


ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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NAWAD ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACA	Advocacy Capacity Assessment
AINAPI	Advocate for the Implementation of the NDP III Argo-Industrialization Action Plan
BE	Business Enterprise
COP	Conference of Parties
CSSA	Civil Society Strengthening Activity
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
GBV	Gender-based Violence
NAPE	National Association of Professional Environmentalists
NAWAD	National Association for Women's Action in Development
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-government Organization
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
PDM	Parish Development Model
POWER	POWER Participation and Opportunities for Women's Economic Rights
PROCOWC	Promoting Community-based Women-led Climate Justice
A	Solutions in Agriculture
	Saving and Credit Cooperative Organizations
SACCO	Smallholder Farmer
SHF	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SRHR	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STD	United Nations Climate Change Conference
UNFCCC	U.S. Agency for International Development
USAID	USAID/Uganda Civil Society Strengthening Activity
USAID/CSSA	Village Saving and Loan Association
VSLA	Women Smallholder Farmer
WSHF	

FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



Putting Women at the Forefront" and encouraging men to work alongside them is vital for creating stable families and thriving communities.

I am honored to present this year's annual report, which reflects our unwavering commitment to uplifting the status of women and girls in the rural communities of Uganda. Since our establishment in 2010, NAWAD has remained dedicated to our vision of "a society where women and girls enjoy social, economic, and environmental justice." Our unique approach emphasizes the family as a cornerstone for building sustainable communities and highlights the inclusion of men as strategic allies in the quest for gender equality. We firmly believe that "Putting Women at the Forefront" and encouraging men to work alongside them is vital for creating stable families and thriving communities. This philosophy has guided our efforts and inspired transformative change.

In the past year, our organization has made significant strides in promoting stable and peaceful families where women and girls have equal access to rights in all aspects of life.

Through capacity building, research, advocacy, and service provision, we have empowered countless women and girls to achieve social justice and economic stability, while also fostering sustainable environmental management.

NAWAD's impact is evident in the success of various projects, such as the USAID-supported Advocate for the Implementation of the NDP III Agro-Industrialization Implementation Action Plan (AINAPI), which has enhanced access to extension services and post-harvest handling technologies for 1,500 women smallholder farmers in Mbarara and Rubirizi districts. Additionally, our Promoting Community-based Women-led Climate Justice Solutions in Agriculture (PROCOWCA) project has empowered women farmers in Nwoya district to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices, thereby ensuring food security and increased household incomes. NAWAD has also been involved in strengthening social and economic empowerment of young women through supporting their sexual and reproductive health rights and engagement in income generating activities. These achievements underscore our commitment to our mission of empowering women and girls to achieve social justice, economic stability, and sustainable environmental management. We are proud of the progress we have made and the positive impact our initiatives have had on the lives of women and girls in Uganda.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our goal of contributing to the economic empowerment and social justice for grassroots women and girls in Uganda. The challenges are great, but with the continued support of our partners, stakeholders, and the communities we serve, we are confident in our ability to drive further positive change.

Together, let us continue to strive for a future where every woman and girl in Uganda can realize their full potential and live in a society that values and respects their contributions.

Sincerely,



Associate professor. Kyoheirwe Muhanguzi Florence
Chairperson, NAWAD

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible strides NAWAD has made in uplifting the status of women and girls in grassroots communities across Uganda. Our commitment to creating a society where women and girls enjoy social, economic, and environmental justice has never been stronger. NAWAD stands out through its unique focus on the family as a foundational institution for building sustainable communities.

By emphasizing the inclusion of men as strategic allies in our mission to achieve gender equality, we have witnessed transformative changes in the communities we serve. We firmly believe that putting women at the forefront and encouraging men to work alongside them is essential for developing stable families and thriving communities.

This year, we have continued to promote stable and peaceful families, ensuring that women and girls have access to equal rights in all spheres of life. Our dedicated efforts in capacity building, research, advocacy, and service provision have empowered countless women and girls to achieve social justice and economic stability while fostering sustainable management of the environment. We remain committed to our vision; "A society where women and girls are afforded the same opportunities and rights, free from discrimination and injustice".

