

Forum For African Women Educationalists (FAWE) UGANDA CHAPTER



NEWSLETTER

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“Breaking Barriers to Girls’ Future through Education”
Give Her A Chance

FAWE UGANDA SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS LAUNCH



The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni signing the sign-up board as a commitment to supporting girls' education at the Silver Jubilee Celebrations Launch



L-R: FAWE Uganda boardchairperson Ms. Margaret Atim Mugeni, FAWE Uganda Executive Director Ms. Susan Opok Tumusiime, Hon. Sarah Mateke, The First Lady Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni, Irish Ambassador, UN Women Representative, FAWE Africa Board Chairperson. Behind: beneficiaries & alumni of FAWE Uganda.

On 5th May 2022, FAWE Uganda launched its Silver Jubilee Celebrations at Kololo Independence Grounds under the theme, “Breaking Barriers to Girls’ Future through Education.” The launch was a call for partners to facilitate opportunities and fundraise for Second Chance Education for vulnerable girls to build their resilience and live sustainable lives. The target is to enable at least two thousand drop-out girls receive education.

The First Lady of the Republic of Uganda and Minister for Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni was the chief guest and lauded FAWE Uganda for all the efforts made to ensure that girls access quality education. She added that FAWE Uganda works very closely with the Ministry of Education and Sports in the area of influencing policy and as a result a number of policies have been passed in the interest of the education of the girl child. These include the gender in education policy, sexuality education framework, national strategy on ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy, national guidelines on prevention, and management of teenage pregnancy and re-entry of child mothers into school. She mentioned that through FAWE Uganda’s efforts, to date over 5 000 young people including vulnerable girls and child mothers have had the opportunity to enroll for vocational education some of whom have successfully completed their courses and over 8256

young people have been supported to enroll and complete the education at secondary, tertiary and university level through scholarships.

She also encouraged conveners to uphold their parental roles so as to abate such tragedies considering that today’s environment is not morally conducive for young people especially girls. She urged the people of Uganda to support the upcoming FAWE Uganda fundraising activities to provide for the return to school of vulnerable girls including the ongoing campaign dubbed “Give Her a Chance” and pledged government support to FAWE Uganda’s Initiatives to keep the girl child in school and to enable them complete the education cycle.

The FAWE Uganda Executive Director in her speech at the launch delivered a message from the young people of Karamoja that they require affirmative action in regards to education.

“According to them, they thought that cattle was their challenge, however they realized the challenge is more the lack of education. Because the young people spend so much time at home, they are inculcated into practices that are not friendly and supportive of the wellbeing of the people.” She added She concluded by requesting that the Ministry of Education and Sports, together with partners to come up with a program to ensure that all the young people in Karamoja attain an education.

FAWE UGANDA GIVE HER A CHANCE CHARITY RUN



Chief runner Professor Maggie Kigozi flags off the runners. Cheering on, Fawe Uganda Executive Director Ms. Susan Opok Tumusiime, Prof. Mary Okwakol, Dr. Jane Mulemwa and Dr. Miria Matembe at the Fawe Uganda Give Her A Chance Charity Run

Following the launch of the national campaign, “Protect the Girl, Save the Nation” to curb defilement, child marriage, teenage pregnancy and promote positive parenting, Fawe Uganda held the Give Her A Chance Charity Run under the theme, “Breaking Barriers to Girls’ Future through Education” on 9th April 2022 at Kitante Primary School. The hybrid charity run was the first of its kind, bringing together national leaders and key stakeholders from all levels of the human rights; media; education; gender sectors and donors to share experiences, challenges, opportunities and interventions in strengthening and improving girl-child education in Uganda. Professor Maggie Kigozi was the chief runner and she flagged off both the 5km and 10km runs. The total number of participants were 528 (449 physical and 79 virtual). 12 winners were awarded with medals for their outstanding performance.

