

Forum For African Women Educationalists

(FAWE) UGANDA CHAPTER



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FAWE Uganda Receives Visionary Award



Hon. Wilson Muruli Mukasa, Minister of Public Service hands over the Visionary Award to FAWE Uganda represented by Dr. Christine Oryema, Chairperson Board of Directors, FAWE Uganda Executive Director Ms. Susan Opok Tumusiime and Ms. Ida Percy Mutesasira, Human Resource and Administration Manager.

FAWE Uganda was awarded as the Best Visionary Women Education Supporting Organisation of the year 2022 by the people of the Republic of Uganda on 24th November 2022. The recognition and honour is for the outstanding contribution the organization has made, through its work, towards Uganda middle income status aspiration and vision 2040.

The award was presented by Hon. Wilson Muruli Mukasa, Minister of Public service, representing the Vice President of Uganda, Her Excellency Jessica Alupo.

FAWE Uganda Silver Jubilee Anniversary Fundraising Dinner



FAWE Africa CEO Ms. Martha Muhwezi (left), FAWE Uganda Executive Director Ms. Susan Opok Tumusiime (blue) and FAWE Uganda alumni revealing the auction item at the fundraising dinner, held at Imperial Royale on 4th December 2022. The auction item was presented to the alumni because they were the highest contributors.

FAWE Uganda held its Silver Jubilee fundraising dinner on Friday 4th November, 2022 at Imperial Royale hotel. The fundraising dinner was a climax of the activities organized to mark the 25 years of FAWE Uganda's existence. The theme of the dinner was; "**Give Her a Chance**". This is in line with the ongoing campaign to fundraise at least UGX 4 billion towards the education of child mothers and other dropouts in secondary, TVET and skills programmes.

The dinner was attended by stakeholders from government line ministries, UN agencies, international agencies, universities and other tertiary institutions, corporate entities, business companies, civil society organizations, media, entertainment industry, FAWE fraternity (Regional Secretariat, FAWE Uganda staff, board members, alumni and beneficiaries), among others. A total number of 277 (167Female, 110Male) attended physically.

The chief guest was Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, the First Deputy Prime Minister, represented by Ms. Angella Nakafero, the Commissioner for Gender in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

The program included presentations by different stakeholders, entertainment through music, dance, comedy, storytelling/personal testimonies, showcasing documentaries of previous FAWE Uganda work and success stories, signing of pledge cards, group fundraising, a raffle draw and auctioning of an item.

At the end of the event, a total of 64,370,000 (sixty four million, three hundred seventy thousand shillings) was collected. UGX. 62,420,000= of this amount was in pledges and 1,950,000 (one million nine hundred fifty thousand shillings) received in cash.

FAWE Uganda Plants 25 Trees To Mark 25 Years



FAWE Uganda staff, alumni, various primary school teachers and learners planted 25 trees at Kisuule Primary School (8), Kitante Primary School (9) and Trinity Primary School (8) on 4th December 2022.

The tree planting was to signify the 25 year journey that the organization has walked, as well as a contribution to conservation of the environment especially now that climate change is at the heart of today's global challenge.

Mr. Felix Onama, Finance Manager FAWE Uganda, FAWE Uganda alumni, staff and learners of Kisuule Primary School planting a tree at Kisuule Primary School on Friday 4th December 2022.

Graduation at Medical Laboratory Training School Jinja

21 (12 Female & 9 Male) graduated with certificates and diplomas in Laboratory Technology at Medical Laboratory training school, Jinja on Friday 18th November 2022.

11 of these were students on the Higher Education Access Program (HEAP) and 10 on the Forberg Scholarship Program.

The graduation function was presided over by the Chief Guest, Hon. Chrysestom Musingo, the State Minister for Higher Education.

After the main graduation, FAWE Uganda hosted the graduands together with their parents/guardians for a graduation party held at Hotel Paradise Jinja. All graduands were awarded with a certificate of participation and successful completion of the scholarship program.



Graduands pose for a photo with the FAWE Uganda Executive Director; Ms. Susan Opok Tumusiime (centre) at Paradise Hotel Jinja.

Higher Education Access Certificate (HEAC) Curriculum Development Training at Ndejje University



Dr. Fred Kakembo, Deputy Vice Chancellor Ndejje University addressing the university staff members during the HEAC curriculum training on 29th November 2022.

