment, need for a ramp for wheel chair users. Suggested that FAWEU should braille some of the literature and business cards “time to walk the talk”. And also integrate inclusion in all her programs.

d) HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming in Education

Under the Joint Oxfam International HIV Mainstreaming Program in Uganda (JOPHU), FAWEU in January participated at the workshop to re-launch the JOHPU. The purpose of the workshop was to review the JOHPU programme as a whole including the activities, results and indicators. As a result, FAWEU submitted a work plan of mainstreaming HIV activities to be implemented in the next six month. So far copies of the evaluation report and the rapid assessment reports have been availed to FAWEU.

FAWEU developed a concept note that was submitted to ACORD, the coordinating organization of the JOHMET to support internal mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS in FAWEU. The concept note was approved to facilitate FAWEU create the HIV/AIDS sensitive organization through training of Board Members and Staff. It will also involve reviewing the HIV/AIDS workplace policy. The achievement under this program is that FAWEU has been fully brought on board to mainstream HIV, and follow up program activities are expected.

Related to the above FAWEU at the invitation of Oxfam Novib in partnership with SAFAIDS (South Africa) participated in the HIV regional conference in April 11 to 16 in Johannesburg, S. Africa. This meeting provided an opportunity to share good practices so far realized in HIV programming by different organisations.

e) Partnership with Child Fund International

FAWEU in her previous work and in collaboration with Bright Futures Federation – Jinja area (2005-2006) implemented a program that addressed girls’ education and sexual maturation management. The program tackled in detail the issues of growing up in particular menstruation management and how it affects girls’ education. Different stakeholders participated at various levels and a number of lessons and good practices were learnt. The program covered Jinja, Kamuli, Mayuge, Busia, and Buwenge communities.

Based on the earlier relationship built between the two organisations and given the experience and expertise of FAWEU on girl child education and due to the positive results in the previous work, Child Fund International and FAWEU entered into a short term contract, in March 2010 to conduct a 3 - day training for young people in Busia district. The objective of the training was to empower the young people to play an active role in interventions that address their livelihoods which is a very crucial element in the fight against ASRH abuse and girls education. The training targeted young people so they would be able to contribute to issues that directly affect them such as Sexual Maturation Management, their rights, girls’ education and legal provisions so as to have bright futures. Three sub counties (Buhasaba, Buyengo and Buhenyi) in Busia were selected to benefit from the youth training. The training was attended by 10 young people from each sub county (a total of 30 youth- 20 girls and 10 boys), the training was carried out because in most case young people in theses areas lack adequate information and whatever they acquire from their friends may not be adequate and correct. In Busia, issues of SRH and girls education are complicated by the deep-seated cultural norms.

2.3 DEMONSTRABLE INTERVENTIONS

a) FAWEU Centre of Excellence (CoE/GRS) Project

The FAWE Gender Responsive School - Center of Excellence Model (GRS-COE) initiative holds a goal of demonstrating how to create a gender responsive school environment academically, socially and physically. This is for the purpose of making the school child friendly and thereby increasing retention of children especially girls in school and also improving the academic performance. The FAWEU GRS-CoE is being piloted in Bukomero S.S as a model whose good practices will be shared with other stakeholders for replication.

A support supervision exercise was carried out to find out about the progress of the activities as agreed. Findings from the school visit indicated that;

- FAWEU made a financial contributed towards the construction of a girls hostel. The hostel is almost complete and what remains to be done is roofing, placing windows, doors, electricity, cementing the floor and plastering.
- Currently Tuseme club has come up with a constitution and work plan. The members are now writing and collecting articles for the 2nd Tuseme club magazine. FAWEU encouraged members to write a variety of educative articles, poems, jokes, art work.
- Tuseme club members are now rehearsing educative plays in Luganda and English for school and community sensitization, they are trained by a professional who comes from out of the school and from the facilitation FAWEU gave for the club activities, they are able to meet the costs for his services.