The purpose of the run was to create awareness on the need for the public to create a safe environment free from abuse for adolescent girls and boys to thrive. The period 2020-2021 greatly affected learning and the wellbeing of girls in particular. In Uganda, the two years of school closure led to increased Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Given the situation and in line with Fawe Uganda mandate, it was imperative that as Fawe Uganda celebrates the Silver Jubilee, we are cognizant of the challenges affecting the primary stakeholder, the girl. A national study conducted in November–December 2020 on the “Situation of, and impact of COVID-19 on school going girls and young women”, shows a 22.5% increase in pregnancy of 10–24-year-olds in the first three months of the lockdown and a staggering 366.5% incidence in pregnancy of 10–14-year-olds from March to September 2020.

We call upon the public to continue contributing towards this cause to provide Second Chance opportunities for the many vulnerable and disadvantaged girls. There are items on sale (mugs, t-shirts, bracelets, diaries, bottles, pens) that one can purchase in lieu of the above.

STUDENTS ANNUAL CONVENING AT MBARARA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Ms. Ida Percy Mutesasira speaking at the annual convening



Students during a session at the annual convening

The FAWE Uganda students annual convening took place from 6th to 10th June 2022 at Mbarara University of Science and Technology. The 3 day event brought together 292 continuing program participants to share experiences and learnings while on the program.

As a result of the convening;

- A give-back project at Devine Mercy Orphanage was implemented hence more project visibility as well as positive contribution to the wellbeing of lives in the 9 program districts.
- The program participants were inspired and are ready to take on more leadership roles at their respective institutions and personal life management.

- Program participants were empowered to live responsibly while at school and in the employment world.
 - Program participants were given ample time to know one another hence better interaction, connection and start of a strong alumni network.
- Some of the activities that took place during the convening included experience sharing sessions by the program participants, presentations by the facilitators on sexuality and HIV, leadership, business and life balance, sports and games including volley ball, basketball, football, netball and a dinner on the last day of the convention attended by all 292 students.

COMMUNITY GIVEBACK IN MBARARA CITY



FAWE Uganda beneficiaries hand over items to Devine Mercy Children's home team

As FAWE Uganda enrolls beneficiaries on the scholarship program, they are encouraged to give back to communities to address any identified social problem. During the student's annual convening at Mbarara University of Science and Technology in June 2022, the FAWE Uganda Scholars identified Devine Mercy Children's home in Mbarara City as an appropriate place to carry out the activity. They put together resources to provide basic needs to the orphanage that houses 147 children. Items handed over included 30kgs of sugar, play materials like 5 footballs, 100kgs of rice, 50kgs of posho, 2 jerrycans of liquid soap, 20 litres of cooking oil, 5 buckets, 5 basins, 5 cartons of soda, 1 carton of salt to ensure that these children live a decent life.

FAWE UGANDA SPONSORED STUDENTS GRADUATE



FAWE Uganda Finance Manager, Mr. Felix Onama, Program Coordinator Mr. Calvin Okello, Gulu University HEAP focal person pose for a photo with graduates at the graduation dinner at Acholi Inn

The Forum for African Women Educationalists Regional Secretariat with support from the Mastercard Foundation is implementing an eight-year (2016 to 2024), Higher Education Access Program. The program has enabled and enrolled 334 (70% female and 30% male) academically talented yet economically disadvantaged students from selected 13 disadvantaged districts of Bukwo, Mayuge, Buyende, Katakwi, Amudat, Kaabong, Pader, Amuru, Adjumani, Kanungu, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko and Bullisa districts to access and complete higher education.

The HEAP is being implemented 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 Jinja Medical Laboratory Training School.

Following the successful completion of their studies, 15 students graduated at Mbarara University of Science and Technology with Degrees and Diplomas in Science with Education, Science in Medical Engineering, Pharmaceutical health science, science in Physiotherapy, science in Agricultural Livelihood and Farm production, Nursing science, science in Medical Laboratory and Laboratory technology.

