



Gender Transformation & Empowerment

HER VOICE, YOUR MANDATE



THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S MANIFESTO (2021-2026)

WOMEN'S DEMOCRACY NETWORK
Empowering Women to Lead
Uganda Chapter

Acrode
Breaking Through, Building Up and Binding



2020

HER VOICE, *YOUR MANDATE*



THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S MANIFESTO (2021-2026)



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FOREWORD

The National Women's Manifesto (2021-2026) brings to the fore women's demands based on priority gender issues that continue to impede women of Uganda from attaining full dignity and equality with men in all spheres of lives.

The Women's Manifesto aims to clarify and augment what women of Uganda want political parties, leaders and the government of Uganda to prioritize in the period 2021-2026. It is consequently a political document that sets out the concerns of women in Uganda and the demands for accountability by political parties and elected leaders as custodians of public affairs and resources. The political party that will eventually emerge as the victor in the 2021 elections and will form government takes greater responsibility to address the demands. The political parties that will form the opposition are expected to provide alternative policies and checks and balance on women's rights and gender equality during the five-year period of government from 2021-2026. Thus, political parties should set targets on the issues in the women's manifesto to ease tracking of progress made towards attainment of the key asks and demands as elaborated in this manifesto.

While the issues may seem the same from the previous manifesto of 2016-2021, gender inequality keeps changing in form and the dynamics. During the consultations, a number of gender and women's rights challenges were raised from all the 60 districts (16 regions). This manifesto is a synthesis of the key priority issues that cut across and the demands made to political parties, Government and elected leaders.

UWONET, partners and the larger women's movement will publicize the women's manifesto at various levels to build consensus around

the six critical areas as key demands to political parties, government and elected leaders to inform policy, decision making and political accountability to women for the period of implementation. A mechanism of tracking progress will be developed to enable continuous monitoring of commitments for informed policy advocacy in the journey towards gender equality, equity and transformation.

Cognizant that this manifesto was developed at unprecedented times of the COVID -19 pandemic that shattered the social, economic and political fabric of society hence putting more pressure on social services that is already weak, more vigilance will be put on the monitoring in planning and implementation on development processes to enhance gender equality. At the time of developing the national women's manifesto 2021-2026, COVID 19 had created new urgency, new risks and priorities to achieving gender parity as many past successes were being offset and new forms of insecurity emerged that disproportionately affect women. For instance, economic regress as women's economic prospects have been immensely affected. Women are majorly employed in sectors and industries expected to decline the most due to COVID 19

However, whatever the decision political parties, government, elected leaders and other development actors will have to make, women and girls' rights will have to be at the center of development in order to try and recover from the effects of the pandemic. To remain on course, UWONET and the women's movement will mobilize, engage and influence around the women's manifesto throughout the five years to give voice to the women and gender concerns in Uganda.

Rita Hope Aciro-Lakor
Executive Director

CONTEXT IN WHICH THE WOMEN'S MANIFESTO 2021–2026 WAS DEVELOPED



Socio Economic and Political Context

Uganda's population is estimated at **46,200,987**¹. According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics², **over 51% are female, close to three quarters (72%) of the adult population resides in rural areas and approximately 4 in every 10 adults (45%) are aged 18-30 years**. The level of education attained by the population is an important indicator for socio-economic development. Overall, 77 percent of the adult population has attended school while 19 percent have never attended school at all. The proportion of females who have never attended school is twice higher than that for males. The proportion of adults with post primary education in urban areas (47%) is more than twice that of those in rural areas (20%)³.

Uganda's health care is characterized by less than 100 intensive care Units that are largely concentrated in the city, staffing challenges and limitations of medical supplies. According to the Health Sector Performance Report 2018/19, there are only 1.87 professional health workers per 1000 people, below the national target of 2.28. At this rate, one nurse serves 2,967 people, while a doctor serves 23,700 people. Additionally, Uganda currently has only 55 functional ICU beds, resulting in approximately 1.3 ICU beds per million Ugandans⁴

1 Worldometer elaboration of the latest United Nations data

2 National Governance, peace and security survey report (2017),

3 Ibid 2

4 Atumanya et al, 2020

Nearly half of Ugandan households experience multidimensional poverty, more than double the percentage living in monetary poverty at 21%⁵. The Covid 19 pandemic is expected to increase the number of poor people by 2.6 million coupled with domestic revenue shortfall of Shs288.3 billion in FY 2019/20 and Shs350 billion in FY 2020/21 due a reduction in economic activity. Uganda Revenue Authority anticipated a loss of UGX 116.26 billion in customs revenue by the end of June 2020 due to the crisis alone, expanding the overall revenue loss UGX 513.26 billion by close of June 2020. Covid19 further heightened pressure on fiscal space as a result of additional expenditure to address rapid response in the health sector and livelihood support for affected persons⁶.

Digital and technology advances, access and use of ICTs by women remains a challenge with multiple barriers even with a somewhat enabling legal and policy framework in place. Alongside the high costs of access to ICT is the digital illiteracy, lack of skills and limited knowledge among women heightened by a high proportion of illiterate women in comparison to men. Additionally, with the digital and technology evolution, has emerged new dangers and risks for women and girls notably is the surge in cyber crimes such as online bullying, harassment which in some instances has culminated into physiological distress, rape, kidnap and murder.

In regards to climate change and adaptation, women are responsible for more than 70 % of water chores and more than 70% work in the agricultural sector yet seldom participate in developing climate policies. The UN estimates that 70 % of the 1.3 billion people living in poverty worldwide are women, and, women and children are 14 times more likely than men to die during natural disasters.⁷

The multiparty political system under which Uganda operates continues to be tried and tested as diverse impediments exist that curtail the growth of the system. According to the National Governance, Peace

5 UBOS, UNICEF et al, 2020

6 UNDP, 2020

7 The European Union, 2017

and Security survey (2017) by Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), 54% of persons aged 18 years and above are of the opinion that political leaders rarely respond to the needs of their people and six in every ten people report little/not enough information on government decisions is provided to citizens by the Central Authorities. Nearly three in every ten (29%) persons are of the view that Government takes into account the voices of Opposition Parties while over half (54%) indicated that the Government considers the voices of Non-Governmental Organizations/ Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector respectively.

