



A Just Society Where Gender Equality is a Reality

Annual Report 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

DEAR STAKEHOLDERS,

DEAR FRIENDS,

An extraordinary year lies behind us particularly because of the notable achievements that were realised!

For the first time in ACFODE's history, we run a very successful social media campaign about the rampant gruesome women murders and increased cases of violence against women that were happening in the Country at the time under the hash tag #NotAnotherWoman. The campaign was efficacious in bringing to light the stories and realities of VAW/G in Uganda since it garnered national and international support about the need for the government of Uganda to take concrete action to ensure the security of the lives of women, their families and communities, albeit the strong legal, policy and development frameworks and interventions



Dr. Euzobia Mbaine Mugisha
Chairperson
Board of Directors

We also extended our services to 8 districts of Kamuli, Moroto, Gulu, Kitgum, Omoro, Lamwo, Kaberamaido and Katakwi districts through launch of 2 new projects titled “Enhancing Public Support for Women’s Political Participation, Leadership and Gender Equality and “Advocacy For Effective Implementation Of GBV Laws.”

Knowing the power of mentorship, we supported women leaders and teenage mothers to claim their right to equal treatment under the law, to participate in leadership and decision making processes at family, community and organizational level and to draw on the power of business and social enterprise.

Additionally, we supported civil society and women’s rights activists (male and female) to inform and influence crucial policy discussions at the grass root and national level.

Individuals like Grace Acen, a resident of Akokoro sub-county in Apac district whose happiness divulges on the intervention of an ACFODE Community Agent of Change after being continually threatened by her in laws to be chased off her late husband’s property, illustrate the dividends of building local capacity to advocate for improved implementation of gender sensitive legislation.

A Regional Convention, convened by ACFODE in commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism resulted in the launch of an Ordinance on Gender Based Violence by the Lira District Local Council. Uneveiled under sections 38 and 40 of the Local Governments Act (Cap 243), the law seeks to provide for prevention of, and response to Gender Based Violence and other related matters in Lira District.

The Election of a new Board of Directors which I chair, our support to the first ever African Debate Championship, and the ACFODE Day of Mourning that was convened to stand in solidarity with the families of women and girls that wre brutally killed around the areas of Nansana and Entebbe , and all the other women and girls that had died as a result of violence against women crimes in Uganda over the years cannot go unnoticed.

These examples describe some of the strikes that ACFODE made in 2017. Our thoughts gratefully return to those that made this progress possible.

DR. EUZOBIA MBAINE MUGISHA

Chairperson

ACFODE Board of Directors

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Three decades down the road and soldiering on, ACFODE's banner for gender equality still flies high. An empowered woman is our unrelenting vision. With partners from across the board, we continued to lobby for gender equality legislation and policy implementation. 2017 was such a year when we are engaged in endeavors to influence policy formulation, review, legislation, and implementation of gender-responsive laws. Efforts stretched to fighting against socio-culturally instituted gender inequalities like abuse of women's rights to property and domestic abuse. All activities were part of our 2013-2017 strategic objectives.

What a defining moment it was for us as an organization! Having fought a battle that we thought was only culturally and socio-politically constructed, we realized that actually the battle even had religio-historic roots. Some of the inequalities women face accrue from the Holy Scriptures – at least an intended misinterpretation of religious doctrine has aided the chauvinist agenda to succeed in implanting a lie that the woman is an inferior creation. How do you negotiate such a revered terrain? We engaged religious leaders, political authorities, several stakeholders, organized public debates, and sensitization campaigns, and participated in several policy advocacy events, as well as national and international campaigns. At each stage however, we continued to establish how complex the problem was. In some instances, the would-be protectors of the women's rights such as the Police Force were found out to be perpetrators or rather promoters of the inequalities levied against the woman and the girl child.

One intervention seemed essential at the time – enabling everyone to realize that they are duty bearers – from the passerby to the street preacher in a GBV environment. In a fight where the inclusion of men has often been eluded, efforts to popularize the campaign were thought necessary. As ACFODE, we undertook a number of activities and interventions within and often beyond our means– from policy advocacy to capacity building, and from rural initiatives to civic engagement. Yet still, gender-sensitivity requires more than just policy advocacy otherwise we would only be proud of a bunch of useless laws. More still, the law may punish the culprits but may never heal the victim(s). Hence the need to teach our communities



Regina Bafaki
Executive Director

that we are all victims, if one of us is. A child will never settle in school if the mother is beaten like a drum at home. If we let that pass, wouldn't we be building a broken generation? What shall become of our efforts when our time is come and we are no more in this struggle? Yet, the times are changing and the oppression against women is taking on other strands.

ACFODE's mandate in the near future thus faces a challenge. The challenge is of negotiating the times we live in to advance our agenda. How do we engage technology, for example, to promote gender equality? How prepared are we to confront the cyber GBV? How can we utilize social media in the struggle? I, for example, recently felt that Uganda also needs a MeToo Moment, where we name and shame the bigwigs perpetrating abuse of the women's rights in office spaces and at homes. ACFODE has empowered many a people in confronting societal ills against women yet a larger struggle still lies ahead. It is here that networking becomes vital in the struggle. ACFODE continues to be open to partnerships with different stakeholders in ensuring a safe and secure environment for all humanity, especially women and girls.

MS. REGINA BAFAKI

Executive Director

ACFODE

ACRONYMS

ACFODE	Action For Development
DV	Domestic Violence
Hon.	Honourable
MP	Member of Parliament
CACs	Community Agents of Change
DVA	Domestic Violence Act (2010)
VAW	Violence Against Women
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
JLOS	The Justice, Law, and Order Sector
CFPU	The Child and Family Protection Unit
CIID	The Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Directorate
DPP	The Directorate of Public Prosecution
EOC	The Equal Opportunities Commission
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
MoETS	Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Sports
DIS	District Inspectors of Schools
UPE	Universal Primary Education
VET	Village Education Teams
VHT	Village Health Teams
MOH	Ministry of Health
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
VSLAs	Village Savings and Loan Associations
CDOs	Community Development Officers
PWDs	Persons With Disabilities
PME	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
ACME	African Centre for Media Excellency
MDAs	Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies

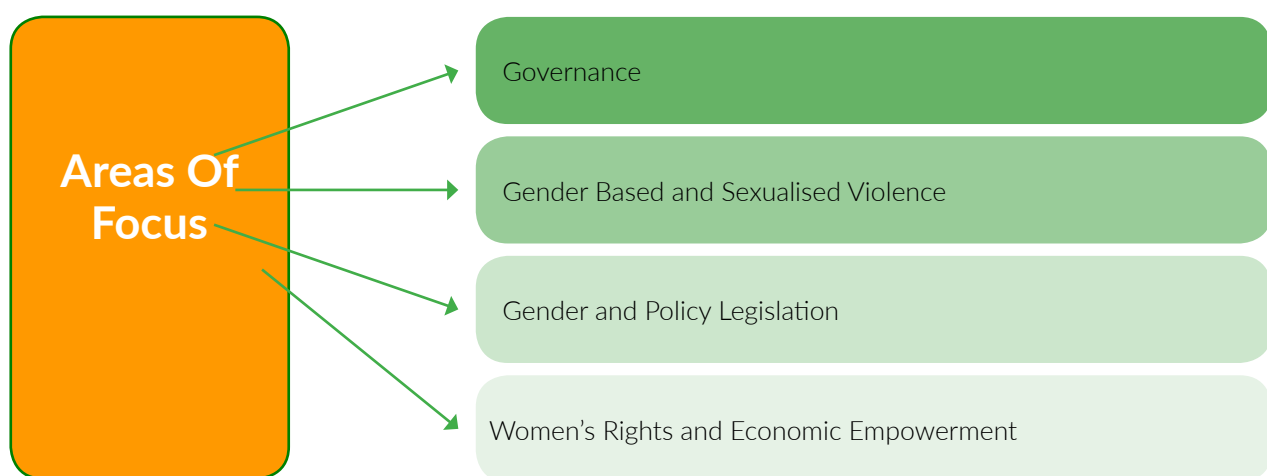
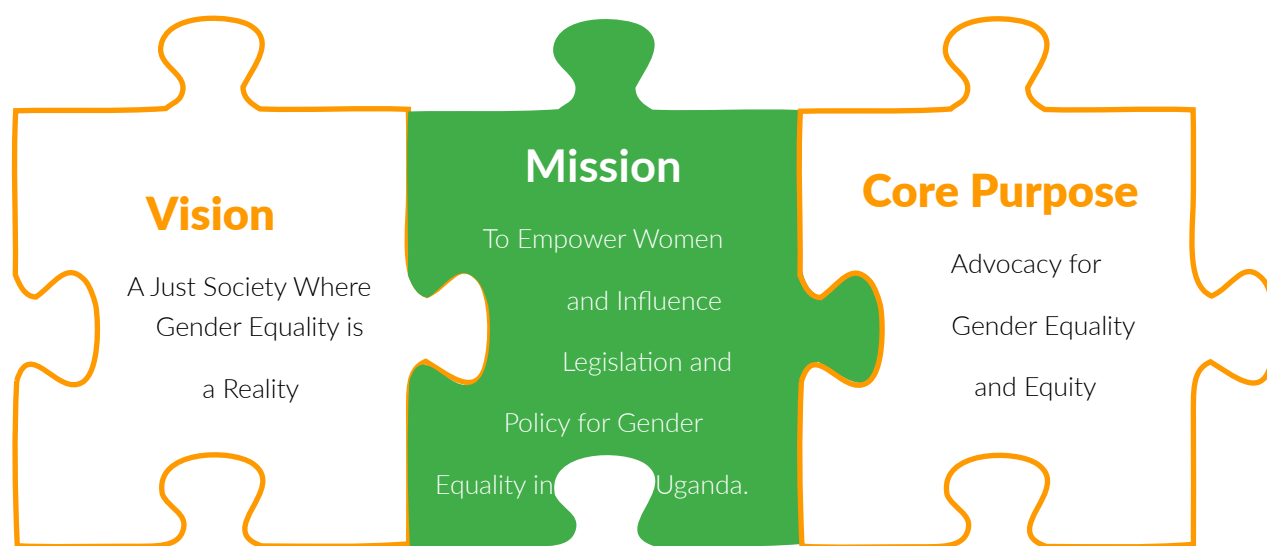
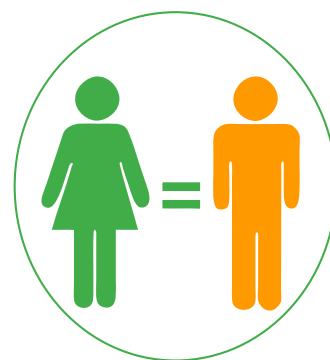
CAOs	Chief Administrative Officers
RDCs	The Resident District Commissioners
MoUs	Memoranda of Understanding
PSWOs	Probation and Social Welfare Officers
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
DCDO	District Community Development Officer

