



Governance and Development Agenda for Women



Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts,
Rwenzori Region

2015 – 2021

RFPJ

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*“Sustainable Peace and Justice
are products of Equitable
Development and Good Governance
where women are not mere beneficiaries
but active participants by right.”*

(RFPJ Strategic Plan; 2015-2018 pp. 5)





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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACDO	Assistant Community Development Officer
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CDO	Community Development Officer
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DCDO	District Community Development Officer
DEO	District Education Officer
DHO	District Health Officer
FDC	Forum for Democratic Change
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
KADVIDO	Kamwenge District Indigenous Voluntary Development Organizations Network
LC	Local Council
MP	Member of Parliament
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NRM	National Resistance Movement
PMA	Plan for Modernization of Agriculture
RFPJ	Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice
SACCOs	Savings and Credit Co-operatives
UN	United Nations
UNNGOF	Uganda National Non-Governmental Organizations' Forum
UPE	Universal Primary Education
USE	Universal Secondary Education
VHTs	Village Health Teams

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In February 2015, RFPJ with support from UNNGOF in partnership with NDI embarked on the implementation of a one year Youth and Women in Governance Project. Specifically for women, RFPJ in this project spearheaded the development of the women's development and governance agenda for the two Districts of Kabarole and Kamwenge. Processes and products under this project sought to create and/or strengthen advocacy spaces meant to augment women's participation and inclusion in governance, development, human rights, justice and peace processes.

The 2015-2021 women's agenda forms a minimum advocacy package for women and their allies to influence processes in favor of interests of women in governance and development. The agenda is a product of multi-stakeholder and multi-level consultations with civil society groups, political parties, men, women, women leaders, political and civil service leadership at Sub County and District levels.

The women's desk at RFPJ shall every two years from 2015 galvanize various stakeholders to revise this agenda and keep it in tandem with changing and evolving women's priorities in areas of development and governance.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS AGENDA

The development of this agenda falls within the peace building and violence prevention mandate of RFPJ whose strategic plan 2015 -2018 provides that: *"Enhancing peace and justice requires that peace actors focus not only on eminent drivers of violence including political, social and economic forms of disenfranchisement."* [RFPJ Strategic Plan, 2015-2021]

Since her inception in 2002, RFPJ has striven to foster both short-term and long-term peace. RFPJ's long-term peace building orientation entails working with and through several actors to understand, analyze and address social, political and economic factors that create and/or exacerbate structural inequalities, injustices and conflict. As part of this long-term focus, the women's desk at RFPJ undertook a process from February 2015 to November 2015 of developing a women's agenda. This agenda is intended to bring out advocacy issues on concerns of women and also inform advocacy interventions in the target Districts by women and their allies, gender activists and CSOs towards the realization of peace and gender justice in development and governance work.

This agenda presents an opportunity for gender justice activists and RFPJ membership in the Rwenzori region and beyond to replicate processes of mainstreaming gender and women concerns in their respective responsibilities and mandates. Given that women constitute 51% of Uganda's population (Uganda Women's Agenda, 2010-2016; this percentage is averagely the same in each District of Uganda), fostering of short-term and long-term peace that integrate women is in the right direction towards gender justice in governance and development.

The time frame of this agenda (2015-2021) presents an opportunity for women and their allies to more strategically push for women's interests in governance and development processes. This agenda falls within a period when individuals and political parties are putting together their manifestos for the next five years. Thus, aggregated needs and interests embodied in this agenda provide a rich source of information from which aspiring political leaders can derive priorities of women to inform their manifestos. Expectedly, this agenda shall continue to influence post-2016 advocacy interventions by different stakeholders at different levels to surge the cause of women in the enterprises of development, governance and sustainable peace.



2.0 PROCESSES LEADING TO THE PRODUCTION OF THIS AGENDA

A multi-level and multi-stakeholder consultative process was used to produce this agenda. The first level involved consulting several stakeholders to aggregate women needs and interests from village to District level in Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts. The second level involved RFPJ consulting selected stakeholders to validate data aggregated at all levels.

Under the first level process, public meetings were conducted in 4 Sub Counties in each District (Table 1)

District	Sub County	Venue	Date when consultations were done
Kabarole	Ruteete	Rurama trading centre	20th March, 2015
	Kasenda	Kyangabukama village	20th March, 2015
	Kisomoro	Kabata Village	16th April, 2015
	Buheesi	Birembo village	16th April, 2015
Kamwenge	Nkoma	Nkoma Church of Uganda	14th March 2015
	Kabambiro	Sub County headquartes	14th March, 2015
	Kahunge	Sub County headquarters	14th March, 2015
	Ntara	Sub County headquarters	16th April, 2015

Participants consulted under this level included: members of the general public, women in savings and credit associations, Local Council (LC) 1 executive members, opinion leaders, women in business, community process facilitators, female councilors at Sub County and parish levels.