The Corona Virus (COVID 19)

At the time of developing the national women's manifesto 2021-2026, COVID 19 had created new urgency and new risks and priorities to achieving gender parity as many past successes were being offset and new forms of insecurity emerged that disproportionately affect women. For instance, economic regress as women's economic prospects have been immensely affected. Women are majorly employed in sectors and industries expected to decline the most due to COVID 19. In the agricultural sector where women comprise 60-70% of the labour force, the lock down of the entire country by the government from March 23rd-May 26 2020 as a means to control the spread of the pandemic constrained women's ability to access agricultural inputs and related services. The cost of transporting agricultural inputs and outputs has become more complicated especially among the vulnerable small farmers who transport in very small quantities. Sources of income for women in agri business have been affected by speculation thereby lowering consumer demand in both local and foreign markets.

More unpaid care work such as childcare and home schooling has fallen to women. The pandemic has had non-economic consequences for women with a spike in gender based violence incidences meted against women and girls during the pandemic. According to the Uganda police records, defilement cases have steadily increased in the last three years; 16,862 in 2017, 17,521 in 2018, 15,683 in 2019 and in a six months period of the lock down with 6,805 being female juveniles and 83 male Juveniles⁸. In select districts of Kitgum, Ngora, Kyegegwa, Kasese and Lyantonde, increased cases of teenage pregnancy have been reported with more than 2,372 teenage pregnancies recorded during the lockdown period of March 31 2020-May 26 2020. This, together with vices like child marriage, child labour and Gender Based Violence cases have contributed to the growing levels of school dropout⁹. Deep rooted gender inequality concealed in society has been exposed pausing a risk to furtherance of existing gender gaps between women and men in Uganda.

⁸ New Vision, 2020

⁹ Ibid1

1.0 OVERVIEW

Government of Uganda has put in place various legal and policy frameworks including programmes and initiatives to promote the fulfillment of the rights of women and girls in Uganda. Overriding of these is the 1995 Uganda constitution reinforced by other laws enacted to promote and protect the rights of women which include: the Domestic Violence Act 2010, the Prohibition of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2010, Land Act 1998 and the Local Government Act 1997. The Public Finance Management Act, 2015 requires the Minister of Finance to submit a national budget that complies with gender and equity requirements. In addition, there are some policies that government of Uganda has enacted to enhance women's rights including: National Gender policy 2007 as amended and the Land Policy 2013. In line with the National Gender policy (2007), sector ministries have developed gender mainstreaming guidelines and specific gender commitments in various sector investment plans aimed at achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. Noteworthy is the existence of a functional Equal Opportunities Commission.

At the global level, in 2015, the 193 member countries of the United Nations including Uganda came together to commit to 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 5 is focused on gender equality and sets the ambitious target of achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls everywhere by 2030¹⁰. This commitment by government of Uganda is in addition to other global and regional commitments made earlier such as the Millennium Development Goals, Beijing Declaration and plan for action, Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Africa Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on

¹⁰ McKinsey Global Institute, 2020

the Rights of Women in Africa commonly referred to as the Maputo Protocol among others.

Whilst an enabling legal and policy environment for the promotion and protection of women and girls rights exists to a large extent, the state of women's rights across social, economic, cultural and political sphere remains of concern in Uganda as major gender gaps persist. The advent of the COVID 19 has also had a regressive effect on gender equality with women and girls hit hardest.

The Women's Manifesto aims to clarify and augment what women of Uganda want political parties and the government of Uganda to prioritize in the period 2021-2026. It is consequently a political document that sets out the concerns of women in Uganda and the demands for accountability by political parties and elected leaders as custodians of public affairs and resources. The political party that will eventually emerge as the victor in the 2021 elections and form government takes greater responsibility to address the demands. The political parties that will form the opposition are expected to provide alternative policies and checks and balance on women's rights and gender equality during the five year period of government from 2021-2026. The Women's Manifesto brings to the fore women's demands based on priority gender issues that continue to impede women of Uganda from attaining full dignity and equality with men in all spheres of their lives.

A midterm review of the 2016-2021 women's manifesto that sought to assess the implementation of the commitments by the National Resistance Movement (Political Party in Government) and opposition political parties represented in parliament revealed that a few results had been realized on the national women's manifesto 2016-2021. However, most political parties remained evasive of women's demands. In terms of progress on the 2016-2021 national women's manifesto, the NRM which formed government in 2016-2021 developed a Gender Strategy on land to enhance the land rights of particularly women during the

implementation of the land policy 2013. In 2016, government passed the Gender Based Violence policy that especially protects women and girls from violence. To enhance value addition in the agricultural sector as a means of increasing incomes for farmers and providing employment opportunities, some industries like Soroti Fruit Factory, Kabale and Kisoro tea factories were established.

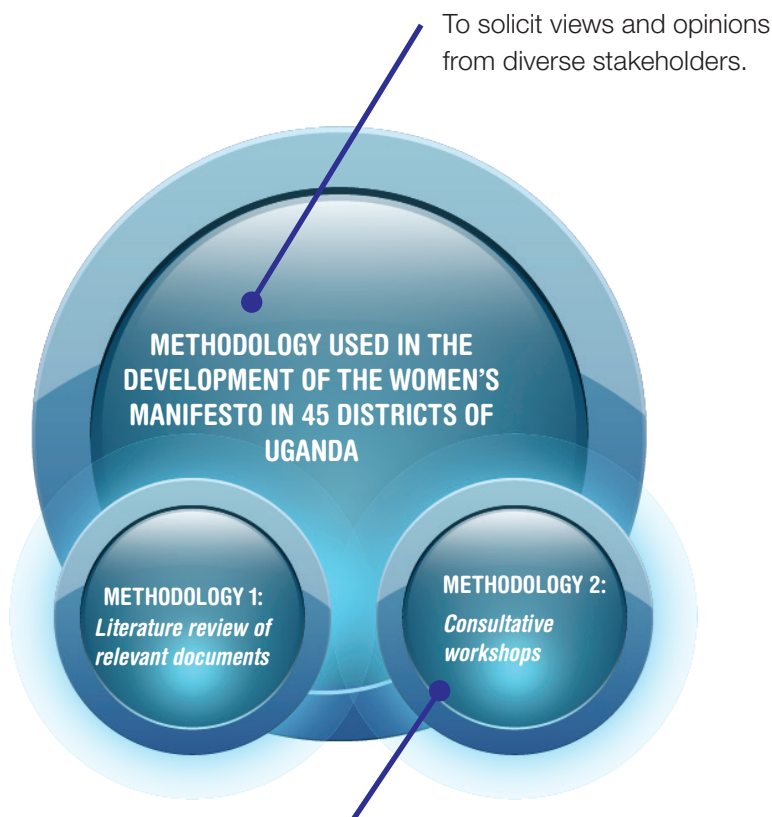
In terms of gaps, some initiatives like Operation Wealth Creation do not disaggregate data by sex. It is therefore difficult to know the number of men and women who benefit from such economic empowerment initiatives. There is stagnation of women in leadership at 35% in Parliament and 33%-35% in Cabinet. Government has not ratified key legal covenants like the Africa Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance which provides for 50:50 representation of women and men in legislatures. Key legislation and policies that would protect women's economic and social rights were not passed or implemented. These included: the Marriage and Divorce Bill (2009); failure to pass the amendments to the Succession Act and lack of implementation of the land policy 2013. The stagnation of the health and agriculture budgets at 8% and 3.2% for health and agriculture respectively despite the Abuja Declaration which calls for government to allocate at least 10% and 15% to health and agriculture respectively have had negative effects on the empowerment of women and on attainment of overarching development goals like the Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2021-2026 women's manifesto builds on all previous manifestos developed since 1996. The Women's Manifesto has been developed through a consultative process undertaken by the Women's Democracy Group (WDG) which includes: Action for Development (ACFODE), Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), Women's Democracy Network-Uganda Chapter (WDN-U) and Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) as the coordinating body.