We also remain committed to our mission which aims to empower women and girls through various strategic initiatives is the driving force behind every success story we celebrate.

As we look to the future, we are more determined than ever to contribute to the economic empowerment and social justice for grassroots women in Uganda. The journey ahead is challenging, but with the unwavering support of our partners, stakeholders, and the communities we serve, we are confident in our ability to continue making a meaningful impact.

Together, let us strive for a future where every woman and girl in Uganda can achieve their full potential and live in a society that values and respects their contributions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kentaro Grace Maria
Executive Director, NAWAD

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

■ Our Vision And Mission

Vision: A society where women and girls enjoy social, economic, and environmental justice.

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.

■ Our Goal

To contribute to economic empowerment and social justice for grassroots women in Uganda.

■ Thematic Program Areas And Strategic Objectives

Agriculture and Women's Economic Empowerment

To advance transformative agricultural systems for women's economic empowerment and food-secure households.

Climate Change and Natural Resource Management

To promote inclusive efforts that address climate change and sustainable natural resource management.

Sexual and Gender-based Violence and Social Justice

To alleviate sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls and advocate for their social justice.

Organizational Capacity Strengthening

To strengthen NAWAD's institutional Development.

Our Values



Honesty



Respect



Dignity



Excellence



Fairness



Transparency

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE IN 2023

This year, NAWAD operated in two regions of Uganda, in western Uganda, Mbarara and Rubirizi districts, and northern Uganda in Nwoya district. NAWAD has fully operating offices in the three districts.



IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS

THEMATIC AREA 1

Improving access to post-harvest handling and storage among women smallholder farmers

THEMATIC AREA 2

Promoting women-led climate justice solutions in Agriculture

THEMATIC AREA 3

Strengthening Community Action against Sexual and Gender-based Violence

THEMATIC AREA 4

Organizational capacity Strengthening

Improving access to post-harvest handling and storage technologies by women smallholder farmers

Smallholder farmers in Uganda play a vital role in the production, processing, and marketing of agricultural commodities but are ultimately challenged by the recurring reality of post-harvest losses and limited access to agricultural extension services and farming technologies. This disparity stems from the fact that extension services mainly target commercial production entities that are predominantly managed and controlled by the wealthy who are often men.

USAID/Uganda Civil Society Strengthening Activity has since 2022, supported National Association for Women's Action Development (NAWAD) to execute the Advocate for the Implementation of the NDP III Agro-Industrialization Implementation Action Plan (AINAPI) project in Mbarara and Rubirizi districts.

The project has enhanced access to extension services for post-harvest handling and storage among 1,500 women smallholder farmers through capacity building in advocacy, creating platforms for linkages between the women and duty bearers, collaborations and partnerships, information sharing, private sector engagement, strengthening group/ community structures to foster peer learning, and digitizing advocacy efforts. NAWAD has also enhanced the engagement of women smallholder farmers in the Parish Development Model (PDM) by training women in their rights, roles, and responsibilities in the PDM. The PDM is a government strategy or approach for organizing and delivering public and private sector interventions for wealth creation and employment at the parish level as the lowest economic planning unit.



Key project Achievements

- a) The advocacy capacity of 160 women smallholder farmers was enhanced through advocacy training.
- b) Women have improved knowledge of how to engage their leaders to influence decision-making processes. As a result, women's access to extension services has been enhanced in Mbarara and Rubirizi. In the past two years of project implementation extension officers have directly met women at the lowest level responding to and addressing challenges they face in crop production.
- c) More women received PDM funding directly at the household level. According to the PDM guidelines, only one member per household is allowed to access PDM loans. A total of 56 women smallholder farmers out of 1000 managed to access PDM funds and two women of these secured leadership positions on the PDM loan committees.
- d) The project created a platform where smallholder farmers were linked to their leaders. During activities implementation, the farmers closely interacted and exchanged contact with their leaders.
- e) NAWAD established a business enterprise that provides flexible loans for women smallholder farmers. This supported them in financing small businesses and adopting post-harvest handling and storage technologies. Women access loans at a lower interest rate of 2% as opposed to other credit institutions and the government's PDM at 6%.
- f) Using the smartphones that were provided by the project to smallholder farmer groups, women can access extension services remotely and faster.





