

30 MAY 2025

NEWSLETTER



FAWE Uganda-Gulu University Career Expo

FAWE Uganda, in partnership with Gulu University, held a four-day Career Expo in Gulu City from 9-12 April 2025, bringing together students, alumni, educators, and industry leaders to discuss career opportunities and provide guidance for young people preparing to enter the job market. The event highlights included:

- An opening ceremony led by Hon. Betty Aol Ocan, who emphasized education as a key to opportunity.
- A public awareness march through Gulu, led by FAWE Uganda Executive Director, Susan Opok Tumusiime, and Gulu University Vice Chancellor, Prof. George Openjuru, which helped raise awareness.
- Inspirational talks included one by Captain Faridah Ashaba, a female pilot who encouraged youth, especially girls, to overcome societal barriers.
- Contributions from more than 200 FAWE Uganda alumni who donated food and hygiene items to Lacor hospital and St Jude's Children home in Gulu.



FAWE Uganda Executive Director, Susan Opok Tumusiime, (grey t-shirt and black pants) marches alongside Prof. George Openjuru (white t-shirt), Vice Chancellor of Gulu University during the Career Expo.

The event concluded with Hon. Charles Onen endorsing and donating to FAWE Uganda's 20K for Transformation campaign, which aims to keep girls in school.

30 MAY 2025



FAWE Uganda Alumni handover food items, soap and detergent to St Jude's Children Home.



FAWE Uganda Executive Director, Susan Opok Tumusiime, speaking at the Opening Ceremony of The Career Expo.

World Menstrual Hygiene Day

On 28 May 2025, FAWE Uganda joined the Ministry of Education and Sports in Kampala to commemorate World Menstrual Hygiene Day, focusing on key issues affecting young girls such as preventing teenage pregnancy, ending early marriages, improving menstrual health and hygiene, and promoting positive parenting. The event brought together stakeholders to discuss practical solutions and strategies to address these challenges and improve the well-being of girls across Uganda.



FAWE Uganda Board Member Dr Veronica Nakijoba (in blue dress on far right) moderating a high level panel on Menstrual Hygiene Day, 28 May 2025.

The event was opened by Hon. Janet Museveni, representative, the Minister of State for Sports, Hon. Peter Ogwang. Our Board Member, Dr. Veronica Nakijoba, moderated a panel session that focused on reducing teenage pregnancy and improving menstrual hygiene practices in schools.

A memorable moment was the testimony of Martha Orikiza, a FAWE Uganda beneficiary, who shared how the organization supported her return to school after teenage pregnancy, highlighting the critical role of education and support in transforming young mothers' lives.

“

After giving birth to my daughter, I thought my education journey had ended. But FAWE Uganda gave me a second chance. They helped me return to school, and today, I stand with hope and purpose. I am proof that every girl deserves the chance to rise again.”

Martha Orikiza, FAWE Uganda Beneficiary



Martha Orikiza, a FAWE Uganda beneficiary, sharing her testimony on Menstrual Hygiene Day at Lugogo Cricket Oval, Kampala.

VACiS Endline Report Highlights Rise in School Enrollment and Child Protection in Rwenzori

FAWE Uganda held planning and dissemination meetings in Fort Portal to present the endline report from Phase I of the VACiS (Community Action to End Violence Against Children in Schools) project. VACiS aims to transform negative social-cultural norms that hinder education access, retention, and completion by promoting positive attitudes, strengthening prevention and response services, empowering children to report violence, and improving coordination among stakeholders. The project focuses on reducing violence against children in schools, particularly in Kasese, Bundibugyo, and Ntoroko districts, through community engagement, positive parenting, and legal system responsiveness.

The meetings brought together FAWE staff, district and cultural leaders, and partners from the project area districts to share key findings and discuss sustaining project gains. The report highlighted increased school enrolment and retention, with some schools introducing boarding sections to protect girls. It also showed how the project contributed to institutionalizing school feeding programs and improving attention to girl child issues, such as better changing facilities and reintegration of young mothers into school.



Key stakeholders and FAWE Uganda staff during the dissemination meeting of the project endline report at Fort-Breeze Hotel in Fort Portal City on 23 January 2025

Stakeholders praised FAWE Uganda for reducing violence against children, promoting positive parenting, and supporting campaigns that enabled many girls in the Rwenzori region to return to school through financial support and community initiatives.