The consultations to inform the Women's Manifesto 2021-2026 were conducted in a total of 60 districts out of 146 districts of Uganda. National level consultations and validations were held in Kampala with participation of a wide spectrum of individuals, media, administrative and political leaders in local governments, women and human rights activists, youth, religious institutions, private sector, traditional institutions, political party officials amongst others. Over 705 people were consulted (472 female; 205 male; 28 non disclosed)

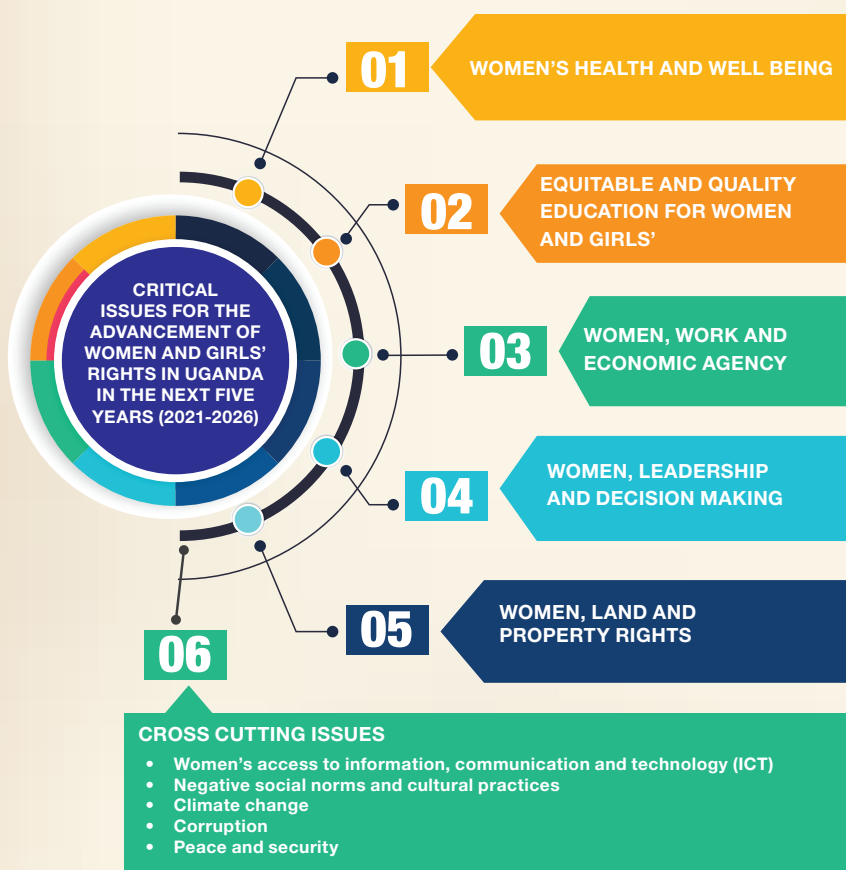
From all the consultations, it emerged that the issues women raised and for which they demanded action and accountability in 2016 notably; women's health, land and property rights, education, economic empowerment and participation in decision making are still the priority matters of concern and distress. The persistence of the same issues equally points to the deep seated systemic, social and cultural impediments that women face in the quest for gender equity and equality. Worth noting is the dynamics of issues central to the advancement of the rights and welfare of women in Uganda which continue to evolve overtime based on a range of factors and most recently compounded with the advent of covid-19. While the broader issues cited by the women of Uganda as hindrances to their advancement are similar as those stated in 2016, the dynamics have changed hence the order of priority under each issue differ. This manifesto therefore focuses on the salient issues under each issue.

2.0 METHODOLOGY



National level consultations were held in Kampala. The stakeholders consulted included: media house representatives, administrative and political leaders in local governments, Non-Governmental Organizations representatives, women and human rights activists, youth, religious institutions, private sector, traditional institutions, media representatives, political party officials amongst others.

3.0 CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHTS IN UGANDA IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (2021-2026)



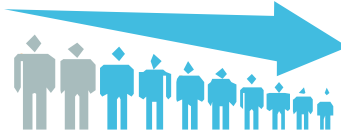


Women and Girls Health contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 3; “*Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*”; Specific targets aligned to women and girls’ health include;

- *By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births; NDP III 2020/2021-2024/2025 target for maternal mortality in Uganda is 299 per 100, 000 live births.*
- *By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes. NDP III target for access to universal health care services is 44 in 2018 to 60% in 2025.*

YEAR
2030

REDUCTION OF THE GLOBAL
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO
70:100000



- *Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all*
- *Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States*

The Government of Uganda has put in place systems and structures to ensure efficient and effective delivery of health services. These include physical infrastructure facilities at all seven levels of service provision ranging from Community Health Workers (CHW) HCII (Parish), HCIII (Sub County), HCIV (County), District Hospitals, Regional Referral Hospitals (RRH) and National Referral Hospitals. Uganda is reputed to have one of the best health policies as enshrined in the National Health Policy 2010, where service delivery is based on the Minimum Healthcare Package (MHCP). The essence is provision of integrated healthcare at HCIII/ Sub county level¹¹. However, demands for better health infrastructure continue to be made in especially rural health centers.

Despite the physical infrastructural facilities, the health service delivery system faces multifaceted challenges leading to poor health indicators particularly for women, manifesting in high Maternal mortality rates

11 UWONET, 2018.

(336/100,000); Infant Mortality Rates estimated at 56/1000 and 27% of the mothers still delivering outside formal health facilities¹². The budget allocation to Health has been about 8%¹³ of the national budget for the last two financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20 which remains far below the Abuja Declaration recommendation of 15% of the National budget that was agreed on by all African countries which are party to the Declaration including Uganda. Furthermore, the budget allocation to health often suffers from sporadic budget cuts, thereby exacerbating the challenges occasioned by inadequate financing of planned activities. The results include: drug stock outs, lack of appropriate diagnostic equipment and poor attitudes of health workers, largely resulting from their (health workers) poor remuneration.

