

FORUM FOR AFRICAN WOMEN EDUCATIONALISTS UGANDA CHAPTER



Annual Programme Report for the period,
January 2017 – December 2017

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS REGISTERED IN 2017

1. Recruitment of 98 students for educational support
2. Launch of 2 programs
3. Beneficiaries that have completed their studies and received degree awards
4. Hosting of the CEO of Dubai Cares
5. Capacity building through training and equipment at school level
6. Empowering the young people through science competitions & science camp
7. Expansion of the office space to accommodate the increasing staff as a result of new projects.

THEMATIC AREA 1: POLICY INFLUENCE FOR GIRL-CHILD EDUCATION

Strategic Objective 1: To improve the level of gender responsiveness in education sector policies for girls and women in Uganda

In a bid to bench mark and be able to systematically measure the performance of the project during and after, a baseline survey was successfully conducted which provided very critical information for the refinement and finalization of the indicators and project targets. The baseline exercise used Case-Control Study Design utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data collection from respondents selected from both the STEM project and twinning secondary schools in the selected districts/ regions to compare the intervention in the project schools and the twinning schools with no intervention. Quantitative data was collected from respondents using survey questionnaires approved by FAWEU and the data was thoroughly analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) to generate comparisons across different schools and regions with regard to objectives of the project and assignment. A report was compiled and shared with relevant stakeholders.

Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) is implementing the Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR) interventions with a focus on advocacy for policy adoption in Uganda and integration into the school system. As a result of this intervention FAWU Uganda has engaged with MoES in development of ASRH school related circulars. In addition, there have been various collaborative studies by FAWU Uganda, funded by UNICEF to inform policies such as the re-entry policy for pregnant girls. Enactment and adoption of such policies will not only have girls get back into school system but also delaying the marriage age. The focus therefore is to consolidate efforts, create synergies and partnerships and ensure ASRHR and re-entry policies are at the center of this advocacy agenda.

As such, FAWEU organised a 1 day review meeting to appraise the efforts currently being implemented towards ASRH advocacy, follow up on previous commitments to track progress and as well share achievements and challenges so far registered among various partners. The review meeting was held in conjunction/jointly with Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development as well as Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) partners Civil Society Organisations. The purpose of the meeting was to review the 2017 SRHR activities of partner CSOs in 2017 and building synergies and joint work plans for 2018. The review meeting also reviewed the Draft National Framework on Sexuality Education to map out a strategy for orientation and sensitization of local, school and community leaders all over the country regarding its implementation.

Conduct sensitization campaigns around the need to develop re-entry and ASRH and Rights policy

In addition, FAWEU in partnership with the Girls Not Brides (GNB) Uganda movement, a national alliance against child marriage and sexual violence suffered by adolescent girls, and Raising teenagers Uganda (RTU), an organization committed to the wellbeing of teenage girls in Uganda, organised a 3 day sensitization campaign around creating awareness on violence against children in schools and communities. They also emphasized the need for re-entry policy encouraging teenage mothers back into school and empowering young girls with age appropriate information to know their sexual and reproductive health rights and advocate for them. The 3 day activity took place from 1st – 3rd December 2017 in Kalangala district, an island district on Lake Victoria worst hit by the HIV/AIDS pandemic with up to 27% prevalence rate and challenges including child marriages, teenage pregnancies, sexual exploitation and defilement. The activity was carried out as part of activities by FAWE Uganda to mark the 16 Days of Activism 2017 under the theme; **‘From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World; Make Education Safe for all’**. The activities covered 2 primary schools, 1 secondary school, 1 church community gathering, 1 partners gathering organised by Centre for Participatory Research and Development (CEPARD) and People In Need Agency (PINA). The team also got an opportunity to participate in a World Aids Day commemoration dinner at which 45 girls shared their testimonies about how they had been rescued, by an organization called Bery’s Place, from violence such as rape, defilement and torture; and how they were fearful to be reintegrated in the community due to the stigma and the lack of a sense of security for women within the community. The local leaders present pledged support towards the reintegration efforts and sensitize men and women more about the need to protect women and girls. The team further participated in school and community engagements where they visited Kibanga Primary School with over 300 pupils, 37% of whom are girls noting the lack of adequate sexuality education and self-esteem among the pupils including the fact that 90% of the girls in school miss school monthly due to poor menstruation management. The team took the pupils through sessions on sexual health and rights as well as assertiveness and self-esteem leading to some girls sharing names of 2 men accused of constantly defiling children and the leaders present pledged to follow up the cases. The team visited a lakeside fishing village and held community dialogues with 253 members including 122 out of school children, 54 adolescent boys and girls and 48 women, with each group holding discussions separately. The out of school children decried the long distances they have to walk to reach school and the girls disparaged the lack of safety for girls on their way to school forcing some of them to prefer staying at home. Women highlighted the need for more support for their economic empowerment to allow them independence in decision making, including allowing their girls to go to school so that they live different lives that their parents did. Reports from these discussions were shared with the community leaders who pledged to take action but also urged CSOs present to intervene where possible with support community programmes.



Photos 1 to 4 showing various activities during the 3 days sensitization campaigns in Kalangala District highlighting GBV and ASRH as part of 16 Days of Activism 2017.

Further, FAWE Uganda, as part of the sensitization of communities on the progress towards the ASRH policy and the need for re-entry policy, hosted a radio talk show in Kamuli district, one of the Phase II project districts in Eastern Uganda with an objective of reaching districts of Kamuli, Buyende, Kaliro, Luuka, Mayuge and Iganga which make up the bulk of the Eastern region where child marriage prevalence is at 52%, teenage pregnancies are at 54% prevalence and over 300 girls reported defilement cases in 2016 alone. Under the theme Male Engagement for the safety of girls and women, the radio talk show was attended by the Kamuli District Education Officer, a senior nursing officer at Kamuli General Hospital, the FAWE Uganda Board Secretary for Publicity, and the Speaker of the Parliament of Busoga Kingdom (The traditional cultural institution for part of Eastern Uganda). The discussions during the 2 hour radio talk show centered on the discrimination experienced by women and girls in schools and communities and gender based violence. The FAWEU Board member Ms. Irene Kiiza urged the community and local leaders to rally behind the plans for a comprehensive sexuality education policy so as to address some of the sexual violence experienced by girls in schools. Hon. Mutyabule, the Busoga Kingdom Parliament Speaker pledged support from the cultural institution in ensuring that discrimination against girls and women and all forms of Gender Based Violence are addressed within the Kingdom. In addition, he urged women leaders including the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda who hails from the Kingdom to continue to inspire more and more women into positions of authority where they can support and defend child friendly policies at national level. The Senior Nursing Officer decried the status of adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Eastern region and blamed such on lack of sufficient age appropriate information for the increase in prevalence of HIV/AIDS among 15 – 24 year olds in Uganda. She urged parents to play their role in ensuring that their

children, especially girls, are able to stand up for themselves and know their rights so as to fight off would be perpetrators of sexual violence. She thanked FAWE Uganda for its commitment to addressing ASRHR issues within the region and in the country and urged them to continue with this work for policy change and implementation. The listeners who called into the talk show stressed the need for parents to be reminded of their role since the home is the first 'school'; and that some men and boys also suffer sexual violence and should be encouraged to report it.



Photos 5 and 6: Showing guests during the radio talk show in Kamuli district.

Create partnership and champion the development of ASRH policy

In a bid to build partnerships with like-minded organizations carrying out advocacy activities around SRHR, there have been meetings held with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) to support the mapping of potential partner organizations and to identify and address the potential areas of support from FAWEU to the Ministry of Education and Sports in the development of a policy on sexuality education covering ASRH. A meeting was held with the Principal Education Officer in charge of the Health and HIV unit to introduce the FAWE Uganda ASRH program to him and seek the Ministry buy in as a key stakeholder in successfully implementing the program. The meeting held in August 2017 was successful and yielded a follow up meeting with the Commissioner for Private Schools in the MoES who also doubles as the National Coordinator of the Health and HIV unit in the MoES.

This meeting which took place in September 2017 saw the commissioner welcome FAWEU as a partner in advocating for a sexuality education policy and recommended to the Health and HIV Unit Technical Advisor that FAWEU is invited to join the Technical Working Group (TWG) and actively participate in the development of the sexuality education framework which will be a precursor to a comprehensive sexuality education policy. The meeting yielded another invitation from the Commissioner to have FAWEU join the upcoming deliberations of the Inter Ministerial Committee on ESA Commitments and an assurance from the commissioner that FAWEU will be recognised as a key partner in SRHR advocacy.