Ronald Agaba (Bachelor of Science with Education), Ronald Amodoi (Bachelor of Science in Medical Engineering) and Christopher Musinguzi (Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Livelihood and Farm production) were awarded 1st class degrees, while 10 students were awarded 2nd class degrees and 2 students awarded lower 2nd class degrees.



Graduates dancing at the graduation dinner at Le Roc Hotel in Busitema



Sarah Kutesa, a first class degree graduate from Busitema University

The graduation was presided over by the State Minister for Primary Education Hon. Joyce Moriku Kaducu who called for innovation and creativity among the graduates, resilience commitment and discipline among the graduates.

39 students on the same program graduated on 17th June 2022 at Gulu University main campus in Gulu City with Bachelors Degree of Arts Education Literature, Bachelor of Science Education Math, Bachelor of Science Education Physics, Science Education Agriculture, BA Agriculture, BA Bio-System Engineering, BA Science in Agriculture.

2 students; Concy Auma (Bachelor of Science with Education Agriculture) and Brenda Chemutai (Bachelor of Agriculture) were awarded 1st class degrees.

The graduation was presided over by the State Minister for Education and Sports, Hon. Hamson Obua who represented the Minister of Education and Sports.

In Busitema University, 44 students graduated on Friday 24th June 2022 with Bachelors of Science in Agriculture, Bachelor of Science with Education, Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Science Education, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Agricultural Mechanization and Irrigation Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Water Resources Engineering and APM, Bachelor of Animal Production and Management. 2 students; Sarah Kutesa (Bachelor of Science with Education), and Miriat Nangobi (Bachelor of Science in Agriculture) were awarded 1st class degrees.

The graduation was presided over by the Vice President of Uganda Maj. Rtd. Jessica Alupo and Woman member of Parliament for Katakwi district on behalf of President Yoweri Museveni and in his speech (read to the graduates by the VP), the President urged the graduates not to despise work, take up opportunities that present themselves before them and not to neglect humble beginnings that can enable them acquire experience and valuable skills. He added that today's education strategy is to produce a literate, skilled and intellectualized population with ability to transform our society into an industrialized middle class and skilled-service oriented society.

THE STORY OF CHRISTINE NABIJJAKO



Christine Nabijjako (in red) with her friends

Christine Nabijjako was initially sponsored by the Mastercard Foundation whose sponsorship stopped at senior six. During her A' Level, a lot of things happened in their family hence affecting her studies and performance. She therefore joined Kabale University for the Bridging Certificate Course from which she excelled and earned admission to pursue Medicine, MBChB Course.

Kabale University Council passed a Clearance to Zero Policy before a student can sit for exams. The policy is implemented by the finance department while the office of the university secretary monitors its implementation. Christine had applied for the loan scheme but she did not go through. She then appealed but the results were negative.

The second semester began in mid-March 2022 but Christine never returned until 19th April 2022 and she did not return with the certainty of studying but just to make a few inquiries and probably pick some of her things and go back home. One of the inquiries she wanted to make coming from her mother was whether the University would allow her to study and sit for the semester's exams if she paid part of the previous semester's fees. Specifically, the mother was talking of raising just one million out of over three and a half a million shillings already due for semester one.

"Christine's classmates had been contacting me because I had helped another classmate in an almost



Various fundraising posters made by Christine's friends

similar way but I was hesitant given that I did not know her real story." says Johnson Oluga, Senior Administrative Officer - Council affairs, Kabale University. "About a month after her colleagues returned, Christine came to our office to consult. It was then that Christine told me a little about herself and I told her to go to class and start attending classes in faith." Mr. Johnson adds. I asked her if she had paid up for her accommodation and she said that she had not. I then offered her free accommodation for this semester at Kampus Villa while we looked for a way forward.

Mr. Johnson Oluga, together with Christine's friends held a fundraiser where they sold drinks at the university grounds at twice the normal cost during the university graduation ceremony.

When the FAWE Uganda Executive Director and staff attended the graduation ceremony at Kabale University, Christine's story came up. They committed to take on Christine and provide a bursary for her to complete her education.

