



CEEWA-Uganda Annual Report 2013



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Message from the Chairperson



It is always a pleasure to present the Annual Report for CEEWA-Uganda, in which the activities, successes, challenges and aspirations of the organization are contained. The year 2013 brought many opportunities as well as challenges for CEEWA-Uganda as it strived to promote the wellbeing of women and other vulnerable groups by conducting research, carrying out capacity building activities and advocating for change that would support the economic, social and political empowerment of women in Uganda.

Most civil society organizations are aware of the challenging environment in which we operate. During 2013, CEEWA-Uganda faced both financial and environmental challenges. Some of these have been listed in this Report and we have shared some of the coping mechanisms that were adopted to ensure successful implementation of planned activities.

We owe the success to our local and external partners who have walked with us in this challenging journey. To ActionAid International Uganda, UN Women, International Labor Organization Uganda Country Office, Digital Opportunity Trust, Iganga NGO Link Forum, Association for World Education Uganda, Yiga Ng'Okola, Apac NGO Link Forum, Koboko Civil Society Network, Masindi NGO Forum and Recreation for Peace and Development. A big “thank you” to you all and we will continue to count on your partnership. We thank our partners, the beneficiaries of our interventions, for collaborating with us and allowing us to operate in their communities.

I invite you to read this report and to provide whatever feedback you deem necessary to help us improve on our services to our target beneficiaries.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Kakande', written over a horizontal line.

Margaret Kakande

Board Chairperson/CEEWA-Uganda

Executive Summary

The annual report for 2013 covers the activities that were implemented by CEEWA-Uganda during the course of that year. It opens with a description of the organization, its vision, mission and areas of focus. The areas of focus are:

- Women and agro-enterprise development
- Women, finance and entrepreneurship development, and
- Women, finance and decision making

The activities carried out are described in the sub-sections on programmes which include:

- I. Participatory Democracy and Governance Project that advocated for women's rights in light of the National Gender Policy. In addition, gender responsive budgeting was advocated for in the sectors of agriculture, health and education.
- II. Digital Opportunity Trust Uganda imparted ICT and life skills training to enhance self-reliance.
- III. Increased Economic Empowerment of Women especially those who are most excluded: a UN Women funded Project in Agago District where women of three sub counties received oxen and ox ploughs, while those in Patongo Town Council were provided with a maize mill and hullers for value addition.
- IV. Policy and Advocacy related activities under which research on the gender dimensions of corruption was undertaken. In addition Policy briefs were prepared.
- V. Institutional development for enhanced staff capacity was also undertaken.

There were networking activities involving different local based partners such as the Uganda National NGO Forum; ActionAid International Uganda; ILO Uganda Country Office; Forum for Education NGOs in Uganda (FENU); Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) Centre for Women in Governance (CEWIGO).

The report also mentions the challenges that CEEWA-U faced during the year which included a constrained budget, the operating environment that did not favour civil society activities and the poor physical infrastructure which impacted on the resources needed for field work. The challenges were mitigated through working with partners, accepting the services of volunteers and being frugal.

Moving forward the report looks ahead at 2014 and beyond with confidence and determination to continue promoting the economic empowerment of women and other marginalized groups. CEEWA-U will have a new Strategic plan focusing on various areas of advocacy.

1. Background

The Council for Economic Empowerment for Women of Africa-Uganda Chapter (CEEW-Uganda) is a registered non-Governmental, non-partisan and not-for-profit organization working to promote the economic empowerment of women in Uganda. It was started in 1995 by a group of professional women and legally registered in 1997 (Registration No. S. 5914/1947). Its aim is to increase the level of women's access to and control over economic resources for development.

CEEWA-Uganda has conducted extensive research and documented results on issues of land and other resources for production, gender needs assessments, women's access to finance and the effectiveness of agricultural extension services. It has delivered trainings in gender analysis, the use of ICTs and post-harvest management including value addition. It has also developed training materials for adult learning.

Vision: A Uganda in which women's economic aspirations, rights and productive potentials are fully recognized and mainstreamed in the frame work of equitable and sustainable human development.

Mission: To promote the economic empowerment of women in the development process through advocacy, training, research, and documentation.