AMPLIFYING WOMEN'S VOICES

"Specioza Kyampaire (Front yellow dress) and other members of Mirarikye Bakyara Tweyambe women's group brainstorm strategies for effective advocacy during an advocacy training by NAWAD in Ndekye Parish, Rubirizi district, under USAID/CSSA-supported AINAPI

Mirarikye village is graciously tucked away between the tantalizing rolling hills, breathtaking lakes, and lush vegetation of Rubirizi district, in a region of Uganda so naturally gifted it's nicknamed 'the land of milk and honey'.

The wealth of the land, however, has not always been reflected in the livelihoods of her dwellers. Mirarkye and like villages are usually cut off from most government services, and barely benefit from national development programs, leaving especially the women at a disadvantage as they, culturally, have to provide and fend for their families, with their go-to source of livelihood being subsistence agriculture.

One such woman is Specioza Kyampaire. Barely into her mid-thirties, Specioza's warm, charming personality does a plausible job of almost perfectly concealing the weariness from tending to six children and a husband who needs special care.

"My husband and I used to share the weight of the family responsibility, until five years ago when he developed a mental illness and can no longer engage in productive work", she says. "Since then, I have had to on my own find ways of making ends meet while taking care of him and raising school fees for the children".

"But don't feel sad for me", she adds, smiling infectiously. "On the brighter side, things have started to get a lot better since I and other women here got introduced to the USAID-supported AINAPI project".

The National Association for Women's Action in Development (NAWAD) with support from USAID/Uganda Civil Society Strengthening Activity (USAID/CSSA) is implementing the Advocate for the Implementation of NDP III Agro- Agro-Industrialization Program Implementation Action Plan (AINAPI) to support women in the districts of Mbarara and Rubirizi in Western Uganda to improve their livelihoods by advocating for and enhancing their capacities to advocate for government programs to be brought closer to them.

"The training from the project has built my leadership capacity and introduced me to leaders at the parish, sub-county, and district levels, who now pay attention to our needs because when I reach out to them, I now have a clear idea of what to talk about, and how to effectively deliver the message", says Specioza, who is now the leader of her group- Mirarikye Bakyara Tweyambe Women's group. Among other things, the AINAPI project enhances women's capacity to advocate to advance to be considered in government programs such as the Parish Development Model (PDM)

"I now have a clear idea of what to talk about, and how to effectively deliver the message"

The Parish Development Model (PDM) is the last mile strategy for service delivery by the Government of Uganda, aimed at improving income and welfare at the household level, with the Parish as the lowest economic planning unit and operational hub for fostering local economic development. PDM aims to ignite the transformation of subsistence households into 'the money economy', with agricultural and financial inclusion being some of the key pillars.

Benefiting from this program, however, is not a piece of cake for women such as Specioza, who have previously been invisible to such interventions.

"We first had to advocate for women to be added to the PDM committee in our Parish to make sure we are represented", Specioza says.

"The good news is, that was successful, and I was made one of the committee members. The bad news is, I was then informed that committee members are not eligible to benefit from the PDM program", she laughs.

"So, we engaged in further advocacy to substantiate that seeking representation should not deny us the opportunity to get the assistance that we so much needed, and - as the AINAPI project made us understand - are lawfully entitled to".

"That as well was successful. It was amended that being on the committee does not affect one's eligibility to benefit from the PDM enterprise", she smiles.

"Five of my group members and I have already received business start-up capital of a million shillings (about USD 275) each".

To complement the government programs, the project also provides other forms of support to the target beneficiaries.