Student communities have both genuine and dishonest financial needs. Being able to sieve out the genuine ones from concocted ones is as important as helping one of them. Christine's friends and the university administration appreciated FAWE Uganda for being able to listen and pick out Christine's story amidst all the noise.

INTERNATIONAL MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY



FAWE Uganda beneficiaries from Jinja School of Nursing & Midwifery doing a presentation about menstruation



Chief Guest, MP of Kigulu South constituency Hon. Milton Muwuma Kalulu inspecting the FAWE Uganda exhibition stall



Students in the Rwenzori Sub-region during the MHM awareness sessions

On 28th May 2022, FAWE Uganda joined the rest of the country to celebrate the International Menstrual Hygiene Management Day (MHM) at Iganga High School in Iganga District under the theme, “Making menstruation a normal fact of life by 2030.” International Menstrual Hygiene Day is a global advocacy platform that brings together the voices and actions of non-profits, government agencies, individuals, the private sector and the media to promote good menstrual health and hygiene for all women and girls. FAWE Uganda displayed and sold items including t-shirts, mugs, bracelets, bottles, diaries and pens at the exhibition stall. FAWE Uganda beneficiaries from Jinja School of Nursing and Midwifery made a presentation on menstruation urging the public to stop menstrual stigma.

Prior to the day, FAWE Uganda raised awareness through various activities in the Rwenzori sub-region (Bundibugyo, Kasese and Ntoroko). These included radio talk shows and visits to schools with health workers to sensitize learners on MHM and advocate for a MHM budget. A total of 924 students were reached. School level debates also took place in 5 schools.

FAWE UGANDA TO SUPPORT 263 LEARNERS & 520 VULNERABLE WOMEN



Chief Guest Rt. Hon. Tungwako Bernard the Tooro Kingdom Prime Minister, The Tooro Kingdom Pro-Sevu project steering committee with UN Women Representative, FAWE Executive Director, staff at Mucwa Hall Fort Portal City during the coordination meeting and project inception

FAWE Uganda has extended support to 150 learners in Tooro Kingdom and 113 in Karamoja, Acholi, Bukedi, Teso and Rwenzori sub-regions with funding from UN Women. The support is to enable learners to complete candidate classes in the academic year 2022. In addition, support has been extended to 26 POWER Clubs (approx. 520 vulnerable young women) in West Nile to boost their socio-economic enterprises and subsidize costs for access to Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health services (SRMNCAH).

The purpose is for people especially those who are vulnerable or marginalized to have equitable access to and use good quality basic social and protection services in order to build capacity of government and non-government institutions at regional, national, and sub-national level to uphold positive social, cultural norms, values and practices that promote human rights, equality, and non-discrimination strengthened.

Each club received 5,000,000 UGX. 40% of the young women and girls have started their own individual businesses and 60% are engaging in agricultural activities such as farming, poultry, rabbit keeping, piggery and a few are rearing goats. These individual enterprises have helped the group members to provide food for their homes, save and borrow loans, seek for health services and hence having better living conditions. The group members across the region are engaged in different active business enterprises with 680 women who have saved and 540 women have been able to access soft loans to carry out individual business enterprises which they repay on interest as agreed in their individual VSLA constitutions.

ANNUAL LEARNING CONVENING ON VAC AND CHILD PROTECTION



FAWE Uganda Executive Director Ms. Susan Opok Tumusiime making the closing remarks at the the annual learning convening in Arusha

5 FAWE Uganda staff including; the Executive Director, Programs Manager, Program Officer and 2 Program Assistants participated in the learning event hosted by IIDC and co-hosted by HakiElimu in Arusha, Tanzania from 27th to 30th June 2022. The learning was focused on the journeys of evidence generation, learning, adaptation and scale up, and how these programmatic strategies impact on results in preventing VAC.