Low funding of the health sector negatively affects women's health because it is mainly women who look after the sick in addition to women themselves being vulnerable due to their reproductive health status and outcomes.

In regards to women with disabilities, in Uganda 13% of persons have at least one form of disability¹⁴. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities guarantees persons with disabilities the same level of rights to access quality and affordable health care with all other persons without discrimination.

However, women with disabilities face multiple challenges in fulfillment of this right such as lack of responsive infrastructure, equipment and health services needs. Maternal health care services have been structured to meet the needs of able-bodied women, neglecting the special maternity care needs of women with disabilities¹⁵. Additionally, although there is no reliable data on the prevalence of mental health problems in Uganda currently, it is estimated that 35% of Ugandans suffer from some form of mental disorder¹⁶. The advent of COVID19 and the implications it has had

¹² UDHS 2016

¹³ NDP II 2015-2020

¹⁴ The Lancet, 2011

¹⁵ Devkota et al, 2017

¹⁶ Arya et al, 2017

on employment, incomes, food and nutrition security, trade, women and adolescent health amongst other facets has worsened the mental health situation in the country with anecdotal research suggesting an increase in mental disorders.

The barriers to gender equality in access to health services are many and varied including the following:

- Forty one Percent (41%) of women cite distance to health facilities as a challenge for accessing health care¹⁷. Indeed, a smaller percentage of the population live within five kilometers of a public health facility in Uganda, further complicating the management of maternal health among mothers, especially in rural areas.
- Lack of staff to attend to premature babies and mothers who may have complications¹⁸.
- Congestion in wards, some health facilities are not fenced while others have no windows and passersby can see what is going on in the wards. As a result some women prefer to deliver at home due to lack of privacy in the health centers.
- Allocation of resources to lower local governments is inadequate and isn't sufficient for health services delivery particularly in rural areas.
- Poor family planning which is caused by rigid cultures and some religions that do not believe in gender equality and discourage using family planning methods of spacing child birth¹⁹.
- There is widespread demotivation of health workers arising out of poor remuneration where a Medical Officer earns a paltry UGX 840.000 per month, equivalent to USD 238. Efforts by medics to have their salaries increased haven't received the expected committed response from government, leading to frequent strikes by medical personnel which further compromises the quality and availability of health services.

17 National Planning Authority, 2015:74

18 WDN-U Consultations on the national women's manifesto 2020, Zombo district

19 WDN-U Consultations on the national women's manifesto, 2020, Arua, Moyo, Koboko and Nebbi districts

- Many women do not use government health facilities especially Antenatal care (ANC) due to poor quality services. The negative attitude and poor work ethics among some health workers particularly midwives, possibly due to an overwhelmingly heavy workload amidst poor remuneration affects usage of ANC services.
- The government has put more efforts in rehabilitation of health facilities including referral hospitals but these facilities remain largely inaccessible to majority poor women and men because of distance, costs and general dissatisfaction of the population with services rendered therein²⁰. Government of Uganda has upgraded health center II's however, the equivalent standards have not been upgraded. Notably are the staffing levels to equate to number of patients attended to at these facilities, majority of these health centers lack ambulances to expedite referrals that require urgent attention. The life of women is thus put at risk.

Gender and Adolescent Health

The youth comprise the biggest section of Uganda's population many of whom are adolescents. However, sexual and reproductive health services that are customized to this segment of the population are very limited. Young people are served together with adults at health centers some of whom are their parents²¹. Consequently, many of the youth shy away from the health facilities. This partly explains the prevalence of adolescent healthcare burdens, such as teenage pregnancy, which at 25%²², is amongst the highest in sub-Saharan Africa. Of the 25%, 34% are from the poor quintile and 15% from the highest quintile²³. The HIV positive rate is at 3.1%. Causes of the rate include: violence, low access to SRHS, harmful cultural practices, adolescent exploitation, age and gender exclusion from socio-economic opportunities²⁴. Additionally, whilst Uganda has achieved substantial reduction in HIV

²⁰ Parliament of Uganda, June, 2018

²¹ Ibid 2

²² UBOS 2016

²³ UDHS 2016

²⁴ NDP III

prevalence; current statistics suggest resurgence of high prevalence; with females more affected than males²⁵. The COVID 19 pandemic heightened accessibility challenges to antiretroviral treatment and drugs due to movement restrictions and stringent guidelines aimed to curb the spread of the virus.

Persistent harmful social-cultural practices such as early marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), widow inheritance, and polygamy are part of the multitude of factors that put women and girls at greater risks to HIV/AIDS. Young girls lack access to adequate information and skills that can help them keep themselves safe from HIV. Additionally, is the weak implementation of existing laws and policies that should protect women and girls and promote gender equality²⁶.

Findings from a gender assessment commissioned by UWONET 2018, show that adolescent childbearing is more common in rural (27%) than in urban areas (19%) with wide regional variations. According to a study “Women and men in Uganda: Facts and Figures” by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2016, teenage pregnancy and motherhood is a major health and social concern in Uganda because of its association with high morbidity and mortality for both mother and child. Early pregnancies are common; 19% of girls between the ages of 15-19 years have given birth²⁷.

The barriers to gender equality in health care include; Lack of adolescent -friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services exposing adolescent girls to high SRH risks; SRH programmes have not adequately addressed the key challenges to the adolescents, among them, early initiation of sexual activity, child sexual abuse, child marriages and limited sexual and reproductive health information and facilities²⁸.

25 Ibid 11

26 GoU-SDGEA, 2018:7-8

27 Ibid 15

28 Ibid 5

Women of Uganda demand the following Actions

i. Staffing

- Staffing should be increased based on the level of service at health units as directed in the 2011 Ministry of health guidelines for designation, establishment and upgrading of health units proposed at 65% core technical staff at specific health centres /units.
- Lift the ban on recruitment of Health workers so that the number of health workers is commensurate and responds to the population as per the World Health Organization recommended doctor to population ratio of 1:1,000. This should be coupled with motivation packages. For instance; the lowest health worker should earn at least 1:5million Uganda shillings per month.

ii. Improve Health Infrastructure

- Provide for Health units/centers' requisite infrastructure and equipment including those required for women with disabilities as per the guidelines for designation, establishment and upgrading of health units by the Ministry of Health, (2011). (Hospitals should have; Male Ward [at least 15 beds] and 80 Staff Housing Units and Ancillary structures; Health Centre IV's should have 18 Staff/ Housing Units and Ancillary structures; Health Centre III 10 Staff/ Housing Units and ancillary structures; Health Centre II 4 Staff/ Housing Units and ancillary structures.
- At least one fully equipped and appropriate ambulance (user friendly to women with disabilities) should be procured and distributed in all the health centre's III, IV and hospitals in Uganda to ease referral pathways to reduce maternal and infant mortality.
- Prioritize maternal and infant health care equipment for both able and less abled women (resuscitation machines, delivery beds and facilities to observe mothers who have complications after birth and equipment to save premature babies) in Health center III's to address emergency needs of infants at birth.