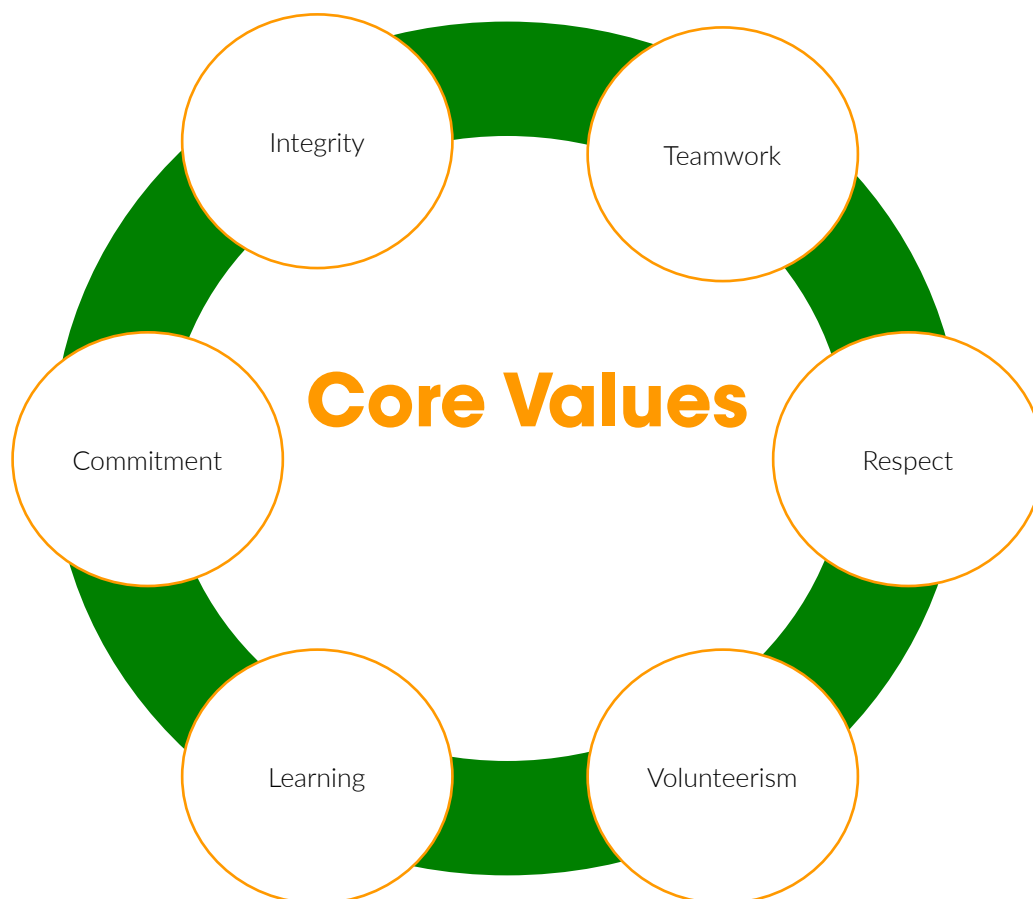
TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON	3
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	5
ACRONYMS.....	7
About Us	10
Vision	10
Mission	10
Core Purpose	10
Areas Of Focus	10
Core Values.....	11
Areas Of Operation	11
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Influencing the Formulation and Review of Policy and Legislation that Effectively Promotes Gender Equality	12
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: Contributing to the Effective Implementation of Gender Responsive Laws and Policies.....	14
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: Contributing to the Reduction of Socio-Cultural Practices that Cause Gender Inequalities	26
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: Enhancing the Capacity of ACFODE for Efficient and Effective Implementation of Its Mandate.....	35
ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT INCOME FOR THE YEAR 2017	52
ACFODE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....	53
ACFODE STAFF AND MANAGEMENT.....	54

About Us

Action for Development (ACFODE) is an indigenous, voluntary, non-governmental women's organization founded on November 19th 1985. Its formulation was sparked off by the United Nations third world conference on women in Nairobi in July 1985. With a few women realizing the need for an organized forum that would provide a platform for effective debate and action on issues related to women's rights, empowerment and gender equality, ACFODE was formed.





Areas Of Operation

ACFODE is a national organization, whose interventions are implemented by the secretariat based at the head offices in Kampala and her members. ACFODE has a number of interventions in different districts of Uganda namely: Amolatar, Apac, Dokolo, Gulu, Kabale, Kaberamaido, Kalangala, Kampala, Kamuli, Kanungu, Katakwi, Kisoro, Kitgum, Lamwo, Lira, Moroto, Omoro, Oyam, Pallisa, Rakai, Rukungiri and Sembabule

ACFODE has field offices in the districts of Kisoro, Oyam, Apac, Dokolo and Amolatar



In 2017, ACFODE's programme implementation was guided by her vision of a just society where gender equality is a reality, her mission to empower women and influence legislation and policy for gender equality in Uganda, and her four organisation strategic objectives stipulated in the 2013 – 2017 strategic plan.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Influencing the Formulation and Review of Policy and Legislation that Effectively Promotes Gender Equality

ACFODE continued to remain a firm and persistent advocate for and practical supporter of gender equality. Thus, to deliver the desired results and improve the lives of women, men, boys and girls, as well as families and communities, ACFODE successfully implemented a number of activities that promoted inclusive development, with a special focus on advocacy for legislation formulation and reform at both local and national levels.

Policy Advocacy

With support from the Diakonia Uganda Country Programme, ACFODE organised national stakeholders' meeting during which the organisation met with representatives from the Ministries of Education and Sports, and Health. Other participants at the meeting included District Health Officers (DHOs), Inspectors of Schools (ISs), District Education Officers (DEOs) and ACFODE community monitors from Oyam and Amolatar districts.

The meeting brought to the attention of the participants the challenges the health and education sectors were having in the aforementioned districts, based on findings from community monitors oriented by ACFODE and active citizens.

In the health sector, both districts faced challenges of understaffing; drug stock-outs; poor functionality of accountability structures; limited capacity of the Health Unit Management Committees (HUMC), especially in their supervisory roles; and inadequate structures.

In the education sector, the two districts presented problems such as understaffing; school dropouts; few female teachers; limited support to the school feeding programme; inadequate school inspection and monitoring; dysfunctional School Management Committees (SMCs); and inadequate staff housing.

