

# **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S ACTION IN DEVELOPMENT**



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

## **FOREWORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

I would like to thank partners/donors that supported NAWAD in 2019 during the peak of COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has shaped a new paradigm view of women's responsibilities in our social, political and economic spheres of life. We joined hands with other Civil Society Organizations and local governments to provide information and services during the pandemic that keep women and girls at the grassroots safe. We call upon other service providers, including the private sector, to fully include a gender lens in their response to the crisis and we appeal to funders to enhance support for women and girl's organizations. The extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic have created spaces for us to reimagine how we can best serve our communities in the face of so much uncertainty. From technology and communications, to mentorship and training we are taking what we've learned and using it to create adaptive, innovative services that will strengthen our communities now and for years to come.

On behalf of the Board, we are more grateful than ever for the incredible team of staff members who consistently provide exceptional service, and who have demonstrated outstanding commitment, flexibility and perseverance during the pandemic. Our sincere thanks to our partners, donors, and funders who have sustained the work.



Patience N Muramuzi

**Executive Director**

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# INTRODUCTION

This Annual report highlights the year in review of the Organizational programs, networking, the organization's achievements, challenges, recommendations and conclusion. The reporting period considered is from January to December, 2019. For each of the programs a brief summary of the project description, the project period and activities are noted.

## 1.1 Background

National Association for Women's Action in Development (NAWAD) is a voluntary non-governmental women's organization that was initiated by a group of women in 2009 and was legally registered in 2010 with the Ugandan NGO board (INDR83662539NB6). NAWAD is committed to promote a stable and peaceful society where women and girls access equal rights in the different spheres of life. The organization focuses on the family and the crucial role women play in their families, their communities and the development of Uganda as a nation. The main goal of the organization is to promote the rights of women and girls especially in relation to sustainable natural resource management and climate change of the environment and natural resources, social and economic right and governance, peace and security.

While there are a number of efforts addressing the challenges that confront women and girls; NAWAD has developed a unique perspective through its focus on the family as a key institution for building sustainable communities with emphasis on inclusion of men as strategic allies for attainment of gender equality. NAWAD believes that stable and peaceful families create stable and peaceful communities. NAWAD feels strongly that to promote equal participation in decision-making for women, women and men must both be involved in the process of securing equal opportunities. The organization however, believes that ***"Putting Women at the Forefront"*** and encouraging men to work with them is the only way to develop stable families and communities and ensure that all Ugandans realize their full potential. NAWAD is committed to contributing to uplifting the status of women and girls in Uganda, with a focus on grassroots communities across the country.

### 1.1.1 NAWAD's Vision

To have a society where women and girls enjoy social, economic and environmental justice.

### **1.1.2 NAWAD's Mission**

To empower women and girls to achieve social justice, economic stability and sustainable management of the environment through capacity building, research, advocacy, and service provision.

### **1.1.3 Objectives**

1. To promote sustainable natural resource management and climate change alternatives to benefit Women and Girls.
2. To Promote the Social and Economic rights of Women and Young Girls in Uganda
3. To promote Gender and Equity Responsive Policy-making, Planning and Budgeting Processes in Uganda
4. To strengthen NAWAD's Institutional and Organizational Development

### **1.1.4 Priority program areas**

1. Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Climate Change.
2. Social and Economic Rights
3. Governance, Peace and Security.
4. Institutional and Organizational Development

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### 2.1 Women2030 project

The Women2030 project is a project being implemented in 52 countries around the world with an objective of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) until 2030. While focusing on Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Mitigating Climate Change (SDG 13), NAWAD in partnership with Action for Rural Women Empowerment (ARUWE) and with support from Women Engage for a Common Future (WEFC) implemented the project with the theme “Women Building Power for Gender Equality and Environmental Justice” in Nyabuhama, Biharwe division in Mbarara district with the aim of building the capacity of women’s civil society organizations towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement. This was achieved through facilitating women to effectively engage in development and government policy processes through networking and movement building.