- Invest in National Health insurance and provide access to health care for the majority of the population especially women and children.

iii Increase budget allocation to women's health

- ➔ Increase budget allocations to the health sector by 10% as per the Maputo protocol to address the gaps in health service delivery especially maternal health and monitoring of health performance and at least 5% of the total budget allocation to maternal health services and at least 6% of the health budget to primary health care.

iv. Improve gender responsive health programming

- ➔ All Reproductive Health Services (ARHS) programmes in the country should provide Adolescent-friendly including women with disabilities responsive services and information especially for young people in rural areas to reduce incidences of teenage pregnancies and unsafe abortions.
- ➔ Revamp HIV and AIDS related campaigns and service delivery in light of the changed context notably COVID 19 and impediments to access to Anti-retroviral treatment including current reversals on resurgence.
- ➔ Integrate psycho social services and facilities across the entire health sector to address impacts of mental health on individual and family wellbeing.

v. Health worker Training Schools

- ➔ Health workers training schools should be managed by Ministry of Health to ensure enhanced supervisory function to address the factors afflicting the training schools for health workers. Health worker training curriculum should incorporate knowledge and skills transfer on management of persons with disabilities particularly women with disabilities.



EQUITABLE AND QUALITY EDUCATION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS'



Women and Girls education contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 4: ***“Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.***

Specific targets aligned to women and girls' education are;

- *By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.*
- *By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.*
- *By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.*

- *By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.*
- *By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.*

Government of Uganda has over the years initiated various programmes aimed to fulfill girl's rights to education. Notably among these include; The National Strategy for girls' education (2004), Government white paper on education 1992, Education sector investment plan of 1997-2003. In addition to these are the Universal Primary and Secondary education policies as well policy on Early Childhood Development (ECD). In 2017, government launched the Revised Gender in Education Policy developed in 2016.

According to UBOS, 2017, enrollment trends for primary schools in the years -2012-2016 demonstrate parity between boys and girls credited to UPE. However, there are significant regional disparities estimated at 56% males and 44.5% females²⁹. There is a significant proportion of children of school going age "who have never attended primary school". Of this latter category, 23% are females as opposed to 12% males³⁰ indicating that the UPE policy has benefited more boys than girls. There is also declining quality of education in UPE schools, coupled with high drop-out rate, especially for girls; and threats to sustainability of UPE because of funding³¹. At secondary level, gender parity in education continues to favor boys because many girls drop out before completing primary school. Currently, the completion rate is 30%; meaning that for every ten girls admitted to primary schools, only three complete to proceed to secondary level. Low completion rate at Ordinary level is at 34.8% (2017) with boys at 36.2% and girls at 33.5%.

Sexual abuse of girls by some of their teachers with no/limited strong sanctions have continued to affect education for girls. Sexual abuse is shrouded in secrecy because the affected families do not want such

29 UWONET 2015

30 UBOS 2014

31 Ibid 7

cases in the public domain yet they are capital offenses³². Covid 19 and the subsequent closure of schools has resulted in increased cases of teenage pregnancy across the country. This together with vices like child marriage, child labour and gender based violence (GBV) cases have contributed to the growing levels of school drop out of girls³³. Other challenges to gender equality in primary and secondary school enrolment include: Poor quality of early childhood care and education, poor quality and efficiency of primary education is evidenced by low literacy rates at 49.9% at Primary three and 53.1% at Primary six level, low numeracy rates at 55.2% at Primary three and 50.9% at Primary six³⁴. Negative attitudes among local communities especially in the rural areas who consider education especially for girls as waste of money. The quality of education offered is generally poor; so parents who can afford opt to enroll their children in private schools³⁵, access to safe drinking water in schools is at 51%, latrine coverage in schools is at 19%, hand washing facilities at 34%, child poverty at 55% and child labour at 27%, harmful cultural practices including female genital mutilation, PWDs rate of population aged 5 and above is high at 12.5% for any form of disability³⁶. However, this figure is not disaggregated in terms of age, gender and the form of disability. This makes it difficult to prioritize interventions. This has left girl children from poor rural families excluded from quality secondary education.

Additional issues of concern relate to inadequate and in some instances lack of menstrual hygiene facilities in schools particularly lack of changing rooms for girls and incinerators for disposing off used sanitary towels/pads; ***“inadequate toilets/latrines to accommodate students (males and females) as well as teachers thus these facilities are shared by both female and male students including teachers. The standard of one stance for 40 students’ ratio is thus not followed with most schools having one stance for more than 60 students’ ratio”*** authentication from Masaka and Rakai district consultations³⁷.

32 Ibid 7

33 Ibid 1

34 NDP III

35 National Planning Authority 2014:18

36 Ibid 23

37 ACFODE consultations on the national women’s manifesto, 2020

Inadequate staffing in schools particularly of female teachers consistently remains a challenge. Male teachers continue to be preferred to female teachers on grounds of their maternal roles that require them to be mothers and thus would require maternity leave. In addition, lack of attention paid to female teachers' welfare needs such as accommodation affects their opportunities to work in schools especially those in rural areas where the need is highest. The relegation of female teachers to lower level classes notably kindergarten and lower primary denies them an opportunity to rise to the highest echelons of the education sector³⁸.

At tertiary level, in 2016, the enrolment at tertiary level was 258,866 of which 72% were in Universities. The proportion of males (56%) enrolled in higher institutions of learning was higher than that of females (44%). Although progressive improvement has been registered at university level, bringing the percentage of girls enrolled to 33% for science programs in 2008/2009 and to 45% for the Humanities in the same year, the enrolment of female students is lowest in the science programs (it is still below the original target percentage of 35%). Even for the Humanities, the percentage is still below the desired level for gender equality, which is 50%. Overall the proportion of female enrolment has only slightly improved from 42.1% in 2006 to the present 43.8%. The gender gap has been further exacerbated by the government policy enacted in 2012 on students' scholarships that did not take into account any gender considerations such as affirmative action. Instead it is biased in favor of science-based programs; hence further marginalizing girls, since most of them shun science disciplines³⁹.

