

WOMEN'S DEMOCRACY NETWORK

Empowering Women to Lead

Uganda Chapter

WOMEN'S DEMOCRACY NETWORK-UGANDA CHAPTER



ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31 2020

Message from the Chairperson

Ugandans will go to the polls in 2021 to elect different office bearers in a general election. On a positive note, there is an increment in the number of women contesting for the open seat to attain the positions of Members of Parliament in the 11th Parliament of Uganda from 84 in 2016 to 114 in 2020.

On a negative note, WDN-U observed an increment in election violence which claimed the lives of over 60 Ugandans from all walks of life and of all ages. COVID19 presented unprecedented challenges for holding an election. Human rights violations increased at both family level and in the political campaigns. More Ugandans fell into poverty. With children out of school, a significant number of girls fell pregnant. Civic space shrunk and some NGO accounts were frozen while some human rights defenders were arrested and detained on unsubstantiated charges.

Sadly, WDN-U also lost Hon. Jane Alejo one of the champions of women's rights and gender equality in Yumbe district. Despite the challenging context, WDN-U was able to ensure that 350 women candidates in the districts of Arua, Adjumani, Yumbe, Nebbi, Koboko, Zombo and Moyo received candidates training. The purpose of the training was to prepare the women candidates to conduct successful campaigns and to win election. The women were drawn from all the major political parties in Uganda which fielded candidates in the seven districts of the West Nile region.

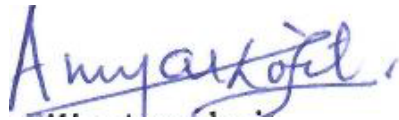
In order to contribute to the holding of peaceful elections, WDN-U organized and held community meetings in communities in Arua and Koboko districts and radio talk shows in which the Police, Electoral Commission and WDN-U CSO partners Teremunga Youth Action Platform (TAYOF) and Youth Development Initiatives West Nile (YDI-WN) were hosted. The community meetings were held in communities that had experienced election violence in the previous elections including political party primary elections in 2020.

WDN-U provided technical support to initiatives of domestic election observation and observed the elections to monitor adherence to the laws and principles for holding free and fair elections in Uganda. Election observation was also based on the standards for holding free and fair elections at international and regional levels. The magnitude of election violence, banning of domestic election observation coalitions, delayed accreditation of NGOs and refusal by Electoral Commission to accredit several NGOs and arrests of accredited election observers on polling day for Presidential and Parliamentary elections affected the contribution of election observation to an election.

WDN-U was part of the Women's Situation Room (WSR) and is one of the 15 national women's rights organizations which provided technical support, especially legal support to the programming of the WSR.

WDN-U is grateful to all the members, partners, CSOs and media which made her work impactful in 2020. Thank you!

WDN-U extends her sincere appreciation to all the development partners especially National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Women's Democracy Network of the International Republican Institute and Democratic Governance Facility through a sub-grant via Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), civil society organization partners at national and district levels who supported her work and all her members for the financial and technical support.



Cecilia Anyakoit
Chairperson
Women's Democracy Network-Uganda Chapter

POWERING CHANGE IN EXTRA ORDINARY TIMES

Word from our Executive Director

2020 presented unprecedented times punctuated by COVID19 pandemic and its effects of lockdown of the entire country from March 31 to June 6 2020; school children were sent back home with resultant effects of mental anguish, increased teenage pregnancies and other forms of gender based violence, increased poverty as many people in the service industry and factories were laid off. Market prices for some agricultural items like eggs fell so low and led to closure of some businesses.

Despite the COVID19 pandemic, WDN-U found new ways to implement her programs by learning how to use new tools of communication in order to remain engaged with her program participants. We established a private face book page to continue to connect with and facilitate discussions and training to enhance women leaders many of whom were preparing to stand for election in 2021, we conducted a needs assessment on the effects of COVID19 on business women and women farmers to inform our advocacy and that of other organizations on women's economic empowerment amidst and after COVID19, we conducted online trainings for some organizations and benefited from the same on COVID19 and its effects on the social, economic and political fabric of Ugandan society. Zoom meetings became the norm for organizing within the NGO sector and were used for collecting information and exchanging ideas. WDN-U contributed financial and technical ideas and information to inform interventions made by NGOs to alleviate the effects of COVID19 on women and girls in particular. In districts Like Moyo, we contributed face masks to the market women to protect them from COVID19.

We offered technical support to NGOs accredited to observe the elections in Uganda. WDN-U continued to do advocacy on pertinent issues that affect women's rights and governance in Uganda through social and traditional media platforms with a specific focus on the 2021 elections.

With your help and recognition of our work on governance and women's rights, after the lifting of the lockdown, WDN-U provided training of trainers workshops for 40 trainers of women candidates under the Women's Democracy Group (WDG) consortium and training for 350 women candidates in the seven districts of the West Nile region, conducted two series of women candidates training for 60 women for Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), WDN-U conducted training for 45 youth leaders organized by Action for Development (ACFODE), WDN-U was invited by Women's International Peace Center (WIPC) to conduct training for trainers of women and youth peace advocates and media under the auspices of the Women's Situation Room. Wizarts Foundation also invited WDN-U to conduct training for journalists on understanding the declaration of results process as Uganda prepares for the 2021 general election. WDN-U was also invited on different panels by organizations like Defend Defenders, Legal Aid Service Providers (LAPSNET), America Bar Association, and Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER) among others to speak to different audiences on topics pertinent to the 2021 elections including

human rights defenders, freedom of expression and the participation of women and youth in an election affected by COVID19.

