



24 JANUARY 2025

NEWSLETTER



HEAC students graduate with degrees from Busitema University

The graduation of the first cohort from the Higher Education Access Certificate (HEAC), a bridging program, with degrees was a milestone for FAWE Uganda.

On 29 November 2024, 29 graduates received their bachelor's degrees from Busitema University. These graduates successfully transitioned from HEAC into the degree programmes of their choice.

In honour of the 29 graduates, FAWE Uganda hosted a celebratory event at Rock Classic Hotel in Tororo. The celebration was officiated by Dr. Martha Muhwezi, Executive Director of FAWE Africa.

In her heartwarming speech, Dr. Muhwezi encouraged the graduates to utilize their education effectively and to return to their communities to give back and make a positive impact.

Prof Christine Oryema, FAWE Uganda Board Chairperson, poses with graduates at the graduation party on 29 November 2024 at Rock Classic Hotel, Tororo. Photo credit Gertrude Emojong, Communications Officer

What is HEAC?

HEAC was initiated to address significant gaps in Uganda's secondary education system. The HEAC was accredited by the National Council for Higher Education in 2019 as a fourth pathway to university education in addition to the direct, diploma, and mature entries.

The program is designed to offer opportunities to individuals who do not attain the minimum qualifications for direct entry into higher education.



Dr Martha Muhwezi, FAWE Africa Executive Director, awarding a FAWE Uganda program participant who performed well during her degree program. Photo credit Gertrude Emojong, FAWE Uganda Communications Officer

24 JANUARY 2025

The event was further graced by the presence of Prof. Christine Oryema, Chairperson of the FAWE Uganda Board, who also congratulated the graduates on reaching this important milestone in their lives. Below is an indication of the degrees that were awarded to the program participants:

- 6 Graduated with Bachelors degrees in Water Resources Engineering
- 2 Graduated with Bachelors degrees in Agro Processing Engineering
- 10 Graduated with Bachelors of Science in Agriculture
- 1 Graduated with Bachelor of Education (Languages, English and Literature)
- 2 Graduated with Bachelor of Science Education
- 7 Graduated with Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- 1 Graduated with Bachelor of Science in Water Resources Engineering



Graduate celebrates with his parent at graduation party held at Rock Classic Hotel on 29 November 2024. Photo credit: Gertrude Emojong, FAWE Uganda Communications Officer

This graduation not only signifies individual success but also embodies FAWE Uganda's ongoing commitment to enhancing educational access for economically disadvantaged youth, particularly women. The HEAC program has proven instrumental in providing students with the necessary academic support to thrive in higher education and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Promoting Violence-Free Schools



FAWE Uganda Project Assistant, Bwambale Phanuel assessing the Good School Toolkit (GST) materials with the Good School Committee of Karusandara SDA Primary School during a monitoring visit on 21 November 2024. Photo credit: Patience Byakatonda, FAWE Uganda Comms Assistant.

Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) Uganda, in partnership with the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, continues to lead efforts in the Community Action to End Violence Against Children the Rwenzori sub-region (VACiS). Operating in Bundibugyo, Kasese, and Ntoroko districts, the initiative drives a transformation to eliminate violence against children (VAC) in schools and communities. The project addresses harmful social norms, promotes positive parenting practices, and creates safe and inclusive learning environments in schools.

24 JANUARY 2025

In October 2024, FAWE Uganda intensified efforts to integrate the Good School Toolkit (GST) into 22 school programs (15 primary and 7 secondary). Throughout October and November 2024, FAWE Uganda staff worked closely with teachers and learners to enhance their understanding and application of the GST principles. The toolkit strengthened children's participation through involving them in the Good School Committees, eliminating violence in their own schools as documented in their committee record books and VACIS database.

Technical assistance provided to students included training Good School Committees, guiding the interpretation of GST materials, and embedding the toolkit's practices into everyday school activities. Schools like Semuliki High School, Karusandara Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Primary School, and Mt. Rwenzori Girls Senior Secondary (SS) were among those actively supported in the GST integration process. The hands-on support reinforced the active participation of students in the fight against VAC in addition to empowering teachers to lead



*FAWE Uganda Project Assistant, Byaruhanga David providing technical assistance to the students' good school committee of Semuliki High School on documentation and reporting processes during a monitoring visit on 27 September 2024.
Photo credit: Patience Byakatonda, Comms Assistant.*

Despite some challenges faced by students in the region during the quarter like malaria outbreaks in Ntoroko, cocoa harvesting that affected school attendance in Bundibugyo, the project has remained resilient in its mission. The local leadership and community support have been invaluable in overcoming these hurdles.