As a result of the engagements with the MoES Department responsible for ASRH issues, FAWEU attended the Inter Ministerial Committee on ESA Commitments in September 2017 which brought together representatives from the Ministries of Health, Gender and Education as well as various CSOs including Save the Children Uganda, Straight Talk Foundation, Uganda AIDS Commission, Uganda Adolescent Forum, UNICEF, UNFPA and Reproductive Health Uganda. At this meeting, presentations were made by participating stakeholders on the current interventions including; Presidential Initiative on AIDS

Strategy and Communication to the Youth (PIASCY), Menstruation Hygiene Management (MHM) Campaigns, the development of the National Framework on Sexuality Education, Introduction on Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), development of the Education Sector HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan and the holding of the Health /HIV technical working group meetings on adolescent health.

FAWE Uganda was given an opportunity to present the ASRH advocacy program to the Working Group and to share the various interventions that are being carried out including the advocacy for an ASRH policy. The meeting concluded with a call to have the TWG share its planned activities with FAWEU to tap into possible synergies in implementation of advocacy activities towards a comprehensive sexuality education policy.



Photos 7 and 8: Presentations being made at the Inter Ministerial Committee on ESA Commitments meeting held in September 2017.

A follow up meeting was held in November 2017 involving the MoES Commissioner/National Coordinator of the Health/HIV Unit, the unit Technical Advisor and FAWE Uganda representatives. The meeting reviewed the progress made towards the adoption of an ASRH policy and welcomed the completion of the draft National Framework on Sexuality Education. Following the discussions, it was agreed that a review meeting bringing together various national advocacy actors in the field of SRHR is held and hosted by FAWE Uganda at which the National Framework on Sexuality Education will be discussed and the subsequent roll out orientation and sensitization workshops planned for local, school and community leaders.

Organize quarterly radio talk shows and TV advocacy messages

As part of the 16 days of activism against gender based violence and in conjunction with the national coalition on gender based violence led by the Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP), FAWE Uganda organised 1 radio talk shows and 1 television talk show to focus on ASRH policy advocacy and re-entry policy advocacy. The prime time television talk show took place on Monday 11th December 2017 on NBS television, a leading national broadcaster in Uganda. The talk show drew participation from the Ministry of Education and Sports and a representative from FAWE Uganda. Mr. Henry Semakula, a Senior Education Officer, while representing the Ministry of Education thanked FAWE Uganda and all partners working towards addressing ASRHR challenges and the attendant sexual violence that follows. He pledged the support of government as a key stakeholder citing the development of a Draft National Framework on Sexuality Education. Mr David Omoding, the FAWE Uganda Communication and Advocacy Officer shared FAWEU's advocacy activities around ASRH and

the need for policy interventions in sexuality education and re-entry. The prime time radio talk show also took place on Thursday 14th December 2017 on KFM Radio, a prominent national radio broadcaster. During the talk show, FAWE Uganda was able to communicate its program areas and activities and partnerships around ASRH and receive feedback from listeners to better inform their advocacy activities.

Another 9 radio talk shows were conducted at three local FM radio stations in the project districts i.e. Radio Guide for Kasese district, Development FM for Bundibugyo and Voice of Tooro for Ntoroko district. Key stakeholders participated on the talk shows such as; District Education Officer, District Community Development Officer, District Probation Officer, Religious leaders, Children, teachers, District Inspector of Schools and Residence District Commissioners and Cultural leaders. The purpose of the radio talk shows was; To raise awareness on the existing legal provisions and structures in addressing violence against children, To share some of the baseline findings and project implementation findings to a wider audience through radio, To engage the political, cultural and religious leaders as key change agents in dispelling the myths and misconceptions tied to social norms that perpetuate violence against children and To get feedback and deliberations from the listeners on VACiS dimensions.

The talk shows were successfully conducted sparking off discussions on violence against children especially in relation to the responsibility of families and communities in dispelling myths that are tied to social norms of early and child marriages. This was through the feedback sessions from the callers who engaged the panelists in asking questions and deliberating on issues of violence. The political, cultural, district leaders and children shared their position and commitment on reporting and responding to violence cases.

Radio Spot messages

More so, 837 radio spot messages were aired for three months; April, May and June 2017 on the most listened to local radio stations with a wide coverage in the project coverage area. On each radio station, 279 spot messages were run. The spot messages were specifically addressing methods and structures for reporting, responding and referring of all forms of violence cases in and around schools like “*Children too have human rights*”. *Together we can stop violence against children. Let’s protect and promote violence free communities.*

Facilitate 2 young advocates and 1 FAWE RS staff annually to champion for ASRH issues at regional and international level

FAWE Uganda had representation at the Gender is My Agenda Campaign meeting (GIMAC) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in June 2017. The Gender is My Agenda Campaign meeting (GIMAC) came to exist during the transformation of the Organization of the African Union (OAU) to African Union (AU) to ensure women were part of, and benefited from, the transformation process. Since it was officially launched in 2002, in Durban, South Africa, GIMAC has been taking place bi-annually in advance of the African Union Summit of Heads of States and Government to engage AU Members States on African women rights, issues, and concerns. So far GIMAC has played a pivotal role in influencing decisions and actions taken to strengthen women’s rights and gender mainstreaming in the African continent by working closely with the AU. This year, the first GIMAC meeting was held in January from 22nd – 23rd and the second GIMAC was held from 27th to 28th June 2017 under the theme “*Harnessing Demographic Dividends through Investment in Youths*”.

The meeting was preceded by a youth meeting held on 26th June, 2017 at Jupiter International Hotel in Addis Ababa that brought together youths from a number of countries in Africa to deliberate on youth empowerment through education, health, Agriculture to attain sustainable economic development and emphasized the need for investing in the youth as per the Agenda 2063, Continental Strategy for Africa (CESA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (Specifically SDG 4) as well as reaching out to school children, Gender responsive education planning, using ICT in enhancing learning outcomes, supportive workplace learning, removing barriers to retention and focus on gender stereotyping in learner's choice of subjects should stop.

Key participants were youth from a number of African states like Uganda, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Mozambique, Ghana, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Central African Republic and Ethiopia the host among others. The youth represented their organizations which included Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), Plan International, Young Women Christian Association, Rosaria Memorial Trust, Akina Mama Wa Africa, Empowering Women in Agriculture Initiative (EWA) among others. Key issues deliberated on included; **child marriage, sexual reproductive health and rights and education.**

FAWEU - VACiS Working group meetings

As a way of creating opportunities of learning from like-minded organizations and also creating synergies, FAWEU initiated a working group on Violence and Children in and around Schools. FAWEU –VACiS working group meetings were held on 5th May 2017 and 16th November 2017. The meetings were attended by the 13 group members including representatives; Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect ANNPCAN, Joy for Children, National Children Authority, World Education Bantwana, Girl child Network, FIDA Uganda, Raising Voices, Child Fund International, AVSI foundation, Ministry of Education and Sports, Bantwana World Education and FAWE Uganda.



The working group has coalesced and utilized technical expertise from different partners on certain programmatic areas like development of Information, Education and Communication materials, technical guidance, capacity building and information sharing. Through this collaboration, FAWEU received 800 learners' guidelines on Reporting, Tracking, Responding and referral of violence against

children (RTRR) for 18 primary and 12 post primary schools from Ministry of Education and Sports. 120 booklets and posters on positive discipline and a good learning environment from Raising voices. These materials were distributed and it was reported that both children and teachers are using them in their day to day advocacy and empowerment activities at school. We have also utilized the Police representative on the working group to refer complicated cases from the community and such cases have been followed and the necessary action taken by liaising with the regional Child and Family Protection Unit and Criminal Investigation Department.

Development of advocacy materials

In a bid to create awareness among the different stakeholders on violence against children in and around schools, 1000 copies of factsheets and talking points were developed. The fact sheets were developed using information gathered from the baseline findings from the project area districts and national findings, and they were shared on the different forums for example during the day of the African child, advocacy day, other FAWEU project launches and network meetings like FENU. These fact sheets were specifically targeting political leaders, parliamentarians, district officials, parents, police fraternity, cultural & religious leaders and the children themselves.