We did this and more because partners like you believed in us and the program participants we work with.

Thank you!



Executive Director

Women's Democracy Network-Uganda Chapter

WDN-U

Vision

A fair society where gender equality is the norm rather than the exception

Mission

To provide a platform for women leaders to enhance women's leadership for women's rights and gender equality.

Values

- Integrity
- Accountability and transparency
- Appreciation for diverse individual's contributions
- Commitment to democratic leadership
- Innovation

Where we work

WDN-U in 2020 implemented programs in the districts of Adjumani, Arua, Koboko, Nebbi, Moyo, Yumbe, Zombo and Kampala. COVID19 provided new opportunities for WDN-U to increase its outreach. WDN-U online training and discussions on identified topics by the women on her social media platforms benefited women leaders from the West Nile region and the districts of Mukono, Wakiso, Gulu and Kampala.

In Arua, Adjumani, Koboko, Nebbi, Moyo, Yumbe and Zombo WDN-U run activities to enhance the effective participation and influence of women councilors at district level and in selected sub-counties.

In Arua, Nebbi and Koboko WDN-U conducted a needs assessment on women's economic empowerment following the onset of COVID19.

WDN-U conducted training for women and youth peace advocates and media on the law and elections on behalf of Women's International peace Center for the Women's Situation Room in Kampala. WDN-U also conducted training on the elections for Wizart Foundation in Kampala.

WDN-U donor partners

National Endowment for Democracy (NED): NED has funded WDN-U social and political accountability programs since 2013. In 2020/2021, NED provided funding to support WDN-U's project to coordinate a pre-election monitoring and information-sharing campaign to prevent and report on violence and human rights abuses ahead of Uganda's national elections in 2021. The project which ends in January 2021 is being implemented in the districts of Arua, Koboko and Nebbi.

Democratic Governance Facility of the European Union through Uganda Women's Network (UWONET): WDN-U has received funding from DGF through UWONET for women's leadership enhancement in decision making since 2012. In 2018, a new contract for a new project was signed which will end in 2021. The project will support "Women and Youth empowerment for leadership and women's rights".

Women's Democracy Network (WDN): WDN-U has received funding from WDN since it was established in 2011. WDN funding addresses needs of women leaders that are not integrated in the DGF-UWONET and WDN-U program. In 2020, WDN-U received funding from WDN to enhance the capacity of women groups to address gender issues in economic empowerment policies and programs of government in the districts of Arua, Koboko and Nebbi for gender equity

Individual members: Individual members of WDN-U contributed their time to conduct training and mentoring, monitoring, writing and submission of reports to WDN-U to enhance her programming.

Media: National print and electronic media have consistently provided free media space to WDN-U to educate and inform citizens on various issues relevant to women's rights and gender equality, democracy, human rights and governance. WDN-U in 2020 received free media space on NBS television, civic Space TV, Radio One, Power FM, Independent newspaper. WDN-U also provided its opinion on a number of topics when called upon by journalists to do so.

At a Glance

Spotlight

COVID19 presented unforeseen challenges to WDN-U programming in Uganda. With technical support from WDN, WDN-U established a private Facebook page to conduct training on proposed topics by women leaders to ease their access to information and skills to cope and provide leadership within the COVID19 restrictions. WDN-U conducted training for women leaders using Facebook live. The topics included: conflict and how to deal with it, bank loans and how to reschedule payments to respective banks amidst COVID19; conducting election campaigns amidst lock down; property rights and women in Uganda. WDN-U also used the page to conduct its economic policy and advocacy training with funding from WDN.



WDN-U used WhatsApp to collect information on the effects of COVID19 on women and proposals from women leaders in various districts of Uganda on how to alleviate the challenges. One of the major results from the information was that WDN-U shared specific issues affecting women with the NGO leaders. The information was shared with the national task force and media. As a result, the restrictions that were initially placed on all persons seeking treatment from any medical facility were lifted for pregnant women. Pregnant women were allowed to move to and from hospital without requiring a letter from the Resident District Commissioner.

WDN-U participated in a series of tweet chats which highlighted the plight of women amidst COVID19. The chats enable WDN-U to share ideas and give opinions on how to address the challenges that women faced during the lock down posed by COVID19. Some of the hashtags included: #ActforEquality by Action Aid-Uganda; “How Local Governments strengthen local service delivery during and post COVID19” by Women’s Democracy Group (WDG).