Objectives

- To strengthen capacity of economic decision makers to integrate gender concerns in laws, policies and programmes.
- To provide a forum for women to discuss, share experiences and support activities that promote women's participation in mainstream economic development policies and programs.
- To advocate for micro-credit principles and standards that can reach and meet women's practical and strategic needs in a sustainable manner.
- To promote gender equity in agricultural extension services, policies and programmes
- To sensitize and educate the public about women's rights regarding economic resources: land, finance and information technologies.
- To identify and implement strategies to increase women's participation in decision-making.
- To cooperate with other organizations in working towards its goal.

Areas of focus

WOMEN AND AGRO-ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

The objective of this programme is to promote gender sensitive agricultural services, including extension services, appropriate and affordable technologies, access to information and skills and value chain management. The following has been done in the past:

- Government policy reviews – Programme for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA) and National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS)
- Advocacy for gender sensitive policies through training workshops, dialogue meetings and dissemination of research findings.
- Publishing of information fact sheets for decision makers.



A trained lady in her kitchen garden

WOMEN, FINANCE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The aim of this programme is to advocate for women's increased access to and control over financial resources and the enhancement of women's capacity to start businesses, expand existing ones and become competitive in a business environment. This can be achieved through:

- Establishing a capital asset product for women
- Reviewing lending methodologies by micro-finance institutions (MFIs)
- Savings mobilization
- Credit management
- Training
- Research
- Publishing information

WOMEN, GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING

The aim of this Programme is to promote gender equity in economic decision making and women's effective participation in governance activities as well as gender sensitive planning and budgeting at both the national and local government levels. It is done through:

- Training of decision makers and rights holders in gender mainstreaming and gender sensitive planning and budgeting.

- Hosting the Empowerment Studio to equip women with skills to effectively participate in decision making.
- Conducting research
- Carrying out advocacy and lobbying activities
- Skills training

2. Programmes

2.1 Participatory Democracy and Governance

Project objectives

The objective of the project was increased realization and enjoyment of civic and political rights by the poor women, youth and men to meaningfully participate in decision making and democratic accountability in order to improve their livelihoods. In addition, the project aimed at ensuring that Local Government plans in selected districts reflect the priorities and demands of rights holders including women, youth and other special interest groups.

Activities carried out

During project implementation in the year 2013, CEEWA-Uganda managed to reach 119 women and 94 men (i.e. 213 people)

2.1.1 **Dialogue meetings on gender concerns in relation to budget allocations in education, health and agriculture sectors**

CEEWA-Uganda conducted dialogue meetings in Iganga, Bukedea, Nakapiripirit, Apac, Koboko and Masindi Districts to identify what needs to be addressed and how Local Councilors, women and youth leaders and the citizens at large, could support one another to improve participation of women, men, youth, persons with disabilities in the planning and budgeting processes in order to promote gender sensitive planning and budgeting. District Based Organizations in their respective districts were encouraged to participate in all planning and budgeting processes so that gaps in addressing citizens' aspirations are identified early and mitigation measures taken.

2.1.2 **Dialogue meeting on analysis of sectoral plans and budgets focusing on agriculture, education and health from a gender perspective**

CEEWA-Uganda developed policy briefs on Gender and Education, Gender and Health, Gender and Agriculture sectors to enable stakeholders address existing gender issues in planning and budgeting processes at local government and central government levels. The objective was to advocate for consistent consideration of gender concerns and ensuring that gender is reflected in the plans, budgets and sectors processes and to suggest recommendations to address gender issues/needs in plans and budgets in Uganda.

Final soft copies of the policy briefs were produced and disseminated to stakeholders at district and national levels to intensify advocacy for gender responsive planning and budgeting.

2.1.3 Engagement meeting on gender and women's rights issues

CEEWA-Uganda also conducted a meeting on information sharing and work experiences on the implications of gender inequality and women's limited participation for sustainable development. The meeting acted as a platform for strengthening advocacy initiatives by different stakeholders in their areas of operation/constituencies and the need to improve on service delivery to the poor and marginalised groups. The participants/stakeholders recognized the need to address gender issues and protection of women's rights and ensuring that social services should be available for all especially the marginalized groups.