We thank ACFODE for the opportunity to network with district officials. I must say the engagement is timely since we are in the budgeting process. Therefore, the decisions agreed upon will be given due consideration while making financial plans for the new year. The participants from the different districts were also able learn from each other. Our request is that such meetings are organized on a regular basis.

**Dr Mukasa,
Commissioner,
Ministry of
Education,
Technology and
Sports**



Key achievements

- During the meeting, officials from the Ministry of Education pledged to increase the vehicle facilitation budget to ease school inspections in the districts. The DEOs of Oyam and Amolatar districts were also tasked to share status reports with the Ministry highlighting gaps in school infrastructure, performance as well as personnel for further action. On the issue of school feeding, the representatives from the Ministry of Education urged DEOs to ensure that all the schools are implementing school feeding guidelines as passed by the Ministry of Education.
- On drug stock-outs and inadequate drug supply, it emerged that district officials had limited working knowledge of the procurement process for drugs and health centre supplies. As a way forward, officials from the Ministry of Health resolved to advocate the facilitation of capacity-building for regional health administrators on the proper procurement of drugs and hospital supplies. ACFODE's role was to follow up the district and ministry officials to ensure that the commitments made are fulfilled.

1 stakeholder meeting organised, **50** policy makers engaged, with women accounting for **52%**

*This is a fruitful engagement with the Ministry of Health representatives. I thank ACFODE for supporting the community structures to monitor service delivery, and sharing the findings for action, as well as an opportunity to liaise with health officials at national level. As Oyam district, we pledge to implement actions aimed at improving service delivery. **Mr Simon Amandi, DHO.***

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:

Contributing to the Effective Implementation of Gender-Responsive Laws and Policies

Gender inequality affects the quality of life for millions of girls and women. Among other things, it encourages income disparities, gender stereotypes, sexism and discrimination in numerous fields such as health, education and politics. It also causes and perpetuates poverty and vulnerability in society as a whole. Furthermore, despite the many tangible benefits that gender inequality gives men by way of opening up access to resources, power, authority and control, the men are in a way imprisoned by the masculinity and are sometimes rendered victims of this inequality.

Hence, because of the number of people affected and the magnitude of the problems associated with gender inequality, ACFODE took action to promote equality of all persons and to address women's rights, by consistently deepening and advocating for the implementation of human rights instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Maputo Protocol) and the Domestic Violence Act (DVA), as a powerful mechanism to motivate and mobilise governments, people and especially women themselves.

This was achieved through capacity-building activities targeted at male and female local government officials, female and male politicians and legislators, civil society actors, and community leaders and members.

Strengthening local capability in promoting sustainable accountability mechanisms and good governance at the grass-roots level

Citizen participation in local governance involves ordinary citizens assessing their own needs and participating in local programme planning and budget monitoring. It is important for improving public resource management and reducing corruption, by making public servants and political leaders accountable to the people.

Hence, in order to contribute to strengthening accountability mechanisms and to improved service delivery in local communities, ACFODE invested in capacity enhancement of key stakeholders at district and community levels for improved service provision, democratic governance and gender equality. Among the activities

implemented were: trainings for community monitors in public expenditure tracking tools, grass-roots civic education sessions and community accountability forums in the 2 districts of Oyam and Amolatar.

Key achievements



- 2 capacity enhancement sessions** were organised during which **120 rights holders** and **civic society actors (62 female and 58 male)** were equipped with knowledge and skills in public expenditure tracking. Key topics discussed included the concept and principles of the public expenditure tracking system (PETS); the local government planning and budgeting process; legal and policy frameworks for PETS; accountability, obligations of rights holders and duty bearers; “Follow Your Money” as a tool for public expenditure tracking; and monitoring service delivery from a gender and equal opportunity perspective.
- After the training, the community monitors and civic society actors were tasked to cascade the learnings from the public expenditure tracking training to the grassroots citizens by organising social accountability forums at the community level. The immediate outcome of these forums has been the creation of platforms for dialogue between rights holders and duty bearers on issues relating to service delivery. Drawing from the complaints about poor accountability, especially in the education and health sectors, the district leadership now displays charts of funds on noticeboards in most schools and health centres in the two districts for the public to view. The leadership also agreed to increase budget allocations for school support and supervisory role in the health and education sectors for financial year (FY) 2018/2019 in both districts.

120 civil society leaders and community monitors trained; **63** civic education sessions conducted; **4030** citizens reached, with women accounting for **65%**

Summary of number of cascades on PETS conducted and total population reached in Amolatar district

Sub county	Number of cascades conducted	Number of men reached	Number of women reached	Number of PWDs reached	Total
Akwon	5	180	220	3	403
Muntu	6	44	86	6	136
Arwotcek	8	120	400	3	520
Agwingiri	5	320	480	2	802
Etam	4	32	100	1	133
Namasale Town Council	6	60	200	3	263
Total	34	756	1,486	18	2,242

Summary of number of cascades on PETS to grass-roots citizens by civil society actors and community monitors in Oyam district

Sub county	Number of cascades conducted	Number of men reached	Number of women reached	Number of PWDs reached	Total
Abok	6	200	266	2	468
Myene	4	34	76	5	115
Otwal	4	25	78	0	103
Aleka	5	303	526	2	831
Aber	5	28	38	0	66
Minakulu	5	56	149	0	205
Total	29	646	1,133	9	1,788



Community monitors from Minakulu sub-county, Oyam district, in a consultation after the sensitisation meeting.



Community monitors from Aber sub-county, Oyam district, in a meeting at Aber Primary School library.



Left to Right: Mr Ebek Jimmy presents the findings on the education monitoring visit on behalf of community monitors at Namasale Primary School; Ms Mary Agweng, a teacher from Agwingiri Sub County, making a contribution during an accountability forum in Amolatar district



Community monitors present their monitoring reports to sub-county stakeholders of Aleka and Otwal sub-counties (Oyam district)



A community monitor checks out a display of funds received at Arwotcek Primary School in Amolatar district

Building the Capacity of Local Leaders for Improved Implementation of Gender-sensitive Legislation

To contribute towards the improvement of women and girls' rights situation in Uganda, ACFODE took the initiative to promote women's rights by consistently advocating for the implementation of human rights instruments such as CEDAW, the DVA 2010, and the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Policy and its Action Plan (2016) in different districts of operation. This was done through capacity-building activities targeted at male and female local government officials, female and male politicians and legislators, women public administrators, civil society actors, and community leaders and members.

During the trainings, the participants were equipped with lobbying and advocacy skills for women's rights promotion and protection, monitoring and reporting incidents of women and girls' rights violations, as well as extensive knowledge of the legal and policy frameworks for the protection of women's rights.



Key achievements

- 🗨️ **15 districts** of Dokolo, Apac, Kotido, Kaabong, Kitgum, Lamwo, Nebbi, Arua, Amolatar, Oyam, Kitgum, Omoro, Kaberamaido and Katakwi targeted.
- 🗨️ **970 duty bears**, community leaders and active citizens trained in effective implementation of gender-sensitive laws, with women accounting for **53%**. They were later commissioned as community agents of change in charge of advocating violence-free homes in their communities.
- 🗨️ **25 women rights organisations** in Kotido, Kaabong, Kitgum, Lamwo, Nebbi and Arua equipped with lobbying and advocacy skills for women's rights promotion and protection, monitoring and reporting incidents of women and girls' rights violations, as well as extensive knowledge of the legal and policy frameworks for women's rights.
- 🗨️ **12 CEDAW committees** formed in Oyam and Amolatar districts, with each committee comprising between **7** and **9** members. They are mandated to popularise CEDAW at all levels; conduct continuous sensitisation of communities to gender-based discrimination in order to strengthen their participation in demanding their rights; and tracking and reporting incidents of discrimination against women and how they are responded to by different community members and duty bearers.
- 🗨️ **5 District Women Networks** formed in Kotido, Kaabong, Kitgum, Lamwo, Nebbi and Arua districts, with the mandate to sensitise communities to women and girls' rights, and relevant legislation that protects and promotes these rights.