In each District, consultative meetings were also conducted at County level where views gathered at village and Sub County levels were presented for discussion. County level meetings drew participants from various sub-counties (Table 2).

Table 2: Counties where consultative meetings were conducted

District	County	Sub Counties represented	Date when consultations were done
Kabarole	Burahya	Hakibaale, Kasenda, Kichwamba, Bukuku, Rutete, Busoro, Karangura, Karambi, Mugusu	28th March 2015
	Bunyangabu	Kabonero, Katebwa, Kibiito, Buheesi, Kisomoro, Rwimi	17th April 2015
Kamwenge	Kibaale	Nkoma, Kahunge, Busiriba, Bwizi, Kabambiro, Bihanga, Kamwenge, Biguli, Kamwenge Town Council	18th March, 2015
	Kitagwenda	Ntara, Kicheche, Buhanda, Kanara, Mahyoro, Nyabani	17th April, 2015

Participants consulted at County level included: Sub County women council leaders, Sub County chairpersons, Sub County female councilors and Sub County executive members.

To further discuss needs and priorities of women one consultative meeting was conducted at the District level in each of the Districts of Kabarole and Kamwenge on 30th April 2015. Stakeholders consulted at the District level included: District council members, District women council executive members and District executive members. RFPJ also consulted District and Rwenzori regional-level CSOs namely; Kamwenge Bee Keepers Co-operative and Savings (KABECOS), Samaritan's Purse, Kamwenge District Indigenous Voluntary Development Organizations (KADVIDO) Network, Rwenzori Women's Forum, Ride Africa, Forma Cooperative Union, Microfinance support centre, Kabarole Research and Resource Centre, Toro development network, Kabarole District Primary Schools Head teachers Association (KADIPSHA) and National Association of Women in Uganda (NAWOU).

Outside of Sub County, County and District consultative meetings, Kabarole and Kamwenge National Resistance Movement (NRM) and Forum for Democratic



Change (FDC) political party offices and the woman Member of Parliament (MP) for Kabarole District were also consulted.

Under the second level process, information generated from village to District levels was validated. In both Districts, CSOs and the District technical staff were consulted to validate data. In Kabarole District specifically, the following public meetings in the following places were conducted to meet various stakeholders and validate aggregated data. Karambi I village in Kisomoro Sub County on 19th August 2015; Karago Ward in Karago Town Council on 20th August 2015; Ibonde Ward–Karago Town Council on 21st August 2015.



3.0 THE STRUCTURE OF THIS AGENDA

This agenda revolves around four pillars: 1) Leadership and Governance; 2) Service Delivery; 3) Budgeting and the Budgeting process; and 4) Peace and Human rights. These pillars were arrived at through consultation with Rwenzori Women’s Forum and KADVIDO Network prior to development of this agenda. Under each pillar, stakeholders in the development of this agenda made a specific contextual analysis of the state of women and proposed short-term and long-term desired changes.

The first pillar focuses on the representation of women on various leadership structures and the functionality of women leadership structures. The second pillar covers three areas of service delivery namely; education, health and agriculture. The third pillar focuses on the participation of women in budgeting and budgeting processes. The fourth pillar explores the participation of women in peace building and human rights promotion processes.

3.1 PILLAR ONE: GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

3.1.1 Representation of women in Governance and Leadership

International, regional and national legal regimes provide for representation of women in all matters of governance and leadership. The celebrated International Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979) to which Uganda is a party provides for the right of all women to equally participate in political and public affairs. Specifically, Article 7 of CEDAW provides for the participation of women in public sphere. Also, Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations (UN) on September 25th 2015 advocates for equal opportunities in peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provides for access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

At national level, the policy and legal framework envisions the participation of women in all governance and leadership processes. Particularly, Article 78 of the 1995 Uganda Constitution provides for one-woman representative in Parliament for every District as part of affirmative action for women. The 1997 Local Government Act



further entrenches women participation in governance and leadership process. Particularly, Sections 10, 16, 23, 25, 47 of the Local Government Act provide for specific quotas on women representation on District, lower local government councils and executives and on the parish and village executives.

a) Current state

The progressive legal regime on the representation of women in public space notwithstanding, by and large, the representation of women remains incommensurate with their numerical strength in Uganda. Averagely, only 3 out of 12 village council members in Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts are women. On a progressive note, women enjoy a fair representation on Sub County and District executives. In both Districts, 3 out of 5 Sub County executive members on average are women. On the 5-member District executive committee, there are 2 and 3 women in Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts respectively.

