MOESTS Launches Gender Technical Working Group

New Staff on Board

Success Story: Abura Charles

Meeting with GPE Chief Executive Officer

Power to Lead: Karamoja Triumphs

FAWEEU Programme Briefs

FAWEEU at Regional Capacity Building Workshop for Increased Engagement in Education Sector Planning, Review and GPE Processes

2015
Behold another of our informative issue for your readership. 2015 has indeed been a remarkable year for FAWEU family. We were blessed to have new staff on board, some of whom are part FAWE-FK Norway exchange program that seeks to boost institutional capacities of five FAWE National Chapters.

In November, FAWEU in the midst of FENU and fellow Civil Society held talks with visiting Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Chief Executive Officer Alice P. Albright on a number of issues surrounding the education sector in Uganda. Get to know what was discussed in this issue.

We inform you of the newly launched Gender Technical Working Group by the Ministry of Education Science Technology and Sports (MoESTs) that succeeds the Gender Task Force. The new Working Group will play a key role in voicing gender mainstreaming measures in the education sector.

We are also happy to announce that the Irish Aid Higher Education Programme Cohort II Beneficiaries from Karamoja graduated at the Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) 21st graduation ceremony in November. To our delight, one of the beneficiaries, Patience Akello scooped the prestigious Press Award. FAWEU congratulates these young stars.

Finally, we give you a sneak peak on the status of all ongoing FAWEU programs. Enjoy your readership.

The entire Editorial Committee wishes you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year!

Juliet Kimotho
Editorial Committee member

New Staff on Board

Mr. Henry Kagoda
Mr. Elijah Chola Kunda
Ms. Juliet Kimotho

2015 was a fruitful year for FAWE Uganda.

We recently received three new staff as part of the organization’s strategic objective to enhance the organization’s capacity to promote gender responsive education for girls and women in Uganda.

The new staff are Mr. Henry Kagoda who fills the Finance Officer position at the Finance and Administration Department; Ms Juliet Kimotho in the capacity of Communication and Advocacy; and Mr. Elijah Chola Kunda who takes up the Resource and Mobilization Officer position.

Ms Kimotho and Mr. Kunda are part of a FAWE-FK Norway staff exchange program that is aimed at creating a mutual learning environment among participants and strengthening organizations capacity at institutional level. In this regard, FAWEU received Ms. Kimotho from FAWE Kenya and Mr. Kunda from FAWE Zambia. In exchange, FAWEU sent Mr. Malcolm Mpamizo and Mr. Rodgers Wandabwa to FAWE Tanzania and FAWE Zambia respectively.

Mr. Kagoda holds pertinent experience in Accounting and Taxation while Ms Kimotho brings her profound Public Relations and Journalism skills to the organization. Mr. Kunda who holds over eight years’ experience in Monitoring and Evaluation, Donor Management and Reporting is expected to strengthen the organization’s resource base.

FAWEU hereby welcomes these new talents aboard!
FAWEU takes part in Regional Capacity Building Workshop for Increased Engagement in Education Sector Planning, Review and GPE Processes

The Forum for African Women Education- alists Regional Office (FAWE RS) organized a three day capacity building workshop from 4th -6th November to increase engagement in education sector planning and review, and Global Partnership in Education processes across National Chapters.

The workshop took place at the Eastland Hotel Nairobi, Kenya and was attended by National Coordinators and alumni from FAWE’s Anglophone chapters and select staff from FAWE RS. Also present were experts from UNICEF, The Africa Network Campaign on Education For All (ANCEFA) and The Center for Social Sector Education and Policy Analysis (CSSEPA).

Under the theme, Capacity building for increased engagement in Education Sector Plan (ESP) Review and Global Partnership in Education (GPE) Processes at National level, the workshop focused on enabling participants learn and share experiences on how to influence the integration of gender into the ESP design process and further help understand the ESP process at country level as well as the GPE funding mechanism.

While officiating the workshop, FAWE RS Executive Director Ms. Hendrina Doroba, recognized the commendable work that the various Chapters were doing in their countries and underscored the importance of advocacy and tracking the ESPs.

Building on her remarks, Mr. Boaz Waruku from ANCEFA pointed out that the key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for FAWE were Goal 4; Ensure Inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all and Goal 5; Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. He urged FAWE members to use these goals to push for the gender agenda in their country ESP. By way of hints he said, FAWE needs to seek out the leads in key ministries, plan processes, develop strategic partnerships and ensure maximum information sharing.