FORUM FOR AFRICAN WOMEN EDUCATIONALISTS UGANDA CHAPTER (FAWEU)

"20 Years of Enhancing Girls' and Women's Education for Development"
FAWEU 1997-2017

Promoting a safe school environment:

It is every child's right to enjoy a violence free environment both in and out of school. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) outlines all children have the right to a good quality education that respects their human dignity and promotes the development of their potential.

Categorically, the Uganda Constitution (1995) in Articles 24 and 44, protects the dignity and safety of every Ugandan including children.

However, Violence Against Children in and around Schools (VACiS) remains a pervasive challenge in Uganda; with serious implications for the educational attainment; health and well-being of girls and boys. Particularly, violence can seriously impact children's ability to learn effectively, and it affects their cognitive and emotional development.

In this regard, we call upon fellow stakeholders in education to exhaustively explore means into preventing and eliminating acts of violence, in and around schools.

The 2017 Day of the African Child was observed under the theme: *"Accelerating Protection, Empowerment and Equal Opportunities for Children in Uganda by 2030."*

We seek to strengthen the capacity of duty bearers, rights holders to be able to contribute to a violent-free school environment, in line with the existing guidelines on Reporting, Tracking, Referral and Response (RTRR) to Violence against Children in Schools (VACiS) developed by the National Inter-Sectoral Committee on VACiS and National Strategic Plan on Violence Against Children in Schools (2012-2015).

Summary Findings of Violence in and around schools:

There are three common forms of violence i.e physical, sexual and psychological violence;

- 81% of the school children have ever experienced at least one form of violence in schools.
- Lifetime experience of physical violence in and around schools is high, with 77% of boys and 66% of girls reporting exposure.
- Physical violence is mainly perpetrated by male teachers

Development of IEC materials

To further create awareness, 2000 posters were developed with different age-appropriate and easily

understandable messages in local languages; all around positive norms meant to provoke the communities and generate possible actions as well as influence behavioral change. The posters were also widely distributed at school and other different forums among others. The school clubs and school community committees are using these age specific materials for publicity and advocacy in and around the schools.

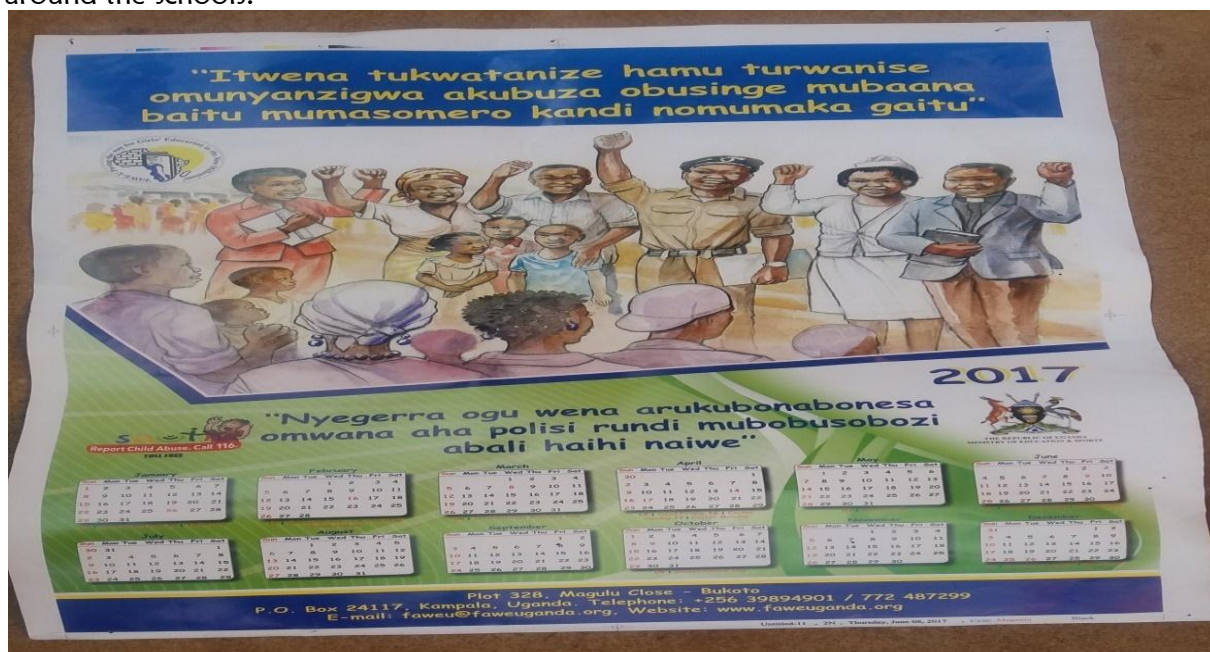


Photo 32: Some the posters translated into the local language

Regional Advocacy campaign

As a way of identifying with other like-minded organisations, FAWEU participated in a regional advocacy campaign organized by Save the Children at Kitarasa primary school, Kabarole district in Rwenzori sub region on the 16th of June, 2017 in commemoration of the Day of the African Child an annual event under the theme; **“Accelerating protection, empowerment and equal opportunities for children in Africa by 2030”**. The event provided a good opportunity for 20 children from Itojo primary school (facilitated by FAWEU) not only to participate but also to express themselves on issues affecting them in schools and community through music dance and drama and engaging in dialogue sessions with key leaders.



Furthermore, the club members under the CEDAW Project were very instrumental and key participants both at district and National celebrations. For instance at district level, one of the National Girl Rights Club members; Fedrine Babalanda made an inspirational speech to the stakeholders on the district celebrations to mark the Day of the African Child in Buyende district. She appreciated the level of empowerment the girls had gained to express and exercise their rights. She also earmarked some of the persistent challenges girls face eg child marriage, defilement, sexual harassment, teenage pregnancies and called upon the district leadership to pass enabling laws (ordinances) and allocate funds to address these vices. Club members also performed a number of advocacy activities to create awareness eg music, dance and drama.



District Advocacy Campaign

As one of the planned activities, FAWEU organized on the 21st July 2017 an advocacy campaign held in Bundibugyo district. The FAWEU advocacy campaign in Bundibugyo district was riding on the theme of celebration of the Day of the African Child, “Accelerating protection, empowerment and equal opportunities for children in Africa by 2030”. The event targeted project Child Rights Club members from 30 schools within Kasese, Ntoroko and Bundibugyo Districts; District level stakeholders like the Chairpersons LC5, DEO, RDC, CDO, CAO, Probation Officer Representative; religious representatives; police, cultural leaders; teachers; school administrators and the community at large. 369 key stakeholders graced the occasion; 25 District officials, 6 District Political leaders, 220 school children,

and 60 teachers, 2 cultural leaders, 3 religious leaders, 3 police officers and 50 community members.

This day provided a platform for different stakeholders to share and learn from one another on the dangers of violence against children in and around schools and the prevention measures. It was also used to raise awareness on the existing laws on violence against children as well as publicizing the FAWEU 2016 baseline survey findings.



Girls Take Over Event as a pre-event to mark the International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC) 2017

As one of the ways to mark the IDGC under the theme *“Empowering Girls: Emergency Response and Resilience planning”* a number of pre-activities were organized prior to create awareness at community at district levels. Key activities undertaken were school debates, radio talk shows and a total number of 07 project schools participated in this activity. All schools held debates under the motion; **“Educating a Girl Child is wastage of family resources”**. The debates were held in the attendance and participation of the entire school and parents were invited. The debates were overwhelmingly supported and appreciated by parents that indeed educating girls was a worthwhile investment having heard the deliberations of the debates. For instance, One male parent; PTA Chairperson Kimbaya P/S Mr. Wamukolo Moses remarked **“uneducated girls are exploited by men and always taken for granted; Girls deserve education to overcome exploitation”**.

In one of the schools; Kimabaya primary a skit was acted on the same motion for the debate. One of the girls acted as a moderator, another as an officer from Plan International Uganda and 05 other girls acted as the audience. This activity was so well organized and girls exhibited high level of intelligence and knowledge about their rights especially education.

In addition, girls were given opportunity to take over offices of prominent people in their communities eg at school levels, they took over the head teacher’s office and at district level, girls took over the office of the Chief Administrative Officer and District Chairperson.

At district level, the girls took the office of the Chief Administrative Officer and District Chairperson. Two girls who are also National Girl Rights Club members; Babalanda Fedrine acted as District Chairperson and Kenzo Fiina Rehema acted as Chief Administrative Officer. The girls in their acting capacities raised a number of issues that called for district attention. The issues included but limited to: lack of enabling local laws and ordinances on child marriage, defilement by teachers, poor health services for girls, discrimination by parents and communities, inadequate facilities in schools, few teachers eg female teachers, inadequate monitoring and support supervision by the district in schools and inadequate parental involvement of parents in school activities. These were summarized in one document that was given to the district authorities as a call to action.