The barriers to gender equality in education include; early marriages and early pregnancies, male child preference, poor school facilities that are not responsive to girls' needs, orphans, long distances to school, expenses associated with tuition costs, workload at home and poor academic progress leading to less than 30% completion rate for girls at Primary Leaving Examination level⁴⁰. Lack of exposure and low self-esteem amongst girls in West Nile region is a big problem because when a girl child is not exposed to information in a context where poverty is

38 WDN-U consultations on the national women's manifesto, Yumbe district 2020

39 WOUNET, 2015:28

40 UDHS, 2016.

rife she can be affected in several ways e.g. early pregnancy, lack of concentration/focus in school⁴¹.

In the rural areas, the gains registered by UPE do not apply to the same extent for girls and boys due to constraints (including school facilities) and negative attitudes among local community members who consider girl child education as a waste of money.⁴²

Women of Uganda demand the following Actions:

i. Increase budget allocation to education and gender specific needs of girls

- ➡ Increase resources to priority areas for girls such as Water and sanitation including menstrual hygiene amongst others to keep girls in schools in order to increase the average age of schooling from 6.1% to 11% in line with NDP III.
- ➡ Allocate at least 46 percent of National Gross Domestic Product, and/or at least 15-20 percent of total public expenditure for education in line with Nairobi Declaration and call for action on education Agenda 2063.

ii Build gender responsive school infrastructure and enforce adherence to education and gender responsive policies

- ➡ Enforce standard practices and directives for instance the one stance per 40 pupil ratio of latrine use in schools and separation of males and females washrooms for teachers and students. This should be coupled with rejuvenation of school inspections to among others monitor compliance to set rules and guidelines such as construction of incinerators and changing rooms to cater for girls' health and reproductive rights.

41 WDN-U consultations on the national women's manifesto, 2020, Arua, Koboko, Zombo and Nebbi districts

42 UWONET et al, 2016:12

iii Protect and Promote the girl child's right to education and enforce relevant laws

- ➡ Laws on defilement and early marriage are enforced to punish perpetrators and to deter others.
- ➡ Develop mechanisms for addressing the risk of violence and sexual harassment of the girls in school especially by the teachers.
- ➡ Sex education appropriate for each age groups of school children should be included in the school curriculum following consultations with others stakeholders including parents, School Management Committees, elders, religious and cultural leaders.
- ➡ Stakeholders in girls' education including cultural leaders should be sensitized to enable the passage of resolutions to end some cultural practices where traditional marriage celebrations are celebrated for more than one week.
- ➡ Develop policies to keep girls who get pregnant to return to school. There should be continuous training for head teachers, teachers, and senior women and male teachers and matrons on how to handle girls to ensure a conducive environment for girls to avoid traumatizing the girls.

iv Introduce a quota for recruitment of female and male head teachers in all schools for both lower and upper levels in both primary and secondary schools.



WOMEN, WORK AND ECONOMIC AGENCY



Women's economic empowerment contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 1; ***“End poverty in all its forms everywhere”***

Specific targets aligned to Women's Economic empowerment are;

- *By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day*
- *By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.*
- *By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.*

Women in Uganda generally occupy a disadvantaged position economically when compared to men. Access to credit continues to be difficult for women with 70% indicating lack of collateral required by financial institutions to access credit. Financial services are critical elements to productivity and key elements in the gender equality agenda. The “financial inclusion insights” survey (2017) established that 61% of women as compared to 52% of men did not have money to make any transaction with a bank. Similarly, 14% of women as compared to 12% of men did not have money to transact on mobile money platform. According to the NDP II, the agricultural sector comprising agriculture, forestry and fisheries employed about 72% of the labor force. The estimate is that women comprise 77% of that labour force (UNDP, 2015). In terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the sector contributed 24.9% for FY 2016/17 (UBOS, 2017). Therefore reducing gender inequality in agriculture would affect a big proportion of the population and directly contribute to the realization of inclusive growth compared to other sectors. A study by the World Bank (2015) estimates that, closing Uganda’s gender gap in agricultural productivity could potentially increase agriculture GDP by United States Dollars (USD) 58 million and overall GDP by USD 67 million annually. The World Development Indicators (WDI) put Uganda’s GDP for 2017 at USD 25.9 billion and GDP per capita at USD 666.7 for the same year.

The government introduced the Certificate of gender equity for all programmes and projects to be implemented by all Ministries, Departments and Agencies and this has slightly enhanced gender considerations in project design and budgeting, but largely at central government level of operations.

A number of women are engaged in unpaid domestic work. Findings from the gender assessment by UWONET (2018) indicate that 43% of the women in Uganda as opposed to 20% of the men are engaged in unpaid domestic work. Women spend 7.5 hours /day on unpaid care work, compared with 2 hours /day spent by the men. The effect is that the men use most of their time to engage in paid employment, earn

income and acquire property while women spend most of their time on un-paid domestic work.

UWEP despite well its intentioned objectives is yet to benefit a critical mass of women in Uganda and change women's social economic status. Consultations with women on issues of priority for the manifesto reveal funds allocated to the UWEP are inadequate. For instance, in Masaka district UGX 190,000,000/- UWEP budget was allocated for 20 women groups in the FY 2018/2019 yet the district has over 200 women groups⁴³. It is confirmed that majority of the women have not benefitted from the fund in Masaka and in other districts country wide.

According to the Civil Society Budget Advocacy group in their report titled the citizens budget 2019/2020, the social development sector budget for FY 2019/2020 received a significant reduction due to exclusion of Youth Livelihood Project Enterprise Funds and the institutional support funds for Youth Livelihood Program (YLP) and Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Fund (UWEP). Institutional support worth UGX 15.8 billion (UGX 7.9 billion for each of the programmes; YLP and UWEP) has not been provided, which greatly affected provision of services under these two programs. The Gender, Equality and Women's Empowerment program in the FY 2019/2020 was allocated the least amount under the Ministry's programs at UGX 1.7 billion as a result of the transfer of UWEP implementation to LGs.