We are glad to report that the proposal FAWEU submitted to FAWE Regional Secretariat for phase III activities under the Centre of Excellence was considered and implementation of the planned activities is on going.

b) Quality Educators (QE)

As you may all be aware, the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWEU), Literacy Adult and Basic Education (LABE) and Uganda National Teachers Union (UNATU) with FAWEU as the focal point organisations in collaboration with Education International (EI) and Oxfam Novib (ON) started the process of addressing the real crisis underlying the problems of access and quality in education in the North. The project while building upon existing policies and programs already in place intends to;

- Upgrade the skills of educators currently teaching in the north for to ably provide quality education.
- Attract and retain quality educators in the north
- Provide a rapid response to education in northern Uganda considering a number of issues that affect the teachers in one way or another

As part of preparing for project implementation, 3 meetings were organized with the government education stakeholders. One meeting was organized with the Permanent Secretary (PS), Ministry of Education where it was agreed that the QE project meets with the Curriculum Task Force and the team from Kyambogo University. For a stronger link with the Ministry in implementation of the QE project, a focal point officer who is also the staff of the Ministry was appointed by the PS. Most of the key planned activities under the Quality educators' project have been implemented. The initiative team (FAWEU, UNATU and LABE) with support from the Steering Committee that is composed of members from Ministry of Education and Kyambogo University were at the forefront in ensuring quality activity implementation.

Among the accomplished activities was the official launch of the QE project presided over by the Honourable Minister for Education and Sports Hon: Namirembe G. Bitamazire, under the theme *"Quality Teachers for Quality Education"*. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Education & Sports, Line Ministries, the Development Partners, the Civil society, the district leaders from the target districts and the Initiative team.

In addition, the initiative team signed contracts with experts to review the primary teacher competence profile and life skills curriculum. Timely submission of draft reports by the experts was done and this led to the sharing of the reports during the regional consultative meetings that were hosted in Mbale, Mbarara, Kampala and Gulu. The

consultative meetings were important in that feedback from participants enabled experts improve on the draft reports while awareness was created country wide among the education stakeholders on QE project. Having improved the draft reports the life skills curriculum manual was also shared with sampled teachers from the project districts to get their feel regarding the use of the manuals. This also further helped the experts to improve the manuals.

It is important to note that funding for the QE second phase activities is being sought and the initiative team has submitted a proposal to Oxfam Novib.

c) Sexual Reproductive Health Mainstreaming

FAWEU received funding from Oxfam Novib to facilitate mainstreaming of SRHR, gender and HIV-AIDS in all her program activities. This intervention was initiated as a result of high adolescent reproductive health related challenges such as unintended pregnancies, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). This project is being piloted in Nebbi district in 4 project schools including; St. Peter Warr Girls, Nebbi Town S.S, Uringi S.S and Pakwach S.S targeting both teachers and students. A total of 48 students and 24 teachers were trained on sexual reproductive health (SRHR) for young people. The SRHR ICT package known as World Starts With Me (WSWM) was introduced in these schools to facilitate learning on growing up. Project schools were therefore supplied with Computers and one school that had no electricity was provided with solar panels.

In addition advocacy materials with SRHR messages were disseminated to the schools for sensitization of the young people. This included posters, training handbooks, copies of documentary and T-Shirts. During the support supervision visits carried out, the students with support from teachers had establish school clubs and are implementing SRHS activities within the school programs.

2.4 Organizational Capacity Building

FAWEU organized a 2-day retreat for all the staff (Management, Administrative and support staff) from 18th – 19th March at Humura Resort Hotel. The purpose of the staff retreat was to review program activities in relation to the strategic plan, policy documents; understand staff reporting lines, legal documents and the organization at large. In attendance was the National Coordinator, Programme Manager, the three Programme Officers, Finance & Administration Officer, Accounts Assistant, Administrative Assistant, two Office Attendants and Four volunteers. The staff also had training in report writing and policy advocacy skills.

Another 2–day residential retreat was convened for Board Members from 26th – 27th March at Colline Hotel in Mukono District. The purpose of the retreat was to induct new Board office bearers elected during the Annual General Assembly on November 21, 2009 through the organization’s different policy documents. The retreat was also meant to enable Board Members appreciate FAWEU’s mandate, advocacy, Policy, programs, legal documents and the general roles and responsibilities of the governance committee geared towards achieving FAWEU’s goal. The Retreat was also used as a plat form to discuss the FAWEU endowment fund, resource mobilization and Membership strategies at length. A presentation was made by Exp Momentum and partner NGO before the Board members about a strategy for mass financial mobilization.

The retreat was well attended with 10 out of 13 members in attendance. One of the outcomes of the Baord retreat was the formation of six committees that are intended to provide technical guidance during the implementation process for effective and efficient delivery of activities.