Photos of Girl Take Overs at school levels



Above: Two GRC Members; Fedrine and Fiina in a group photo with District Officials and Plan Unit Manger – Kamuli (second right) during the activity of girls take over.



Left: Ms. Mpatogera Margaret; Deputy CAO Buyende handing over office to Kenzo Fiina and; Fedrine Babalanda addressing participants as the District Chairperson Buyende after handing over to her.

THEMATIC AREA 2: FOSTERING POSITIVE PRACTICES AND ATTITUDES FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION

Strategic Objective 2: To enhance the adoption and integration of positive gender pedagogy practices at national, community and school level.

Gender Responsive Pedagogy Training

In pursuant of building capacity of implementing partners, regional training workshop for science teachers 59 (19 females & 40 males) and Board of Governors 24 (11 females & 13 males) in Gender Responsive Pedagogy was conducted. The purpose for this training was to equip participants with skills and knowledge of integrating GRP in STEM and creating awareness about the existing policies on girls' and science education and how they can be used to inform strategies and interventions for closing the gap of girls' enrolment and performance in STEM subjects. During the follow up/support supervision school visit, teachers demonstrated utilization of knowledge and skills acquired from the training in various ways. For instance at St. Theresa SSS Nsenyi it was reported that teachers use school assembly to discuss GRP issues, to encourage and interest girls to participate and excel in STEM subjects; St. Mary's College School had applied the GRP principles to guide the election of STEM club leaders and the gender issues are now part of the board meetings, which is attributable to Gender Responsive Pedagogy training. Semuliki High school changed the sitting arrangements where boys and girls mix up and are encouraging female students to take up leadership positions almost 50/50.

Establishment of STEM Clubs and STEM Competitions

As part of the project deliverables, each of the project schools was expected to develop science related projects in preparation for competitions for sharing and learning. Subsequently, all of the 40 project schools were provided with guidelines for the establishment of STEM science clubs and given financial assistance to facilitate the acquisition of materials to develop the science projects. STEM competitions were organized at school, regional and national levels with the intention to encourage and improve students' especially girls research, innovative and critical thinking skills. The project schools made presentation of their projects in competition at regional level after which, each region forwarded the best two projects for the national competitions that were held at Kitante Hill School on 1st August 2017. Through this exposure girls were inspired to come up with projects that exhibited a lot of creativity and innovativeness using locally available materials to address community problems for instance the Bicycle phone recharging system which has created a lot of demand from the local community –Lira district.



Figure 2: FAWE Uganda Executive Director and Commissioner Secondary Education, Ministry of Education and Sports being taken through the bicycle phone recharging system, one of the innovations from the students.

The national level STEM competitions were attended by 61 participants (38 females & 23 males) including officials from the Ministry of Education and Sports and Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations. Mr. Kuloba Sam (Commissioner Secondary Education) was the guest of honor. The guest of honour applauded FAWEU for designing such innovative initiatives that promote critical thinking, creativity, innovations and encourage learners to apply classroom theory to daily life. Two outstanding projects were selected for presentation at the FAWE Girls' Conference in Lusaka Zambia.

Female Scientist Role Models

In a bid to increase and improve girls' inspiration and motivation, a total of 110 female science role models were identified, three for each project school selected from within the school community to inspire and motivate the girls to take on STEM subjects through career talk shows. To ensure a smooth selection process a concept note was developed and shared with the project schools to ensure that most of the science domains are catered for as well as getting suitable individuals to perform the role. Later, FAWEU organized school visits to meet and orient role models about STEM project and also agree on working modalities. The role models selected exhibited commitment and enthusiasm to support science education for the girl child.

Procurement of Teaching and Learning Materials

FAWEU planned to build capacity of the project schools to improve on their teaching and learning materials. As such, project schools were provided with financial assistance to procure some of the items as required to make easy the teaching and learning of sciences. Out of the 40 project schools, 20 rural based schools were identified as the most needy with inadequate science teaching and learning materials

and were given first priority to procure the materials in the 1st phase and the remaining 20 schools would be catered for in year II 2018. To ensure proper transparency and accountability, FAWEU developed uniform and standard procurement guidelines that were shared with all the 20 schools on e-mail in a timely manner which was later followed by phone calls to the schools emphasizing the need to follow the guidelines promptly as well as ensure full accountability (payment receipts, minutes of procurement meetings and lists of goods/items procured), for all funds received.

By the time of the monitoring visit, it was confirmed that 20 project Schools received the financial grant (UGX 8,500,000/=) for the procurement of the teaching and learning materials and the procurement was at different levels. Procurement committees were constituted that comprised of science teachers, head teachers and deputy head teachers and heads of departments to oversee the procurement process. Some schools like; Biiso War Memorial S.S had already procured textbooks, and science equipment (apparatus chemicals and reagents) and awaited delivery of the last consignment. Other schools like Sebei College, Butiru S.S and Amanang Secondary Schools had received some bids from potential suppliers and were in the process of evaluation. Pader Girls Academy had not held any procurement committee meeting due to limited time since the term was almost closing and the students were doing their end of term examinations. Kidera secondary had concerns over the quality of teaching and learning materials given that the procurement committee was comprised of Arts teachers and the head teacher. Follow up discussions and verification of the materials and equipment is on going to ensure value for money.

Annual STEM mentoring camp

The 1st annual STEM mentoring camp for all the 40 project secondary schools was hosted by Wanyange Girls School –Jinja district. Over 130 students and 42 teachers attended and participated in the wide range of educative sessions and activities. The camp focused on strengthening STEM in schools alongside equipping beneficiaries with life skills and personal goal setting among others to enable them reflect on their dreams and ambitions, set targets and strategize on achieving their goals. This camp also focused on academic performance and personal development aimed at improving and attaining excellence during and out of school.



Figure 3: Grace Nanyonga CEO Grannafish & FAWE Alumni sharing her Inspirational Story with students and teachers during the STEM Camp.

The students' STEM camp was successfully conducted with full participation of the project schools. The camp created a unique platform for participants to experience science in a unique atmosphere without external pressure, but lots of encouragement, sharing, learning and interaction. This helped to gain and strengthen their interest in the STEM disciplines, to gain self-confidence, create new networks and make new friends who are in a similar situation. Sessions covered helped participants learn and gain new skills from experienced and inspiring facilitators, and gain information and perspectives on career options in science. The engagement with role models and mentors was also a complementary. At the end of the camp, positive feedback on the impact of the camp was registered and FAWE Uganda chapter is focused on further tracking the impact as participants report back to respective schools. The continued ultimate test of success will be the statistics of how many girls and boys will keep riding on the knowledge and inspiration to take up studies in the physical sciences, mathematics, engineering and information technology from now on to tertiary/university level.



Figure 4: The Chief Guest, Mr. Kisambira Titus, the Jinja District LC V and Ms. Deborah Basekanakyo, The Headmistress of Wanyange Girls School cutting a Cake to celebrate successful completion of year One STEM Project

Training of teaching and non-teaching staff on safety and security

For the purpose of equipping the teaching and non-teaching staff with the safety and security skills as far as violence against children is concerned, training was conducted from 17th to 20th of January 2017 in Fort portal town. The participants included 40 male and 20 female teachers as well as 35 male and 25 female SMC members. The specific objectives of the training were; *i) To improve the understanding of child protection among participants in the districts of Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko, ii) To equip participants with knowledge and skills on monitoring, reporting and tracking abuse using the RTRR guidelines.iii) To strengthen participants' skills in upholding child rights and interrogating the diverse child protection issues in schools and communities and iv) To equip teachers with knowledge and skills*

on positive discipline alternatives to corporal punishment (safer school concept) and counseling and guidance skills.

Following a thorough training, the participants developed action plans on how to cascade the skills and knowledge acquired to other stakeholders within the school, thereby increasing on the awareness of reporting, tracking, responding and referral of violence against children cases.



Training Men as change agents to address VACiS

FAWEU recognises the role played by men as change agents during behaviour/attitude change campaigns. As such training targeting a total of 90 change agents (88 men and 2 boys out of school) was conducted at Fort View Hotel, Kabarole District from the 1st to 2nd March 2017. Participants included religious leaders, youth leaders and LC1 chairpersons who double as school community committee members. The purpose of the training was to empower the participants as change agents, equip them with skills and necessary knowledge to ably create awareness on children rights in line with the legal provisions and also promote the social norms that support violence free environments.