Based on NRM and FDC political parties (the only parties that have opened up physical offices in Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts at the time of developing this agenda), men still dominate these political party leadership structures much as each of these parties provides for 40% women representation on all party structures (Article 9, FDC Constitution 2015 and Article 42, NRM Constitution 2015). For NRM political party, men occupy 4 of the top 5 District executive positions of Chairperson, General Secretary, secretary for finance and secretary for publicity in each of the Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts. In each of these Districts, 1 woman occupies the position of vice chairperson. Still on the District executive, men dominate leadership of the NRM special organs in each of the two Districts. Of the 9 existing NRM special organs at District level namely; NRM historical league, elders' forum, women's league, youth league, league for people with disabilities, workers' league, elders' league, entrepreneurs' league and veterans' league, a woman heads only the women's league in each of the Districts of Kabarole and Kamwenge. Men head the rest of the 8 organs.

In FDC political party, out of 11 District executive committee positions which include: 1) the chairperson, 2) vice chairperson, 3) general secretary, 4) treasurer, 4) secretary

for mobilization and publicity, 5) secretary for women, 6) secretary for male youth, 7) secretary for female youth, 8) secretary for elderly, 9) veterans and pensioners, 10) secretary for persons with disabilities and 11) secretary for security, only 2 are women in each of the Districts of Kabarole and Kamwenge. Even the two women on this District executive committee occupy the 2 positions of secretary for women and secretary for female youth that are by their nature exclusively designed for women.

Representation of women in civil service structure remains minimal. In both Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts, there are more women in non-administrative Community Development Officer (CDO) and Assistant Community Development Officer (ACDO) positions than they are in administrative positions of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Sub County chief and town clerk. No matter the cause, having few women in administrative positions diminishes women's managerial control and power over resources and other strategic opportunities in civil service. For example, of the 23 lower local government CDOs in Kabarole District, 16 are female. Still in Kabarole District, 12 of the lower local government ACDOs, 6 are female. In Kamwenge District, there are 6 female CDOs out of 16 total CDOs.

In administrative positions, the number of women remains low. There are 6 female Sub County chiefs out of 17 Sub County chiefs in Kabarole District while Kamwenge District has 3 female Sub County chiefs out of the total 15 Sub County chiefs. Out of 6 town clerks in Kabarole District only 1 is female. The only town clerk in Kamwenge District is a man. CAOs in both Districts are men. Of the 11 District department heads, none is female in Kabarole District while Kamwenge District has only 1 female head. In Kabarole District, out of 24 In-charges for health center IIIs, only 5 are females and out of 3 In-charges for health center IVs existing in the District, that is; Bukuku, Kibiito and Karataraka only 1 is female. In Kamwenge District, out of 8 In-charges of health center IIIs, 1 is female and out of 2 In-charges of health center IVs, none is female.

b) Desired Change

- Political parties should commit themselves to respecting their own rules and regulations providing for women representation on political party leadership structures from village to District level (minimum of 40 percent women repre-



the case of NRM and FDC political parties).

- The Ministry of local government should increase the minimum women representation on the Sub County and District executive from 2 to 3 women.
- The Public Service commission should provide for minimum quota for women recruitment into civil service structures from parish to District level.
- CSOs should invest in nurturing and mentoring existing and potential women leaders to attract more women into seeking leadership positions.
- CSOs should facilitate open spaces for public awareness on and discussions about the contribution and potential role of women in political party, local and national leadership

3.1.2 Functionality of women leadership structures

a) Current state

While the existence of women leadership structures is a right step in the right direction of empowering women, the mere existence of these structures cannot on its own, guarantee this empowerment. Structures must function and deliver their mandate. In the preparation of this agenda, critical challenges in the functionality of various women-related structures were found especially in Sub County and District women councils, political party women wings, office of the woman MP and the District gender desk.

In both Districts, funding for Sub County and District women councils remains meager vis a vis the responsibilities and mandate of these councils. For example, in the 2014/2015 financial year, Kabarole District women council received only 7,072,000 (Seven million and seventy two thousand shillings) from the Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development. In the same financial year 2014/2015, Kamwenge District women councils received 6,200,000 (Six Million and two hundred thousand shillings). Due to financial and non-financial constraints, women councils cannot afford to hold periodical meetings and mobilize women. During a meeting with women council leaders in Kabarole District, one leader asserted; *“women councils work only during election period. Political leaders, especially male candidates mobilize women as voters and once elections are over, women councils practically cease functioning.”*



Some women council members expressed that they did not know their mandate while some members of the public including women at village levels did not actually know that these women councils even exist.