Other areas of discussion included the African Union (AU), Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and how it is linked to the SDGs and FAWE’s mandate. Other facilitators including UNICEF talked about the GPE and ESP process and the importance of the Local Education Group (LEG).

The attending National Chapters came up with National Action Plans and were requested to share progress on how they have engaged with ESP, GPE and LEG in their countries.

MOESTS launches Gender in Education Technical Working Group

The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Education Science, Technology and Sports (MOESTS) on 10th October officially launched a fully-funded Gender Technical Working Group (GWG) that will be charged with integrating gender mainstreaming in Uganda’s education sector.

While launching the Group MOESTS Director of Basic and Secondary Education and Chairperson of GWG Dr Yusuf Nsubuga, noted that the team would be keen on developing a common and coherent understanding of working towards Gender Equity at the Ministry.

The GWG succeeds the Gender Task Force (GTF), aboay that since 2004 steered the United Nations Girls’ initiative (UNGEI) in Uganda and provided guidance at national level on all issues related to girls’ education. Since 2004, FAWE Uganda has served in the Gender Task Force as an elected co-chair alongside UNICEF, the convener of UNGEI.

In 2013/14 the GTF through the Ministry’s Gender Unit developed two indicators on dropout of girls due to teenage pregnancy that would be integrated in the Education Management Information System (EMIS). FAWEU while serving under GTF would later carry out a study on the correlation between school drop outs and teenage pregnancy in primary and secondary education.

The study was funded by UNICEF. The study has since been reviewed to influence government informed decisions.

GWG is now comprised of MOES focal point persons, private education institutions, Education development partners, and civil societies among them FAWE Uganda.
It was jubilation at Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) when nineteen of FAWEU beneficiaries were on 12th and 13th November 2015 awarded degrees in Bachelors of Arts and Bachelors of Sciences respectively at the 21st Graduation Ceremony held at the Varsity grounds in Nkozi, Central Uganda.

The beneficiaries who hail from Karamoja, North Eastern Uganda were among thousands of graduates from over ten different nationalities in Africa and beyond, who gracefully received the criterion of honor at the University’s main campus grounds.

Of record was the awarding of Patience Faith Akello, a FAWEU Beneficiary who scooped the prestigious UMU Press Award. The Press Award is worth UGX 250,000 and is annually awarded to the final year student in Ethics and Development Studies with the best Dissertation.

Expressing her joy, Akello confessed that the award would go down in history as one of the greatest things education made her achieve.

“I feel like a winner! This is one of the things I hoped to achieve in my study period at the University. I feel uplifted and satisfied,” said Akello. Akello like the rest of the students would love to pursue post graduate studies to enhance her skills and better position herself in the corporate world. The auspicious event was graced by Uganda’s Minister for Works and Transport Honorable Engineer John Byabagambi; UMU Patron and Cyprian Archbishop of Kampala Archdiocese, His Grace Dr. Kizito Lwanga; UMU Chancellor, His Grace John Baptist Odama among other varsity delegates and clergy.

The nineteen graduates from Karamoja are beneficiaries of Irish Aid’s Higher Education Cohort II Programme. The FAWEU-Irish Aid led programme is aimed at providing bursaries to bright children from needy and marginalized communities. At least six districts namely Abim, Amadat, Kotido, Nakapiripirit, Kabong, Napak in the economically challenged region have benefited from the programme.

FAWE Uganda hereby congratulates the beneficiaries and entire Graduation class of 2015 of Uganda Martyrs Christian University.

On 2nd December 2015, FAWEU, as a member of the Forum for Education NGOs in Uganda (FENU), together with other members of FENU met with the Global Partnership for Education (GEP) Chief Executive Officer Ms. Alice Albright to discuss on the general involvement of civil societies in tackling issues surrounding the Education sector in Uganda.

In their discussions, they talked about among other things; the Civil Society Education Fund, planning, social accountability, minimum standards for how Local Education Group (LEG) works, quality of education, violence in schools, gender, conflict and peace-building, budgetary allocation and citizen engagement.