A participant during a training on CEDAW in Oyam district



Participants from the Teso region after the training on GBV laws and policies in Uganda



A female police officer contributes to the discussion during one of the training workshops

"After my husband died, my in-laws accused me of poisoning him and threatened to kill me. I reported the case to Akokoro police post, where they were warned. But later, my in-laws ordered me to stop cultivating the land my husband had left behind. I wondered how I was going to feed my 5 children. When I told our Mother's Union chairperson about my situation, she told me about community monitors that were trained by ACFODE to handle domestic violence cases. I approached one of them, who invited me to a meeting with LC I Chairman and they both counselled us before the LC I Court. My in-laws admitted their mistake. There are now no more threats from them since then." **Grace Acen, Akokoro sub-county, Apac district.**



Promoting Women's Political Participation and Leadership

Partly owing to the gender-responsive legislation, there has been increased access by women to leadership positions at both the local and national levels as guided by the affirmative action policy. Statistics indicate that the number of female legislators in Uganda rose from 18% in 1989 to over 30% in 2016.

It has, however, been noted that women leaders, especially those in the local councils, are still unable to effectively articulate the interests of women for various reasons, including limited knowledge of relevant laws and policies, as well as of their roles and responsibilities, lack of essential skills like lobbying, advocacy, communication and resource mobilisation, limited exposure, and the dynamics of multiparty politics, which emphasises supporting party positions regardless of whether or not they promote the interests of the electorate.

Because of such issues, they have not used their numbers to influence resource allocation to critical areas such as maternal health, education and agriculture. Many are also accused of not doing enough and of being part of the establishment that ignores the needs of women, which could in part explain the high attrition rates of women leaders (23% in 2011 and 56% in 2016). Thus, ACFODE organised a number of activities aimed at enhancing women's participation in political leadership and decision-making processes.

Breakthrough Skills Trainings for Women Leaders

*As women councillors, we were guided on how to present issues, and now we are able to talk with confidence whenever we are in council. In the past, we used to be shy and we would not contribute anything during council meetings, we were just spectators. However now we speak boldly about women's issues. In fact, ACFODE's intervention caused a total transformation in the way we conduct ourselves as district women councillors and this is recognised by all the stakeholders. **Hon. Loy Zikampereza, Speaker for Kabale district***

Trainings for women councillors from the 5 districts of Kabale, Pallisa, Apac, Oyam and Amolatar were carried out. Participants were given skills and knowledge about documentation, resource mobilisation, advocacy and influencing council decisions. The mentoring and coaching also reiterated the importance of the Women's Manifesto and the women councillors' pledges to their constituents on the issues of women's health, land and property rights, education, economic empowerment, and participation in politics and decision-making.

212
(153
female,
59 male)
participants
attended the
trainings.

Consequently, the participants' skill set and knowledge base to ably engage in council and influence decision-making processes for gender equality was increased. They were also equipped with the requisite skills, knowledge and expertise in various aspects of good governance, gender accountability and their ability to lobby for women's rights and the overall network of politically active women was strengthened. **212 (153 female and 59 male)** participants attended the trainings.



A participant giving a contribution during a National Dialogue for Women in Leadership

Reflection and Mentoring Meetings for Women Caucuses

ACFODE organised reflection sessions for district women councillors from Lira, Oyam, Dokolo, Amolatar, Kalangala, Rakai, Sembabule, Rukungiri, Kisoro and Kanungu districts. The meetings provided a platform for women caucuses to discuss, reflect and agree on significant and pertinent advocacy initiatives to undertake and strategise for the implementation of their action plans. A total of **40** women representatives benefited from the meetings.



Representatives of women caucuses in a group photo with the Executive Director of ACFODE, Ms Regina Bafaki (far right), at the ACFODE offices in Bukoto



Key achievements

- Among the key successes registered by the caucuses after the mentorship were enhanced ability to sensitise and generate support for women's rights from leaders at district, sub-county and parish levels, and from community members; along with negotiating for the passing of gender-responsive programmes in the district budgets, such as those that support girl-child education, and promote women's sexual and reproductive health and economic empowerment.
- For instance, the women's caucus from Oyam district met with key district leaders, including the Speaker, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and the District Chairperson to discuss the effective utilisation of the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP). As a result, **49** women groups were approved to benefit from the programme. In addition, the caucus conducted home visits to **55** households with high incidents of domestic violence to provide psycho-social support/counselling and any other additional assistance within their means. They also managed to lobby for airtime on a local FM station that airs from Monday to Thursday. Entitled "Women's Voice", the show is utilised to talk about issues

concerning women and girls such as maternal health, girl-child education and violence against women (VAW).

- 🗨 On the other hand, the district women caucus of Dokolo managed to link **240** women groups to the Uganda Women's Entrepreneurship Fund (UWEF), in addition to carrying out monitoring visits to selected schools and health centres to ascertain the level of service delivery.
- 🗨 **342** (**216** female, **86** male) technical and political leaders at district and sub county level benefited from these interventions.

Knowledge Transfer and Experience Sharing

"This exchange visit was a learning experience. Listening to how organised and hardworking the team from Kabarole is, and how they ensure accountability is followed up to even the lowest levels was an eye-opener. We as councillors of Amolatar have been challenged to borrow a leaf to improve the way we do things in the district." **Hon. Jolly Joe Opio, District Speaker, Amolatar**

In her continued crusade to strengthen networking and knowledge sharing among the councillors from the different districts, ACFODE organised exchange visits for women councillors and other district leaders from Apac and Pallisa to Gulu and Mbale respectively. The purpose of the exchange visits was to offer the participants the opportunity to learn how successful caucuses and councils work, especially with regard to influencing decisions in council as well as planning, budgeting and monitoring service delivery.

The experience improved the quality and effectiveness of the participants through open exchange of ideas, knowledge and practices. **90** district councillors benefited from the exchange visits.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:

Contributing to the Reduction of Socio-Cultural Practices that Cause Gender Inequalities

One other major focus for ACFODE during 2017 was implementing interventions that challenge cultural and social norms and perpetuate sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). These included:

Engendering Youth for Gender Equality in Uganda

Cognisant of the fact that Ugandan youth are one of the biggest demographics, grossing over 70% of the entire population of the country, and with significant implications for the economy, politics, peace, social and cultural life, ACFODE continued to build their capacities to understand and appreciate gender equality, good governance and democracy through different interventions, including inter-generational dialogues and debates. Highlighting the progress made, the dialogues addressed critical areas of concern in the women's movement, notably leadership and good governance, sexual and domestic violence, entrepreneurship, youth exclusion and the media through panel discussions, conversation circles, and storytelling. The dialogues also provided a platform for senior feminists to interact with and mentor the youthful participants on taking on more active roles in governance processes, carving out spaces where their demands and concerns can be heard and addressed, as well as making informed decisions on matters that affect their lives.

Relatedly, ACFODE partnered with the organisers of the African Debate Championships that brought together students from Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe to share knowledge, interact and debate in an enriching educational experience on issues of governance, gender and youth participation.



Ms Regina Bafaki, the ACFODE Executive Director (left), posing for a photo with some of the tournament organisers at Gayaza High School

With the objective of inculcating values of fair treatment in young boys and girls, and in view of the dangers of violence against girls in schools and communities, ACFODE organised essay writing competitions in 12 primary schools in Oyam and Amolatar districts. The theme was **“From Peace in the Nation to Peace in Schools; Boys’ Contribution towards Ending Violence in Schools”**. The immediate outcome of this action was that young boys took up initiatives geared towards responsiveness to fair treatment of girls, expounded their appreciation of girls’ rights, and understood gender roles and responsibilities of boys in school as well as the dangers of violence against girls.

“Essay competitions are a very good practise that should be emulated by all schools because they improve pupils’ understanding and appreciation of contemporary issues such as human rights, and also enhance their writing and communications skills. Moving forward, I will ensure that my pupils participate in them on a regular basis so that they boost their self-confidence and grow to appreciate one another regardless of their gender.” **Mr Long Jasper Sure, head teacher, Amwa Demonstration Primary School, Oyam district.**

Equally important were the Decide NOW! youth mentoring sessions held at ACFODE House in Bukoto on a monthly basis. Youth in and out of university and young professionals between the ages of 19-30 were empowered with personal development and employability skills, such as public speaking, goal setting, business and financial literacy skills, emotional intelligence, personal branding and presentation skills, leadership, and teamwork. ACFODE members and other resource persons with the relevant skills and expertise facilitated the sessions.

One of the key emerging issues was the recurrent need for specialised trainings in business, saving and investment. As a result, many of the mentees under the programme have gone ahead to start business enterprises.



Key achievements

- 🗨️ **12** Decide NOW! mentoring sessions held, targeting **153** mentees (99 females and 54 males)
- 🗨️ **1** Africa Debate Championship, targeting over **500** students, **90** debating teams and **90** adjudicators from Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe supported.
- 🗨️ **12** primary schools, **96** pupils (**49** girls and **47** boys) from Apac and Dokolo facilitated to participate in the essay competitions on ending violence against girls in schools.
- 🗨️ **1** intergenerational dialogue, **5** conversation circles targeting over 100 youth organised.