Under NRM and FDC political parties, District women wings have no specific budget to enable them function. In both Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts, some women observed that the woman MP is still seen as the giver of material items like clothes, mattresses, sugar and school fees. One female councilor in Kabarole District had this to say on the challenges a woman MP faces; *“The woman MP unlike other MPs, has a bigger geographical and demographic constituency. She receives the same financial facilitation as regular constituency MPs. To avoid pressure from constituents, she has to appear rarely in the District.”* This trend of limited public knowledge about other women leadership structures and the non-functionality of these structures were revealed during consultative meetings with members of the public at village and Sub County levels. Both Kabarole and Kamwenge CDOs who head the District gender desk noted the meager funding they receive from their respective Districts to address gender needs and concerns in the District. Specifically for Kamwenge District, women leaders in Kitagwenda County noted the long distance they have to walk to access the District gender office. It is 50 Kms, 45 Kms and 16 Kms to Kamwenge District headquarters from Kicheche, Mahyoro and Kanara Sub Counties respectively.

b) Desired change

- The Ministry of local government should make women council meetings and funding mandatory by Districts and lower local governments.
- Both mainstream political party leadership structures and women leagues should mobilize women beyond exclusive political party activities and start focusing on social and economic interests of women.
- The Ministry of local government should co-opt women council chairpersons as full members of Sub County and District councils to bridge the institutional gap between women council structures and Sub County and District local governments.
- CSOs should sensitize the public about the role and mandate of the woman MP, MPs and other elected leaders in general.
- To effectively deliver its mandate, the District Gender desk, as Kamwenge District



has started to demonstrate, should identify and build capacity of more para-social workers in each Sub County in areas of conflict management, reporting and mediation so that most probation and other cases can be handled at Sub County level.

- In congruence with the Women's Manifesto (2016-2021), the ministry of local government and other line ministries should increase women representation to 1/2 at all levels of political leadership from village to District level.
- Women leaders, Local and national CSOs should strengthen their relationships and synergies with grassroots and upcountry women groups; this strengthening should entail among others; building local capacities of women in leadership and advocacy.



3.2 PILLAR TWO: SERVICE DELIVERY

3.2.1 Education

a) Current state

Grounded on international legal provisions, Uganda unequivocally provides for women's right to education. Notably, Article 26 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides for the right of everyone to education and provides for free and compulsory education at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. The 1979 CEDAW provides for the right of all women to equal access to education. Article 10 of CEDAW provides for non-discrimination of women and equality of both men and women in access to education at all levels. The same Article calls for a reduction of female student drop-out rates and the organization of programmes for girls and women who have left school prematurely.

Other international legal provisions like articles 13 and 14 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and Article 17 of the 1986 African Charter on Human and People's Rights provide for the right of all to education without any form of discrimination. The Beijing Declaration on The Platform for Action (PFA) of 1995 under strategic objective (B.1) calls for equal access to education. Further, goal 16 of the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development provides for inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes life-long learning opportunities for all. Additionally, goal 5 of the same Agenda provides for the education of both male and female without discrimination. In a more precise and specific way, the government of Uganda in its legal and policy frameworks provides for women's right to education pivoting around girl-child access to education, retention in and completion of school. Article 30 of the 1995 Uganda constitution provides for the right of every person to access education. Further, in accordance with Article 34 (2) of the constitution, parents have a duty to work with the state to provide basic education for their children. Similarly, Part III of the Education (Pre-Primary, Primary and Post-Primary) Act (2008) includes a provision of education and training to the child as a joint responsibility of the state, the parent or guardian and other stakeholders.



b) Presence of public primary and secondary schools

In each of the Districts of Kabarole and Kamwenge, every parish has at least one public primary school. However, the distribution of public secondary schools remains skewed and some sub-counties do not have a single secondary school to facilitate easy girl-child access to secondary education. In Kibaale County, Kamwenge District, Bihanga, Bwizi and Kabamiro sub-counties do not have any public secondary school. Still in Kamwenge District, in Kitagwenda County, Buhanda Sub County does not have any public secondary school. Kanara Sub County also does not have any public secondary school though the existing Kanara private secondary school partners with government to offer USE services. In Kabarole District, Kasenda, Kichwamba and Kabende Sub Counties in Burahya County, do not have any public secondary school. In Bunyangabu County, Kabonero, Kibito and Katebwa Sub Counties do not have any public secondary school.

Some girl children in both Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts still have to walk an abnormally long distance to reach the nearest public secondary school. The long distance a girl child walks to school acts as a discouragement to girl child education. One parent in Ruteete Sub County stressed; *“while I like to see my daughter in school, I’m torn between two realities; to let her wake up at 4am daily to prepare for school and risk being raped on her way or to let her stay safer at home.”* In Kabarole District, a girl child has to walk a distance of the following kms to reach the nearest public secondary school. In Kateebwa Sub County approximately 20 kms from Nsura village to access the nearest Kibiito and Rubona public secondary schools; In Buheesi Sub County, approximately 12 kms from Mahoma village to Buheesi secondary school; In Mugusu Sub County, approximately 6 kms from Nyabuswa parish to Kaboyo secondary school; In Kabonero Sub County, approximately 15 kms from Katugunda village to the nearest Kibiito secondary school and in Rutete Sub County, approximately 15 kms from Kyamusa village to the nearest Rutete secondary school. In Kitagwenda County, Kamwenge District, a girl child walks a distance of approximately 20 kms from Kinyamugara village to Kitagwenda High School in Kicheche Sub County. On average, it is 20 kms both from Katafari village in Nkoma Sub County and from Ntungamo village in Bwizi Sub County to the nearest Rwamwanja public secondary school. Further, a girl child walks on average a distance of 20 kms from Kinyamugara village in Kicheche