FAWE Uganda conducted the Higher Education Access Certificate (HEAC) Curriculum Development Training for the staff of Ndejje University from 28th to 30th November 2022.

The objective of the training was to equip the university staff with skills in developing a standard curriculum that meets the National Council for Higher Education standards. The HEAC is a recognized fourth pathway into university education in Uganda.

Quarterly Support Visits to Partner Learning Institutions



Jackie Ababiku, a student at YMCA pursuing a certificate in fashion and design displays her work at the student's exhibition at YMCA on Friday 11th November 2022 as part of the exam practicum.

Jackie Ababiku, a FAWE Uganda beneficiary on the Forberg scholarship participated in the fashion and design exhibition at YMCA Kampala on Friday 11th November 2022. The creative designs showcased were part of the exam practicum and these included cultural wear as well as modern day ballroom gowns. Jackie is pursuing a certificate in fashion and design and is currently in her final year.

The exhibition coincided with the FAWE Uganda quarterly support visit that the scholarship team was conducting to partner learning institutions of Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Gulu and Busitema Universities, Jinja School of Nursing and Midwifery and Medical Laboratory Training School Jinja, UTC Elgon, Nile Vocational Institute and Young Men Christian Association (YMCA).

The purpose of the visits was to support the learners and establish their participation in school programs, follow up on implementation of the Extended Orientation Program (EOP), share and record success stories and discuss ways of addressing their challenges as part of continuous monitoring.

As a result of the visits, issues of students' results, tuition, accommodation and mentorship challenges at the partner learning institutions were addressed.



Training of Skillful Parenting Coaches on Family Budgeting and Nutrition



Skillful parenting coaches having a group discussion during the training on family budgeting and nutrition while at KPL Deon's Cave Hall on Friday 9th September, 2022.

FAWE Uganda carried out a training of skillful parenting coaches on family budgeting and nutrition from Wednesday 7th to Saturday 10th September 2022 in Ntoroko, Bundibugyo and Kasese districts.

The purpose of the activity was to help parenting coaches and caregivers to balance their incomes, spending and savings for short term and long term goals as well as to enhance the ability of parents/caregivers to provide for educational and basic needs of children including nutrition.

63 (52 Male 11 Female) participants from 30 sub-counties took part in the activity and the following were the achievements:

Achievements

1. Participants were equipped with knowledge and skills on family budgeting and nutrition. Family budgeting consisted of four modules including; financial first aid kit, reducing debt burden, from emergencies to long term savings: improving their situation, money within the family: communication and responsibility which were shared with participants.
2. Participants were sensitized on consequences of lack of financial management and planning and guided on ways to put money into better use, such as debt reduction, school fees and other emergencies.
3. Under nutrition, participants were trained on food groups, good nutrition for children and pregnant women, key nutrition concepts and practices. The training promoted an understanding of ways to engage in active and proper feeding for children.

Orientation of Project Staff on the New VACiS Project and Monitoring Tools



FAWE Uganda Education Program Coordinator, Mr. Calvin Okello (standing in blue) addressing members of Nyakatoke skillful parenting group in Nombe sub-county, Ntoroko District on Wednesday 23rd November, 2022.

FAWE Uganda carried out an orientation of 16 (5 Female/11 Male) project staff on the new Violence Against Children in and around Schools (VACiS) project. The activity was carried out on Tuesday 22nd to Wednesday 23rd November, 2022. The purpose of the activity was to sensitize project staff on the new project and its deliverables including outcomes and output areas. The activity was also to develop monitoring tools and frame work for the project.

Achievements

1. Project staff were sensitized on the project structure, results areas, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tools, framework and Indicator performance tracker.
2. An annual M&E plan for tracking project progress and implementation was reviewed and project staff were advised to start using it immediately.
3. Project staff were sensitized on case management and the incident (case) tracker.
4. The project staff participated in a Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) session in Nombe sub-county, Ntoroko district. The team had an opportunity to understand the operations of the VSLA.
5. The Human Resource and Administration Manager sensitized the project staff on FAWE Uganda's vision, mission, core values and key HR policies including, HR and procedures manual, code of conduct and financial compliance.