A team of organisations in the Learning Cohort on preventing Violence Against Children in East Africa as well as Wellspring Philanthropic Fund and CivSource Africa, the supporters of the Learning Initiative on preventing VAC in East Africa, partners that work closely with HakiElimu and representatives from the Tanzania Government line ministries (for VAC prevention) participated in the learning. Each partner organisation developed an action plan using NOISE framework (N - Needs, O - opportunities, I - improvements, S - strengths and exploitation and E - expectations).

PROJECT PHASE OUT - BUILDING RESILIENCE IN CRISIS THROUGH EDUCATION (BRICE)



Program Coordinator FAWU Uganda, Mr. Calvin Okello together with representatives of the BRiCE project stakeholders take a group photo at the BRiCE project phase out event at Mestil Hotel, Kampala

FAWE Uganda, together with stakeholders had a project phase out event of the Building Resilience In Crisis through Education (BRiCE) project to present project results and discuss how to sustain its interventions going forward. The event took place on 5th July 2022 at Mestil Hotel, Kampala. The Minister of Gender, Hon. Betty Amongi Akena was the guest of honor at the event.

FAWEU's mandate in the Consortium was **Retention of vulnerable learners such as pregnant girls and young mothers in education and strengthening of community structures to promote child rights and protection of vulnerable learners via safety nets in Uganda**. Mr. Calvin Okello, Program Coordinator FAWU Uganda made a presentation on the results of the mandate which were as follows:

Results (end of project evaluation report)

- 81% of teachers are using participatory methods, gender- and conflict-sensitive approaches during teaching and learning (target: 65%)
- 87% of learners and 77% of teachers feel safer at school (targets: 75% for learners and 70% for teachers)
- 100% of project schools have functional and inclusive SMC (target 80%)
- 100 % of project schools have functioning and inclusive PTA (target 65%)

Gender and Conflict Sensitive Education: Retention of pregnant girls and young mothers:

- Ensured access and retention of pregnant girls and child mothers.
- Menstrual hygiene management (MHM), set-up of girl's corner (private rooms), Provision of dignity kits and developing referral systems.
- Since start of project we have supported 132 pregnant girls and child mothers-4 AEP centres.

CALL TO ACTION PRESS CONFERENCE



Media representatives at the press conference on 24th June 2022



R-L: FAWE Uganda Vice Boardchairperson Dr. Christine Oryema, FAWE Uganda Boardchairperson Ms. Margaret Atim Mugeni, FAWE Uganda Executive Director Ms. Susan Opok Tumusiime & Oxfam Uganda representative, Phillip Talemwa at the Call to Action Press Conference



A journalist interviewing FAWE Uganda Executive Director Ms. Susan Opok Tumusiime

As FAWE Uganda, we increasingly are faced with the continued need for support by girls, many of whom would like to access and complete school but are failed by parents/ guardians, while others find themselves in dire situations due to the burden of care relegated to them despite their wish to continue with and complete their education thus increasing their vulnerability. Whilst we've been dealing with the issue of re-entry for pregnant girls and young mothers, many that approach us do not fall within this category. Unfortunately, due to normalisation of the challenges of girls, the ineffective implementation of the legal framework and continued sexual and gender based violence, we feel the need, together with partners engaged with gender equality to voice out these issues and break the chains and barriers to backwardness for girls and give them a second chance to build resilience and sustainable futures.

It is against this background that a "Call to Action," press conference was called to re-awaken accountability by all responsible stakeholders. The press conference took place on 24th June and in attendance was the media, representatives from Oxfam Uganda, Board representatives of FAWE Uganda and FAWE Uganda staff.

Together we will make a difference! "Give Her A Chance," "Protect the Girl, Save the Nation!"



Forum For African Women Educationalists (FAWE) UGANDA CHAPTER

Plot 328 Magulu Close, Off Kisaasi Road, Bukoto

P. O. Box 24117, Kampala, Uganda

Phone: +256 392 894901 / +256 772 487 299

Email: fawe@faweuganda.org

www.faweuganda.org