Sub County to access Kitagwenda, the nearest public high school.

c) Girl-child friendly facilities

In each of the Districts of Kabarole and Kamwenge, stakeholders including the office of the DEO acknowledged that primary and secondary schools have sufficient sanitary facilities such as toilets and water for male and female students. However, stakeholders in the development of this agenda still observed the absence of changing rooms in some primary and even secondary schools. In both Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts, stakeholders in the development of this agenda observed that majority of the primary schools have separate toilets for girls and boys. Public secondary schools in both Districts were said to have provisions for changing rooms for girls save for Kanara secondary school in Kamwenge District and Mother Care, Bukuku, Rwimi and Kaboyo secondary schools in Kabarole District. In both Districts, stakeholders mentioned the challenge of the girl child not affording pads and consequently making them stay away from school during their menstrual periods.

d) Representation of women on School management committees

Averagely, only 2 out of 12 members of school management committees are women in Kamwenge District. In Kabarole District, the average number of women on this committee is 4. During consultative village public meetings, stakeholders including women expressed abstract knowledge about the existence, role and mandate of school management committees. In one meeting in Burahya County, some participants underestimated the role of management committees and noted that some politicians were fond of discouraging parents from contributing towards Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE) schemes on the pretext that education was free.

e) Desired change

- In the subsequent construction and distribution of secondary and primary schools, the government should base on demographic realities and not on administrative units like sub-counties and Districts. The preoccupation of government should be on reducing the distance a child walks to school and not on distributing schools to sub-counties or Districts.

- The ministry of education and local government leadership should gradually and progressively move towards breaking the public perception that parents have less or no contribution to make in UPE and USE schools. Specifically, the ministry and local governments should popularize and enforce the active role of parents towards supporting their children as provided for under Part III of the Education (Pre-Primary, Primary and Post-Primary) Act (2008) and Article 34 (2) of the 1995 Uganda Constitution.
- To actualize the Women's Manifesto's (2016-2021) recommendation on the provision of meals to pupils, school authorities and parents should devise a local and workable system of providing meals to pupils with possibilities of; parents providing raw food and employing a cook at school and/or parents packing food for their children.
- The ministry of education should place the minimum number of women representation on school management committee to at least 40 percent of all members on this committee
- The DEO should as a matter of priority encourage each school to develop local sanitary facilities including changing rooms for girls at least using local materials like reeds.
- CSOs in the Rwenzori region should sensitize the girl child and parents on traditional and non-traditional menstrual management.

3.2.2 Agriculture

a) Current state

The 2008 World Bank global report on Agriculture for Development emphasizes how agriculture is an important indicator of growth and poverty reduction. However, the sector is underperforming in many countries because women, who are often an essential resource in agriculture and the rural economy, face constraints that reduce their productivity. The contribution of women to agricultural and food production is significant though it often underrated by the governments and stakeholders in development. It is realized that women in the agricultural sector play a very crucial role and yet they are unpaid and do not benefit from their hard work. Women make essential contributions to agriculture and rural enterprises in most countries, including Uganda.



Goal 2 of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda advocates for ending hunger and achieving food security, improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture by 2030. In achieving this UN goal, targeting women who comprise majority of the Uganda's population in agricultural related programs will not only be matter of right but also a pragmatic and strategic focus.

At national level, Uganda's Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA, 2000) suggests the involvement of all people in the core goals of development such as rapid and sustainable economic growth and structural transformation and increased ability of the poor to raise their incomes. PMA aims at eradicating poverty through profitable and competitive, sustainable, dynamic agricultural sector using and all inclusive approach. The inclusive aspect of PMA is reflected in the clearly stated objectives of; increasing income and quality of life for all in rural households, improving household food security through marketing, generating gainful employment for all and promoting sustainable use and management of natural resources.

On land as one of the most important agricultural resources, Uganda's legal framework progressively attempts to nurture interests of women. Notably, Article 33 (1) of the 1995 Uganda Constitution guarantees equality between men and women in all political, social and economic spheres. Clause 6 of the same Article prohibits laws, cultures and customs or traditions which are against the dignity, welfare or interest of women or which undermine their status. The 1998 Land Act of Uganda seeks to legally protect women's interests in land. Section 28 declares as null and void any decision taken in respect of customary tenure that denies women, children or persons with disability access to ownership, occupation or use of any land or violates other rights granted to them under the constitution. Section 40 of the Land Act prohibits a person from engaging in any transaction in respect of family land without prior consent of the resident spouse.