REAL Fathers Reaches More Young Fathers Across Ankole Region

The REAL (Responsible, Engaged, and Loving) Fathers project, implemented by FAWE Uganda, is a community-led mentoring program that supports young fathers with toddler-aged children to adopt positive parenting techniques, promote nonviolent discipline, and build healthy relationships with the mothers of their children.

In early 2025, the project expanded to cover 53 sub-counties across four districts—Ibando, Isingiro, Mbarara, and Rubirizi. FAWE Uganda held 30 sub-county meetings involving 454 stakeholders to introduce the project, enroll eligible fathers, and gather recommendations to guide implementation. Political and technical leaders pledged their support, and 30 action plans were developed to support awareness activities at parish and community levels. This expansion strengthens community engagement and promotes responsible fatherhood in the targeted regions.



Lead mentors and TOTS pose the photo after the reflection meeting at Bukiro subcounty in mbarara district on 20 March 2025.

REAL Fathers Empowers Young Fathers

FAWE Uganda continued mentoring young fathers across Isingiro, Ibando, Mbarara, and Rubirizi districts as part of the REAL Fathers program. In one of the mentoring sessions, 2,080 fathers enrolled received guidance on practical tips and skills for responsible fatherhood, and 1,848 participated in “Family Dreams” sessions, learning to plan and make decisions collaboratively with their families. These mentorship efforts aim to strengthen young fathers’ roles at both individual and family levels, fostering healthier relationships and more supportive home environments



The SHARE Consortium Global Knowledge Exchange (GKX)

FAWE Uganda joined consortium partners Right To Play Uganda, WaterAid Uganda, and FHI 360 for the Sexual Health and Reproductive Education (SHARE) Annual Planning Meeting and Global Knowledge Exchange (GKX). During the meeting, partners reviewed progress, shared lessons learned and planned for the next phase of the program.

As part of the Global Knowledge Exchange, FAWE Uganda hosted a field visit to the Buyende Community of Practice (COP). FAWE Uganda's Executive Director, Susan Opok Tumusiime, met with Nabulime Florence, a COP member and advocate for female leadership in Buyende District. Representing persons with disabilities (PWDs), Nabulime shared her personal experiences and the challenges she faces, highlighting the importance of more inclusive community initiatives.



SHARE Consortium participants during a session with primary school parents in Buyende during the Global Knowledge Exchange 2025.



FFAWE Uganda, FAWE Ghana and FAWE Regional Secretariat SHARE teams at the Global Knowledge Exchange 2025.



FFAWE Uganda Executive Director, Susan Opok Tumusiime, greeting a person with disability during a community session in Buyende during the Global Knowledge Exchange 2025.

Finally, FAWE Uganda organized an engagement session for GKX participants with journalists who had received training on gender-sensitive reporting and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The journalists discussed how the training transformed their reporting approach and strengthened their commitment to raising awareness on SRHR issues.

Empowering Girls to Speak Out: FAWE Uganda Advances TUSEME Model

The TUSEME project (Let Us Speak Out), implemented by FAWE Uganda, is designed to empower schoolgirls by boosting their confidence, developing leadership skills, and encouraging them to voice their concerns to improve their education and overall well-being.

In early 2025, FAWE Uganda mobilized key stakeholders from schools and communities across Kamuli, Buyende, and Kiboga districts to participate in an impact assessment of the TUSEME Model in schools. This assessment, conducted in partnership with Higher Education Resource Services-East Africa (HERSEA), involved key informant interviews and focus group discussions with 100 participants from school and district communities. The goal was to evaluate how effectively the TUSEME approach has empowered girls and influenced school environments, ensuring that the voices of both learners and educators inform future program improvements.



TUSEME; Every Voice is Valid!

FAWE Uganda, in partnership with Higher Education Resource Services-East Africa (HERSEA), held a validation meeting in Kamuli District with stakeholders from Phase 1 schools of the GPE KIX TUSEME Project. Participants, including learners, teachers, community leaders, and education officials, reviewed and validated the project report, offering key insights and recommendations.

This collaborative process ensured that diverse voices were reflected in the final document and helped shape the future development of the TUSEME model. FAWE Uganda appreciates the contributions made and remains committed to advancing the project's impact on education and community empowerment in the region.