The ultimate outcome of the training among others was to develop action plans on how to conduct massive sensitisation and awareness in the community. During support supervision, it was established that the men change agents are spearheading outreaches and sensitization meetings on key issues like early marriages, importance of writing a will, the legal framework and OVC policies in churches, mosques and social gathering events in the communities.



Training Head teachers and teachers on gender responsive methodologies for effective teaching and learning

To ensure gender responsive teaching methodologies for effective learning and teaching in order to realize a gender responsive school, training for head teachers and teachers on gender responsive pedagogy was conducted at Fort View Hotel, Kabarole District from 27th to 28th of April 2017. Thirty head teachers (4 female and 26 male) and sixty one teachers (32 female and 29 male) attended the training. The specific objectives of the training were:

- To familiarize with current situation on VACiS in Uganda in line with the legal framework and RTRR guidelines
- To explain clearly the roles and responsibilities of participants in the project implementation process.
- To explain and enable participants understand and appreciate the different gender concepts
- To equip participants with improved skills and knowledge in Gender Responsive Pedagogical teaching and learning methodologies.
- To equip participants about supportive gender responsive school management systems.



Disbursement of grants for club activities

Before the disbursement of funds, the FAWEU through the Field Officer conducted support supervision to each project school to check on the progress of project activities on ground and work plans developed to enable inform the requisition of funds. All 30 project schools were visited and 5 schools were found with gaps in accountabilities and supported accordingly. Following satisfactory feedback from schools, grants was disbursed to all the 30 project schools. Each project school received UGX 1,000,000 (one million shillings only) to facilitate club activities as indicated in their schoolwork plan that was shared with FAWEU office. The funds are for the purpose of supporting the child rights clubs in conducting sensitization meetings; outreaches in and around schools; promotion of a safe school environment through messages, reporting, and tracking, responding and referring of VACiS. During the monitoring visits, we noted that schools were implementing activities as per the work plan and were creating awareness on the prevailing issues of violence through outreaches.

Disbursement of grants for the school- community structures

On receipt of approved work plans and budgets from all the 30 school community structures, grants of UGX 500,000 (five hundred thousand shillings) were disbursed to support in the activities of tracking, reporting, responding, referring as well as providing assistance in regard to violence against children using several platforms in their communities to prevent violence against children. It is important to note that the school community committees have integrated VACiS sensitization activities into youth programs at the community level. For example, the school community committee of Karugutu S.S spearheaded the

process of bringing back a 14 year old girl to her parents after being abducted by a 22 year old boy for marriage in Kampala. During the interview the Moslem leader Yahaya was quoted saying *“I appreciate all the skills and knowledge acquired during the training on reporting tracking, referral and responding to violence against children they are relevant to my work”*. More still, the community committees have conducted community dialogue meetings on the prevailing social norms with parents, local leaders, police and district representatives in the communities.

Support supervision to school clubs and community committees

FAWEU appreciates the necessity to conduct support supervision to check on the progress of implementation at school level and provide technical guidance whenever necessary. As such, support supervision through school visits was conducted for the 30 schools and school community committees from 27th March to 14th April in the districts of Kasese, Ntoroko and Bundibugyo. The purpose of the support supervision was to assess progress on record keeping, accountabilities, implementation of the project work on ground as well as addressing any upcoming issues/challenges. In addition, school administrators and teachers were given technical support and guidance on report writing, stories, record keeping, financial management and accountability of funds in each of the school visited and also orientation of new VACiS focal point persons that had been transferred in five schools in Bundibugyo as follow; Rwamabale p/s, Bundimbuga p/s, Umoja p/s, Nyakatooke SDA and Burambagira.

Also, during support supervision, it was noted that teachers prefer to use positive discipline as opposed to corporal punishments. They use reflection alternatives like writing an apology letter that encourage self-awareness and reflection on the past behavior, and how to do things better.



Field Officer – Richard Kilhambuli during support supervision school visits

Training of key stakeholders to carry on a campaign against VACiS

In order to improve the participants’ understanding on child protection and safety of children as well as reflect on their roles as change agents in addressing violence against children in and around schools, training targeting 93 stakeholders (20 females and 73 males) was conducted on the 24th to 25th May, 2017 in Kabarole district. The training was attended by 30 head teachers, 15 religious leaders, 3 cultural leaders, 3 LC5, 3RDC’s, 3 Chief Administration Officers, 3 District Education officers, 3 DCDO’s, 3 Probation Officers, 3 FAWEU District focal persons, 3 In charge of Social Services, 3 District Inspector of Schools, 6 Local Councils, 3 Sub county chiefs and 6 sub county CDO’s from the three districts of Bundibugyo, Ntoroko and Kasese.



At the end of the training, stakeholders committed themselves to become more vigilant and continually address violence, participant in awareness raising, reporting, follow up of violence cases and attending to cases of corruption, connivance between alleged perpetrators and victims to uproot the vice from their communities.

Training of peer educators (boys and girls) on child protection and life skills

In order to strengthen and empower the young people to ably address issues of violence, training for 150 peer educators (58 boys and 92 girls) on child protection and life skills was conducted from 22nd to 23rd June 2017 in their respective project districts. The training equipped learners with knowledge and skills how to prevent, respond and report cases of violence against children as well as their roles and responsibilities. The training methodology encouraged participatory approaches for the children including storytelling, group discussion, role plays and plenary. The training ensured that the child right club patrons own the club initiative; as a result the clubs appreciated the need to change their name from “FAWEU club” to “Child rights clubs” as a way of ensuring ownership and sustainability of the clubs. Action plans were developed by the children clubs to guide on their work of awareness creation in schools and communities.



Printing of children magazines

The development of children magazines was led by the child rights club patrons who guided the learners in its development through their drawings, paintings and storytelling and experience sharing.

The aim was to enable the learners to express their views and understanding of violence against children and put these ideas into pictorial designs. Later a magazine was developed and shared with the schools for reference and motivation. The children's drawings and stories were thereafter shared with FAWEU and a service provider was solicited and contracted to develop them into a magazine. Subsequently, 2000 copies of the children magazine were printed and distributed in all the 30 project schools across the three districts. Each school received 60 copies of the magazines that are being read in turns at an appropriate time. The children magazines reflect real life stories and experiences on violence against children in and around schools as well as program progress. It is also a motivation to the children to continue to follow up the issues of violence and air out their voices.



Children reading through their work in the magazine

Girls Advocacy and Empowerment through CEDAW Project

Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) - Uganda Chapter is implementing the Girls' Advocacy and Empowerment through CEDAW Project in partnership with Plan International Uganda and Women Parliamentarians Association (UWOPA). The project is contributing to the realization of women and girls' rights in Uganda, in particular increasing access, retention and performance in school, improving sexual and reproductive health, and reducing Gender Based Violence among adolescent girls. To date, the project has reached out to 3840 adolescent girls (10-19) both in- school and out of school to build their skills, confidence and knowledge of their rights so that they are empowered to claim their rights. The project has also reached out to 2400 adolescent boys (10- 19 year olds) and 1200 adult men in communities who have been trained and sensitized to further influence others on the rights of the girl child to support girls achieve their rights particularly education in a safe and inclusive school/community environment. The project is empowering the young people by increased understanding, confidence and ability of adolescent girls to exercise their rights, improving their attitudes and systems at community, sub-county and district level to support adolescent girls' rights to education, sexual and reproductive health and protection in 10 sub-counties across Tororo, Buyende and Kamuli districts. This is in a bid to increase support and action among civil society for the realization of adolescent girls' rights and improve support for the protection and promotion of women and girls' rights among Parliamentarians, members of the judiciary and senior civil servants.

Training of GRC members (in and out of school)

By use of the TUSEME and Champions of Change modules, GRC members were trained on child protection, Being Assertive, being aware of Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR), being Gender aware, living free from Gender Based Violence (GBV), Dialoguing Gender and Being Body Confident. 80 school Girl Rights Clubs (2640 members) and 40 out of school clubs (1200 members) attended the training. The out of school clubs were trained for three days at their respective sub counties from 11th to 31st January 2017. The school clubs are trained on a continuous basis from their respective

schools with the support of the female community volunteer facilitators (CVFs) on specific dates agreed between the school and CVFs. As a result, the trainings have enabled GRC members to gain confidence, express themselves and some of those who had dropped out of school have been able to go back to school.