"As a result of participating in ACFODE's Decide NOW! mentoring programme, I was inspired to form an investment club with some of my friends. After a few months of saving, we invested in the transport industry through acquisition of boda bodas and hope to grow by leaps and bounds." **Ephraim Kisangala**

Women's Economic Empowerment

In her continued crusade to build the skills and knowledge of women in identifying social problems and starting up successful businesses so as to become financially independent and economically empowered, ACFODE organised a series of activities aimed at addressing the constraints on women's economic empowerment. The activities, which included training workshops on social enterprise and vocational skills for ACFODE model couples, women group leaders and child mothers, and capacity enhancement sessions for Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)

on financial management from a gender perspective, took place in the 5 districts of Amolatar, Oyam, Kisoro, Apac and Dokolo. Some of the key topics covered during the trainings included: income and expenditure; saving methods; record keeping and management; budgeting; goal setting; enterprise selection and development; risk management; and borrowing and saving. Accordingly, participants were able to identify a) problems and challenges in their communities, alongside coming up with practical business solutions; and b) individual skills and talents that can be maximised to attain financial independence. Additionally, they attained practical skills in bakery, handicraft, liquid soap and making reusable sanitary pads.



Key achievements

- With the support of the leaders for the women groups, **15** groups of child mothers have registered formally with the CDOs at sub-county level in Oyam and Amolatar, hence making it easy for them to access and/or be linked to opportunities for economic growth, such as the Youth Livelihood Fund (YLF) and Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP).
- In turn, the women group leaders and child mothers who benefited from these interventions have organised similar trainings in their groups and communities to empower their peers, resulting in the transfer of knowledge and skills. A case in point is Anyol Brenda from Agwingiri Girls Senior School. She organised a capacity enhancement training in her school during which she empowered female pupils with skills in making reusable sanitary pads. ***"I am very happy that I attended the training. At school, many girls struggle during their monthly periods because of lack of sanitary towels. The training I organised, however, was able to help them acquire skills in making them using easily accessible and affordable materials."***
- Through a series of awareness-raising and discussion sessions on gender, including topics such as masculinity, sexuality and VAW, ACFODE has been able to collect evidence of how VSLAs with a gender transformative approach can help to change inequitable power relations within the household. This led to tangible results, including better distribution of the workload between men and women within the household, a fairer shift in how decisions are taken over household expenditure, and a noticeable reduction in levels of domestic violence. Women's ability to fully participate in and benefit from the VSLAs has also been enhanced.

201

women, **60**
child mothers,

and **56** men
benefited from
this intervention



From left to right: Participants during a bakery class in Oyam district; participants during a pad-making session in Amolatar district



Child mothers during a bead-making session in Oyam district



The Manager of Centenary Bank, Apac, facilitating one of the sessions on financial literacy

"My name is Habumuremyi Benard and I come from Gasaro village, Rwigwe parish, Nyakabande sub-county, in Kisoro district. The ACFODE training in financial management helped my wife and I to realise that our compound was underutilized. Hence, we made proper use of it by setting up piggery, poultry and goat rearing projects under one shelter. These projects have helped us improve our livelihood and nutrition because we use the manure we get from the farm to grow vegetables and tomatoes. And once the pigs have produced, we sell off the piglets to supplement our other sources of income. This has enabled us to take good care of our family."

Individual level Weekly Saving Level (minimum and maximum, before and after ACFODE's engagement)

Groups	Location	Before ACFODE's engagement		After ACFODE's engagement	
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Atyeillero women's group	Apac sub-county – Apac district	1000	5000	2000	10,000
Adyeri women's group	Apac sub-county – Apac district	1000	5000	2000	10,000
Bed Iworo women's group	Chegere sub-county – Apac district	1000	5000	2000	10,000
Kec Onekowa women's group	Chegere sub-county – Apac district	1000	5000	2000	10,000
Obanga Okura child mothers' group	Akokoro sub-county – Apac district	500	2500	2000	10,000
Abaloberi women's group	Akokoro sub-county – Apac district	1000	5000	2000	10,000
Te okutu women's group	Ibuje sub-county – Apac district	1000	5000	2000	10,000
Can Opwonya	Ibuje sub-county – Apac district	1000	5000	2000	10,000
Awong United women's group	Bata sub-county – Dokolo district	500	2500	1000	5000
Can Okanyo women's group	Kangai sub-county – Dokolo district	1000	5000	2000	10,000
Barlela women's group	Bata sub-county – Dokolo district	500	2500	1000	5000
Bedi gen women's group	Kangai sub-county – Dokolo district	1000	5000	2000	5000

Tackling Negative Cultural Practices that Translate into Violence against Women and Girls (VAW/G)

As part of her efforts to eliminate negative cultural practices that translate into VAW/G, ACFODE facilitated community trainings in VAW/G prevention and response that specifically targeted men, model couples and district GBV advocacy groups in Kisoro, Apac, Dokolo, Amolatar, Oyam, Omoro, Kitgum, Lamwo, Kaberamaido and Katakwi districts.

By virtue of their positions, the participants used the acquired knowledge to a) initiate and/or organise discussions targeting their peers during which they would advocate and promote violence-free families and communities by utilising existing platforms such as boda boda associations, malwa drinking groups, religious and cultural assemblies, and women, youth and farmers' groups among others; and b) organise community dialogues and participate in other public gatherings, such as LC village meetings to champion fair treatment of women and denounce negative cultural practices that inhibit women's fair treatment and gender equality.

Through such platforms, community members were sensitised to the effects of practices such as wife beating and swapping, widow inheritance, property grabbing, denial of the girl child the right to education, and early/forced marriages. Consequently, an empowered citizenry that is aware of their rights and responsibilities and also tactical about women and girls' rights has been created.



Community activists from Ibuje and Akokoro sub-counties in Apac district during role play on the circle of influence



Key achievements

- 🗨️ **460 community** activists and **model couple representatives** (**192** female and **268** male) in Kisoro, Apac, Omoro, Kitgum, Lamwo, Kaberamaido, Katakwi and Dokolo districts were trained in Start Awareness Support Action (SASA!), an evidence-based training methodology that tackles VAW by inspiring and enabling communities to re-think and re-shape social norms, shifting focus away from exclusively “gender” towards the root cause of VAW, which is “power imbalance”.
- 🗨️ A critical mass of **60 male role models** actively advocating gender-responsive cultural practices was mobilised and oriented in Amolatar and Oyam districts. They were comprised of leaders in positions of formal authority such as teachers, law enforcers and government officials; and opinion leaders such as clan leaders and religious leaders. They were capacitated as effective agents of change in the promotion of positive socio-cultural practices within their communities.
- 🗨️ **24 schools** in Amolatar and Oyam districts (**12** primary schools and **12** secondary schools) were sensitised to women and girls’ rights. As a result of these interventions, GBV school clubs that spearheaded the “End Sexual Violence” campaign in these schools have been established. These exerted influence on their communities in several ways, including the introduction of intra-school debates with emphasis on GBV-related motions; embedding GBV messages in school activities such as thematic music, dance and drama competitions; establishment of “talking compounds”; learning corners; and pioneering of gender awareness dialogues between parents and students.
- 🗨️ **10 district GBV advocacy groups** formed in Omoro, Kitgum, Lamwo, Kaberamaido and Katakwi districts with the responsibility of strengthening community-led advocacy initiatives/actions on GBV response and prevention.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4:

Enhancing the Capacity of ACFODE for Efficient and Effective Implementation of Its Mandate

ACFODE undertook deliberate efforts to increase its effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its mandate of advocating gender equality. These included:

Skills Building for the ACFODE Team

ACFODE organised a number of training programmes for its staff and members aimed at improving organisational resource planning and management, as well as programme implementation. These covered a wide range of topics, such as participatory monitoring and evaluation as an advocacy model, and SASA! as a methodology for preventing VAW/G. Other staff participated in a Leadership for Change course, a visionary leadership and strategic planning training at the Uganda Cooperative College, Kigumba for most of the year.

As a result of these trainings, the adherence of ACFODE staff and members to generally acceptable ethical standards and operational norms by CSOs in Uganda was strengthened. Their activism skills were also enhanced through these capacity-building sessions.

Besides the training, ACFODE staff and members participated in other team-building activities, such as staff/project team meetings, general meetings and retreats. This fostered better and open communication, employee motivation and trust between staff, management, the board and the membership. This also went a long way in improving professional relations, understanding and cooperation, which was very much reflected in the quality of work that was undertaken during 2017.