Figure 1: Facilitator, Mrs. Kyohairwe Sylvia Bohibwa giving a background explanation of the SDGs

On 20<sup>th</sup> June, NAWAD mobilized over 24 women representatives from 12 women groups as well as some local leaders that participated in a community meeting. In the meeting, participants were enlightened about the background of the SDG; they shared information about the SDGs in focus 5 and 13 while identifying problems and solutions to

each. Members decided to unite into a movement for collective actions against gender inequality and climate change. The committee for the movement was elected and was later presented to Biharwe local leaders. In addition, a position paper was developed too.

As per today, the women have formulated a constitution that governs the movement titled “The Grassroot Women led Movement Nyabuhama Biharwe Sub-county” meets once every quarter,



*Figure3: The women movement committee secretary presenting the position paper and the committee to Biharwe local council leaders.*



*Figure2: Biharwe LCIII cahirperson giving the final remarks to the meeting*

but the various groups in the movement meet at least once every month and for savings, this is done on a weekly basis.

## 2.2 International Women’s Day Celebrations

The International women’s Day is a day when the role of women is focused on and also when mistreatment of women or violations of women’s rights are addressed the day is celebrated every year on 08<sup>th</sup> of March. As an organization that focuses on advocating for women’s rights, NAWAD too joined the world in celebrating this day. The organization with support from National Association of professional Environmentalists (NAPE) organized at women’s workshop that took place at Mizabibu gardens in Biharwe, Mbarara district under the international theme for the year, “think equal, build smart, and innovate for change.”

The event attracted over 150 participants including women groups’ representatives, local leaders, policy makers and the media. With the main objective of the workshop focusing on strengthening the women’s movement among NAWAD’s women groups, the celebrations were flagged off by the Executive Director NAWAD, Mrs. Patience Muramuzi and Ms. Nanyonjo Clemensia, the woman Councilor Biharwe Sub-County. Women reflected on the hindrances of



women development. Ms.Jesca Byaruhanga (a gender specialist), summed up the discussion with key issues faced by women in Biharwe and in Uganda as a whole. She highlighted more on the workshop theme, the purpose of celebrating women's day and what women should do to achieve development.



Figure5: Participants listening closely as different individuals made communications during the celebrations



Figure4: Cake cutting during the celebrations with NAWAD executive director in the middle

## 2.3 The Scholarship Project

Depending on agriculture as their main source of improved livelihoods, the adverse climate change impacts in Nyabuhama dry cattle corridor such as prolonged dry seasons could not see the communities and families out of poverty and poor living conditions. Therefore considering its already established grassroots women groups, NAWAD with support from LATEK Stay Alliance Uganda (LASTAU) established a project **“Enhancing Resilience of Grassroots Women to Climate Change through Sustainable Agriculture”** in Nyabuhama, Mbarara district in Western Uganda in 2018. This project aimed at building the capacity of



Figure 6: Mercy presenting her certificate in agriculture from Rwampara farm institute

community women based climate change committee leadership in entrepreneurship skills and in different off garden agricultural alternatives like poultry, piggery, and bee keeping, among others. Therefore, the project supported a scholar, Niwalinda Mercy in a two year course in agriculture that was aimed at skilling her in climate resilient agricultural techniques.

In November 2019, the scholar completed her course with a certificate in agriculture at Rwampara farm institute where she managed to acquire numerous practical skills both in crop and animal husbandry. Among these include;

Crop Husbandry	Animal Husbandry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Soil sampling and testing</li> <li>✓ Nursery bed preparations</li> <li>✓ organic and compost manure making</li> <li>✓ fertilizer application</li> <li>✓ Banana plantation management</li> <li>✓ De- suckering</li> <li>✓ Grafting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Poultry management</li> <li>✓ Cattle and pig rearing</li> <li>✓ Milking</li> <li>✓ Weaning off of young ones</li> <li>✓ Hay making</li> <li>✓ Collection of blood samples</li> <li>✓ castration</li> </ul>

In addition during her course of study, Mercy underwent an on farm internship training for another period of three months at Ibo mixed farm where she fully practiced and exercised the knowledge she acquired while at the institute.