Organise Community GRC Meetings

Community GRC meetings are regular meetings held for GRC members to share experiences and identify cases of abuse they face and hence find long lasting possible solutions to address such cases. Through the year, a total of 06 meetings were held both at sub county and parish levels. These targeted 120 girls from each of the 10 project sub counties and they are always held to: do a situational analysis of rights gaps in their communities, district and even national level where possible, develop advocacy plans describing objectives they want to achieve and draw a stakeholder analysis identifying who they can target to influence for change, approaches to be used and how they will use such approaches to influence change in attitudes, systems and structures. It should be noted that through the Community GRC meetings enable girls to identify advocacy issues and action plans that are shared in the interface meetings at various levels to put duty bearers to task to address the challenges girls face.

Interface Meetings

The interface meetings are held between GRC representatives at Sub County, District levels and National levels and various duty bearers to promote participatory governance, where a combination of social accountability and advocacy approaches are used to influence decision-making. These meetings were held in 10 sub counties of Balawoli, Namasagali, and Wankole in Kamuli district, Bugaya, Kagulu and Nkondo in Buyende district and Kisoko, Merikit, Osukuru and Rubongi in Tororo district. At sub county and district level, GRC Representatives are 36 in number and 20 at national level. At sub county levels, duty bearers targeted were the sub county chief, LCIII chairperson, Community Development Officers and Secretary for Gender (a total of 04 duty bearers per Sub County bringing the total number of duty bearers targeted to 40).

At district level, key duty bearers targeted were the 04 district heads ie the LCV Chairperson, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) and the District Police Commander. Others who attended and participated were: the District Education Officer, the District Police Commander, Gender Officer, the District Health Officer and District Magistrate. Other key leaders who attended include; religious leaders and selected head teachers from some of the project schools (one secondary and one primary). In all the three districts, 55 male and 12 female duty bearers attended as well as 108 GRC representatives.



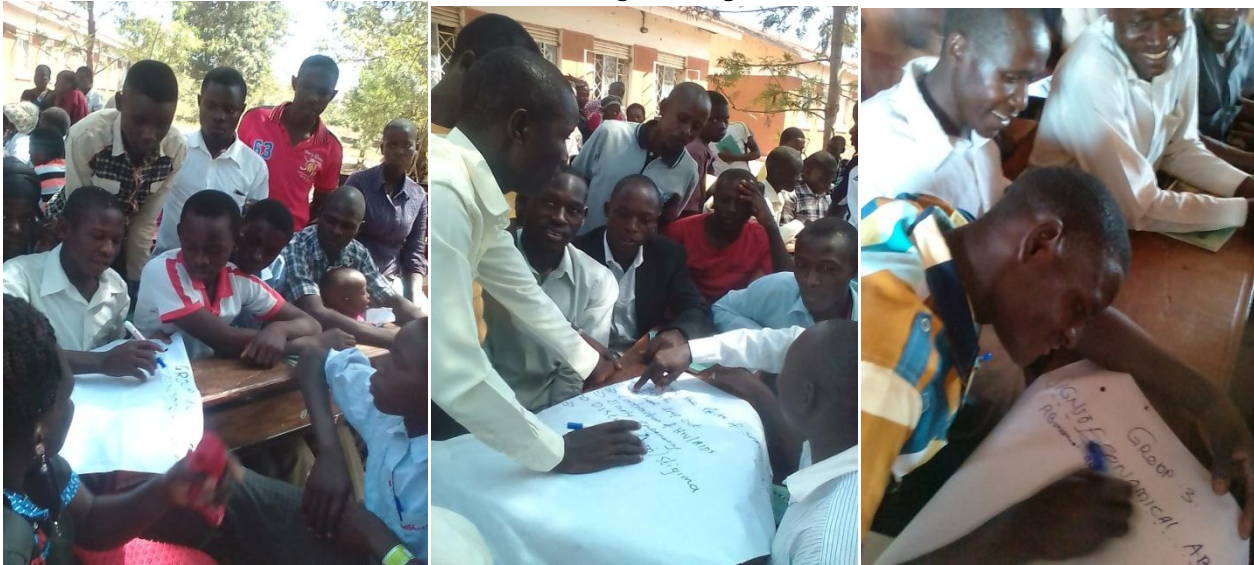
Peer Education

FAWEU contracted Child Protection Learning Centres-CPL Uganda to develop a peer educator's handbook on increasing knowledge and understanding of adolescent girls to exercise their rights. This handbook will be used by GRC members to support others through peer to peer training, and sharing of real life experiences girls go through in their everyday life and how to manage the bad experiences.

Training of club members (Boy Rights Clubs and Men Masculinity Clubs)

FAWEU appreciates the contribution by the males in advocacy and campaign efforts across the different activities. As a result, 80 school Boy Rights Clubs (targeting 2400 members) and 40 Men Masculinity clubs (targeting 1200 members) have been trained on the key project modules of child protection, TUSEME and Champions of Change. Specifically, Being Gender Aware, Being a champion of change committed to gender equality and Dialoguing Gender. The men masculinity clubs were trained for three days at their respective sub counties from 11th to 31st January 2017. The school clubs are trained on a continuous basis from their respective schools with the support of the male community volunteer facilitators (CVFs) on specific dates agreed between the school and CVFs. As a result, the trainings have enabled club members to change their attitudes, beliefs and perceptions to support girls and they are actively involved in peer education, dialoguing and sensitizing other community members to change their perceptions.

Photos of Men Masculinity Club Members during trainings



Regular Club meeting

The men masculinity meetings are regular meetings held for men masculinity club members to debate and discuss on how to promote positive peer influence and other activities that are geared towards promoting gender equality in communities. The members work closely with GRCs to hold campaigns and dialogues targeting parents and leaders to promote discussion on social norms and girls' rights, highlight on rights violations which require structural change/reforms eg laws and policies. A total number of 06 meetings have been held this year in the 10 implementing sub counties of Balawoli, Namasagali and Wankole in Kamuli ditrict, Bugaya, Kagulu and Nkondo in Buyende district and Kisoko, Osukuru, Rubongi and Merikit in Tororo district.



Above: A club facilitator; Mr. Amukun Sylvester facilitating a club meeting with men club members of Namasagali parish in Namasagali Sub County.

Training of Duty Bearers and action planning

In order to share and build capacity of the district and sub county leaders on the child rights especially right to education and protection from gender based violence, Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and Life skills Education, workshops for district and sub county leaders from the project 10 sub counties of Kamuli, Buyende and Tororo district was held from 7th to 10th February, 2017. District

technical leaders who attended and participated included: the Chief Administrative Officer, District Education Officer, District Inspector of Schools, Principal Assistant Secretary, District Planner, Probation and Social Welfare Officer, District Community Development Officer, Police Officer in charge of Family and Family Child Protection Unit, Magistrate, District Health Officer and Political leaders included: the Resident District Commander, the LCV Chairperson, Secretary for Gender and Children Affairs, Secretary Finance. From the sub counties were the Senior Assistant Secretary, Community Development Officer, Sub county Police Officer, LCIII Chairpersons and Secretary for Gender and Children Affairs. A total of 109 participants attended ie 78 males and 31 females. The training also aimed at influencing policy reforms and strategies that aim at nurturing a positive and inclusive environment for girls to learn, decide, lead and decide in the Kamuli district.

Community Events and District Campaigns

These community campaigns were held at each individual sub county headquarters in the three districts. The district leaders attended and listened to the issues raised by children and it is hoped that they will in turn propose strategies and appropriate policies to address the issues raised.



