

# FORUM FOR AFRICAN WOMEN EDUCATIONALISTS (FAWE) UGANDA CHAPTER

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## NEWSLETTER

Edition 4



## FAWE Uganda Students Graduate at Gulu University



*FAWE Uganda Board Chairperson, Dr. Christine Oryema (extreme right), FAWE Uganda Executive Director Ms. Susan Opok Tumusiime (middle in brown dress), FAWE Uganda staff having a photo moment with the graduates and their guardians at Acholi Inn Gulu on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023.*

FAWE Uganda continues to leave an indelible mark on young people's lives by enabling them complete their education. On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 28 (22 Female and 6 Male) Mastercard Foundation and Forberg sponsored students graduated from Gulu University with Bachelor of Science Foods and Agri-business, Bachelor of Science Education, Bachelor of Science Agriculture, Bachelor of Science Agri-Entrepreneurship and Communication Management, Bachelor of Arts Education Literature and English, Bachelor of Science Education, Bachelor of Science Education (Agriculture), Bachelor of Agriculture Entrepreneurship and Communication, Bachelor of Arts Education and Bachelor of Agriculture.

The graduates and their guardians were treated to a graduation party at Acholi Inn, Gulu where they were awarded with certificates for successful completion of the scholarship program. The ceremony was also attended by LC5 chairpersons of Nwoya, Amuru and Adjumani Districts, mentors, FAWE Uganda Board Chairperson, FAWE Uganda Executive Director and staff members. In her remarks, the Executive Director challenged the leaders present to create a movement of people that will stand up and support girls' education despite the culture and norms that are bogging down efforts to educate girls.



## FAWE Uganda Awarded by Makerere University Business School (MUBS)



*Ms. Ida Percy Mutesasira, Human Resource and Administration Manager receiving an award on behalf of FAWE Uganda from Prof. Waswa Balunywa, Principal of Makerere Business School on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023.*

FAWE Uganda was invited by Makerere University Business School (MUBS) Women Forum to grace their Women's Day celebrations that took place in the main library on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 under the theme, **"DigitAll; Innovation and Technology for Gender equality"**.

The event was a bevy of activity from awarding key people/organisations, motivational talks and speeches from distinguished guests like the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, Ministry of Finance Mr. Ramadhan Ggoobi, Justice Irene Mulyagonja Kakooza, MUBS Principal Prof. Waswa Balunywa among other dignitaries.

FAWE Uganda was recognized for her work, partnership with the University and presented with an award that was received by Ms. Ida Percy Mutesasira, the Human Resource and Administration Manager representing the Executive Director. In her speech, she highlighted the role of inclusiveness, transformative technology and digital education as a critical tool to promote gender equality and sustainable development among women and girls.

FAWE Uganda took part in the exhibition by digitally showcasing her innovations and strides made towards digital transformation.

## FAWE Uganda Participates in the New Vision Education Expo 2023



*Urban TV and Bukedde FM journalists interviewing FAWE Uganda sponsored students at the New Vision education expo on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at Nakawa ICT grounds.*

FAWE Uganda participated in a three day (Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023) education expo organized by New Vision Group at Nakawa ICT Grounds. During the workshop and training sessions, participants from FAWE Uganda networked and interacted with potential business partners from the Vision Group of companies, Unilever Uganda, Makerere University, Ndejje University, State House Skilling Program, Equity Bank among others. Two Higher Education Access Program (HEAP) participants, Sarah Ayebare and Dennis Lotwal appeared on Urban TV and Bukedde FM respectively to share their experiences as FAWE Uganda beneficiaries and the impact of the Higher Education Access Program on young people in Uganda.

Students exhibited their products and innovations like honey, clothes, mushrooms, wine, liquid soap and artificial fertilizer which earned them some income during the expo.

Through the training sessions at the education expo, FAWE Uganda students and alumni were taken through the requirements of the competence based curriculum, taught counselling and guidance skills, given knowledge on how to parent better, taught on the process of Early Childhood Learning and ICT skills.



## National Strategy to End Child Marriages and Teenage Pregnancy



*Ms. Susan Opok Tumusiime, Executive Director FAWE Uganda making a presentation during the National Strategy to End Child Marriages and Teenage Pregnancy at Admas Grand Hotel Entebbe on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023.*

FAWE Uganda participated in a two - day meeting (Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023) at Admas Grand Hotel in Entebbe. The purpose of the meeting was to disseminate the second National Strategy to End Child Marriages and Teenage Pregnancy to ministries, departments and agencies, development partners, Civil Society Organizations, academia, religious and cultural institutions and the media at national level.