Figure 8: The scholar, during a field tour with fellow course mates



Figure 7: The scholar castrating a goat while at Ibo mixed farm

Upon completion of her course, Mercy has started serving the community as the project states and her services are supposed to be done free of charge for a period of three years.

## **2. 4 Community based, women-led climate justice solutions in agriculture in Uganda**

The Community based, women-led climate justice solutions in agriculture in Uganda is a project funded by Global Fund for Women (GFW) and is being implemented in Purungo Sub County in Nwoya district. This project started in August 2019 and is supposed to run for a period of two years to July 2021. The project is aimed at enhancing the capacity of grassroots women groups to develop and implement sustainable agriculture practices (agro-ecology) in Nwoya district by 2021. The activities covered so far include the baseline research, community dialogue and training.

### **2.4.1 Baseline Research**

In September 2019, a baseline research was conducted led by the consultant Mr. Wilber Bateisibwa. The team conducted Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with district officials from the production and community development offices, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with three women-led groups.

From the baseline report, it was revealed that; majority of women don't own land and that women are of a lower status to men in society, the main source of livelihood for families in Purungo Sub County is agriculture and women are more involved than men in farming activities, both modern and traditional methods of farming are still practiced in the communities, farmers grow both local and hybrid seeds and there are farmers who spray using pesticides and herbicides, climate changes manifesting in prolonged dry season and unreliable and sometimes heavy rainfall affect agriculture, the effects of climate change on agriculture and family health affect women since they have the responsibility of providing food to the family and take care of family members' health, among others. The report recommends the need to strengthen the capacity of grassroots women groups to scale up and implement sustainable agricultural practices, to organize women to take up more leadership spaces in community and need to establish and support a network for a strong women movement for climate Change and sustainable agriculture.



## 2.4.2 Community dialogue

In November a community dialogue was held with participants from five women's groups. The objective of the dialogue was to go through processes of recalling the social cultural meaning and implications of indigenous seed diversity and food production systems. The organization's program manager, Ms. Irene Annet Khaoya facilitated the community dialogue guiding participants to discuss different aspects of traditional farming practices in Acholi region from tilling the land in preparation for farming seasons, seed selections, planting, weeding, harvesting and storage. The dialogue was participatory and the participants acknowledged the importance of traditional farming in preserving local seed varieties that are resistant to climate change. Many noted that they still practice traditional farming and will share local seed varieties in their groups for multiplication.



Figure 9: One of the participants explaining the farming practices in their community



Figure 11: Agro-ecology trainer demonstrating on planting on slopes

## 2.4.3 Agro- ecology training

Training on agro-ecology targeting the six grassroots women groups was carried out

at Purongo sub county headquarters in Nwoya district. The objective of the training was to enhance the capacity of 6 grassroots women groups to develop and implement sustainable agriculture practices (Agro-ecology) in Nwoya by 2021. The training was attended by 26 participants from five groups since the sixth group had lost a member who was buried on the day of training. The training employed a participatory methodology where the trainer made presentations per sub-topic. Relevant examples were given by the trainer and participants gave local examples in relation to the sub- topics. Demonstrations on spacing of crops, planting on slopes, intercropping and other aspects of agro-ecology were done in the training room and outside in the sub county headquarter compound. The participatory training approach was used to enable group members understand well the content of agro-ecology training.



*Figure 12: Some of the practices used for irrigation during the dry season*

The content of the training started with the definition of agro-ecology as the scientific method of using ecological/local materials to get proper crop yields and for good land management. Local or organic materials include cow dung, animal urine, local tree leaves like red pepper, crop husks and Ash. Basic Principles of Agro ecology which included productivity/ yield, equity / fairness, sustainability and stability, Practices and systems in agro-ecology which included planting, seed selection, use of organic matter, planting the right crop for the right season, planting mature seed and plant trees to prevent sunlight and provide moisture, importance of agro-ecology, threats and solutions to agro-ecology. The participants recommended the trainings should take place in their villages with smaller groups for better understanding.