FAWE Uganda Participates in Tooro Kingdom “Ekyoto”



His Majesty Omukama of Tooro, King Oyo Nyimba Rukidi IV (center in black) with kingdom officials and representatives from FAWE Uganda and UN Women.

The “Ekyoto” was a pre-empaango event held on September 11th, 2022 at Muchwa Royal Ground. It was a campfire where the King and kingdom structure leadership gathered to discuss kingdom concerns as well as the kingdom development program. This was in preparation for the celebration of Empaango day (coronation anniversary).

The invited participants included FAWE Uganda Programs Manager, Mr. Joseph Adiana, representatives from UN WOMEN, representatives from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, representatives from Ministry of Health and UNAIDS.

The discussion centered on “giving the girl child a second chance at education and staying in school till completion as a way of avoiding HIV/AIDS in the kingdom.”

The goal of the campfire was to rally and enlighten all kingdom leaders so as to popularize the ongoing campaign of promoting second chance education through the (Go-Back-To-School campaign) in Tooro Kingdom’s eight districts.

National HIV/AIDS Symposium



FAWE Uganda alumni Grace Nanyonga sharing her journey on girl and women empowerment to the Rt. Hon Prime Minister of Uganda Robinah Nabanjja during the National HIV/AIDS symposium at Makerere University Business School playground on Tuesday 8th November 2022.

FAWE Uganda and Tooro Kingdom participated in the National HIV/AIDS Symposium from Tuesday 8th - Thursday 10th November 2022 at Makerere University Business School (MUBS) playground in Kampala.

The theme of the symposium was to “End Inequalities among Girls, Young Women, and Boys”. This was intended to focus on adolescent girls, boys, and young women because of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of the symposium was to share with the people of Uganda the achievements made in the attainment of the country’s targets towards ending HIV/ AIDS by 2030.

Achievements of the Symposium:

1. Information on the current trends of HIV/AIDS was shared and everyone was encouraged to test and know their HIV/AIDS status.
HIV incidence: 0.32%; higher among women
Knowledge of HIV status: about 20% overall and 25% in men do not know, 4% aware but not on ART.
Testing gap and a linkage gap: 75% rate of suppression (mid-Eastern and mid-North still low suppression). For young men suppression is less than 50%.
150 people acquiring HIV per day, that is 60% of adolescents with HIV are girls. (PMTCT impact evaluation report 2022 by Ministry of health.)
2. The referral pathways and systems were strengthened, organizations that support HIV/AIDS programming were given space to showcase and explain to the people what they offer and how people can tap and benefit from the different organizations and the services that they offer. Testimonies from people who have lived with HIV/AIDS for over 30 years like Dr. Stephen Watiti, Major Rubaramira Ruranga, Mr. Joy Matovu were shared to give hope and encouragement to other people especially the young ones who are HIV positive and to encourage them to take their medicines consistently and live a positive life.

Joint Support Supervision and Monitoring of Learners in Rwenzori Region



FAWE Uganda Executive Director Ms. Susan Opok Tumusiime speaking to students of Maddox SSS in Kyenjojo District during the joint project monitoring mission on Tuesday 27th September 2023.

The monitoring mission consisting of representatives from FAWA Uganda, Uganda AIDS Commission, Ministry of Health (Reproductive Health department), Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Education and Sports, UN Women, Tooro Kingdom, the media and the respective District Local governments carried out support supervision and monitoring in the 8 districts of Tooro Kingdom. The monitoring team, in September 26th - 30th 2022 visited 5 of the 8 districts including Kyenjojo, Kamwenge, Kitagwenda, Bunyangabu, Kabarole. Interactions were held with the district leaders, school administrators, civil society organizations and students being supported by the project on go back to school as well as sustaining the project results after the end of the current project.

In all the 5 districts visited, local leaders committed to follow up the students in their respective schools to ensure that they do not drop out of school. In Bunyangabu district, Baylor College of Medicine requested for the list of the students for verification and then selected those who met their criteria for scholarships in the next academic year.

Representatives from several media houses pledged to support awareness campaigns on Go-Back-to-school, ASRHR through their corporate social responsibility. They requested FAWA Uganda and Tooro Kingdom officials to liaise with the Resident District Commissioners who have access to media airtime.