TWITTER CHAT
**THE DOUBLE EDGED SWORD OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
 ON WOMEN & GBV IN UGANDA**
**8th May 2020
 10am - 12pm**



Perry Arlitua (@PerryArlitua)
 Lawyer and Executive
 Director of Women's Empowerment Network
 Uganda Chapter



Racheal Wanyama (@WanyamaR)
 Policy and Advocacy Lead,
 UWONET



Christine Aboke (@ChristineAboke)
 Human Resources and Organizational
 Effectiveness Director,
 ActOnAid International Uganda



Rita Atukwasa (@rita_atukwasa)
 Executive Director IST



Join the Conversation
[#ActionAidTalksUG](#)

act:onaid

TWITTER CHAT BY UWONET **14 MAY, 2020**
**How can Local Governments strengthen Gender
 Responsive Service Delivery during and Post COVID-19?**
3:00PM - 4:00PM
#ActForEquality



Hon. Norbert Mao
 President Democratic Party
 @NorbertMao



Hon. Winnie Kiiza
 Member of Parliament
 @WinnieKiiza1



Hon. Frank Tumwebaze
 Minister
 Gender, Labour and Social
 Development
 @Franktumwebazek



Sarah Bireete
 Executive Director
 Centre for Constitutional
 Governance
 @SarahBireete



Hosts:



Jennifer Atimwa
 @AAAssimwa



Wanyama Racheal
 @WanyamaR



WDN-U LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

Ms. Cecilia Anyakoit-Chairperson

Ms. Esther Wasagali-Secretary

Ms. Immaculate Daisy Yossa- Treasurer

Ms. Perry Aritua-Ex-officio board member

Staff

Ms. Perry Aritua-Executive Director

Ms. Olivia Ssempea-Accountant

Ms. Freda Mary Aaca-Program Officer

Mr. Samuel Kamuli-IT officer

District CSO partners

Ms. Lillian Driwaru- Youth Development Initiatives-West Nile-Arua

Mr. Sam Boboli-Teremunga Youth Action Forum-Koboko

Ms. Jacqueline Alenyo-Zombo

Ms. Grace Owonda Nancy-Nebbi

Ms. Lillian Masia-West Nile Women's Advocacy Platform -Moyo

At a Glance- Program overview

Women's leadership enhancement

Number of beneficiaries of each training conducted by WDN-U for women leaders in 2020



Face to face training for women leaders

Title of training	Number of beneficiaries
Training of female members of Mombasa County Assembly in Mombasa-Kenya. Women's Democracy Network	16
Technical support to WDN-U Zimbabwe to enable them establish the WDN Chapter	1
Training for women candidates in the districts of Arua, Adjumani, Yumbe, Koboko, Nebbi, Moyo and Zombo	350
Training of trainers for Women's Situation Room	45
Training for women political leaders, leaders of selected women Village Savings and Loan Associations groups and for media on economic empowerment and advocacy in the district of Nebbi, Koboko and Arua	21

Online training for women leaders

Face book live training for women leaders on preparing for election in Uganda post COVID19: dos and don'ts	35
Facebook live training for women leaders on how to deal with bank loans post COVID19	48
Facebook live training for women leaders on Women's land and property rights in Uganda and its effects on women's economic, social and political rights	74

First session of face book live training for women leaders of women groups and women political leaders on economic policy and advocacy	60
Facebook live training for women leaders on Social media: dos and don'ts for women candidates in preparation for the 2021 election in Uganda	25
Zoom training for CSOs working on preventing violent extremism in Mombasa	4

WDN-U pursues its mission through four strategic objectives. The annual report is therefore written in line with the organization's four strategic objectives. They are:

- 1. To increase women's effective participation in politics and decision making through building the leadership capacity of potential and serving female leaders at all levels**
- 2. To promote good governance and democracy at national, district and local council levels through enhancing social, political and gender accountability**
- 3. To contribute to the formulation and review and promote the implementation of gender responsive political, economic and social policies and programs**
- 4. To strengthen the capacity of WDN-U and other likeminded organizations**

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: TO INCREASE WOMEN'S EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS AND DECISION MAKING THROUGH BUILDING THE LEADERSHIP CAPACITY OF POTENTIAL AND SERVING FEMALE LEADERS AT ALL LEVELS

Online training for women leaders amidst COVID19

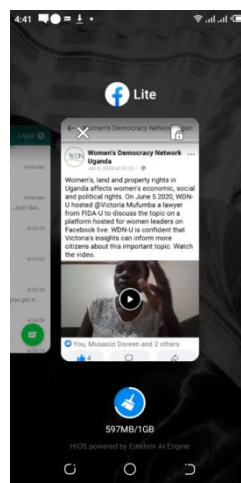
Due to COVID19 and the restrictions on gatherings, WDN-U established a private Facebook page to enhance communication, training, information sharing and support for women leaders from various political, economic and social groupings and women in the media. Some of the beneficiaries of the online training were WDN-U members while others were women leaders in politics, economy and the social fabric of Ugandan society.

On May 25 2020, WDN-U conducted a Facebook live training for 35 women on its private group page on the topic *"preparing for an election in Uganda amidst COVID19: dos and don'ts"*. COVID19 presented new challenges for women leaders. The economic demands of the electorate increased, face to face meetings were prohibited and yet most women especially those in rural areas of Uganda do not have smart phones. This limitation affected communication with the electorate and affected the visibility of new candidates. In addition, access to data for social media and radio airtime are too high for most women. As a result, access to media remains a challenge for women and affects their access to and usage to enhance their leadership. The training therefore provided the aspiring women candidates with an opportunity to learn new ways of canvassing for support amidst a pandemic to ensure that their message is heard and to increase their chances of winning the election.