"We acknowledge that the government support has its limitations, so we provide the groups some of the basic tools they need for post-harvest handling and storage, such as storage bags and simple machines", says Rita Nimusiima, NAWAD's Program Officer in Rubirizi district.

"We are also rolling out 'easy' loans with interest in the range of 1.5% to complement the PDM money they receive, and we train them to develop business plans as they work towards switching from subsistence to commercial agriculture", she adds.

Mbarara District local government has commended the project for facilitating the implementation of the PDM enterprise. "We have benefitted a lot from engagements with the AINAPI project, especially in Parish Development Model (PDM) related activities. In fact, the smallholder women farmer groups under the project were the foundation stones for the PDM enterprise in Mbarara", says Robert Tumwesigye, the Mbarara District Production Officer. "The structures engineered by the project provided essential entry points into the communities, which led to the success of the PDM program in Mbarara District. We are very grateful, and I feel so proud to work with NAWAD and USAID on the AINAPI project".

"We have benefitted a lot from engagements with the AINAPI project, especially in Parish Development Model (PDM) related activities. In fact, the smallholder women farmer groups under the project were the foundation stones for the PDM enterprise in Mbarara", Robert Tumwesigye, the Mbarara District Production Officer



Promoting Community-based Women-led Climate Justice Solutions in Agriculture.

Promoting Community-based Women-led Climate Justice Solutions in Agriculture (PROCOWCA) is a three-year project (2021/2024) funded by the Global Fund for Women. Implemented by National Association for Women's Action in Development (NAWAD), PROCOWCA aims to ensure food security, increased income, climate change adaption, and mitigation by promoting climate-smart agricultural practices at the household level in Nwoya district. The project targets 40 women groups (600 women smallholder farmers) including youth, and persons living with disabilities.

In efforts to strengthen the capacity of women farmers to develop and implement environmentally sustainable agricultural practices for women's economic rights and climate change mitigation and adaptation, this year, NAWAD, through training in advocacy and movement building, strengthened the advocacy capacity of 280 to advance advocacy initiatives centered on community organizing to deepen collective visions emerging as effective solutions for climate justice at the grassroots. The training in turn strengthened women's leadership as a precursor to improve responsiveness as they seek to protect and defend their environment and rights. Through meetings and dialogues, knowledge exchange on climate change and mitigation measures was enhanced among communities in Purongo, Koch Goma, Anaka, and Alero sub-counties in Nwoya district.



The project has led to increased household incomes among women farmers as a result of the establishment of micro agri-projects including beekeeping, fruit tree planting, vegetable gardening, and crop growing at large scale. The project supported farmers with seed capital in the form of seeds, fruit tree seedlings, bee hives, and harvesting kits in addition, farmers were skilled in financial literacy and business management. In partnership with ForAfrika, women groups were offered Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA) kits as a result, women have developed a culture of saving, and their ability to access finances in the form of loans was enhanced. Through loans from group savings, and other existing SACCOs around the communities, the women have established other small businesses for extra income in their households hence the project has fueled financial independence among women.

The project has contributed to NAWAD's efforts of strengthening the eco-feminist grassroots movement to protect and defend women's economic rights including the rights to own and control land use. This has led to a shift from considering women as victims of climate change to embracing the support as agents of change in climate justice.



ABOUT THE GRASSROOTS ECO-FEMINIST MOVEMENT

The environment and women have been depicted as correlating by many studies. Due to socially constructed gender roles, women in Uganda like in other parts of the world are responsible for providing food and collecting water and firewood in their homes. Women are therefore acutely impacted by environmental destruction and climate change which raise a lot of violence against women.

Recognizing that rural women in particular are disproportionately experiencing the compounded and interlinked impacts of investment in land, extraction of natural resources, climate change, restrictions to civic space, and patriarchal social norms, NAWAD in partnership with National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) initiated a movement for women to have a say on energy, fossils and climate justice issues in addition to extractive industries and agribusiness.