## 2.5 The Beijing +25 consultative meeting



Figure 13: A group photo of participants of the Beijing +25 consultative meeting at Lweza leadership, training and conference center

The **1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA)** is the most visionary agenda for the empowerment of women and girls, world over. It was developed at the [Fourth World Conference on Women](#) in Beijing, China and was adopted by 189 governments committed to taking strategic, bold action in **12 critical areas of concern**, namely: poverty, education and training, health, violence, armed conflict, economy, power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for advancement, human rights, media, environment, and the specific needs of the girl child.

In 2020, it will be the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It is therefore, a pivotal moment for the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, everywhere. It will also be a golden opportunity to push for commitments for the acceleration of the platform and mobilize new commitments specific to the current context.

NAWAD organized the consultation meeting in partnership with **National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)** and **Coalition on Girl-child Empowerment (COGE)** with support from Womankind Worldwide. Participants included women and girls from different parts of the country; Wakiso, Kalangala, Luweero, Mukono, Soroti, Mbale, Mbarara, Buliisa, Hoima, Kikuube, Moroto, Amuru, Kyegegwa, Nwoya and Gulu districts. The meeting was centered on five themes; women and environment; violence against women; education and training; women, poverty and the economy and women in power and decision making. The participants acknowledged that there has been progress made since 1995 when the Beijing Platform and Declaration of Action came into force. They highlighted the challenges that have prevented full realization of gender equality and women empowerment among them is poverty which prevents women from participating and making decisions, low levels of education due to negative cultural practices around the girl child and marriage, land grabbing and low compensations in areas where developments and extractive processes are taking place among other challenges. The participants called on government to act especially in putting up mechanisms to enforce laws on gender based violence and women's ownership to property.



## 2.6 Participation and Opportunities for Women's Economic Rights (POWER)

The POWER project is a 27 months project that started in October 2019 funded by UK AID March. The project is being implemented in four districts of Nwoya, Amuru, Hoima and Buliisa by three organizations; NAWAD, NAPE and Womankind Worldwide. The project focuses on

empowering displaced women or those at risk of being displaced as a result of extractives, large scale land investments, land grabs and other land injustices that place women at a disadvantage.

The project kicked off with a five days inception workshop with the project team to ensure a common understanding of the project. By the close of the year, a baseline assessment had been conducted to provide a starting point against which the project partners will measure success at the end of the project and provide essential information to shape the delivery of the core project activities. Preparations for the livelihood research had been initiated too.





Figure15: The POWER project teams strongly putting out their fists to symbolize a powerful kick off.



Figure 17: Data collector gathering information during the baseline survey



Figure 16: One of the focus group discussions during the baseline survey in Amuru

## 2.7 The 16 Days of Activism Campaign

With support from Womankind worldwide the organization organized activities to launch the 16 days of activism against gender based violence in Purongo Sub County, Nwoya district in Northern Uganda. The launch was organized under the theme **End Gender Based Violence in**

**the world of Work.** For Nwoya district we concentrated on the human wildlife conflict with a sub theme of **Stop Wildlife Attacks Now.** A march for five kilometers around Purongo trading center with women and men carrying placards condemning the wildlife attacks on communities and destruction of gardens was carried out. After the march, a community dialogue was held in the sub county hall with representative of women groups from the affected villages, community members around Purongo trading center, sub county officials both technical and political and officials from the district community development office, the resident district commissioner and officers from the police department of child and family protection and a representative of the district chairperson. Women shared stories of wildlife attacks on their gardens and how it leads to gender based violence and the government officials elaborated the plan by government to control the situation.