2.1.4 Advocacy meetings on women's rights with reference to the Uganda Gender Policy

CEEWA Uganda engaged stakeholders in a dialogue meeting on women's rights with reference to the Uganda Gender Policy. The objective was to:

- advocate for consistent consideration of gender concerns and women's rights at all levels;
- identify existing gaps in mainstreaming gender in policies and programmes; share experiences and implications of women's limited participation in development programmes at local government level;
- strengthen advocacy on gender and women's rights and monitoring initiatives by policy makers, other stakeholders and citizens;
- suggest recommendations to address gender and women's rights issues at all levels;
- Document the success stories on mainstreaming gender in local government/development programmes in the six Districts (Iganga, Nakapiripirit, Bukedea, Apac, Koboko and Masindi).



Participants during the dialogue meeting on women’s rights, One of the Participants giving her views.



Participants during information sharing meeting Some of the participants after the meeting

In Koboko District, KOCISONET shared their experience and it was noted *that there had been a “transformation of International Women’s day (IWD) from being a ceremonial celebration to a day for promoting women’s rights in the District. There was re-posting of teachers, now only one school lacks a female teacher in the District. There were active female Councilors in executive posts, Koboko District built 8 girl washing facilities in 8 primary schools, 23 schools built girl washing facilities at SWT homes and out of the 68 schools, only 5 share latrines among girls and boys. Koboko Police Post built a female cell for female suspects”.*

CEEWA-Uganda has been focusing on three sectors (education, health and agriculture) while implementing the Participatory Democracy and Governance Project. For instance, while education is a major sector that facilitates empowerment of women and men to be able to meaningfully participate in national development, helps women overcome the social cultural discrimination and builds their capacity to know their rights and demand for protection, there are

persistent gender disparities across all levels of education in access, persistence and performance, in favour of the males.

Agriculture is one of the core sectors of the economy, employing 73% of the labour force and has the potential to significantly contribute to economic growth. The National Development Plan (2010/2011 to 2014/2015) acknowledges women's role in the agriculture sector as primary producers (83%) contributing 70-75% of agricultural production and identifies gender specific constraints (such as security of land tenure and use, inadequate extension support to women farmers, etc.) to the performance of agriculture. It was established that these constraints relate to traditional and cultural attitudes that relegate women to production while the men do the marketing. There are also imbalances between men and women in land access and ownership/control.

The health sector lacks the necessary human and physical resources. Regarding child and infant mortality, while the NDP notes and reduction in the death rates among infants and children, the rates are still high. Maternal mortality has been persistently high with slight decline over the years and so is infant and child mortality. Inadequate funding to the sector has serious implications for effective implementation of the health activities and efficient service delivery.

CEEWA-Uganda has developed policy briefs on Gender and Education, Gender and Health, Gender and Agriculture which highlight the existing gaps and recommend actions that would enable stakeholders address gender issues in planning and budgeting processes at local government and central government levels. CEEWA-Uganda also carried out an assessment of the extent to which the implementation of the National Development Plan is in line with the Uganda Gender Policy and the study report on Gender dimensions of corruption in Uganda and these reports were disseminated to various stakeholders. The reports and policy briefs were well received by the target audiences as expressed by one participant:

“CEEWA-Uganda’s interest in looking at the policies and plans for instance the National Development plan (NDP) is very much appreciated and the findings will be utilized to strengthen advocacy strategies so that gender is integrated in the review of the NDP specifically in different sectors”.

2013 marked the final year of this 2-year Project.

2.2 Digital Opportunity Trust “Reach Up!” Programme

CEEWA-Uganda entered into a partnership with Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT) Uganda to host the Reach Up! Programme.



Participants during computer training



Participants under Reach Up after receiving their certificates

The programme aimed at helping participants to develop knowledge, skills, and plans that improve their chances of economic self-reliance and livelihood success. It was implemented by 3 Interns posted by DOT Uganda and ran from April 2013 to February 2014. Under the project, it was possible to reach nearly 300 members of the community (163 women and 136 men) aged 16-40 years, with ICT and life skills training to enhance self-reliance. The training targeted mainly young people and encouraged them to identify ways in which they could contribute to the development of their respective communities as well as become self-reliant themselves. The participants, in groups of 25-30, underwent 2 months' training after which they were awarded a certificate. In all, 13 cohorts were trained.