To date over 5,000 women have been mobilized through grassroots women groups organizing across Uganda to influence decision-making in national development processes as well as promote the adoption of feminist livelihood and energy alternatives in communities affected by land-intensive industries.

Building from research that was conducted in 2018 by NAWAD and NAPE that discovered an estimated 300,000 marginalized women in Northern and Western Uganda were displaced or at risk of displacement due to land grabs, the POWER project was introduced in 2019. The Participation and Opportunities for Women's Economic Rights (POWER) project focused on empowering marginalized women in 4 districts (Nwoya, Amuru, Hoima and Buliisa) in Uganda to reclaim their rights and rebuild their livelihoods. The project engaged and strengthened women's understanding of their land rights and supported them to access justice while enabling financial independence through eco-friendly livelihoods. With that combination, the project strengthened and sustained solidarity among women across the 4 districts.

There were some key moments during the project where women strongly stood together and advocated for their rights for example on International Women's Day on 8 March 2021, women organized a bicycle caravan event to attract attention and raise awareness on women's land rights. The experience strengthened the existing knowledge and skills of women at the grassroots, supporting them to organize independently across districts. In another example, women engaged in an advocacy event in November 2020 to protest against Hoima Sugar Limited's plans to convert 6000 hectares of Bugoma Forest land into a sugarcane plantation. Other joint campaigns to conserve the Bugoma forest were organized with tour operators, the National Forestry Authority the office of the president, Hoima and Kikuube Land officers, and forest service sectors. The events, due to their timing attracted the attention of the president who was campaigning for the presidential elections that were underway in January 2021. The rural women demanded for their voices to be heard to leverage their voting power. In response, the president promised that his government would ensure that the forest land was protected. Unfortunately, the promises were not fulfilled.

Other advocacy engagements continue to exist in these communities. The movement continues to unleash women's Power. Currently in northern Uganda, in response to climate change, NAWAD is strengthening the eco-feminist movement to sustainably respond to climate through the Promoting community-based Women-led Community-based Climate Justice Solutions in Agriculture project funded by the Global Fund for Women.

16 Days of Activism Celebrations

Unpacking the Nexus between Climate Change and Gender-based Violence

In December 2023, NAWAD joined the world to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence in Nwoya district. A community dialogue between women, men, duty bearers, and the private sector was held. Discussions focused on Unpacking the Nexus between Climate Change and Gender-based Violence under the theme; "Towards a More Equitable and Sustainable Future for Women and the Planet". The topic for discussion was derived from the prevailing situation where globally, as the world commemorated the 16 days of Activism, the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC), COP 28 was ongoing in Dubai. Key areas of discussion during the dialogue included: a localized definition of climate change, storytelling picked from experience on the impacts of climate change, its causes evidenced from the local context, and an extensive discussion on the relationship between climate justice and gender justice.

Key points noted during the event

Climate change is evident in Nwoya district which is identified through strong winds, prolonged dry spells, extreme weather conditions, unpredictable short and heavy rains, unprecedented pests, and diseases to humans, animals, and crops, among others.