43 ACFODE consultations on the national women's manifesto 2020 in Masaka district

Women of Uganda demand the following:

i. **Increase budget allocation to Agriculture**

- ➔ Increase budget allocation to agriculture from the current average of 4% to 10% as provided for in the Abuja declaration. The investments in agriculture should focus on mechanization, value addition and markets for women to enhance gender equality.

ii. **Review, amend, pass and enforce** pertinent laws and economic empowerment policies for women

- ➔ Review economic empowerment programs focused on women to assess their impact and gaps prior to developing new programs for women's economic empowerment in order to provide for equity.
- ➔ Amend the Land Act to provide for joint ownership of land and other productive property by spouses as family property as provided for in the land policy of 2013.
- ➔ Expediently enact the Marriage and Divorce Bill (2009) into law. The Bill proposes allowing married persons and those cohabiting to agree on how property will be owned during and after the relationship has been dissolved.

iii. **Consider introduction** of physical loans /resources to women other than cash including financing of women's village saving and loan associations (VSLA's) to ease access to credit for women especially in rural areas.

iv. **Ensure institutions** through which fund appropriated for economic stimulus, set minimum standards and criteria which are inclusive and gender responsive with monitoring frameworks in place to check for adherence. For instance 40% of the funds and government contracts at all levels should be ring fenced for women. These programmes and initiatives should be widely popularized and publicized for women to access and benefit.



Women, Politics and Decision making contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 5: ***“Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”***.

Specific targets aligned to Women, politics and Decision Making include:

- *End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere*
- *Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life*
- *Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels*

The 1995 constitution recognizes equality of women and men. Furthermore, the Local Governments Act (1997) provides for one-third representation of women in local councils⁴⁴. The Act also specifies at least one of the representatives for special groups must be a woman. Other laws include the National Women's Council Act, 2015 and National Women's Council (Councils and Committees) Elections, Regulations, 2011 Act. According to the UBOS "facts and figures", the 10th Parliament (2016-2021) comprises a 35% representation for women⁴⁵ up from 14% in the 5th parliament in context of an increased number of districts through which majority of women MPs are elected on the affirmative action seat. In addition, the 10th Parliament has a female Speaker, the first and second ever female Leaders of the Opposition. Women are increasingly leading Parliamentary Committees. Out of the 28 committees in Parliament, 11 are chaired by women⁴⁶. By 2016, women cabinet ministers accounted for 36 percent and state ministers account for 30 percent, compared to 64 percent and 30 percent, respectively, for men⁴⁷. Currently, 2019/2020 there are 10 women cabinet ministers (32%) out of 31 (68% male) and 17 women ministers of state (35%) out of 49 (65% male)⁴⁸.

The number of women in parliament has stagnated at 35% in the 9th and 10th Parliament⁴⁹. According to a report on gender participation in governance; there are only three district chairpersons out of 146 districts. Women's representation in political positions at both Parliament and local council levels is on affirmative action.

Evidently, whilst government of Uganda has pursued sustained policies promoting women's full and equal participation in decision making in all areas of public, political and professional life, gender parity remains a distant reality. At local government levels, the situation isn't different; Out

44 UNDP, 2017:10; OAG, 2013:16

45 UBOS, 2017c: x

46 GoU-SDGEA, 2017:19

47 Ibid 26

48 Parliament of Uganda, 2020. <https://www.parliament.go.ug/page/cabinet-members-and-ministers-state>

49 Ibid 26

of 3,280 representatives in district councils, 1,364 were women which is 41.6 % of the total. Likewise, the proportion of women councilors and chairpersons in municipality and sub-county were 41.9% respectively in 2016.

In public service, women's participation in senior management in governance is significantly limited, with gender parity yet to be attained. Out of the entire public service of over 250,000 employees, females account for only 33%. While progress has no doubt been made, job allocation in public service at senior level is still significantly skewed towards men. The only position where gender parity is attained is among deputy directors of government agencies. Only 34% of women are directors compared to their male counterparts, and this is compounded at assistant commissioner levels where only 48 out of 209 officers are female (23%). Among town clerks and Chief administrative officers, only 7.1% and 8.6% of officers are female, leaving a huge gender gap in local government administration in the upper echelon of district and town leadership.

The public and political space for women is affected by a multiplicity of obstacles that makes it hard for many women to participate and eventually emerge victorious in elective or appointed leadership positions. Rated possibly highest today amongst the challenges women leaders aspiring for political leadership face is the high level of commercialization/monetization of politics yet women join this space at an economically disadvantaged position. For instance, nomination fees for local council levels aspirants for the National Resistance Movement party is UGX 200,000/- and 2,000,000/= for member of parliament while the National Electoral Commission fee stands at 3,000,000/= which many women cannot afford.

After nomination, few women can afford the high cost of running as candidates for elective offices. According to ACFIM the cost for running for position of MP costs about 500 Million at a minimum. Voters want to be paid to vote for a candidate partly exacerbated by the high poverty levels in Uganda. A prospective leader without money to pay voters has minimal chances of winning an election. Political parties are not adhering to the international, regional and nation legal provisions gender equality. As a result, the numbers of women in political leadership within political parties is still minimal in comparison to men. This affects more women than men aspiring for elective politics due to the economic status of women in Ugandan society, which is lower than that of men. This discourages more women from running for directly elected/open seats compared to the men.

Persistent negative attitudes towards female political leadership limit women's access to leadership positions. Other critical challenges include cultural bias, lack of self-confidence and lack of resources to compete in elections. Sexual harassment of women politicians during campaigns and objectification of women's bodies affects their esteem and discourages full participation in leadership. This is coupled by hostile political environment characterized by violence, intimidation and fear mongering, rigging and bribery. The implications are that most of the rural and even urban poor / uneducated women remain largely excluded from benefiting from affirmative action which further exacerbates their marginalization in leadership⁵⁰. The benefits of women's participation in decision making have equally not cascaded at the grass-root level as evidenced in persistent high levels of domestic violence that is heavily skewed towards women; dominance of men's access to productive resources; land grabbing that has heavily affected widows, rural poor women; and rampant poverty among women. The efficacy of affirmative action is being questioned given the dominance of a few women in positions of leadership and governance to the detriment of others⁵¹.