Internship and Volunteer Programme

In partnership with institutions of higher learning, ACFODE, through its Internship and Volunteer programme provided work experience opportunities to university students, fresh graduates and youth considering career advancement. This prepared beneficiaries to enter the 21st Century workforce as they were empowered with different skills, ranging from communication and writing, to public speaking, project

8 - the number of interns and volunteers that were mentored, with females accounting for

89%.

planning and management, facilitation, research, advocacy, as well as commitment to excellence. In addition, their potential to advocate for gender equality and to monitor progress towards gender justice within their communities was strengthened.

On 5 June, I arrived at ACFODE House in Bukoto. I had found placement in this indigenous voluntary women's NGO – something I had been praying for a while. On reaching ACFODE, the sincere reception given to my two colleagues and signalled what our experience would be.

During internship, one is bound to experience some highs and lows. However, interning with a team like ACFODE makes it a worthwhile venture.

ACFODE has a diligent staff comprising women and men who work zealously and civilly. Most admirably, they share their knowledge and skills with young people who frequent the headquarters for volunteer and internship work.

I had a chance to review a statistical report on the different forms of gender inequality and violence against women in Uganda. I got acquainted with the formal statistics of adolescents aged 15 -19 years in Uganda who began child bearing at a tender age, and was shocked to discover that 21.9% of women in Uganda have experienced sexual violence. These findings compelled me to read more widely about gender and its related issues.

I also learnt a lot from the ACFODE mural on gender and various power relations like male dominance, domestic violence, polygamy, a woman's daily workload, how men and women are locked up in the gender roles and patriarchy, among others. I also discovered a different kind of life: women had begun participating in politics; men were taking part in nurturing children; and there was equal income and education between men and women. What was depicted was the evolution of gender and gender roles. The need for a bigger and bolder step to embrace a learning and flexible attitude towards gender roles and placement of women and men in our communities was also reaffirmed.

My internship with ACFODE saved me from ignorance. I discovered much more than I expected. I realised that I too possessed some leadership skills that I could use to influence opinion and impact on my society.

Bridget Claara Aguti, Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)

Membership Engagement

ACFODE is a membership organisation, with the general membership being the highest decision-making organ of the organisation. Thus, in order to ensure efficient and effective implementation of ACFODE's mandate, members were regularly updated and engaged in organisational work all year round through different forums, such as general meetings and retreats.

In 2017, a new Board of Directors (BoD), which is responsible for organisational policy formulation and implementation and ensuring accountability to the general membership, was also elected, with Dr Euzobia Mbaine Mugisha as the new Chairperson, Jean Kemitare as the Vice Chairperson and Gladys Nairuba as the Treasurer.

Other members include: Ms Matilda Mataka, Mr Richard Makumbi, Ms Stedia Asiimwe, Ms Susan Bakesha, Ms Florence T Muhwezi (ex officio), Ms Sandra Nassali (staff representative) and Ms Regina Bafaki as the Board Secretary.

The new board is expected to serve a three-year term (2017-2020). It brings very valuable skills and a wide range of experience that will benefit ACFODE over the coming years in establishing its strategic niche of advocating for gender equality.

Networking for Greater Impact

ACFODE participated in events that brought together like-minded individuals, NGOs, and key line government ministries to create, discuss and network for the promotion of women's rights.

In view of that, the organisation established new strategic relationships and partnerships, which it used as invaluable sources of information and support in its interventions.

23 new
members (**9**
male and **14**
female) joined
the organisation.

ACFODE Day of Mourning

To stand in solidarity with the families of the women and girls that had been brutally murdered around Entebbe and Nansana in Wakiso district, ACFODE organised a Day of Mourning to decry the poor government responsiveness to violence against women's concerns.

The event, which took place on 27 September 2017 at ACFODE House, was attended by over 100 participants that included legislators, policy makers, government representatives, women rights activists, development partners, representatives from the families affected by the gruesome murders, community/local leaders, the media as well as religious and cultural leaders.

Alongside the keynote addresses, presentations and conversation circles, many other impactful activities took place during the event. These included: a VAW/G photo shoot; a vox pop production; and fusion rap and poetry in the form of edutainment that was used to throw more light on VAW and their right to security and protection.

These media productions were particularly successful in bringing to light the stories and realities of VAW/G, ranging from rape, defilement and wife beating, to the gruesome murders that were taking place in the country at the time. This was because the public was brought into direct contact with VAW/G and asked to join the global conversation to effect change under the hashtags #NotAnotherWoman, #EndVAW and #EndtheMurders on social media.

The social media campaign also inspired many SGBV victims to turn to ACFODE for help, and survivors to share their testimonies to inspire action and create hope among other women and girls going through similar situations.

The ACFODE Day of Mourning in Pictures



#StopVAW



#NotAnotherWoman



Ms Regina Bafaki, the Executive Director of ACFODE, making welcome remarks at the event



The 2nd Deputy Mufti, His Eminence Mufti Sheikh Muhammad Ali Waiswa, Kibuli Mosque, giving the keynote address



Nakisanze Segawa, a renowned Luganda poetry performer and journalist contributing to the Global Press Journal, was the vigil's curtain raiser. Her poem entitled "Essungu ly'ekiro" ("The Anger/Annoyance of the Night"), described in bustles and qualms, the pains of the victims before they met their gruesome deaths, the heaviness of heart left within their families and how much more related suffering the rest of the women in Uganda endure as a result of acts of violence committed against them.



One of the participants sharing her views during the conversation circle on women's right to safety and security

Commemoration of 16 Days of Activism

In commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism, ACFODE convened a Regional Convention on Violence against Women and Girls. The event, which took place on 4 December 2017 at Akii-Bua Stadium in Lira, Lango sub-region was celebrated under the theme **“From Peace in the Home to Peace in the Nation: Male Engagement For the Safety Of Women and Girls.”**

It attracted 354 participants (204 women and 150 men) from Lira and other districts notably Apac, Dokolo, Oyam, Amolatar, Kole, Kisoro and Kampala. Participants included rural women, CSO representatives, religious leaders, cultural leaders, private sector representatives, government representatives, the media and representatives from academia, as well as local council leaders from the Lango sub-region.

The convention featured a street march that was flagged off by Bishop Giuseppe Franzelli of Lira Diocese, and launching of the Ordinance on Gender-Based Violence by Lira District Local Council. The ordinance was made under sections 38 and 40 of the Local Governments Act (Cap. 243). The purpose of the ordinance is to provide for the prevention of and response to GBV and other related matters in Lira district.

Other activities included a health camp which offered services like cervical cancer screening, free HIV testing and counselling, blood donation, SGBV legal aid and conversation circles convened on five selected priority thematic areas, namely: women’s security and safety; gender and culture; women and leadership; violence against the girl child; and women, land and property rights. There was also a public exhibition that attartaced over 20 exhibitors (CSOs and rural women), who showcased and sold/created awareness about their products and services.



Key achievements

- 🗨 There were over 354 participants from 3 regions of Uganda at the convention.
- 🗨 5 special thematic conversation circles were organised during the convention where participants discussed contentious issues affecting Ugandan women and girls, and charted a way forward
- 🗨 An ordinance aimed at combating GBV within and outside Lira district was launched.
- 🗨 All the district officials, politicians and technocrats present signed commitment forms pledging to implement the different clauses of the ordinance in collaboration with other

stakeholders.

- 103 rights holders (especially youth between the ages of 19 and 34) benefited from services offered at the legal aid and health clinics, including cervical cancer screening and free HIV testing and counselling.



Women from Apac and Dokolo during the march in Lira



Bishop Franzelli of Lira Diocese (centre) and ACFODE's Executive Director, Ms Regina Bafaki, during the street march



From left to right: ACFODE Board member, Ms Gladys Nairuba, giving remarks during the convention and a participant reacting during the discussion in one of the conversation circles.





The chief guest, Rosemary Balele, with the ACFODE Executive Director, Ms Regina Bafaki, unveiling the GBV Ordinance

Additionally, in tribute to the 16 Days of Activism, ACFODE organised a live televised debate locally known as People's Parliament on the state of VAW and the implementation of GBV laws and policies in Uganda. In attendance were ACFODE regional partners (from the Acholi and Teso sub-regions), namely Gulu Diocese, the Born Again Faith Federation (BAFFE), the Inter-Religious Council Uganda (IRCU), Soroti Catholic Women Development Alliance (SOCADIWADA) – Katakwi, the Muslim Centre for Justice and Law (MCJL) as well as Church of Uganda–Teso Diocese Planning and Development Office (COU-TEDDO). Other participants included like-minded CSOs, representatives from the media, academia, the private sector, key line government ministries and agencies, as well as the general public.