Mentoring a New Generation of Fathers

Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) Uganda with the support of The LEGO Foundation through Impact and Innovation Development Centre (IIDC) is implementing the project "Catalyzing Responsible Engaged and Loving (REAL) Fathers across Uganda for Early Learning and Play".

The project is designed to provide guidance, support, and empowerment to young fathers, and it is helping them navigate the complex roles of fatherhood, relationships, and personal growth.



*A mentor (left) conducting a home visit to a young father's family in Isingiro District on 5 October 2024.
Photo credit: Patience Byakatonda, Comms Assistant.*

24 JANUARY 2025

The project, covering the districts of Ibanda, Isingiro, Mbarara, and Rubirizi, supports first-time young fathers aged 18–25 with children aged 0–3 years, and, where needed, addresses the needs of fathers aged 16–17. It aims to help these fathers understand their parental responsibilities, as many face challenges in balancing family life with personal aspirations. Through one-on-one mentoring sessions, fathers are encouraged to engage in open conversations with their partners, share responsibilities, and actively contribute to their children's development, fostering stronger family relationships and a supportive home environment.

Recognizing this gap, the REAL Fathers project was initiated to provide a solution. The project pairs young fathers with trained mentors who offer home-based support and guidance. These mentors serve as role models and advise on communication, family dynamics, and positive parenting techniques. Through home visits, mentors help fathers understand the importance of being present, not just physically but emotionally, in their families.



FAWE Uganda Project Officer, Jennifer Kemigisha engaging young fathers in an Early Childhood Development (ECD) session on the importance of play on 28 September 2024 in Isingiro District. Photo credit: Patience Byakatonda, FAWE Uganda Comms Assistant

At the community level, the REAL Fathers Project is actively engaging with local leaders and Child Wellbeing Committees (CWCs) to promote the concept of responsible fatherhood. Meetings have been held in key districts to engage local stakeholders, raise awareness about the importance of fathers' active involvement in positive parenting, and ensure the sustainability of the project's message. By involving community leaders, the project is working to create a ripple effect that will positively impact families in the long term.

Over 2,400 young fathers have participated in the REAL Fathers project, receiving mentorship and guidance. Through this program, these fathers have learned how to foster safer and more supportive environments for their children. They have developed the essential skills needed to become active, responsible, and nurturing parents.

As the REAL Fathers Project expands to new sub counties, the focus remains on strengthening its partnerships and ensuring the long-term sustainability of its impact, poising a continuous fostering of a culture of care, responsibility, and involvement for generations to come. By equipping young fathers with the knowledge and skills they need, the project creates stronger families and communities. It is a reminder that positive change begins with individuals, and through mentorship and empowerment, young fathers can become the pillars of strength their families need.

Community Health Centered Services in Buyende

FAWE Uganda, in collaboration with the Buyende District Local Government, the District Health Officer's Office (DHO), and key partners; Human Diagnostics, AIDS Information Centre, and Makerere University Joint AIDS Program (MJAP) conducted a successful Integrated Community Health Outreach in Buyende District from 24-30 November 2024.

The initiative, part of the Sexual Health and Reproductive Education (SHARE) project, aimed to improve access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services for adolescents and young people, particularly in underserved areas.



Members of Buyende District Health Team administering a variety of health services to adolescents and youth in Buyende district on 30 November 2024. Photo Credit: Henry Onyango, FAWE Uganda Project Officer.

The outreach activities spanned several locations, including Buyende Town Council, Bukungu, Bugaya, Kideera, and Kagulu sub-counties. By setting up mobile clinics in community hubs like marketplaces and town councils, the program aimed to broaden access to services for individuals who might otherwise face barriers to healthcare.

Key services included HIV Testing and Counselling (HCT) using the quick and painless OraQuick method, which allowed for immediate results. Those who tested positive were referred to treatment services, while those who tested negative received counselling on HIV prevention. In addition, Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC), sickle cell and cervical cancer screenings were offered to promote early detection and prevention. Free condoms were distributed to encourage safe sexual practices.

One of the program's greatest successes was the active involvement of adolescents and young people, who participated in educational sessions on safe sexual practices, Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) prevention, and gender equality in healthcare. This community-driven approach helped break down barriers and reduce stigma around sexual and reproductive health issues, providing young people with the knowledge and resources to make informed decisions about their health.