COVID19 affected the livelihood of most families and especially women headed families or families where the bread winners are women. A number of women leaders on the WDN-U private Facebook page and women in the communities were aware that those who had taken loans would

still have to service them regardless of the tough economic times posed by COVID19. They did not know how they would service the loans. On May 29 2020, WDN-U invited a banker with Centenary Rural Development bank limited to speak to the women leaders on the new conditions that banks had initiated to enable customers to service their loans amidst COVID19. The training which was held on the WDN-U Facebook live page was attended by 48 women leaders. The facilitator shared information on the opportunities that Centenary Rural Development bank limited had devised to support women businesses and how women can apply to benefit from these opportunities amidst COVID19. The women were grateful to the facilitator because a number of them had questions about how they would service their loans amidst the tough economic times.

On June 5 2020, WDN-U conducted a virtual training via Facebook live on *“Women's, land and property rights in Uganda and its effects on women's economic, social and political rights”*. A total of 74 women attended the training. The purpose of the training was to discuss and equip women leaders with knowledge and skills on “Women’s, land and property rights in Uganda and its effects on women's economic, social and political rights”. The topic was important because women leaders are expected to provide answers to day to day issues that affect women’s rights. Women’s land rights is one of the major issues that affects women’s economic rights in Uganda.



On June 25 2020, WDN-U conducted the first series of the three trainings for women leaders of women groups and women political leaders on economic policy and advocacy. The project funded by WDN was initially targeting women leaders from three districts of the West Nile region including: Arua, Nebbi and Koboko districts. However, since the training was conducted via Facebook live, more women leaders benefited from the training including women leaders from: Wakiso, Kampala, Mukono and Mbale. Instead of the planned 21 target beneficiaries a total of 60 women leaders benefited from the training.

From June-July 2020, WDN-U conducted mapping and profiling of potential women candidates for 2021 general elections in the seven districts of Arua, Nebbi, Koboko, Moyo, Adjumani, Yumbe and Zombo in the West Nile region. A total of 350 women candidates were mapped in the seven districts. The purpose of the mapping was to prepare for the women candidates training in the seven districts.

From September 8-9 2020, WDN-U Executive Director conducted training for 40 trainers of trainers from Women's Democracy Group to equip them with knowledge and skills in preparation for training women candidates in 45 districts prior to the 2021 general elections in Uganda.

In November 2020, WDN-U conducted training for 350 women candidates from Alliance for National Transformation, Democratic Party, Forum for Democratic Change, National Resistance Movement and National Unity Platform in the districts of Arua, Adjumani, Nebbi, Koboko, Yumbe, Moyo and Zombo in the West Nile region. Following the elections in 2021, WDN-U will compile the numbers of beneficiaries of the training who were successfully elected by their electorate.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: TO PROMOTE GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY AT NATIONAL, DISTRICT AND LOCAL COUNCIL LEVELS THROUGH ENHANCING SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND GENDER ACCOUNTABILITY

In 2020, WDN-U received funding from NED to enhance platforms for peaceful elections in the districts of Arua, Koboko and Nebbi in the West Nile region. On July 14-15 2020, WDN-U conducted a virtual training via Zoom for Election Violence Monitors (EVMs) in the districts of Arua, Nebbi and Koboko to prepare them to mitigate election violence in their districts and to observe the 2020/2021 elections. The EVMs, conducted observation for early warning signs of election violence in their districts and selected communities that were prone to election violence. The EVMs liaised with the Police and Electoral Commission officers in their districts to conduct quarterly community dialogues in the violence prone areas in an effort to mitigate election violence. During the quarterly dialogues communities identified the causes of election violence and discussed solutions for mitigation. As a result, key influencers in the affected communities denounced violence and addressed some of the factors that were causing election violence in their communities.



Community meeting in Orphanage cell, Pangisa Lower Upper Ward, Arua Central division in Arua city-November 18 2020

On November 18, 2020, WDN-U's CSO partner in Arua district, Youth Development Initiatives West Nile conducted a community dialogue for 52 people including, youth, women, and men. 39 of the participants were youth. The community meeting was held in Orphanage cell, Pangisa Lower Upper Ward, Arua Central division in Arua city. The youth groups of the bi-monthly community dialogues are part of the WDN-U project to coordinate a pre-election monitoring and information-sharing campaign to prevent and report on violence and human rights abuses ahead of Uganda's national elections in 2021. Orphanage cell is one of the places which failed to hold the NRM primaries as scheduled partly due to election violence mainly caused by failure by voters and candidate agents to agree on the amount of money each voter would receive from money released by two leading NRM candidates to bribe voters during the NRM primaries.