Discussions during the debate underscored the fact that GBV erodes the dignity of the women and requires urgent redress. Participants cited the need for men action groups in the fight, the need to recognise the importance of responsible parenting, parents and teachers' sessions that do not the importance of research in interpreting the scope and manifestation of GBV, as well as the need to come up with and implement education sector policies that emphasise and/or promote gender equality.

Furthermore, **ACFODE utilised social and mainstream media platforms** such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and WhatsApp groups to raise awareness about GBV prevention and response during the 16 Days of Activism. Approximately, the social media campaign reached/engaged with 50,000 people.

Africa Debate Championships

ACFODE, through its partnership with KAS, sponsored the first ever African Debate Championships, a continental high school debate tournament that brought together 90 adjudicators, 90 debate teams and 500 observers/students from Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe to: develop implementable solutions to challenges of Africa through debate and mentorship; strengthen and enhance youths' skills in research, argumentation, analytical thinking, encouraging youth to take up positions of influence and decision-making both in and out of their institutions for pragmatic and effective leadership; and instil commitment and passion for the African continent through building responsible networks that can transform challenges into opportunities.

The debate was further used as a platform to build the capacity of young men and women to understand and appreciate the concepts of gender equality and functional democracy.



A cross section of some of the participants at the ADC 2017 Championship

Gender Training by the National Association of Professional Environmentalists

ACFODE participated in a gender training organised by the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE), the African Institute of Energy Governance (AFIEGO), the Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST) and IUCN – Uganda Office.

The training aimed to build the capacity of the Shared Resources Joint Solutions (SRJS) programme partners (AFIEGO, NAPE, ECOTRUST and IUCN – Uganda Office) for gender mainstreaming into the SRJS programme, especially in regards to the specific goals of the SRJS programme of policy review and private sector and CSO engagement towards gender equality and inclusiveness. ACFODE's role in the training was to share her expertise in gender mainstreaming in programme work.

Project Inception Meetings

ACFODE launched 2 projects, namely: **Enhancing Public Support for Women's Political Participation, Leadership and Gender Equality in Kampala, Kamuli, Pallisa, Moroto and Gulu; and Advocacy for Effective Implementation of GBV Laws in Kitgum, Omoro, Lamwo, Kaberamaido and Katakwi Districts (Acholi and Teso Sub-Regions).**

The meetings created awareness about the aims of the two projects among the key stakeholders and target groups, which enabled them to come to a common understanding about the project implementation strategies, and how the objectives/ outcomes would be attained and sustained even after the projects were phased out. The launches were attended by the Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs), Local Council (LC) representatives, District Community Development Officers (DCDOs), Community Development Officers (CDOs), District Speakers, sub-county chiefs, religious and cultural leaders, selected citizens, and representatives from the police, the media, the private sector and like-minded CSOs.



Inception meeting for the ACFODE UN Women funded project in Gulu district. The main objective of the project is to enhance communities' understanding of and support for women's rights and political participation.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation was an essential part of ACFODE's interventions in 2017 and was achieved through partner and project review meetings and follow-up visits, among others. This helped to maintain and/or improve the quality of the organisation's work and to determine whether the interventions were achieving the intended goals and objectives.

Knowledge management and information sharing

Information and knowledge sharing were key areas of work for ACFODE. As one of the leading national womens' organisations in Uganda, ACFODE accumulated a significant knowledge capital based on its interventions. This knowledge was considered as a public good, which a wide spectrum of audiences, including development practitioners from around the globe, had access to, used and debated about.

68

monitoring visits, including partner and project review meetings, as well as follow-up visits were conducted in the year 2017.

Hence, ACFODE invested considerable resources in codifying and sharing, both internally and externally, the knowledge that was generated from its programmes and projects. A rigorous process was applied, that allowed high-quality materials and knowledge to emerge and be published.

A research study on the implementation of the GBV laws and policies in the Lango and Teso sub-regions – ACFODE conducted a study to establish the level of implementation of the relevant laws and policies (the Domestic Violence Act 2010, the National Policy on the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence in Uganda 2016 and its Action Plan) in the districts of Lamwo, Omoro, Kitgum, Kaberamaido and Katakwi. The following were some of the key findings of the study:

- The enactment and implementation of the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) 2010 brought about a number of achievements, such as the criminalisation of domestic violence.
- There is limited awareness and knowledge of the DVA 2010 and the National Policy on the Elimination of GBV 2016 and its Action Plan.
- There is non-existence of the first referral structure, i.e. the LC courts yet they are considered as the first avenue of redress for domestic violence cases that are of a civil nature, including simple assault, battery and damage of property.
- There is limited reporting of GBV cases. Most of the cases of GBV are not reported to the responsible authorities for fear of reprisal from the offender, his/her family and the community.
- There is limited capacity among the victims/survivors and the police to enforce the law.
- There is inadequate remedial action. The study established that the DVA does not provide sufficient penalty for perpetrators of domestic violence acts that are of a criminal nature. This renders the act 'idle' and irrelevant and hence not serving the purpose for which it was formulated.

A policy brief on the effective implementation of GBV laws in the Lango and Teso sub-regions – The policy brief was derived from the above research and spelt out the following recommendations:

- Translation of these laws by the Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC) and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) in order to ease its application by the lower courts, such as the LC courts, in the execution of their duties.

- The government should expedite the process of organising and conducting the LC elections, and through the MGLSD, develop guidelines and train the LC court executives in how to operationalise the DVA.
- The government, through the MGLSD, should establish shelters where the victims and survivors can find support (accommodation and psycho-social support) in the process of seeking redress.
- The MGLSD and other key line ministries should engage the traditional and cultural leaders to conduct a countrywide awareness campaign that promotes positive cultural practices that promote women's rights and empowerment.
- Line ministries, such as the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the MGLSD, should improve the capacity of the police and judicial officers to manage domestic violence cases using the Act, increase the budget for the investigation of domestic violence cases, and increase the number of women in the justice system with particular emphasis on departments that handle GBV cases.
- The Ministry of Local Government should incorporate GBV prevention and response as a performance measure in the assessment of local governments.
- The ULRC should be engaged to advocate a reform of the DVA to provide for appropriate sentence for domestic violence actions that cause grievous bodily harm to the victim/survivor.
- The Uganda Bureau of Standards (UBOS), in collaboration with the MGLSD, should regularly collect and analyse data on DV cases that have been handled using the Act.

Arise Magazine – ISSUE 63 on **Religion, Gender and Women's Rights**, that examined the role of women within particular religious faiths, and religious doctrines relating to gender, gender roles and particular women in religious history; and ISSUE 64, themed **Inclusion and Exclusion: Women's Movement Building**, which amplified ways through which the women's movement across generations and regions in Uganda can be strengthened and intensified.

A Tracer Study, which presented stories of transformed lives and communities by the ACFODE–Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)'s 28-year partnership.

ACFODE **simplified, developed and translated the Domestic Violence Act 2010** into English and 3 different languages, i.e. Kumas, Acholi and Ateso. Simplified copies have been disseminated both at national and local levels.

ACFODE produced summarised copies of the **Legal Framework on Gender-Based Violence in Uganda**, **infographics/fact sheets on VAW/G** and **information charts of the formal and informal referral pathway in English and Lango**.

ACFODE produced **badges, t-shirts, arm bands, PVC and roll-up banners, customised notebooks, stickers and posters** containing simplified messages about women and girls' rights, democracy and good governance.

ACFODE published **project newsletters** that documented stories of change resulting from her programme interventions. These covered a wide range of topics, including culture, religion, democracy, good governance and their relationship with women and girls' rights, VAW and GBV, among others.

Media and Online Advocacy

In 2017, ACFODE took advantage of the power of the mass media to create awareness and influence decisions about pertinent women and girls' rights issues and concerns.

This was achieved through facilitating and engaging with media outlets on radio, television and in newspapers through organising and participating in talk show programmes, convening press conferences and releasing press statements in her districts of operation.

In addition, our virtual spaces, i.e. the website, electronic newsletter, as well as Facebook and Twitter pages were used to continually inform, engage and connect with audiences online.

Our website registered traffic of 63,438 visitors, while Facebook's and Twitter's fan base grew to a following of 7,031 and 4,849 respectively.