FAWEU currently runs projects in areas of violence against children, Gender, conflict and peace building and Gender Responsive Pedagogy in Northern, Western and Eastern parts of Uganda. The organization also sits in the Ministry of Education Science Technology and Sports (MoESTS) Gender Unit that in October become a fully fledged Gender Technical Working Group.

FAWEU looks up to more active engagement in the Education Sector Planning in 2016 and beyond.

A meeting with the Global Partnership for Education Chief

GPE’s CEO Alice P. Albright and FAWEU ED Christine Semambo Sempebwa pose for a photo at Serena Hotel

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FAWEU looks up to more active engagement in the Education Sector Planning in 2016 and beyond.
Abura Charles: Every time I think of how the Scholarship came to my rescue, I cannot help it but cry

I was born in Kangloe-Napak District and raised in Kotido District. Actually I am well known in Kotido than my place of birth, Kangloe. Although I started my education at Kalotom Primary School, I was forced to restart it again at Kotido Mixed Primary School when I went to live with my uncle in Kotido in the year 1999.

I was one of the privileged, bright and needy Karamojong children to benefit from the Irish Aid scholarship from 2006-2015. I came to know of FAWEU and the scholarship during my second attempt in primary seven at Kotido Mixed Primary.

In my first attempt in P7 I secured an aggregate of 15. I heard of a scholarship programme by an organization called FAO and took the initiative to apply for a chance to study at Moroto High School. Moroto High School had always been my dream High school. Unfortunately, my application bounced for reasons that I had misspelt the organization’s name. It was now too late to join secondary school, so I opted to reseat P7 with the hope to get better grades that I would use to apply for the next open scholarship programme.

To me delight, I still emerged victorious in my second attempt. I was among the top pupils in the district with an aggregate of 11. I however could not celebrate much given that there was no sign whatsoever of an open scholarship.

I remember attending Rev James Naasak (now Bishop North Karamoja Diocese) sermons one Sunday morning and heard him talk about a FAWE-Irish Aid Higher Education Programme. I could not believe my ears! After the summon I rushed to him to enquire about the programme.

I was very embarrassed to find out that the organization I had initially thought was FAO was actually FAWEU. I had lost a good chance to join secondary school in the previous year just because I mispelt the organization. Nevertheless, the fact that I got a second chance to do things right was all that mattered. So I filed my application and by God’s grace was awarded the prestigious scholarship and driven to Kotido Secondary school by my former Mathematics teacher at Kotido Mixed primary (Mr.Lokutae Ambrose) who is now the DEO Kotido District Local Government.

My Secondary school life went on well. My fellow beneficiaries and I received constant encouragement channeled through mentorship programs that were organized by the Karamoja office. I was motivated and determined to do well against all odds. I was keen to hang on to education, no matter what was going on around me, because at the back of my mind I hoped and believed in a better future.

It is this kind of resilience that enabled me score excellent grades to secure me a spot at Uganda Martyrs University (UMU). At UMU I studied Economics and Statistics and on 12th November 2015, graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Science.

I firmly believe that FAWE-U Scholarship provided a necessary anchor point and support system to my young life at a time of great uncertainty and youthful vulnerability. My Uncle could not afford primary school education, let alone Secondary and University education. Honestly, if it was not for FAWEU Scholar-

“Your environment and where you grew up does not determine your future nor how great you can be”
KARAMOJA Secondary School Education Scholarship
FAWEU with support from Irish Aid is implementing a scholarship programme in the Karamoja sub-region targeting 65% girls and 35% boys from senior one to senior six and limited slots for vocational training. While the programme emphasizes education (provision of scholarship support to needy but bright students), it also looks at the components of gender (Training in Gender Responsive Pedagogy and Mentoring Programme) and HIV/AIDS (Sensitization on HIV/AIDS and formation of HIV/AIDS clubs in schools. This implementation is in 8 project schools of Kangole girls school, Moroto High School, Namalu Seed Secondary school, Pokot Seed secondary school, Abim Secondary School, Morulem girls Secondary school, Kotido Secondary school and Jubilee 2000 secondary school.