3.0 Special Events that happened during the year

3.1 FAWE Executive Committee Meeting and the Donors’ Consortium

FAWEU was this year privileged to host the FAWE Regional Board meeting from 23rd – 24th February and after the Donors Consortium from 26th – 27th February. During the meetings, some of the FAWEU former beneficiaries gave their testimonies in gratitude to the donors and FAWEU for supporting them to realize their dreams.

3.2 Education and Sports Sector Review (ESSR) meeting

Ministry of Education and Sports organized the annual education and sports sector review, planning and budgeting workshop in February with the purpose of appraising their performance for the previous financial year 2008/2009 and discuss the planning and budgeting matters in the sector for the FY 2010/2011. A 3-days workshop was conducted officiated by the Hon. Minister of Education and Sports. 121 targeted partners attended the workshop. FAWEU in addition to attending exhibited some of her good practices for the participants to learn.

3.3 Global Action week

FAWEU under the Forum for Education NGO in Uganda (FENU) participating in meetings to prepare for celebration of the Global Action Week under the theme *“Financing Quality Education: A right for all.”* That took place in the 3rd week of May 2010. A week long activities took place to include; News paper supplement on financing quality education (targeting the policy makers), a press conference, talk shows on TV and radio, foot ball match and exhibition. FAWEU and other organisations developed messages related to the theme targeting the community, policy makers, development partners, line ministries and local government.

3.4 Day of the African Child

FAWEU under the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development also participated in celebration of the day of the African Child under the theme *“planning and budgeting for the wellbeing of children; a collective responsibility”*. FAWEU was during the preparations on the exhibition committee and made a contribution towards the printing of certificates for participants in the essay competitions.

3.5 Celebration of the Girls Education Week

This year’s Girl’s Education Week activities took place between August 23rd and September 7th 2010. FAWEU would like to appreciate the technical guidance and efforts of the committee that organised the event chaired by Mrs. Camille Alier.

- **Press conference:** Took place on 23rd of August 2010 at the Sheraton and was attended by Mr. Charles Mbire, Chairperson HE Committee, Mrs. Rose Izizinga, Chairperson FAWEU, Mrs. Alier Camille, Chairperson GEW Committee and Mrs. Martha Muhwezi CEO FAWEU. It was attended by representatives from almost all media houses. The press conference was the official kick off of the “Nsindika Njake” Campaign.
- **HE Fund raising dinner:** This took place at the Sheraton Kampala Hotel on the 25th August 2010
- **Girls Central Regional Conference:** This took place at the imperial Royale Hotel on the 26th of September 2010.



- **Girls' Regional Conferences:** (West, North and East) This concluded the GEW activities on the 7th of September 2010 (held in Gulu for the north, Mbale for the east and Mbarara for the west).
- **Independent Woman Campaign:** Started at the end of August and ended in the 3rd week of September. The Nsindika Njake – send a girl to University campaign created a lot of publicity for FAWEU as evidenced by the many people and corporates that have indicated willingness to support girls.

Lessons learnt:

- Early preparations and thus timely invitations and engagement of a clear follow up mechanism for confirmation of attendance
- Important to make prior arrangements for the campaign before contacting service providers. It calls for early preparations if the campaign is to be successful
- Involvement of all concerned early enough to provide guidance and advise prior to the event rather than on the D-day
- Sale of tables a better approach than the use of pledge cards
- Take into account other national activities in setting up the dates (political situation which affected the Regional Conferences)

4.0 Upcoming new programs

1. Oxfam Novib has provided funding for solar lighting in 3 selected secondary schools in Yumbe, Koboko and Adjumani.
2. FAWEU signed MoUs and contract agreements with MoES/ADB for implementation of the bursary scheme for 1000 beneficiaries (900 secondary and 100 BTVET) and gender considerations.



5.0 Challenges.

- The challenges facing girls in education are still at large such that there is need to come up with strategic interventions to address the current needs of girls in education.
- The issue of reliance on donor funds limits some of the activities like scholarships, publicity material production as in all cases, donor funds are specific for certain activities and cannot be diverted.
- The fact that reducing number of girls sponsored under AEI against the boys which contradicts the FAWEU mandate.
- There is still an issue of needy girls who have failed to access government sponsorship at higher institutions of learning.

6.0 Way forward.

FAWEU continues to tap opportunities available with strategic partners for improved and continued implementation of activities that address the strategic objectives and as well as feed into the organizational vision and mission. Different initiatives are being developed and tested and the good practices documented for the purpose of sharing with the different partners for replication. It is however, important to continue thinking of investments that can generate funds for FAWEU activities.