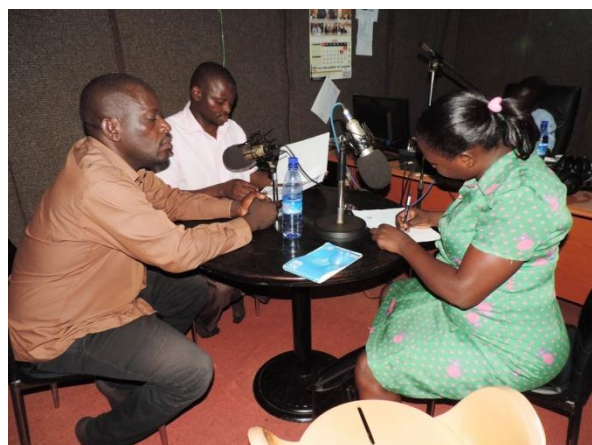
Above: Mr.Kagoda; CFPU Officer Kamuli CPS and; Mr. Ziribasanga Robert; District Chairperson Buyende, addressing participants during district level campaigns

Radio talk shows

A total number of 4 radio talk shows were held this year to: sensitize all stakeholders /duty bearers on rights of children especially girls, emphasize the negative effects of sexual violence against girls so as to make parents more responsive and duty bearers to carry out their work with due diligence and emphasize the cultural perceptions and beliefs that influence child marriages in communities

One of the radio talk shows held in May was attended by the Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga; the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda and Woman Member of Parliament for Kamuli District. The talk show discussion was under the theme “**Sexual Violence against Adolescent Girls; an impediment to their education right**”. The theme was picked based on the prevalent increasing rates of sexual offenses against adolescent girls in Kamuli. For example, the Daily Monitor Newspaper of Thursday, January 12, 2017, revealed that over 300 minors/girls were reported defiled in Kamuli district in the year 2016. On the same show, the Senior Welfare and Probation Officer; Mr. Joshua Mboizi as one of the guests revealed that 08 girls were defiled on labour day (1st may, 2017) and members also acknowledged the fact that the institutions like Police and Judiciary that are mandated to handle sexual offenses to conclusion are normally the ones who indulge in in mal handling of such cases.

The FAWE-Uganda Representative Ms. Sarah Murungi while giving her remarks at the show called upon Government to establish regional centres for child mothers (a replica of Pader Girls Academy in the North which has been supported by MacArthur Foundation through FAWEU) and pass the re-entry policy to allow child mothers to be enrolled back in school. While responding to such issues, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga expressed great concern over the escalating cases of sexual violence against and called upon parents to refrain from marrying off young girls. She also appealed to the responsible institutions like Police and Judiciary to handle sexual offences with utmost urgency to accord justice to victims. She also pledged to construct latrines for schools in Kamuli and pledged to facilitate the passing of enabling laws that promote girls right to education.



Above: Rt. Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga emphasizing a point as a chief guest on KBS radio on 6/5/2017 and; Mr. Joshua Balondemu; Secretary for Gender Kamuli deliberating on a talk show organized to create awareness on the Day of the African Child for 2017 on 19/06/2017.

THEMATIC AREA 3: FAWEU EVOLVES INTO A ONE CENTRE FOR GIRL-CHILD EDUCATION SERVICES AND INFORMATION

Strategic Objective 3: To increase access, retention and completion rates by girls in school at all levels of education in Uganda.

Different funders have contracted the Forum for African Women Educationalists Uganda (FAWEU) to implement the scholarship programme. This is as a result of the vast experience that FAWEU has gathered in implementation of scholarship programmes over the years. The activities being implemented by FAWEU under this strategic objective are aimed at supporting the girls and boys to complete their studies at different levels of education. The scholarship program was started with a goal to provide quality educational support to needy young people in Uganda in order to increase their access to education so they can have a better future hence fulfilling livelihood.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS PROGRAM

The Forum for African Women Educationalists' Regional Secretariat (FAWE RS) with support from Mastercard Foundation, is through FAWE Uganda Chapter, implementing an eight-year (2016 to 2024) Higher Education Access Program targeting 300 youth from the Eastern, Northern and Western regions of Uganda (70% female and 30% male). The program aims at enabling academically talented yet economically disadvantaged students from selected disadvantaged communities in 13 districts¹ of Uganda, to access and complete higher education. FAWEU is implementing the Program in partnership with the following higher education institutions: Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Busitema University, Gulu University, Jinja School of Nursing and Midwifery, and Medical Laboratory Training School, Jinja. Students for the program have been drawn from the 13 project districts and the first cohort of 98 students has already been enrolled. The program design is centred around 4 key objectives which largely centre on supporting the students to enable them successfully access and complete their education and transition in to the world of work. However, the objectives also ensure that FAWEU and the implementing partners will have their institutional capacity strengthened over the project period. The four objectives are outlined below.

- 1: Provide bursaries to 300 academically able, yet economically disadvantaged students from eastern, northern and western Uganda to access and complete higher education.
- 2: Design and implement a (pilot) pre-entry bridging program to provide second chance opportunities for promising students to transition into university degree programs.
- 3: Provide academic and psycho-social support and facilitate pathways for the students to internships, industrial practice and employment.

FAWEU through a transparent process spearheaded by members of the Regional Bursary Task Force (RBTF) recruited the first cohort of the beneficiaries. An announcement on availability of the scholarships and related details was run in the newspapers and followed by radio talk shows on local FM radios in targeted program districts to extensively publicise the scholarship and ensure that the rightful candidates applied. 222 applicants (76 female and 146 male) were received, summarized in an excel sheet, analyzed and used for short-listing the most deserving applicants for further verification. 184 (76 female and 108 male) out of the 222 applicants were shortlisted by the RBTF who were subjected to interviews to

¹Adjumani, Amuru, Pader, Kaabong, Amudat, Katakwi, Bukwo, Mayuge, Buyende, Buliisa, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko and Kanungu

ascertain if the information in their application forms was genuine. Those that went through were visited at home to further gauge their degree of need. A final award of scholarships to 98 students (44 girls & 54 boys) was done. These awardees were taken through the extended orientation program where the program expectations were clearly spelt out as well as a walk through what life at the university may require of them. The Extended Orientation Program (EOP) is one of its kind that FAWEU has initiated to ably prepare the students who are joining the institutions of higher learning for the first time. This is to minimize on the likely shocks as a result of coming from disadvantaged and humble backgrounds

FAWEU organized a visioning workshop from Monday 30th – Tuesday 31st January, 2017 at the Kabira Country Club in Kampala where different program key stakeholders attended and were taken through the details of the program. The purpose of the workshop was for the participants to think through the program and understand it all together to ease implementation with reduced contradictions and challenges.

Each of the 5 participating institution nominated individuals who constituted into a committee to develop the Extended Orientation Programme (EOP) manual. The draft of the manual was used to orient the first cohort of the beneficiaries an exercise that also served as a pre-test of the manual. Feedback helped to further improve on the manual and a final copy of the manual is now complete and ready for printing.

Again each of the participating universities nominated individuals to design the Bridging Program (Bp) led by Busitema University. The Bridging Program is a model meant to support students that miss joining the University for the study of their choice minimally and qualify for diploma courses. They will be taken on for training in those desired courses for a period of one year after which they will join the universities. The modalities and the manual is being worked out with the different key stakeholders.

To further publicise the HEAP, FAWEU organized a launch on 20th October 2017 at Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala where 175 participants (Female-68 and Male 107) attended. These included among others; the program beneficiaries, rep from partner institutions, rep from the MasterCard Foundation, FAWE fraternity, other development partners and rep from line ministries.

Prior to the start of the program, a baseline survey was carried out whose findings have been used to enrich the program

Some of the program related challenges encountered include;

- Failure to meet the expected 70% for female programme participants. The programme recruited 44% female and 56% male.
- Closure of Gulu University on short notice due to the strike by academic staff; students did not sit end of semester exams. The return of the students to the University is yet to be communicated to the students
- The process for the development of the Bridging Program curriculum is quite long, by end of Q4 the draft had not yet been submitted to the university senates. There is a risk that the approval by NCHE might not be in time for the first enrolment in year II of the program as planned.
- Limited time for students' EOP orientation that was less than a month as earlier planned

FORGBERG SUPPORTED SCHOLARSHIP

FAWEU with financial support from Forberg a philanthropist and through Social Initiative is financing education a total of 19 bright but needy students (13 females and 7 males) from disadvantaged families. The beneficiaries are supported to access higher education from both universities and vocational training.

Mentoring of beneficiaries

One of the FAWEU scholarship components is mentoring which helps to provide moral and social support to the beneficiaries and enable them to go through their education with minimal challenges. The mentoring component came about because FAWEU observed that the beneficiaries suffer challenges beyond payment of school fees. FAWEU organised two subgroups mentoring meeting for the students in (Kampala, Mbale and Tororo) the meeting was held on 30th September, 2017 at FAWEU offices. Beneficiaries from Gulu Health Institute, Lacor Hospital and Gulu University also had a mentoring meeting which was held on 25th November, 2017 at Gulu University. The mentoring was basically to: support to develop a career pathway for the mentees, ensure that as many of the students graduate in 2018 as possible with a pass score of CGPA in second class upper division or higher (3.60), ensure that students attending university are supported in terms of mentoring and individualized career guidance to prepare them for future employment and as much as possible ensure zero drop-outs from the university

A total of 11 (3 males and 8 females) beneficiaries from the different universities attended the mentoring meeting at FAWEU offices .