WDN-U and YDI-WN, therefore, organized a community dialogue to understand the causes of the violence and to enable the community to build consensus on ways to peacefully participate in the general election. The meeting was facilitated by the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) of the Uganda Police Force in Arua city and the director of YDI-WN. The CLO and YDI-WN Executive Director listened to the grievances of the community and the factors that lead to violence during elections.

The CLO educated the voters on the roles of the police and why and how citizens can exercise their right to vote peacefully. YDI-WN Executive Director educated the community on the rights and roles of citizens during elections and the duties of candidates in an election.

The community resolved to pay more attention to the issues that the candidates campaign on and to try to co-exist. They also requested the CLO of the Police to inform the security agencies to stop harassing them because of the party they choose to support. The CLO agreed to present the issues to the District Police Commander for his attention.

On December 12 2020, TAYOF in Koboko district conducted a community dialogue in Dikasinga cell, Ombaci ward in Koboko Municipality. The community leaders noted that lack of civic education has led to intolerance in the community due to differences in party affiliation. The

community members noted that some LCs are biased and deny candidates/ parties they don't support an opportunity to campaign in their villages. The community leaders following discussions on democracy and its principles and values resolved to allow all candidates to campaign in their villages to enable voters to make informed choices on polling day. The community also resolved to stop hate speech and to attend campaign meetings of all candidates.



Community dialogue in Dikasinga cell, Ombaci ward in Koboko Municipality-December 12 2020

In July WDN-U Executive Director participated in developing documents for election observation of the 2020/2021 elections by CSOs in Uganda. As a result, CSOs developed a strategy document which informed the proposal and budget for election observation by various NGOs in Uganda.

Election Violence Monitors Observe the Campaigns of the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Councils

The EVMs in Koboko noted that violence against women was a major factor affecting women's participation as candidates' agents. As candidates, women complained of lack of resources and limited financial support to their campaigns due to high poverty levels in the three districts. As voters, gender roles prevented women from participating in candidate meetings.

The youth candidates complained about exclusion from party activities during the election. Despite this, the youth candidates in Arua district whom the EVMs interviewed were pleased with the level of responsiveness by the Electoral Commission to the issues that they raised to the EC. Low voter education was noted as a major gap in the elections in Arua, Koboko and Nebbi. The lack of candidates' rallies due to COVID19 restrictions also affected the opportunity that candidates usually have to conduct voter education. In addition, the limited interaction between candidates and voters made it difficult for mainly new candidates to get visibility.

EVMs in Arua noted that most of the complaints raised by women candidates were largely ignored. They also noted that ethnicity affected the campaigns as it was used negatively to de-campaign some candidates in Arua city.

Radio programs on the elections in order to mitigate election violence

On November 20 2020 WDN-U and her CSO partner in Arua district Youth Development Initiatives West Nile (YDI-WN) organized a radio talk show on Arua One FM on the WDN-U project to coordinate a pre-election monitoring and information-sharing campaign to prevent and report on violence and human rights abuses ahead of Uganda's national elections in 2021. The talk show hosted the Community Liaison Officer of the Uganda Police in Arua city and the regional Electoral Commission supervisor from the Electoral Commission office in Arua city and the YDI-WN Executive Director.

The EC educated the listeners on the ongoing processes in the electoral cycle, the roles of different stakeholders in the election, and responded to emerging issues raised by the listeners. The police officer discussed the roles of the police in the election and responded to the concerns of citizens with regard to the roles of security officers in the election. The police and EC advised citizens to try and use the available mechanisms for conflict resolution in the election despite the reservations raised by some listeners.

The responsiveness of the managers of the elections to early warning signs for election violence and complaints of candidates, agents, voters, media, and the professional response of the police to emerging conflicts will play a key role in mitigating election violence in the elections in Arua city.



Community Liaison Officer (Arua Central police Station) and the Regional Electoral Commission Supervisor (West Nile region) at a radio talk show sponsored by WDN-U on Arua One FM

The EVMs activities provided WDN-U with recommendations to State and non-state actors on election violence mitigation. The report from the EVMs project which includes the recommendations is accessible on www.wdnuganda.org

On September 4 2020, WDN-U released a report on political party elections in preparation for general elections in 2021. The report documented observations of the pre-election process of NRM, FDC and DP parties' candidate selection processes. The assessment was conducted basing on international standards for free and fair elections. The report is accessible on www.wdnuganda.org

National NGOs discuss a paper on integrity of the 2021 elections

On November 17 2020, the Uganda National NGO forum (UNNGOF) organized a conference to discuss the emerging issues affecting the integrity of the 2021 elections. The paper that informed the discussions at the meeting was drafted by Ms. Perry Aritua the Executive Director of WDN-U and Mr. Crispin Kaheru an elections expert and former coordinator of CCEDU. The meeting was moderated by Ms. Perry Aritua the Executive Director of WDN-U. A copy of the paper can be accessed on: <https://ngoforum.or.ug/2020/11/27/uganda-national-ngo-forum-convenes-high-level-national-dialogue-dark-cloud-looms-over>

WDN-U is hosted by ACFIM on a panel discussion to reflect on electoral democracy in Uganda