The Second Deputy Prime Minister of Tooro Kingdom pledged to engage the Higher Education Financing Scheme to explore opportunities of supporting some of the learners to the next level of education after senior four and senior six.

Kyenjojo District Local Government promised to review their budget and the national development plan to prioritize issues like teenage pregnancies and early marriages which are on the increase.

The representative from Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development pledged to support the Kanara Community Action Platform to register as a community-based organization so that it attracts some funding to sustain their work.

● Sub-County Level Community Dialogues in Buyende District



A youth leader from Bugaya Sub-County reading and interpreting the Centrine case study to the rest of the participants during the community dialogue at the Sub-county headquarters on Wednesday 16th November, 2022. Photo by Gaetano Nivus

FAWE Uganda held sub-county level community dialogues with diverse groups of male and female parents, caregivers, community leaders to promote awareness on SRHR and Gender Equality among adolescents and young people. The dialogues aimed at introducing the project to community stakeholders, identifying the salient gender and SRHR issues that adolescents and young people face and how to address these issues collectively with community stakeholders.

Seven community dialogues were held in Buyende District under the Sexual Health and Reproductive Education (SHARE) project from Tuesday 15th - Wednesday 23rd November, 2022. The community dialogues were held in five sub-counties namely Bugaya, Buyende, Kagulu, Ngandho and Nkondo and two Town Councils namely Buyende and Kidera where the SHARE Project schools are located. The 233 (71 Female, 162 Male) participants included LC1 chairpersons, parents, cultural leaders, religious leaders, technical leaders e.g. Community Development Officers, sub-county chiefs, parish chiefs, political leaders for example, the LCIII chairpersons and youths.

Achievements

1. Understanding of project scope by the stakeholders was attained. Stakeholders appreciated the project interventions and called for increased community engagement.
2. Issues affecting young peoples' SRHR were identified and actions for redress were mutually agreed upon. The issues identified included high rates of child marriage, high birth rates, parental neglect, domestic violence etc.
3. Participants were very active and committed to act as positive agents of change in communities by implementing actions agreed upon.
4. A high turn up was realized. More participants turned up compared to the expected numbers that is to say 233 people compared to the expected 210.

Radio Talk Show to Raise Awareness on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Gender Equality



Ms. Jackline Nafuna Wodenga, FAWE Uganda Project Officer, together with District Officials creating awareness on the adolescent and young peoples' SRHR challenges at 105.9fm Kamuli Broadcasting Services on Wednesday 30th November 2022. Photo by Caleb Opio.

FAWE Uganda field staff together with district officials in Buyende District held a radio talk show in Lusoga aimed at creating awareness on SRHR and gender equality. This was in commemoration of this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence under the theme, "UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls". The 16 Days of Activism against GBV is an international civil society-led campaign that takes place each year.

The radio talk show took place on Wednesday 30th November 2022 at Kamuli Broadcasting Services (KBS), 105.9FM. The participants included Ms. Racheal Mirembe, Probation and Social Welfare Officer, Mr. Ntumba Charles, Senior Medical Clinical Officer/Adolescent Health Focal Officer and, Ms. Jackline Nafuna, Project Officer FAWE Uganda.

The purpose of the radio talk show was to create awareness on the Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights (SRHR) and services of young people (10-24).

To shed light on harmful gender norms and practices that undermine equal access and enjoyment of SRHR and gender equality in community.

To call upon community leaders, parents and young people to be champions of SRHR and gender equality for all by creating awareness of SRHR/VAWG at community levels, denouncing negative social, cultural and religious norms and practices that perpetrate Violence Against Women and Girls, and promoting equal treatment of girls and women with men and boys.

As a result of the talk show, stakeholders gained a deeper understanding of the Adolescent and Young peoples' SRHR as well as roles and responsibilities of parents and other community leaders in providing the right services.

Stakeholders called in to appreciate the challenges young adolescents and young people face. One of the callers from Nakasongola said that, "indeed parents have failed in their duties of raising children in a positive and responsible manner."

The awareness reached a high audience. KBS radio has an estimated listenership of 1 million people. During audience calling time, participants called from Nakasongola, Serere, Buyende and Kaliro districts.



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