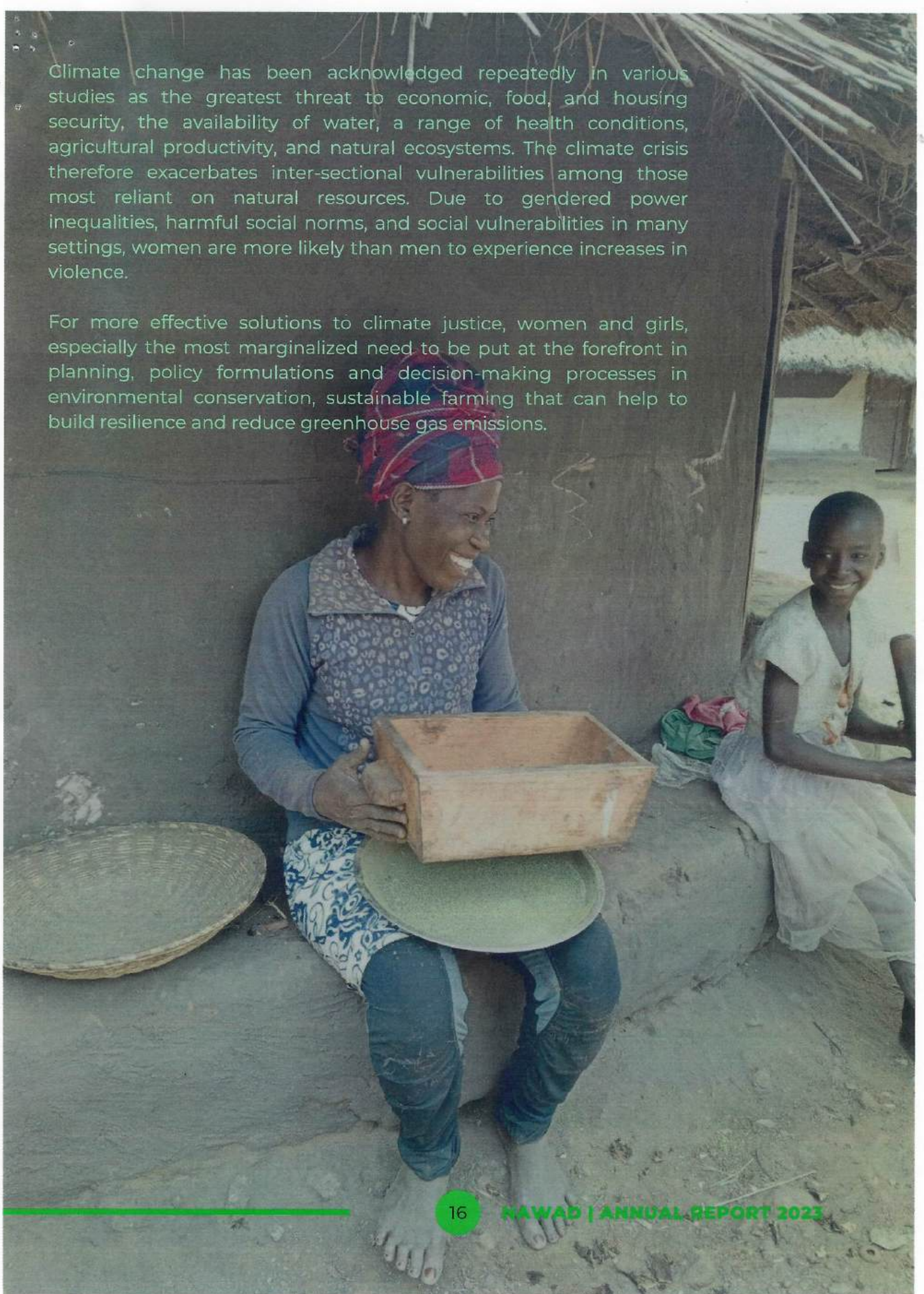
Climate Change affects different people differently, certain human beings are more responsible for causing climate change whereas others are more responsible for taking action to combat climate change.

Women and girls are the most vulnerable group to climate change compared to men, because women largely cultivate land, and are responsible for providing food, collecting water, and providing health care which are all related to their gendered roles defined by society.

The use of indigenous knowledge and reviving traditional methods of agriculture, agroforestry, and agroecology are some of the solutions that were highlighted for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Climate change has been acknowledged repeatedly in various studies as the greatest threat to economic, food, and housing security, the availability of water, a range of health conditions, agricultural productivity, and natural ecosystems. The climate crisis therefore exacerbates inter-sectional vulnerabilities among those most reliant on natural resources. Due to gendered power inequalities, harmful social norms, and social vulnerabilities in many settings, women are more likely than men to experience increases in violence.