Two child mothers from Bundibugyo and Kasese Districts who were present at the meeting were given bursaries to complete their different education levels. Daphine Lhwanzo's bursary was left open up to a level of her choice while Emily Kyomukama's bursary will enable her complete Senior 4.

Stakeholders present at the meeting raised funds to a tune of 764,000 UGX as a contribution to the educational needs of the two child mothers. The FAWE Uganda Executive Director emphasized the need for respective responsible parties to support children to participate in National and International events that advocate for child rights and positive social norms.

## Training of Matrons and Patrons in Rwenzori Region



*A group activity during the training of matrons and patrons in Bundibugyo District on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023*

FAWE Uganda Rwenzori field team carried out various trainings of matrons and patrons in Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko Districts on prevention of Violence Against Children in Schools as well as training them on formation, management and strengthening of school clubs. The trainings took place on 28<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Matrons (female) and patrons (male) are teachers that lead the school clubs. FAWE Uganda, through her programming carries out strengthening of the school clubs on Sexual and Reproductive Health training and addressing Violence Against Children. It is against this background that there was need to meet with the leaders of the clubs to build their capacity through training so that they can use the knowledge received to better the school clubs.

As a result of the training, the 120 participants (60 patrons and 60 matrons) were able to develop 60 roll out plans to the club leaders.

There was also improved understanding on Violence Against Children (VAC), improvement in Reporting, Tracking, Response & Referral (RTRR) and better understanding on how to form, manage and strengthen school clubs. This was evidenced from the personal testimonies of the participants where they attested to having attained more knowledge and skills in addressing VAC issues in schools and communities.

## Radio Talk Show to Commemorate International Women’s Day 2023



*A FAWE Uganda beneficiary from Semuliki High School discussing innovations and skills development projects on Kasese Guide Radio on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023.*

In commemoration of International Women’s Day 2023, two radio talk shows were held at Kasese Guide Radio in Kasese and at UBC Radio in Ntoroko on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Six students (5 Female and 1 Male) participated and talked about innovation and skills development.

The students took the listeners through the background of International Women’s Day and the global theme ***DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality***, the objectives and the impact of the digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities.

Guest speakers advocated for protection of the rights of women and girls and their participation in innovations, technology and digital spaces. Guest speakers also highlighted the role of all stakeholders in improving access to digital tools by women and girls through career guidance and creating awareness of the tools to the learners and parents.



## Higher Education Access Certificate (HEAC) Review Meeting



*Higher Education Access Curriculum (HEAC) review meeting at the Source of the Nile Hotel in Namanve on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023.*

The Higher Education Access Curriculum (HEAC) is a fourth entry path into university education in Uganda. The curriculum was initiated by FAWE Uganda and is recognized and implemented by National Council for Higher Education. The HEAC is a level four university qualification avenue for those who did not meet the Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) direct entry requirements, that is, those who did not obtain the 2 principal passes.

The National Council for Higher Education together with the HEAC technical subject specialists of chemistry, physics, mathematics from Busitema University, Gulu University, Kyambogo University, Kabale University and Makerere University as well as representatives from the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) reviewed the current HEAC curriculum on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at the Source of the Nile Hotel in Namanve.

A revised draft HEAC curriculum that incorporates both Sciences and Arts was developed, subject to input from the professional bodies, HEAC partner universities and approval by the executive of the National Council of Higher Education.



## FAWE Uganda Participates in the Makerere University Annual Career Fair 2023



*FAWE Uganda staff and beneficiaries during the Annual Career Fair at Makerere University on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.*

FAWE Uganda staff and 10 beneficiaries participated in this year's Annual Career Fair organized by Makerere University Counselling and Guidance Centre in partnership with Mastercard Scholars Foundation Program under the theme "Positioning yourself for life after Campus." The Career Fair took place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 at Makerere University.

The students received guidance concerning the world of work, how to get jobs after school and how to position oneself in order to be relevant to employers.

The students connected with potential employers from Post Bank, Innovation village, Goal Uganda, Good Leisure Farm, Private Sector Company, Uganda Rural Institute, Ripple Effects, Financial Sector Foundation, War Child Canada and KCCA.

## Joint monitoring visits in Adjumani and Buyende District



*A group photo of Lewa S.S students and Sexual Health and Reproductive project health club members in Adjumani on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023.*

The Sexual Health and Reproductive Education (SHARE) program consortium partners conducted joint monitoring visits in Adjumani and Buyende districts on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2023. The visits that took place in schools, health care facilities and communities were to track the progress of project activities like improved delivery of quality, gender-responsive, inclusive services to address sexual reproductive health needs of adolescents and young people. The monitoring visits were also to ensure enhanced social action by key stakeholders (adolescent girls and young women) to advocate for gender responsive sexual reproductive health services and policies.