KARAMAJONG Higher Education Programme
The Irish Aid Secondary Schools bursary programme gave birth to the Karamoja Higher Education Scholarship Programme that is designed to have the needy and bright students from the secondary school bursary scheme, who have not been absorbed by the Government system considered for higher education at university. Funding is for a 3-5 year degree programme. It is noteworthy that the students are bonded before they are accepted onto the programme to ensure that they return to the Karamoja sub-region once they finalize their courses so as to contribute to the development of the region. The programme has grown to include additional support to the government sponsored students for upkeep and scholastic materials as well as transport to and from Karamoja for holiday. The following are the accomplished activities during the quarter. The first 2 cohorts of the beneficiaries 2011 & 2012 have since graduated.

Secondary & Viable Empowerment (SAVE) Project
The Forum for African Women Educationalists Uganda (FAWEU) responded to the 2012 “Strengthening Innovation and Practice in Secondary Education” call for proposals. The call was aimed at funding proposals that would lead to an innovative project with the goal; to contribute to the increased access and completion of quality, secondary education and vocational skills training by war-affected adolescent girls in post-conflict Northern Uganda and the West Nile Region. Forum for African Women Educationalists Uganda (FAWEU) in September 2013 signed a Grant Agreement with MacArthur Foundation to implement and monitor a two year project for war-affected girls in post-conflict Northern Uganda and West Nile. FAWEU partnered with two other organizations Christian Counseling Fellowship (CCF) and the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), on this project.

Beautiful World Foundation Canada
Is currently supporting 26 students to access higher education at different universities with 12 beneficiaries pursuing diploma courses in different fields and 14 beneficiaries (12 females 2 males) pursuing degree courses. In addition, the foundation is also supporting 12 beneficiaries (11 beneficia-
ries at secondary level and 1 beneficiary at Vocational level). All the beneficiaries received scholastics materials and tuition fees for the two terms -2015. The continuing students are all in school and their fees was paid in time.

**FAWEU/ADB/MoES Secondary scholarship project**
FAWEU was contracted by Ministry of education sports and technical science in 2011 for implementation of a scholarship program that has seen 829 needy but bright students in the ratio of 75% girls and 25% boys access education all selected from the 112 districts of Uganda.

**Awareness creation on violence against children in and around school-Well-springs Advisers, TIDES**
Because FAWEU feels that all children deserve a school environment that is safe and nurturing; one that will allow them to grow, thrive, and maximize their full potential because, they impact on the children’s attendance and retention and students’ ability to learn and achieve while in school, in January 2015, FAWEU introduced awareness raising project on awareness creation on violence against children in and around schools in 10 (ten) selected primary and secondary schools from each of the selected project districts of Kasese, Ntoroko and Bundibugyo. The project is aimed at advocating for and supporting the education of children particularly girls through campaigning against all forms of violence against women and girls.

**EduKarns ICT for Girls’ Education**
The ICT for Girls Education Project is a continuation of the “Improving learning outcomes through ICT” project that was implemented in 5 primary schools in Apac district since the year 2012 until when it came to an end in June 2015. The beneficiary schools include, Atopi Primary School, Adir Primary School, Alekoli Primary School, Apele Primary School and Olelpek Primary School.

**FAWEU-Forberg Scholarship**
Forbergis a philanthropist based in Sweden who has a passion for girls education. Our partnership through social Initiative our contact commenced in 2010 as a collaborative effort to support girls and boys from very rural areas of Northern Uganda and select districts in Eastern Uganda. Today he is supporting 22 students to access university education.

**Programme Briefs**

**Upcoming Partnerships**

**Dubai Cares**
Promoting increased participation of girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses

**Master Card Foundation Scholars Programme**
Comprehensive Scholarship programme for university students

**MTN Scholarship Foundation**
Sponsorship of 10 girls pursuing Telecommunication Engineering at university level.

**FAWEU Mobile Library**
This is a scale up of the pilot Mobile Library project conducted in Manafa district in 2012-2013. FAWEU working closely with Book Aid, KCCA, Ecobank and Daily Monitor. To target ten UPE schools in Kampala.
FAWEU hosted at Norwegian Ambassador to Uganda, Susan Eckey’s Dinner

FAWEU on staff retreat at Garuga Country Lake Victoria Resort

16 Days of Activism: Media Campaigns

NBS’ Solomon Serwanjja interviews FAWEU ED Christine Semambo Sempebwa on SRGBV in schools during NBS live@9 News Bulletin

Record TV’s Fiona Nabukera interviews FAWEU Board Secretary Joyce Otim on SRGBV in school’s on Record TV’s Public Opinion Show

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