WDN-U Executive Director was invited as a panelist by ACFIM on December 3 2020 to reflect on electoral democracy in Uganda. The discussion enabled WDN-U to confirm some of the findings of a report WDN-U and IDEA compiled in 2019 titled “Early Warning Signs for Election Violence and Structures and Strategies for Mitigation” and to identify what had changed since then with regard to election violence in elections in Uganda. The discussants also identified some of the steps that should be taken to address the emerging issues as Uganda prepares for the 2021 elections. Some of the proposals include: rethink holding elections in emergencies; Ensure that laws made to guide elections during pandemics and other emergencies do not infringe on the fundamental rights of candidates, voters and media to participate; Enforce the Public Order Management Act, amend the law to make EC commissioners tenure permanent. EC should be given powers by law to reign in on anomalies committed by police and other security agencies during elections; EC should be seen to manage elections and not only processes of the election. Stop distribution of items to citizens during elections to control bribery. The discussion can be accessed on:

[https://www.facebook.com/acfim/videos/651696372177160/?_cft__\[0\]=AZWQczEA7XSswGLLde- uqLkwYdXKeZP9XSbXGkBpnwtXiRCLnhPCYfHHfprPz4mQJopxG4w5pGuANVC8YVXB2r1X3WJ_MFbQR06ej6Gx1dFbS9sQr6YpNN5S48rpFLY_TM3_WXGcabh_F54kMHdfgx7dtbts2dt2ggfhf7joLKZMTT8GeNyStX2qcE2oFOwmnBokOpbFhT8lZRjdSvcimHogA_r6pZZ0uGTfgILXrpmbB_Oo4tRuu7te1F8cuuxWGtqZatkg6zdy7cqsUzwZ_lOya&_tn_=-UK-R](https://www.facebook.com/acfim/videos/651696372177160/?_cft__[0]=AZWQczEA7XSswGLLde- uqLkwYdXKeZP9XSbXGkBpnwtXiRCLnhPCYfHHfprPz4mQJopxG4w5pGuANVC8YVXB2r1X3WJ_MFbQR06ej6Gx1dFbS9sQr6YpNN5S48rpFLY_TM3_WXGcabh_F54kMHdfgx7dtbts2dt2ggfhf7joLKZMTT8GeNyStX2qcE2oFOwmnBokOpbFhT8lZRjdSvcimHogA_r6pZZ0uGTfgILXrpmbB_Oo4tRuu7te1F8cuuxWGtqZatkg6zdy7cqsUzwZ_lOya&_tn_=-UK-R)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FORMULATION AND REVIEW AND PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER RESPONSIVE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Needs Assessment on women’s economic empowerment in the West Nile region amidst COVID19

In June 2020, following a needs assessment by WDN-U on the effects of COVID19 on women’s economic rights, WDN-U compiled and shared a report with WDN on the findings from the needs assessment on women and economic policies relevant to enhancing their empowerment during and after COVID19. The findings informed the training on economic policy advocacy for women organizations and groups which was conducted virtually via Facebook Live @WDN-Uganda

Chapter on June 25 and July 2 2020. WDN-U had planned to conduct one face to face training for 21 women groups. However, due to the lockdown, WDN-U was able to conduct two trainings and reached 52 and 43 women leaders respectively for the two sessions. Some of the women leaders who participated in the training are politicians at the district council level, women group leaders, youth-led organizations, and women and youth politicians. The topics discussed at the two sessions were: Economic Policy and Advocacy for Gender-Responsive Economic Policies and Action planning.

The findings from the needs assessment will continue to inform WDN-U and other organizations in Uganda of the gaps and interventions that should be made to enhance advocacy for economic policies that respond to the needs of women prior to, during and after COVID19. The comments from the recipients of the report via email indicated the importance of the findings for advocacy for women's economic empowerment.

"Thank you so much for sharing the needs assessment report and encouraging us to use it for our advocacy work. We shall definitely use it"-Sheila Mishambi, Executive Director, East African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI)

WDN-U also shared the report with WDN and WDN-U CSO partners who compiled the report and women leaders in the West Nile region. The report can be accessed on www.wdnuganda.org

The results from the advocacy from the women organizations in the districts of Arua, Koboko and Nebbi on economic policy include:

Arua: On August 11 2020 the Executive Director of Youth Development Initiatives-West Nile (YDI-WN), WDN-U's CSO partner in Arua district, held a meeting with the Production Officer of Arua district. The Production Officer informed WDN-U's CSO partner YDI-WN that the district receives some grants from partners but he does not have information on active women groups that can benefit from the grants. He further informed the WDN-U CSO partner YDI-WN that, the district in 2019 received funding from the World Bank, and that the funds targeted commercial cassava farmers. Unfortunately, part of the money was returned because very few groups applied. Following the meeting, one of the activities that YDI-WN is doing is mapping the district to document the economic activities that women are involved in, in order to share this information with the Production officer to inform them about the women groups to reach out to whenever opportunities for funding and other economic resources arise. The Production Officer will work with YDI-WN to educate women groups on available economic resources available and how women can access them. He also requested YDI-WN and WDN-U to invite him to some of their radio programs focused on women's economic empowerment to communicate available opportunities for women in business and women's groups in the Arua district.