The participants recommended use of a holistic approach in engagement of the health club members and their focal persons as it is a crucial component for sexual reproductive health and rights among the adolescent young girls and boys both in and out of school. This approach would in turn ensure effective Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), effective Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH) as well as environmental protection.

## Interface Meetings to Promote Positive Parenting and School Re-Entry



*Pupils of Izahura Primary School presenting an issue paper during an interface meeting between duty bearers and children at Harugale Sub-County Headquarters on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in Bundibugyo district.*

Fifteen (15) interface meetings were held in Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko Districts between duty bearers and children to promote positive parenting and re-entry into school for child mothers and pregnant girls as well as provision of social services that promote the rights and wellbeing of children.

Duty bearers present at the meetings were held accountable and these included political leaders, cultural and religious leaders, parents, sub-county chiefs, Community Development Officers and police.

Fifteen (15) petitions/issue papers were presented by learners and some of the key VAC issues raised were child labour, child neglect, lack of midday meals at school and lack of enough latrine stances.

Key actions to promote and strengthen positive parenting were drawn by stakeholders including review and enforcement of existing bye-laws, holding parents' meetings in schools, creating awareness on existing laws and valuing education through sensitization and enforcing go back to school patrols.



## Cultural and Religious Leaders' Dialogue



*His Royal Highness Dran Stephen, the paramount chief of Madi people (seated) with other cultural and religious leaders at Dubai Resort in Adjumani District on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 Photo credit: Agnes Madra, Media Officer OPM Adjumani.*

FAWE Uganda conducted a joint dialogue meeting for religious and cultural leaders in Adjumani District on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to address cultural and religious variances that hinder access to sexual reproductive health services and rights. The dialogue was also to streamline and integrate adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights advocacy into their various structures. This would consequently promote positive cultural and religious norms as well as promote sexual reproductive health and rights in their community.

As a result of the dialogue, a joint action plan was drawn by the religious and cultural leaders to address issues of sexual reproductive health and rights.

## Orientation of Real Fathers Consortium Staff



*Representatives from the REAL Fathers consortium partners take a group photo during the orientation training on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at Royal suits Bugolobi.*

FAWE Uganda, together with consortium partners, is implementing a project dubbed REAL Fathers (Responsible, Engaged And Loving Fathers) funded by LEGO Foundation. The main objective of the 8 months' project is to build capacity of the partners in the REAL Father's consortium as well as stakeholders (line ministries, district local governments, cultural and religious institutions) so that they can ably implement the REAL Fathers homebased ECD program later this year (2023).

It is against this background that Impact and Innovation Development Centre (IIDC), the lead consortium partner in the project organized an orientation training for implementing staff on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at Royal Suits Bugolobi. The training was to acquaint implementing staff with donor policies, guidelines and procedures. Going forward, there will be a series of consequent trainings for implementing project staff.

During the two-day orientation, FAWE Uganda and other consortium partners agreed on a number of issues including appropriate communication channels, use of the donor and partner LOGOs on visibility items. Gaps and challenges were also shared to the lead partner, IIDC.

A joint work plan was developed to be adopted by all implementing partners and other reporting tools were shared for easy reporting and planning.

The REAL Fathers home based ECD program is expected to reach 425,000 children within 24 districts in Uganda.



## Real Fathers Project District Entry Meetings



*Mbarara District stakeholders during the district entry meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at Mbarara District Hall.*

FAWE Uganda conducted district entry meetings to share the Responsible, Engaged and Loving (REAL) Fathers project scope to the different districts of operation that is, Mbarara, Isingiro, Ibanda and Rubirizi districts on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The meetings were also to achieve district buy-ins as well as get technical support. The eight (8) months' project intervention called Capacity Building and Planning for Catalyzing Real Fathers Across Uganda For Early Learning And Play is being funded by LEGO Foundation.

As a result of the entry meetings, two districts (Mbarara & Isingiro) were able to sign memoranda of understanding with FAWE Uganda. Isingiro and Rubirizi Districts' MOUs are still under review by the district leaders and shall soon be signed.

Three of the four districts where the project will be implemented have supported with office space for the field-based staff and pledged full support for the REAL project in terms of mobilization and monitoring. They are greatly appreciated for this support. The stakeholders called for continued collaboration and communication throughout the project implementation process.

In attendance were technical and political district leaders from all districts. Other stakeholders present were the media, civil society organisations, religious and cultural leaders.

The REAL Fathers home based ECD program is being implemented by FAWE Uganda, Impact and Innovations Development Centre, Batwana Initiative, World Education INC, All Nations Child Development Centre, SOMERO Uganda and is expected to reach 425,000 children (0-3 years) within 24 districts in Uganda.





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