For more effective solutions to climate justice, women and girls, especially the most marginalized need to be put at the forefront in planning, policy formulations and decision-making processes in environmental conservation, sustainable farming that can help to build resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Strengthening Community Action Against Sexual and Gender-based Violence

To further contribute to efforts towards gender equality in Uganda, NAWAD with support from Womankind Worldwide through Her Voice Fund implemented a project, "Strengthening Community Action against Sexual and Gender Violence" in Nwoya district targeting two hundred (200) adolescent girls in school and 80 teenage mothers to prevent teenage pregnancies and respond to sexual violence and gender-based violence.

This was achieved through objectives:

- 1) To increase access to age-appropriate Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights information among young women and girls in Nwoya.
- 2) To increase engagement of social-cultural leaders in GBV prevention and response.
- 3) To increase income generation among teenage mothers.

As a result, knowledge among young women and girls on their Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) was enhanced through training and awareness creation. Young women and girls that were reached can ably make informed decisions on sexual activities hence reducing teenage pregnancies in school and risks of contracting Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) including HIV/AIDs, among others. A total of forty leaders committed to volunteer as agents of change in the battle to respond and prevent GBV. With their support, NAWAD is fueling community transformation against GBV. At family level, NAWAD uses a model couple approach and males as agents of change to challenge male supremacy against sexual and gender-based violence.

"Sexual Violence is a serious issue in our communities, leading to many other forms of violence. Oftentimes, it leads to emotional violence accompanied with unfair treatment and injustice for the victims, and this results from the weak systems we have in the community in terms of health, security, and the judicial systems." Mr. Omara Christopher, the Resident District Commissioner, Nwoya district.

Studies indicate that teenage mothers are known to be at an elevated risk for poor socioeconomic outcomes in adulthood. The situation is believed to worsen with mothers who bear multiple children during the teenage years (repeat teenage mothers).

NAWAD strengthened capacities among teenage mothers through the establishment of teenage mothers' empowerment clubs where a total of eighty (80) mothers received livelihood training and skills in poultry keeping, baking, and value addition for their crop yields. Following a group approach, 6 groups of not more than 15 members were established to boost collaboration, learning, and a culture of saving which has strengthened resilience and self-sufficiency among the teenage mothers.



Organizational Capacity Strengthening

A tremendous shift has been registered in organizational capacity development since NAWAD partnered with USAID/CSSA in 2022. Following the Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) and Advocacy Capacity Assessment (ACA) that were conducted by USAID/CSSA identified gaps in NAWAD's Capacity in November 2022. Staff capacity was strengthened through training and one-on-one mentoring and coaching in advocacy, resource mobilization, finance management and reporting, monitoring and evaluation, communication, among others. This improved NAWAD's level of performance in program delivery and programming. Internally, policies including the finance, human resource, and the board charter were reviewed. Advocacy and communication strategies were developed as tools for guiding NAWAD in advocacy and communication.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Acquisition of New Office Space

NAWAD is excited to announce its relocation to a larger office space in Kyaliwajjala, Kira Municipality, Wakiso. The move from our previous location in Bwebajja along Entebbe Road was completed in May 2023. Our new office is double the size of the former space, comfortably accommodating all NAWAD staff. It also offers ample parking and is conveniently accessible and secure

Establishment of a WSHFs' Business Enterprise in Mbarara district

NAWAD established a Business Enterprise (BE) with support from USAID/CSSA to contribute to enhancing access to post-harvest handling, storage, and processing technologies among women SHFs in Mbarara district. The enterprise provides two facilities: the loaning facility and the grain milling facility. The loaning facility finances women smallholder farmers to invest in post-harvest handling and storage technologies through loans given at lower interest rate of 2% as compared to other credit institutions and the government's PDM at 6%. Loans to individual WSHFs range from UGX 100,000-1,000,000. The grain milling facility known as the Farmers Base Grain Millers on the other hand brings milling services closer to women SHFs and the neighboring communities. The facility, also deals in post-harvest handling, and storage materials/equipment. The enterprise runs on a revolving fund that will sustain women's financing far beyond the project lifetime.