Women's access to and control over land as one of the most important agricultural factors of production remains inadequate despite Uganda's progressive legal provisions on women's equality with men in matters of land and property rights. In both Kamwenge and Kabarole Districts, over 90% of women reported that the legal framework on land has not guaranteed their rights over land. 90% of the women consulted during village, Sub County and District meetings said that they have



access to land for agricultural related work. However, a paltry of 10% said that they have control over the land on which they do their agricultural activities. Women council leaders in both Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts noted a wide range of challenges women face in having control over land and benefits of their agricultural work. These challenges include; customary land tenure that largely remains patriarchal and patrilineal and low incomes among women complicating women's acquisition of their own personal land. To emphasize the implication of women not owning land, one female councilor contended in Kamwenge District; "*women are relegated to being workers on a man's land. The man owns what a woman plants and harvests. He is the absolute controller.*" Another female councilor in Kisomoro sub County, Kabarole District noted that women's lack of control over land makes them unable to invest in perennial crops like coffee and tea. According to this councilor, women have to inevitably invest in food crops that generate less income. Men, the owners of land invest in cash crops that generate more income.

On land management institutions, the representation of women in both Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts remains minimal. In Kabarole District, average representation of women on area land committees is 2 women out of 5 members. On the District land board, there are 2 women out of 5 members. Of the five top District land office staff namely; the District land officer, physical planner, District valuer, land surveyor and registrar of titles, only the registrar of titles is a woman in Kabarole District. In Kamwenge District, women occupy none of these five top land office positions.

On access to credit and agricultural inputs, women leaders in both Kamwenge and Kabarole Districts expressed dissatisfaction over the unequal sharing of agricultural inputs and opportunities provided to farmers under the production department. Principles of equity, affirmative action and gender consideration (men, women, youth and other farming interest groups) in all matters pertaining to wealth creation in the country as enshrined under Section 3 of Standing Orders of Procedure for Operation Wealth Creation (2014) have not in practice been effective. Few women compared to men in most sub-counties of Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts received agricultural inputs in the 2014/2015 Financial Year. Distinctively, the distribution of agricultural inputs in the 2014/2015 Financial Year in Kamwenge District demonstrates the



inequality between men and women in access to service and opportunities under the production department. For example, out of 36 farmers who received Orange seedlings in Nkoma Sub County, 4 were females. In Kanara Sub County, out of 38 farmers who received orange seedlings, only 9 were females. Out of 13 farmers who received cassava stems in Kanara Sub County, only 2 were females. Out of 30 farmers who received Irish Potatoes for planting in Mahyoro Sub County, only 11 were females. In Nyabani Sub County out of 438 farmers who received maize seeds, 150 were females. In Biguli Sub County, out of 202 beneficiaries who received maize seeds, only 60 were females. In Kanara Sub County, out of 16 beneficiaries who received coffee seedlings, 3 were females. In Ntara Sub County, out of 112 farmers who received coffee seedlings, only 26 were females. In Busiriba Sub County, out of 106 farmers who received coffee seedlings, only 31 were females. In Kabambiro Sub County out of 118 farmers who received coffee seedlings, only 31 were females.

b) Desired change

- Have a minimum number of women beneficiaries under NAADs/Operation Wealth Creation schemes to further gender equity in development.
- CSOs should invest in strengthening existing and inducing the emergence of new women SACCOs as one way of guarantying women's access to financial services for investment in agriculture and other economic activities.
- CSOs should lobby and advocate for women's land rights by working with and through cultural structures and systems.
- In addition to promoting joint spousal co-ownership of family land and property as recommended by the Women's Manifesto (2015-2021), the government should invest in popularizing and implementing other provisions of the land policy (2013) that enhance women's access to and control over land.

3.2.3 Health

a) Current state

The right to health is specifically enshrined in international human rights instruments



notably under Article 12 of the 1979 CEDAW. The Article emphasizes the need for State Parties to provide health care services including those related to family planning, and ensuring that women shall enjoy appropriate services in connection with pregnancy, post-natal period or even providing free services where necessary and nutrition services for all women. Similarly, Article 12 of 1979 ICESCR to which Uganda is a party provides for 'the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.' Additionally, Article 10 of ICESCR addresses health concerns in other provisions, such as; the provision for the reduction of the still birth-rate and of infant mortality and for the healthy development of the child and the special protection to be accorded to mothers before childbirth.

At national level, Article 33 of the Uganda constitution provides for the rights of women including taking into account the maternal role women play in the society. In a specific way, Article 33 provides for women rights including the provision of facilities and opportunities necessary to enhance the welfare of women to enable them realize their full potential and advancement. It also provides for the protection of own and their rights by emphasizing their unique status and natural maternal functions in society.

b) Presence of Health Centre IIIs

In Kamwenge District, Kabambiro, Bihanga, and Kamwenge sub-counties in Kibaale County and sub-counties of Kanara and Buhanda in Kitagwenda County in Kitagwenda County do not have Health centre IIIs. In Kabarole District, Buheesi Sub County and her neighboring Ruboona town council do not have a single health centre III.