50 Ibid 7

51 Ibid 7

Women of Uganda demand:

- i. **Provide for gender parity** in all positions of public service. This can be achieved in part through human capital development planning as provided for in NDP III such as on job/long term training.
 - Monitoring mechanisms to ensure gender parity in recruitment and promotion of women in strategic positions
- ii. **Change the electoral system** from first past the post⁵² to proportional representation. This will address some of the current challenges affecting multiparty democracy in Uganda including: commercialization of politics, bribery, violence and intimidation among others. In addition, political parties will be forced to select their best male and female candidates to contest for election. Hence improved quality of leadership.
- iii. **Amend the Constitution of 1995** to provide for the district as the elective constituency. Each district should be represented by one man and one woman to ensure that the numbers in Parliament reduce to 292. This will reduce the administrative costs attached to Parliament and ensure that Uganda adopts gender parity 50:50 in its legislature in line with the Africa Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.
- iv. **Robust and targeted** capacity development and training programme for women elected leaders to match up to the responsibility of office.
- v. **Government should invest resources** in civic education by Uganda Human Rights Commission and voter education by Electoral Commission in order to change the attitudes and beliefs against women's leadership. The two organizations should partner

52 An electoral system, voters cast their vote for a candidate of their choice, and the candidate who receives the most votes wins.

with Women's Rights Organizations to influence their education materials and messages for women's rights and gender equality.

vi. Political parties should conform and adhere to the international, regional and national legal provisions on women's rights and gender equality. This recommendation is made bearing in mind that political parties are the main vehicles through which men and women attain political leadership in Uganda.

vii. Develop a policy and guidelines with clear reporting mechanisms to protect women candidates from sexual harassment during electoral processes accompanied by deterrent measures. The electoral commission should reform its guidelines to deter sexualisation and objectifying women leaders.



Women, Land and property rights contributes to Sustainable Development Goals 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere and 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Specific targets aligned to Women, Land and property rights include:

- *Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws*
- *By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic*

resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

Land ownership and access heavily impacts economic empowerment and power relations. The Land Act (2010) provides a framework for land ownership, distribution, utilization management and control. Section 28 of the Land Act outlaw's discrimination against women⁵³ Section 27 provides for the rights of women, children and persons with a disability while Section 39 restricts the transfer of land by family members without spousal consent⁵⁴.

The Gender assessment survey 2018 by UWONET established that 39% of women in the 20 districts own land compared to 73% men. These findings are consistent with the results of the Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) 2016/2017, which reported that only 31% of the women aged 15-49 years owned land compared to 48% of the men in same age range. Furthermore, the 2016 annual report on the implementation of the solemn declaration on gender equality in Africa affirms approximately 23 % of land in Uganda is titled and a paltry 5-26 % -(approximate) of the registered land is owned by women while the actual data on customary land ownership by women is not available⁵⁵. Additionally, there is lack of clear and accurate statistics on land ownership and land management that are disaggregated by sex to guide policy design and for monitoring inequalities faced by women. In regard to fair ownership of land between men and women there is inadequate information on who makes decisions in regards to access and use of the land.⁵⁶

53 GoU-SDGEA, 2018:20

54 (OAG, 2013:16).

55 Ibid 33

56 Ibid 33

The agricultural sector employs about 72% of the total labour force, with women accounting for approximately 80% and only 25.5% control the land they cultivate⁵⁷. In confirmation of these findings, other studies⁵⁸ report that even among the women who own land, many of them do not have power to administer their land holdings as decision-making powers are vested in the men. The onslaught of the Covid 19 pandemic has worsened this vulnerability for women with increased cases of land evictions and land disputes.⁵⁹ Women are further disadvantaged on land matters as court fees and time become very expensive for them.

The lengthy court sessions or processes also infringe significantly on the abilities of the women to perform both their productive and reproductive roles. In other cases, women are either bribed or threatened to give up their interests on land. As a result, many lose their resolve and abandon the pursuit of justice.

The implications and real impact of lack of ownership of land rights especially by rural women in agriculture and urban women in business; goes beyond the land itself to the control of the output and sale of proceeds by the spouses/male to impacting household food and nutrition security. The most immediate effect of limited land rights is that women are denied collateral for securing credit from financial institutions.

Land related conflict and women access to justice: Most of the policies on oil and gas do not address themselves explicitly on aspects of conflict management at community level arising from process of oil and gas exploration, say compensation for family land. Women lose out if a transaction is entered into with a family, as control of resources in most rural communities' rest squarely on male family members.

⁵⁷ Ibid 21

⁵⁸ UWONET, 2015:16)

⁵⁹ Position Paper on Gender and Equity Issues and Interventions for FY 2021/22

Women of Uganda demand:

- ➡ Provide tax holidays to women in the agricultural sector and related value chains.
- ➡ Implement the land policy 2013 and amend section 40 of the Land Act.
- ➡ Enforce current land laws to avert forceful evictions, land grabbing and inadequate compensations.
- ➡ Create a land fund for women to access finance to purchase land or other assets.
- ➡ Decrease backlog cases in the justice system from 18% to 10% by 2026.
- ➡ Pass the Marriage and Divorce Bill (2009) which among others addresses property rights for women and men at marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
- ➡ Access to loans from Uganda Development Bank should be gender sensitive to ensure that women farmers equally have access to the low interest loans.

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES AS CATALYSTS OF THE FIVE PRIORITY ISSUES

The implementation, monitoring and the attainment of any of the five thematic and priority areas including the demands requires attention to a multiplicity of cross cutting issues that affect women and girls and ultimately the quest for gender equality to be addressed. Notably

- **Women's access to information, communication and technology (ICT):** Whilst the world becomes more and more digitally connected, women continue to lag behind men in their use of digital technologies, particularly mobile technologies. Consequently, they are less likely than men to have access to vital services such as cash transfers, medical information, educational content, or employment opportunities.⁶⁰ Among the barrier's women of Uganda face in the use of ICT's include; accessibility, affordability, knowledge and skills including safety and security.
- **Negative social norms and cultural practices:** Evident in unfair treatment, discrimination and oppression of women and girls in all facets of life resulting in poor social economic and political indicators for women.
- **Climate change:** Climate change impacts exacerbate gender inequalities in relation to discrimination, threats to health, loss of livelihood, displacement, migration, poverty, human trafficking, violence, sexual exploitation, food insecurity, and access to infrastructure and essential services⁶¹.
- **Corruption:** Misallocation and diversion of resources amongst other forms of corruption is a barrier to women's rights fulfillment in all sectors and the realization of gender equality.
- **Peace and security:** Conflict and Violence disproportionately affects women and girls and intensifies pre-existing gender inequalities and discrimination. Women are also active agents of peace in armed conflict, yet their role as key players and change agents of peace remains largely unrecognized⁶².

⁶⁰ World Bank 2020.

⁶¹ Ibid 8

⁶² <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/promoting-women-peace-and-security>

Key Demands:

- ➡ Institute regulatory reforms such as reducing sector-specific taxes and custom duties for example on mobile and internet services to make them more affordable for particularly women who represent the majority of the unconnected.
- ➡ Integrate all cross-cutting issues across all sectors as the demands in the five priority areas are being addressed.
- ➡ Develop a comprehensive detection and mitigation pandemics and disasters framework particularly buttressing the impacts these have on women and the retrogression on successes attained towards gender equality in all sectors. For instance ensure the national budget corresponds to pandemics and disaster management and response.

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