*Figure 18: women and men marching in Purongo trading center during the 16 days of activism campaign*



## **NETWORKING**

The organization values networking as it provides an opportunity for sharing ideas and learning from what other organizations are doing. Staff of the organization attended a number of networking events. Among these include:

### **3.1 CSO Forum and Retreat**

The organization was invited to the CSO forum and retreat organized by UWASNET to engage CSOs with Water and Sanitation interests. The CSO forum attendance was open to CSOs and a retreat for technical working groups where NAWAD is vice chairperson to the women, children and other vulnerable groups (gender working group). Among these meetings, the assistant communications officer participated in a UWASNET meeting organized by OxFarm where she represented the organization in a skit and presented on ways of adding SANI Tweaks in all WASH facilities especially in the usage of Latrines to favor different vulnerable groups like women, girls, the blind, lame, the old and others.

### **3.2 Meeting at the Netherlands Embassy**

The Executive Director was invited and attended a dinner at the Netherlands Embassy on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October where she met and interacted with representatives from other organizations involved in grassroots organizing. She introduced to the members present the grassroots eco-feminist women movement. She was happy that the ambassador expressed interest in the work of the organization and hoped at some point in future the organization could be supported.



*Figure 19: NAWAD Executive director in a group photo with the ambassador at the Netherlands Embassy in Uganda*

### **3.3 Meeting with Action for Rural Women Empowerment (ARUWE)**

Emmanuel the accounts assistant attended a meeting organized by ARUWE in Kampala. It was consultative meeting to discuss issues around SDG5 (Gender Equality and women empowerment) and SDG13 (Climate Change) in relation to the National gender policy IV and the National development Plan III. Participants raised the need for government to improve on sensitization of the SDGs at the local level.

### **3.4 Regional Convening on Women's Leadership in Peace Building in the Great Lakes**

The convening took place in Kampala with participants from Burundi, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Uganda. The convening was held with the objective to engage in key conversations and exchanges around the means through

which we could strengthen our collective capacity to promote women's leadership in peace building and reconstruction, address sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, and address the impact of the mining and extractive industry on women and girls' rights and lasting peace in the Great Lakes region of Africa.. The program manager, while at the convening interacted with an officer from Urgent Action Fund (UAF). This created a platform for an opportunity to engage with a possibility of securing funds for the organization.



### **3.5 Amuru Budget Conference**

The Community Liaison Officer represented the organization in Amuru district budget conference where he presented POWER project work plan and budget for the first year of the project. The project work plan and budget was requested for during the project inception meeting to be integrated in the district budget.

### **3.6 Rethinking convention series**

The Executive Director together with the Policy and Advocacy Officer represented the organization in the convention. The convention was to discuss and think about new strategies to empower communities to fight poverty considering that several strategies and interventions have been implemented with little success.

## **INTERNATIONAL EVENTS**

### **4.1 Feminist for a Binding Treaty (F4BT)**

The scale and impact of corporate operations across the world is causing great harm to millions of people and the environment: from land-grabbing and displacements to the contamination of water and soil, to the loss of lives of women human rights defenders protecting their fundamental human rights, livelihoods, freedoms and territories. Thousands of trade and investment agreements safeguard corporate interests, without any respect for the free, prior and informed consent, consultation of affected communities, nor any corresponding regulatory framework to protect human rights and the environment from corporate abuse.

The organization represented by its Policy and Advocacy officer, Mrs. Sylvia Bohibwa joined a group of Feminists from all over the world to call on governments to support the legally-binding instrument on transnational corporations and human rights in negotiations that took place at the United Nations in Geneva. This was a very good chance to demonstrate political will to put economic justice, environmental justice, gender justice and accountability to people above corporate interests. Sylvia also took part in a demonstration against destruction of the amazon rain forest contributing climate change.