YDI-WN will provide women groups with information on economic opportunities for women groups and organizations to enhance access to resources for women.

The women councilors who attended the training identified the policy gaps that are hindering women's access to equal economic opportunities with men in the district. The main gaps include

(a) lack of information in the past on when to engage with the policymaking process; (b) The stage at which women councilors can influence the policymaking process for maximum results (c) Lack of research by women councilors on proposed economic policies to enhance their influence in council (d) Bad behavior exhibited by some councilors towards technical staff in the district council. The poor relationship between councilors and technical staff has affected access to information by councilors on upcoming policy proposals by departments in the local government and limited the influence of councilors in the policymaking process.

This being an election year in Uganda (2020/2021), women's economic empowerment has been identified as one of the five issues in the national women's manifesto 2021-2026. WDN-U is part of the Women's Democracy Group¹ (WDG) which is responsible for developing the national women's manifesto. The national women's manifesto is an advocacy tool that women organizations publicize to inform and influence party manifestos and candidate messages on specific issues that will affect women in Uganda in a five year period after an election. WDN-U is highlighting women's economic empowerment and specific issues that political parties should integrate in their party manifestoes based on information from the districts that have benefited from WDN-U's economic policy advocacy project. National Resistance Movement (NRM), Democratic Party (DP) and Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) and National Unity Platform party have included women's economic empowerment as a key issue in their party manifestoes. WDN-U will continue to do advocacy on policy gaps for women's economic empowerment after the 2021 elections especially with the party that will form the government and their leaders in the district councils and Parliament respectively.

WDN-U will also integrate lobbying in its training for newly elected local councilors to enhance gender-responsive policy-making and budgeting in the 2021/2022 financial year national budget.

Training political party leaders on gender accountability

On July 2 2020, WDN-U conducted training for senior party management leaders (including women's league and youth league national leaders) of Forum for Democratic Change on the benefits of promoting women in general and young women in FDC. The second purpose of the activity was to share the findings from the Gender study conducted by WDN-U on behalf of Christian Democratic International Center (KIC) on the challenges women especially young women face in FDC and recommendations. 25 party leaders attended the training including the party president. As a result of the training, the party leadership developed an action plan to address the gender issues in the party policies and practices.

¹ Women's Democracy Group (WDG) comprises of four national women's rights organizations including: WDN-Uganda Chapter, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) and Action for Development (ACFODE)



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF WDN-U AND OTHER LIKEMINDED ORGANIZATIONS

From June –September 2020, WDN-U supported the processes towards the establishment of WDN Africa Network. WDN-U drafted a program for the content of the training that would lead to the establishment of WDN Africa and identified potential WDN leads in five countries in Africa including: Kenya, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ghana and Tanzania. As a result of the training which was facilitated by WDN Board member Rachel Wood, WDN Africa developed a vision, mission and strategic plan that will guide its work on the Africa continent. Prior to the end of year 2020, WDN-U profiled organizations on the continent which work on women’s political rights and shared it with the WDN lead in Zimbabwe Ms. Sally Dura to complete it. The list will inform the networks WDN Africa has to build in order to carve out its niche within the Africa continent.

WDN-U continued to strengthen the capacity of like-minded organizations throughout the year 2020. On June 30 2020, WDN-U Executive Director on invitation by FOWODE conducted training for 24 FOWODE civic educators from the districts of Kibuku, Luwero and Rukungiri on Gender and Governance. The training was held in Kampala.

In September and October 2020, WDN-U conducted two series of candidates training for organizations 30 women candidates per training for Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), WDN-U conducted training for 40 youth leaders organized by Action for Development (ACFODE), WDN-U was invited by Women’s International Peace Center (WIPC) to conduct training for trainers of 45 women and youth peace advocates and 30 journalists from different media houses under the auspices of the Women’s Situation Room. Wizarts Foundation also invited WDN-U to conduct training for journalists on understanding the declaration of results process as Uganda prepares for the 2021 general election. WDN-U was also invited on different panels by organizations like Defend Defenders, Legal Aid Service Providers (LAPSNET), America Bar Association, Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER) among others to speak to different audiences on topics pertinent to the 2021 elections including human rights defenders, freedom of

expression and the participation of women and youth in an election affected by COVID19 and election financing and its impact on service delivery in Uganda.



On September 11 2020, WDN-U Executive Director moderated a session on behalf of Uganda Women's Network and US Embassy in Kampala for aspiring women candidates. The trainer was the Executive Director of Women's campaign school in Yale University, Connecticut, USA. The session which was had 2,453 views can be accessed on:

https://www.facebook.com/U.S.EmbassyKampala/videos/341344127015007/?fref=gs&dti=594746334478138&hc_location=group

On September 22, WDN-U Executive Director facilitated a training on invitation by Femme Forte for 20 students from various Universities in Uganda and young women in the public sector. The training objective was to discuss and equip the participants with knowledge on gender concepts relevant to their spaces and how to build a network that can enable them overcome existing gender issues.

NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

On June 23 2020, WDN-U submitted a Memorandum to the Electoral Commission (EC) on the revised road map for the 2021 elections in Uganda and in particular the mode of holding campaigns through media. The purpose of the memorandum was to share with the EC Chairperson and Commissioners WDN-U's proposals on alternatives for conducting election campaigns in the run up to the 2021 elections amidst COVID19. WDN-U called for dialogue with all stakeholders including: political parties, candidates, citizens groups, media and CSOs to reach consensus on the best way forward to the EC proposal. The memorandum was also shared with the media, CSOs, women leaders and political parties. Together with advocacy by other NGOs like Uganda National NGO Forum and Uganda Women's Network which drew a number of their recommendations from the WDN-U Memorandum to EC, some adjustments were made to the initial proposals of the EC with regard to holding campaigns exclusively through media. On July 22 2020, the EC issued revised guidelines. Of the seven recommendations WDN-U proposed to the Electoral Commission on media exclusive campaigns for candidates in the 2021 elections, five were adopted by the Electoral Commission. The WDN-U proposals which were adopted by the EC are accessible on www.wdnuganda.org



WDN-U Executive Director (2nd left) at a press conference organized by UWONET on the revised guidelines of the Electoral Commission on the conduct of election campaigns

On June 24 2020, WDN-U Executive Director on invitation by African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) participated as a panelist in a High-Level Virtual Forum on Women in Governance and Political Participation. The high level virtual forum was attended by 50 women leaders from different parts of Africa and in the diaspora. WDN-U Executive Director discussed how the action plan for the African Women Leaders Network can best be implemented particularly the plan on women's participation in politics. The video on the discussion can be accessed on YouTube. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQ_2XiKwSzI

On June 25 2020, WDN-U Executive Director on invitation by Public Policy Institute participated as Guest Speaker at an e-workshop on the cost of Politics in Uganda. The purpose of the e-workshop which had 15 participants was to collect qualitative data on the current discourse on the highly monetized nature of Uganda's politics to support a comprehensive participatory study on the cost of politics in Uganda and the implication it has on achieving sustainable democratic governance.

COVID19 affected all sections of Ugandan society and put populations that were regarded as essential workers at greater risk. On June 22 2020, WDN-U donated funds to its CSO partner in Moyo district to purchase 120 masks for market women. The women had continued to work in the market without masks thereby exposing themselves to the virus.

In June 2020, WDN-U donated funds to its CSO partner in Yumbe district, Queen of Heaven to support her civic awareness activity on covid19 in markets in the district. A total of 400 women were sensitized about COVID19 and the steps to take to prevent it.

On July 10 2020 WDN-U Executive Director participated in a webinar organized by Chapter Four a leading human rights organization in Uganda on digitizing democracy. The objectives of the webinar were to increase discussions on the proposal by the Electoral Commission to all candidates to hold media exclusive campaigns amidst covid19; and to contribute to building consensus between EC and stakeholders on the most feasible way forward for election campaigns in Uganda.



On July 16 2020 WDN-U Executive Director participated in a tweet chat on media and campaigns in Uganda's 2021 elections as part of the wider campaign to integrate some face to face meetings in the campaigns. The purpose of the advocacy was to ensure that all candidates get an opportunity to access voters amidst COVID19. This followed an earlier pronouncement by Electoral Commission to majorly hold exclusive media campaigns. 525 people participated in the tweet chat. These efforts by various CSOs and political parties led to an amendment of the restrictions on public gatherings to allow for small gatherings for candidates to access voters.



#UgandaDecides2021

Thursday 16th July, 2020 | 2pm - 4pm

'2021 Elections Revised Roadmap'



					
Sarah Bireete @SarahBireete Executive Director Center for Constitutional Governance MODERATOR	Paul Bukenya @paulbuenya Media & Public Relations Manager at Electoral Commission @UgandaEc	Perry Aritua @PerryAritua Executive Director of Women's Democracy Network Uganda @WDNUganda	Ainebyoona Emmanuel @ainbyoo Senior Public Relations Officer @MinofHealthUG	Pamela Ankunda @Pamankunda Communications Consultant, APT Communications @APTcoms and JustClickUg	Crispin Kaheru @ckaheru Elections Expert

WDN-U in the media

The panel discussion on freedom of speech in the 2021 elections in Uganda can be accessed on:
<https://www.facebook.com/1056980007730954/posts/3271300819632184/>



Radio talk show on radio one in Kampala on October 16 2020

WOMEN'S DEMOCRACY NETWORK(WDN)
UGANDA CHAPTER
P. O. BOX 8203 KIREKA - KAMPALA, UGANDA

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	NOTES	2020 <u>USHS</u>	2019 <u>USHS</u>
INCOME	4	829,256,684	630,383,274
		829,256,684	630,383,274
<u>LESS: OPERATING EXPENSES:</u>			
Finance Charges	A	2,017,005	2,212,674
Administrative Expenses	B	161,156,100	85,701,300
Programme Expenditure	C	642,727,838	524,921,173
TOTAL EXPENSES		805,900,943	612,835,147
Excess Income over Expenditure		23,355,741	17,548,127
Other Income		-	-
Excess Income over Expenditure		23,355,741	17,548,127