CEEWA-U provided the venue, computers, printers, scanner and photocopier to the programme. It also guided the interns in general office management, field activities and report writing.



Participants during their showcase after the training



Participants during their Graduation ceremony

2.3 Increased Economic Empowerment of Women especially those who are most excluded: Agago District

A project that targeted young women aged 15-30 years had been implemented in 2012 but spilled over into 2013 with final activities and beneficiary monitoring. A total of 200 women in 7 Groups from 4 Sub-counties were reached. The Groups in Adilang and Lapono Sub-counties received ox ploughs and oxen while those in Lokole Sub-county and Patongo Town Council received maize mills with hullers. The groups that had received maize mills and hullers were followed up to monitor the performance of the equipment as well as the management teams. Those that received ox ploughs and oxen were also visited to see how they were sharing the facilities among the different members

A member of one of the Groups in Patongo Town Council made the following statement on the progress they were making:

“Some people were skeptical about women’s ability to manage a maize mill but with the initial training we received, we have been able to oversee the running of our business. We are now thinking of ‘branding’ our maize meal so we can get a market beyond Uganda’s borders”

Final reports were submitted to UN Women, the funder.

2.4 Partnership with ILO Uganda Country Office

The International Labor Organization (ILO) Uganda Country Office supported CEEWA-Uganda to train trainers of women entrepreneurs’ associations in leadership, gender and diversity, communication, stakeholder analysis and management, entrepreneurship, advocacy, lobbying and negotiation. The training benefitted 7 partner organizations from 7 Districts of Uganda as well as CEEWA-U staff. The beneficiary Districts were Apac, Bukedea, Buikwe, Iganga, Koboko, Masindi and Nakapiripirit. 2 representatives from each participating organization were trained. At the end of the training, participants came up with action plans to implement what they had been trained to do.

2.5 Policy and Advocacy work

In order to carry on its advocacy agenda, CEEWA-U commissioned a number of studies to generate material for this important activity. One of the studies was on the gender dimensions of corruption at the local and Central Government levels. In addition, material was collected and policy briefs prepared on:

- Gender and Agriculture

- Gender and Education and
- Gender and Health

These were disseminated at appropriate time during the course of the year and the dissemination activities will continue into next year.

2.6 Internal Capacity Development

The staffing levels remained low but steps were taken to enhance the capacity of the few staff members available. Internal learning events were held during which staff members were given monitoring and evaluation skills, ICT training, fund raising and proposal writing.

3. Networking

Collaboration and sharing of experiences and challenges/solutions continued with various partners who included Uganda National NGO Forum, Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) Center for Women in Governance (CEWIGO) Uganda Debt Network, Uganda Land Alliance (ULA) TechnoServe Uganda, Forum for Education NGOs in Uganda (FENU) the World Bank Uganda Country Office, ActionAid International-Uganda, Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. Through these networks, new skills, best practices and important lessons were learned.

4. Challenges

Resource constraints continued to adversely affect CEEWA-Uganda activities in terms of reach and coverage as well as aspirations. Low funding meant limited staff numbers which increased the workload of the few on the ground. It also made it difficult to retain some staff and led to unavoidable exits. This has led to dependency on “Volunteers” whose stay cannot be guaranteed as they leave as soon as a paying job opportunity comes up.

The operating environment is also a challenge in the sense that civil society organizations have to “tread carefully” owing to suspicion and possible misunderstanding of intentions. It was possible to minimize these by working through District based partners who are well known on the ground and could vouch for CEEWA-Uganda.

Reaching some of our beneficiaries was still a challenge mainly due to poor physical infrastructure and limited resources. The journeys take long and some of the time that would be spent on activities is spent in travel. This is partially mitigated by compacting the programmes and working longer hours and/or days.

5. Looking Ahead

Starting 2014, CEEWA-Uganda will have a new strategic plan that will focus on advocacy to strengthen the capacity of decision makers to integrate gender concerns in laws, policies and programmes; promoting the growth of competitive women owned enterprises; providing a platform for women and girls to interact and share experiences for their economic development and strengthening its own internal capacity for self management, learning and advocacy. Needless to say, a lot of time and effort will be invested in resource mobilization as well as consolidating existing partnerships and searching for new ones.

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