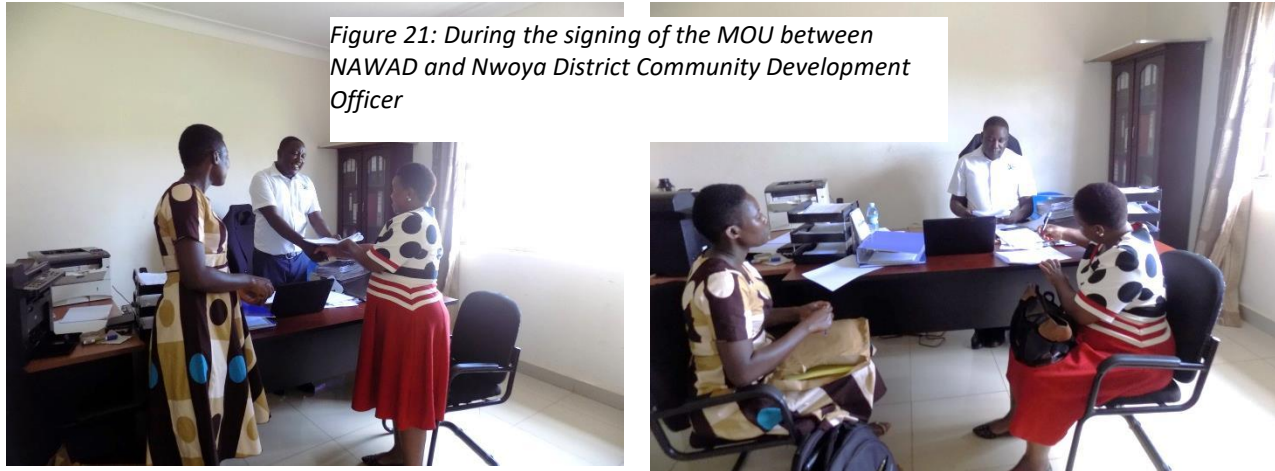




Figure 20: NAWAD policy and Advocacy officer among the panelists during the binding treaty negotiations

## ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

The organization was able to renew its registration certificate and permit of operation with Uganda National NGO Forum. These documents have been used in formalizing the organizations working relationship with her districts of operation for example NAWAD signed a MOU with Nwoya, Amuru and Mbarara districts.



The organization recruited new staff including; the program manager, assistant communications officer, assistant accounts officer and a liaison officer to support its daily office work and programs.

As a practice of good management, NAWAD holds weekly staff meetings for reporting, planning, monitoring, evaluation and also for purposes of sharing lessons for smooth running.

In December the board of Directors of the organization had a meeting at NAWD offices to review the year's activities and plan ahead starting with updating the strategic plan.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

NAWAD, at administration level was able to secure a desktop computer, An APC-UPS machine that offers battery backup, an office phone, Mi-Fi for internet, external hard drive for data backup, a power bank and a white board. All these support in the smooth running of organization's office work.

The organization recruited and signed new staff; the programs officer Ms. Annet Irene Khaoya, assist. Accounts Officer, Mr. Bugembe Emmanuel, and the assist. Communication officer, Ms. Nakitende Jennifer.

During the year, the organization secured funds to support its activities in different projects with support from Global Fund for Women, Womankind Worldwide, Latek Stay Alliance and ARUWE.

NAWAD signed a memorandum of understanding with Nwoya district and is at the finalization stages of having the MOU with Amuru district signed too.



NAWAD's women groups in Mbarara district officially joined the NAWAD grassroots eco-feminist women's movement.

NAWAD developed a community baseline survey report for the position of women in the community, climate change status, agriculture and women in Nwoya district that it also publicized on its website. The report can further be referenced by the organization and the general for information purposes.

NAWAD coordinated the Beijing+25 national grassroots women consultative meeting, the first one of its kind in Uganda from which a parallel report on the overview of the women's rights situation in Uganda, priorities, achievements, challenges and setbacks were provided since the last 24 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995. To download and review the report, please [click here](#) .

## **CHALLENGES**

Few calls were responded to for fundraising and a number of funders have not given us a response which makes the organization operate on limited funds.

## **CONCLUSION**

Several project activities were successfully implemented and networking events attended by the organization's staff.

The organization realizes the need for governments to engage the indigenous people especially women in national debates and meetings, regional and international meetings that reflect and build actions to women's rights.