24 JANUARY 2025

This outreach was a collaborative effort between FAWE Uganda, Buyende District, the Office of the District Health Officer (DHO), and partners such as Human Diagnostics, AIDS Information Centre, MJAP, Uganda Development Health Associates, Hold Uganda, Uganda Health Activity, and the AIDS Control Program making it possible to bring essential health services directly to those who need them most. As World AIDS Day approached on 1 December 2024, the activities laid the groundwork for continued engagement in SRH and HIV prevention in Buyende District.

While the outreach was a significant achievement, FAWE Uganda remains committed to expanding these services to more regions and ensuring that adolescents and young people across the country continue to receive the healthcare and education they need. The success of this project is a reminder of the importance of community-centered health interventions and the impact of collaboration in addressing public health challenges.



Fred Kakande Kasule, from the Human Diagnostics team demonstrating the use of the Ora Quick HIV self-test kit to promote effective and accessible HIV testing within the community, Buyende district 1 November 2024.
Photo Credit: Henry Onyango, FAWE Uganda Project Officer.

Highlights from the Gender Responsive Pedagogy Training

FAWE Uganda hosted a five-day training on Gender Responsive Pedagogy (GRP) for university, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and FAWE Uganda staff at Ridar Hotel in Mukono from 2-6 December 2024. Mr. Wesley Chabwera, Executive Director of the Forum for African Women Educationalists Malawi, and an expert in GRP, together with Ms. Rebecca Makanga, facilitated this training



Group photo of GRP training participants at Ridar Hotel, Mukono, on 2 December 2024.
Photo credit: Gertrude Emojong, FAWE Uganda Communications Officer

24 JANUARY 2025

The training involved over 50 participants from 16 FAWE Uganda's partner learning institutions, including Busitema University, Bukalasa Agricultural Institute, Cavendish University Uganda, Ebenezer University Lira, Gulu University, Ibanda University, Jinja School of Nursing and Midwifery, Kabale University, Lira University, Mbarara University of Science & Technology (MUST), Medical Laboratory Technical School Jinja, Mulago School of Nursing and Midwifery, Uganda Institute of Allied Health and Management Sciences (UIAHMS), Uganda Petroleum Institute Kigumba (UPIK), Uganda Technical College (UTC) Kichwamba, Uganda Technical College (UTC) Lira, UTC Elgon, Kumi University, Soroti University, and Valley University of Science and Technology.



Group photo of GRP training participants at Ridar Hotel, Mukono, on 2 December 2024. Photo credit: Gertrude Emojong, FAWE Uganda Communications Officer

The sessions introduced foundational concepts of GRP, emphasizing its significance within the human rights framework. Attendees explored how gender-responsive teaching could improve educational outcomes and promote equality in the classroom. Throughout the training, participants engaged in practical discussions and activities designed to empower them to create safe and inclusive learning environments. Those who successfully completed the training were awarded certificates for their commitment to implementing gender-responsive education.

Furthermore, the organizations' representatives pledged to create institutional plans for cascading this knowledge to their respective institutions. We are excited about the potential impact this training will have on our educational system and look forward to sharing insights and progress from this important event



GRP training participants during group work at Ridar Hotel, Mukono on 5 December 2024. Photo credit: Gertrude Emojong, FAWE Uganda Communications Officer

24 JANUARY 2025

FAWE Uganda Reflects and Recharges: Annual Staff Retreat 2024



FAWE Uganda held its annual review and planning meeting from 10–13 December 2024 at Colline Hotel, Mukono. The meeting brought together staff to reflect on and review the organization's strategy, and programmes' performance. Through comprehensive reviews, the team reflected on successes, identified areas for improvement, and shared insights.

To enhance camaraderie among staff, we participated in team-building activities designed to strengthen relationships and emphasize the importance of teamwork in achieving our goals. These activities not only reinforced our commitment to collaboration but also brought out our inner child, making the retreat both productive and enjoyable. Throughout the meeting, we focused on key lessons in leadership, communication, innovation, and collaboration.

As we start the new year, we are excited to implement the insights gained from this retreat to enhance our programmes and continue making a positive impact in the communities we serve and our beneficiaries' lives.



Mrs. Susan Opok Turnusiime, Executive Director of FAWE Uganda, addresses staff during annual review and planning meeting at Colline Hotel, Mukono on 11 December 2024. Photo credit: Patience Byakatonda, FAWE Uganda Communications and Documentation Assistant.