Improved Organizational Capacity

NAWAD registered a shift in Organizational capacity by 11.8 % from the second organizational capacity assessment (OCA) that was conducted by USAID/CSSA in November 2022. A score of 61.3%, implies that NAWAD is a growing organization. NAWAD bench-marked on the assessment tool to assess its progress in meeting professional standards and some policies and operation procedures were reviewed and revised. The improvement was a basis for the renewal of the grant of USD 86,000 for another year.

Renewal of Permit of Operation

In Uganda, all non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are regulated by the NGO Act 2016 that states that any organization to operate in Uganda should have a valid permit issued by the NGO Bureau, subject to renewal whenever it expires. Similarly, this year, NAWAD's permit of operation was renewed, this implies that the organization met all the requirements of the Bureau and fully complies with the Uganda NGO Act, 2016. The Permit will sustain NAWAD's operations for five years.



Renewal of Nwoya District MoU with NAWAD.

As an organization that has been operating in Nwoya district over the past seven years, NAWAD opened an office to ease its work in the district. Therefore, as a requirement by the NGO Bureau, NAWAD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as a legally binding document with the district leadership stipulating the roles and responsibilities of each entity. The MOU was renewed this year and permits NAWAD to fulfill its mission in the communities of Nwoya.

CHALLENGES

Bureaucratic procedures and regulations in government offices

These are extremely time-consuming and demanding which further frustrates operations in the organization, for instance, the account opening exercise for running the Business Enterprise was delayed as the organization processed a letter of good standing from the NGO Bureau.

Climate Change

Climate Change is still a persistent vice in NAWAD's areas of operation, unfavorable weather conditions characterized by persistent and heavy rainfall and long dry spells have largely affected NAWAD's agenda, especially in northern Uganda where NAWAD is implementing a project on climate-smart agriculture, we are torn between unreliable weather forecasts and the indigenous knowledge on when to guide our farmers to plant. Some of our farmers. A case in point, one of our women lost half an acre of her maize to rotting in the garden before harvest.

Heavy rains partly affect activity implementation, especially in remote areas for the country. Mobility is difficult for participants and the NAWAD team due to slippery and flooding roads.

Mythical fears of private sector working with NGOs

There are negative perceptions of individuals, service providers, and privately owned businesses collaborating with NGOs with fears of being exposed in government bodies due to compliance issues for instance related to clearing their taxes. Some other cases the fear is around meeting NGO standards alongside donor requirements. This complicates operation procedures especially in rural settings, for instance, in procurement.

OUR IMPACT

1280

Women smallholder farmers' capacity in advocacy was strengthened

Through NAWAD's initiatives, **20** women's groups and **6** groups of teenage mothers are operating micro-enterprises.

70,000

Stakeholders including women, men, girls, and boys, duty bearers, private actors, media, among others were reached through awareness on climate justice and social justice.

160 Women smallholder farmers have knowledge in finances and business management out of these 25 acquired loans to set up their own businesses.

LEARNING AND ADAPTATION

Collaborating with the private sector to meet project goals

NAWAD collaborated with private sector actors to bring services closer to women smallholder farmers at subsidized costs knowing that the government has limited resources to address issues raised by women smallholder farmers in Mbarara and Rubirizi districts. For instance, Mbarara District Farmers' Association offered ten (10) improved sacks to women to support storage of grain, thus contributing to AINAPI's goal. NAWAD also collaborated with Centenary Bank which facilitated our training in financial literacy at no cost.

Using ICT as a means to stir up advocacy and service provision

Besides having meetings and dialogues with leaders to enhance access to extension services by women smallholder farmers, NAWAD trained SHFs in ICT and how to operate a smartphone using the WhatsApp application where farmers were linked to their leaders through the group feature. Women can seek and receive services remotely and quickly through audio, picture, text, and video.

OUR PARTNERS



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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MANAGEMENT
INSTITUTE



**Womankind
Worldwide**

**GLOBAL FUND FOR
WOMEN**

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WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN
OUR PROGRAMS



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