In both Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts, women still walk long distances to access health services. Specifically for Kibaale County in Kamwenge District, a pregnant woman from Kyakaitaba parish in Bwizi Sub County walks a distance of approximately 20 kms to access either Bwizi or Rwamwanja as nearest health centre IIIs for delivery services. Still in Kamwenge District, Kitagwenda County, pregnant women from Kinyamugara and Buryansungwe villages walk a distance of approximately 15 kms to 20 kms to access Kicheche health centre III as the nearest health centre that offers-delivery services.

In Kabarole District, women from Katebwa Sub County have to travel a distance of 10 kms to reach the nearest Kisomoro health center III. In Kajumiro Parish, Rwimi Sub County, women walk a distance of 7 kms to reach the nearest Rwimi health centre III in Rwimi town council. The distance from Nyarugongo in Kabonero to Kibiito is 7 kms. In Ruteete Sub County it takes 10 Kms from Isunga village to access either Rutete or Kasenda health centre III. From Kiboota village, one walks a distance of 16.2kms and 17 kms to access either Mugusu health centre III or Kiyombya health center III respectively.

On availability of health services, there are inadequate specialized and non-specialized services in health centers. Specifically on HIV/AIDS services, health centre IIIs are accredited by the ministry of health to provide Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) services depending on the availability of facilities and equipment in these centres like enough staff, a senior clinical officer and storage facilities. In Kabarole District, a sizeable number of health centre IIIs do not provide Art services namely; Kakinga, Kibaate, Kabonero, and Rwimi prisons health centre IIIs in Bunyangabu County and Nyabuswa, Kidubuli and Nyantaboma health center IIIs in Burahya County. On availability of maternity wards, both Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts still have service delivery gaps. In Kabarole District, Kibaati and Kabonero health center IIIs in Bunyangabu County and Nyantaboma health center III in Burahya County do not have maternity wards. In Kamwenge District, Bunoga, Bwizi, Biguli and Bigodi health centre IIIs in Kibaale County and Nyabani health centre III in Kitagwenda County do not have maternity wards. During multi-stakeholder meetings, various stakeholders mentioned challenges related to availability of inadequate medical staff at health centre IIs and IIIs, inadequate drug supplies and reliance on traditional birth attendants for antenatal care.

In both Districts, specialized services like chronic care clinic, palliative care clinic, neo-natal care clinic, dental services and emergency obstetric care are only offered at health centre IVs and yet some patients still have to inevitably walk a very long distance to reach the nearest Health centre. In Kamwenge District for example, a



patient from Kayanga village in Kicheche Sub County and Kyakaitaba parish in Bwizi Sub County walks approximately a distance of 40 kms to access Ntara and Rukunyu health centre IVs respectively. In Kabarole District, women in Kajumiro Parish, Rwimi Sub County, walk a distance of over 15 kms to reach the nearest Kibiito health centre IV located in Kibiito town council. For Kabende Sub County, women who wish to access a bigger referral hospital or a health centre IV have to walk a distance of 32 kms to access Fort Portal referral hospital or 45 kms to access Bukuuku health centre IV

c) Management of health services

In both Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts, the average representation of women on health centre management committees is 2 out of 12 committee members. However, Kamwenge District has extreme cases where women are not completely represented on some health centre management committees. For example, on each of the 12-member health centre management committee of Buhanda health centre II in Buhanda Sub County and Ntara health center IV in Ntara Sub County, there is no female representation. On the functionality of these management committees, some stakeholders involved in the development of this agenda conceded that they neither knew about the existence nor the mandate of health centre management committees.

d) Desired change

- In the subsequent construction and distribution of health centres, the government should base on demographic realities and not on administrative units like sub-counties and Districts. The preoccupation of government should be on reducing the distance women walk to health centres and the services available in these centres and not on distributing these centres to sub-counties or Districts.
- The ministry of health and office of the DHO should provide guidelines that increase women representation on health centre management committees to at least 40% of the 12 members.
- The ministry of health and office of the DHO should strengthen the capacity of paramedical workers like Village Health Teams (VHTs) and HIV/AIDS community counselors to promote community health programs and contribute to the

reduction of preventable diseases and reduce the burden on existing health infrastructure.

- CSOs, schools and other development stakeholders should mainstream into their programs, public education and awareness campaigns on public health.
- The ministry of health should cascade neo-natal services to at least more two health centres in each County to reduce on the distance men and women walk to access neo-natal services.