11,800



63,438

Emerging issues and key learnings: opportunities for future advocacy efforts

VAW/G on the rise in Uganda – There was escalation of violence against women and girls in the year 2017. This was evident through the rampant gruesome murders of Ugandan women, mainly in the Nansana and Entebbe areas in Wakiso district, that left more than 28 women and girls aged between 20 and 35 years killed under horrific circumstances, such as strangulation and rape. Also, there was an increase in reported cases of sexual harassment in institutions of learning, as well as in domestic violence cases and acid attacks targeted at women.

Intensified human and women's rights education – In light of the increased cases of VAW/G in the country, there is need for the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development the ULRC and other stakeholders to continually and penetratingly sensitise the Ugandan citizenry regarding the knowledge, skills and attitudes consistent with nationally and internationally recognised human rights principles. This can be achieved through organising community meetings (e.g. barazas, dialogues and LC meetings), radio and television programmes as well as capacity-enhancement sessions for government and non-government actors, with particular emphasis on women and children's rights.

Local Council (LC) elections – Since the DVA 2010 considers Local Council courts as the first avenues of redress for domestic violence cases that are of a civil nature, including simple assault, battery and damage to property, there is need for the government to expedite the process of organising and conducting the LC elections, as they last took place 17 years ago.

Improving Uganda Police Force (UPF) capacity and visibility – The UPF should scale up its capacity in terms of both numbers and professionalism to be able to detect and prevent SGBV crime, in addition to increasing its presence (visible police patrol) around the country, especially in crime hotspots. It should also plan and budget for adequate resources to conduct specialised training for investigators into the VAW/G cases and facilitate them to conduct detailed investigations to inform the court process.

Strengthening the Ministry of Gender – The Government of Uganda should strengthen the MGLSD through resource allocation for the implementation of gender-sensitive laws, human resource development (the police, probation and welfare officers, prosecutors and judicial officers etc.), appropriate handling of VAW/G, and public awareness of women and girls' rights.

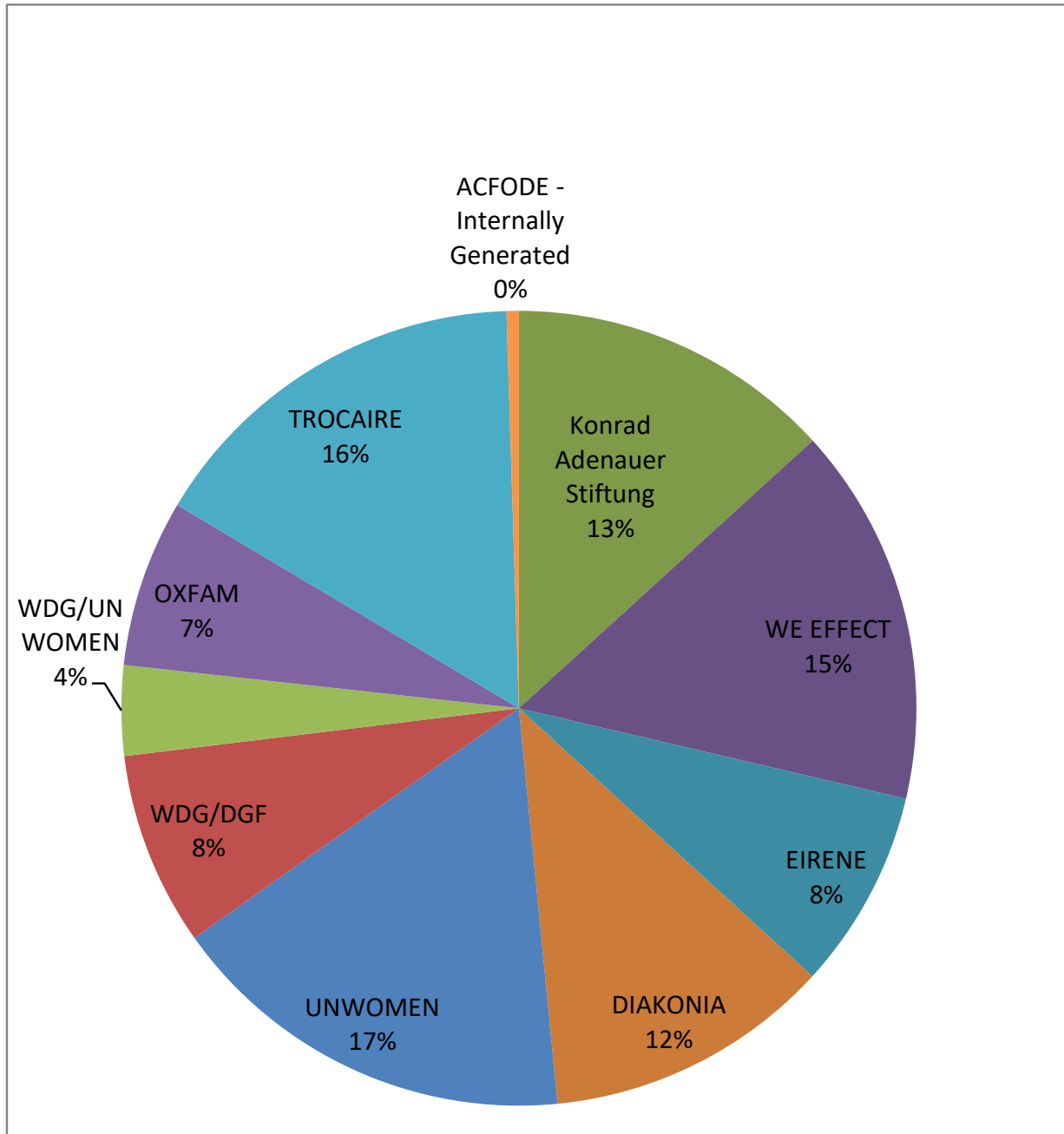
Self-defence skills training for women and girls – The MGLSD, the UPF and other actors that engage with the community should design and implement interventions that empower the women and girls with knowledge and skills to protect their rights

and demand justice when violated.

Establishment of GBV shelters – Government agencies such as the MGLSD and other stakeholders should establish shelters where the victims and survivors can find support (accommodation and psycho-social support) in the process of seeking redress.

Condemnation of negative cultural practices – There is need for the government, through the MGLSD and other stakeholders, to engage the traditional and cultural leaders to conduct a countrywide awareness campaign that promotes positive cultural practices, and women's rights and empowerment, and discourages attitudes and behaviour that condone SGBV and other forms of VAW/G such as rape, defilement and acid attacks. This calls for a) the amplification and increase in visibility of the core issues that Ugandan women and girls grapple with amongst key stakeholders in the women's movement; b) influencing access to justice by the victims and survivors of VAW/G through the effective implementation of GBV laws and policies; and c) scaling up actions taken by the key stakeholders to ensure further protection and guarantee the human rights as well as the social and economic advancement of women and girls.

ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT INCOME FOR THE YEAR 2017



ACFODE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dr. Euzobia Mugisha Baine
Chairperson



Jean Kemitare
Vice Chairperson



Gladys Nairuba
Treasurer



Richard Makumbi
Member



Susan Bakesha
Member



Stedia Asiimwe
Member



Matilda Makata
Member



Regina Bafaki
Board Secretary




Sandra Nassali
Staff Representative

ACFODE STAFF AND MANAGEMENT

Regina Bafaki	Executive Director
Joyce Nabaloga	Finance & Administration Manager
Vanessa Hugo	Technical Advisor: Programmes
Yossa Immaculate Daisy	Programme Officer: Human Rights & Governance Department
Sandra Nassali	Public Relations & Communications Specialist
Belinda Kyomuhendo	Programme Assistant
Happy Ainomugisha	Programme Assistant
Rukundo Rebecca	Programme Assistant
Faith Nakanwagi	Programme Assistant
Sherinah Namata	Communications Assistant
Shirley Aseko	Accounts Assistant
Moses Otwang	Field Officer Apac District
Filda Akongo	Field Officer Dokolo District
Washington Ebek	Field Officer Amolator District
Okello Robson	Field Officer Oyam District
Mugabe Allan	Field Officer Kisoro District
Jackline Nyiranse	Psychosocial Counselor Kisoro District
Theresa Sabano	Administrative Assistant
Godfrey Balyebuga	Transport & Logistics Officer
David Kitendere	Transport & Logistics Officer
Robina Nafuka	Office Attendant
Annette Naula	Chef
Edward Ssentumbwe	Volunteer



For More Information Contact
The Executive Director
Action For Development
ACFODE House
Plot 623/624 Lutaya Drive Bukoto
P.O.Box 16729 Kampala - Uganda
Tel: +256 414 531 812, +256 393 114 890
Email: info@acfode.org

 www.acfode.org

 <https://www.facebook.com/ACFODE>

 [@acfode](https://twitter.com/acfode)