Ms. Sarah Murungi making a presentation on the lessons learnt presented by the mentees and mentors during the meeting .



Mentors and mentees having discussions during the meeting at Gulu University

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

In order to assess the effectiveness, value for money, efficiency in the implementation of the different activities of FAWEU, monitoring, evaluation and learning is conducted routinely on a quarterly basis. The findings are shared to inform improved programming and implementation so that the outcomes of the projects/programs are achieved. The monitoring, evaluation and learning exercises provide an opportunity to interact with the key stakeholders and beneficiaries and learn from one another, share challenges encountered and jointly agree on solutions.

During the monitoring exercise, it was observed that each of the 39 of the 40 STEM project schools visited had developed between 3- 16 science projects. The schools however expressed concern over the period of time they were given to develop the project being too short that should have affected their overall quality of work. During the school based competitions, it was a pre requisite to engage the twin school from the initial stages of project development, design to the presentation stage but it was observed that only a few school took initiative to engage the twin schools due to the short period of time they had to the competitions.

Findings from the monitoring visit revealed that schools had embraced the project wholly which could be evident by the fact that;

- All the 40 project schools had already established Clubs for girl's engagement in sciences, up from the situation at the baseline that stood at 57.5% for the project schools.
- All the 40 project schools had already elected STEM club leadership with most club positions dominated by girls.
- 39 schools of the 40 visited had a teachers designated to manage day to day operations of the club notwithstanding the fact that there was conflict over who should coordinate in Kidera S.S.
- Some schools like St. Mary's College Rushorooza, Immaculate Heart Girls, Bweranyagi Girls, Mt. of Olives were so excited about STEM but expressed big concern over the restrictive number of club members to 150 yet the school enrollment very high

Field Monitoring Visit by Dubai Cares CEO at St Katherine Secondary School.



Mr. Teraq Al Gurg, the Chief Executive Officer Dubai Cares, Ms. Mada Al Swaid the Program Manager, Mrs. Hendrina Doroba Executive Director FAWE Africa during the official visit at St Katherine on 23th Nov 2018 in Lira.

On 23rd Nov 2017, THE Chief Executive Officer – Dubai Cares came to Uganda for a monitoring visit for the different programs implemented in Uganda. One of the projects visited was the STEM implemented by FAWE RS through FAWE Uganda Chapter. The visiting team specially wanted a project school located in Northern Uganda therefore they were hosted at St Katherine Girls’ Secondary School in Lira. The delegation was received by the Chairperson Board of Governors St Katherine Secondary School, Head teachers of St Katherine and Dr. Obote College School the twin school, the teachers and the students’ body. There was a meeting to share with the visiting team project updates, change stories from the students and teachers and later an exhibition of STEM projects developed by the students as shown in pictures below. The Chief Executive Officer was so excited about the students projects and in his own words said “Am so impressed with the projects exhibited most especially the Bicycle Phone Recharging System”.

On 24th Nov 2017, we were hosted to a cocktail dinner at Serena Hotel and the CEO –Dubai Cares introduced FAWE Africa Executive Director to the Ambassador of United Arab Emirates who pledged to support the Bicycle Phone Recharging System project and take it to another level.

Students of Dr. Obote College a Twin school to St Katherine



Demonstrating application of robotic science

Students of St Katherine School demonstrating how to make reusable pads using locally available materials



The CEO -Dubai Cares listening attentively to a student demonstrating how to make local

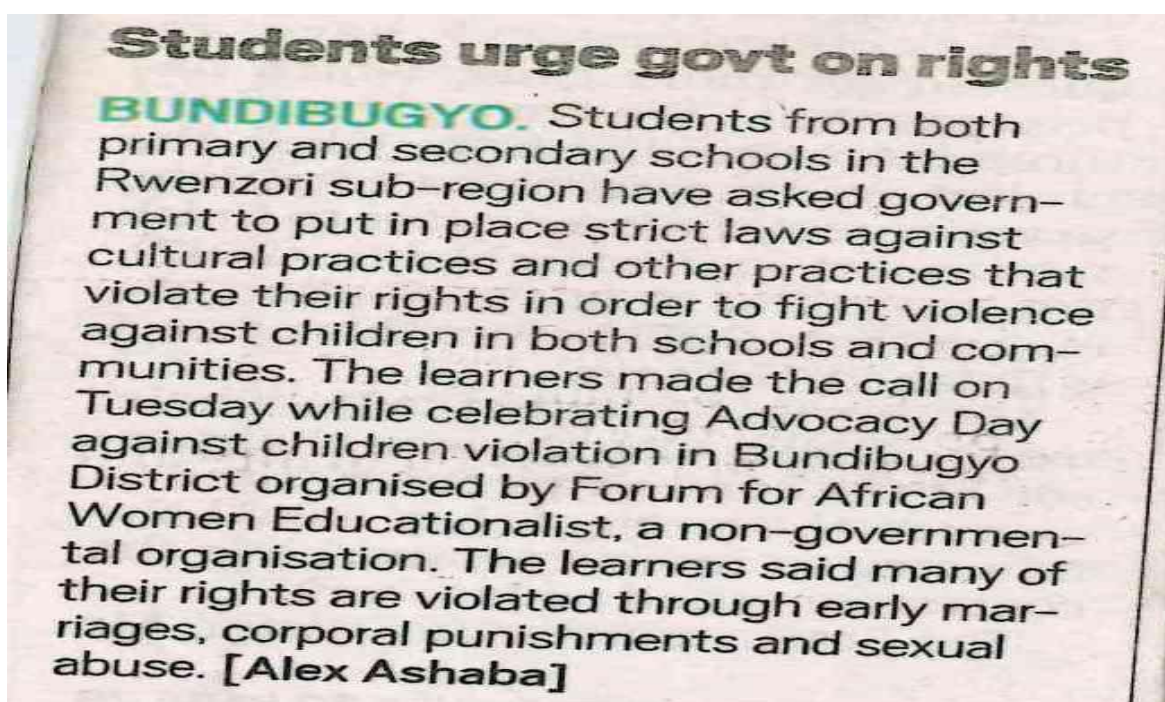
pesticides.

A student explaining the benefits of different plants grown in the STEM Club garden.

LESSONS LEARNT AND BEST PRACTICES DOCUMENTED

- Need to review the project design especially with regard to the focus districts, this is because some could not even raise a single female student e.g. Buliisa
- Review meetings with partners yield stronger partnerships and among the SRHR advocacy partners as well as inform advocacy activities for 2018.
- Tribalistic sentiments in most communities tend to fuel violence for example one school in Bundibugyo has had tribal conflicts where the perpetrator was a native and the witness / patron was a non-native. This resulted into threats, hatred, and segregation from communities and strikes from the native children at school. It was learnt that in Bundibugyo that non-native patrons do not get support from other teachers.
- High expectations and demands from the club members and learners, most of them expect the project to take them back to school. Most of their concerns are raised during radio talk shows feedback sessions where they have expressed interest in alternative income generating activities.

- The transfer of teachers affects the project implementation and causes loss of institutional memory of the project background and modalities. In year two, the school transfers majorly affected schools in Ntoroko district like Rwamabale p/s, Bundimbuga p/s, Umoja p/s, Nyakatooke SDA and Burambagira in Bundibugyo.
- There is still resistance among the parents and guardians regarding the positive social norms of encouraging girls to stay in school. Parents have from time to time threatened schools not to intervene in sexual violence cases especially for the girls.
- Connivance between perpetrators and victims guardians continues to be an insidious cancer that is eating up most of the school communities. Most teachers reported that they are always threatened by parents to leave their children alone and therefore they ask perpetrators to pay them sums of money to drop the cases leaving the victims to bear with the negative effects like early pregnancy, infections and dropping out of school.



- Cooperation, transparency and positivity from partners and key stakeholders enabled the successful implementation of the FAWEU activities.
- Technical support from FAWE-RS across the different departments is crucial.
- Team work and adequate coordination of activities within FAWEU made it easy to realise the achievements
- Timely availability of funds for implementation enabled easy achievement of targeted in 2017 among the key stakeholders

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider the training of a pool of trainers in GRP