3.3 PILLAR THREE: BUDGETING AND BUDGETING PROCESSES

Women's participation in planning and budgeting processes at different levels of government is within the greater women's rights agenda, globally and nationally. Article 7 of CEDAW (1979) calls for nation states to recognize and allow women participation in formulation of government policies and their implementation and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government. Further,



goal 5 of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda provides for the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. This empowerment can only be practical if women increasingly become equal stakeholders with other members of society in making decisions that affect their lives and the lives of the greater society. At national level, the national Gender Policy (2007) provides for and calls for the gender responsive development in planning at all levels namely; community, District and national. The policy calls for the promotion of holistic and integrated approach to development planning to ensure that gender issues common to different sectors are adequately analyzed and addressed in responding to the local needs and interests of women. The policy further emphasizes the need for government to tackle challenges of gender inequalities in macro-economic policy formulation, implementation and evaluation and addressing the needs and interests of women that are normally neglected in the planning processes by various sectors.

a) Current state

During consultations in the development of this agenda, various stakeholders in Kamwenge and Kabarole Districts expressed their unawareness of the remittance of 25% of locally-generated revenue to village level governments. Further, women and women leaders, especially at village and Sub County levels expressed dissatisfaction of their non-participation and unawareness of their Sub County and District planning and budgeting processes. Similarly, over 89% of women consulted when developing this agenda expressed their inability to track both Sub County and District budget performances. Reasons women gave for this inability included among others; lack of capacity to track progress, unavailable and/or difficulties in accessing bills of quantities and other vital information on government projects and politicization of service delivery.

Women stakeholders in the development of this agenda reported the dysfunctional status of bottom up planning process in the development of Sub County and District plans. Further, women stated that public participation in bottom-up planning processes remains exceedingly low. During community meetings in Ruteete and Kahunge sub-counties, women expressed the challenge of the dying culture of community meetings partly due to insatiable public expectations of financial inducements to

attending any public meetings. Majority women and women leaders that were consulted in the process of developing this agenda reported never to have attended any Sub County or District budget conference. Singling out the 2015/2016 financial year budget conference held on 14th October, 2015 out of 56 District staff who attended the Kabarole District budget conference, 21 were women while out of 39 District councilors who attended the District budget conference, only 8 were women. In Kamwenge District out of 47 District staff who attended the District budget conference of 2014/2015 that was held on 30th December, 2014, 13 were women while out of 20 District councilors who attended the same budget conference, 4 were women.

b) Desired change

- Local government authorities should as a matter of affirmative action always include women leaders in tracking the performance of Sub County and District projects.
- Local government authorities should provide simplified quarterly summaries of all projects to be implemented to LCI leaders for easy monitoring and evaluation of community projects.
- To compensate for gaps in the public consultative meetings, lower local governments and Districts should map out and consult formal and informal men and women organizations and groups in the bottom-up planning and budgeting process. These groups are known, easy to locate and have the potential to represent interests of women.

3.4 PILLAR FOUR: PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Women should not just be beneficiaries of dividends of peace and human rights but must be active agents of peace and the culture of respect for everyone's rights. Both the international and Uganda's legal regime explicitly provide for the right of women to participate in all spheres of life. Specific to peace building, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution (S/RES/1325) on women and peace and security on 31 October 2000. The resolution sought to augment the role of women and incorporate gender perspectives in matters of peace building and violence prevention. Related provisions include among others; Article 3 of 1979 CEDAW that provides for women participation in political, social, economic and cultural fields. The same Article



provides for the institution of all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms on the basis of equality with men. Relatedly, Goal 16 of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda advocates for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. Goal 16 further provides for access to justice and the building of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions without discrimination.

a) **Current state**

Traditional and formal process and mechanisms of peace building and conflict management still exist in both Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts. Stakeholders in the development of this agenda commonly mentioned the following traditional mechanisms and actors involved in conflict management and peace building; clan systems and elders; Ishebataka (village elder) and; religious leaders; However, stakeholders in the development of this agenda noted the minimal presence and at times the total absence of women in traditional peace building and conflict management systems and processes. According to one female councilor in Rutete Sub County in Kabarole District, peace building and conflict management remain exceedingly patriarchal and yet women suffer violence and conflict the most. Men remain the principal custodians of culture and society still sees women as subordinates to men. Men remain heads of clans and families and culture has bestowed upon them the responsibility of maintaining peace and order in traditional societal settings.

Some of known formal avenues of conflict management and peace building such as; LCI and other courts, CDOs office at the Sub County, Police, District gender office and Community Based organizations remain not only bureaucratic but structurally and financially difficult for women to access.

b) **Desired change**

Peace building CSOs:

- Mainstream into their mandate, needs and interests of women in peace building and conflict management processes.
- Strengthen the capacity of existing women leaders, structures and organizations in peace building and conflict management processes.
- Collaborate with cultural institutions and other structures to explore and popularize the potential of women as active agents and not just as recipients of dividends of peace and human rights.
- Establish and/or strengthen their collaboration with formal justice structures at various levels to further explore dynamics of women access to formal justice and collaboratively explore means and mechanisms of enhancing this access.

