



ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2024

Theme: Building Climate -Resilient, Safe and Economically Secure Communities.

Putting Women At The Forefront.

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List of Acronyms

NAWAD	National Association for Women’s Action in Development.
SGBV	Sexual and Gender based Violence.
PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage.
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health.
SRHS	Sexual and Reproductive Health Services.
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections.
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases.
VHT	Village Health Team.
CCSBRS	Clean Cooking Solutions in Bidi-Bidi Refugee Settlement.
PROCOWCA	Promoting Community-based Women-led Climate Justice Solutions in Agriculture.
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.
AINAPI	Advocate for the Implementation of the NDP III Agro-Industrialization Programme Implementation Plan.
CSSA	Civil Society Strengthening Activity.
USAID	United States Agency for International Development.
PDM	Parish Development Model.
PDMIS	Parish Model Development Information System.
ANDE	Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs.
SACCOs	Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations.
VSLAs	Village Savings and Loan Associations.

Year At a Glance

Where we worked in 2024: Wakiso • Nwoya • Yumbe • Mbarara • Rubirizi



Key highlights

Climate justice in agriculture (Nwoya): PROCOWCA supported 342 smallholder farmers in Purongo, Anaka and Olwiny through climate-smart farming and agroforestry (Sep 2021–Sep 2024).

Clean cooking in refugee and host communities (Yumbe): CCSBR launched on 22 May 2024, promoting briquettes and energy-efficient stoves as alternatives to firewood and charcoal.

Women's financial inclusion (Mbarara & Rubirizi): Women Financial Inclusion III (Jun 2024–Jun 2025) strengthened financial literacy and economic resilience for women farmers.

Youth-led SRHR and SGBV prevention (Wakiso & Nwoya): A feminist youth-led initiative launched on 1 March 2024, targeting 400 youth (13–30 years).

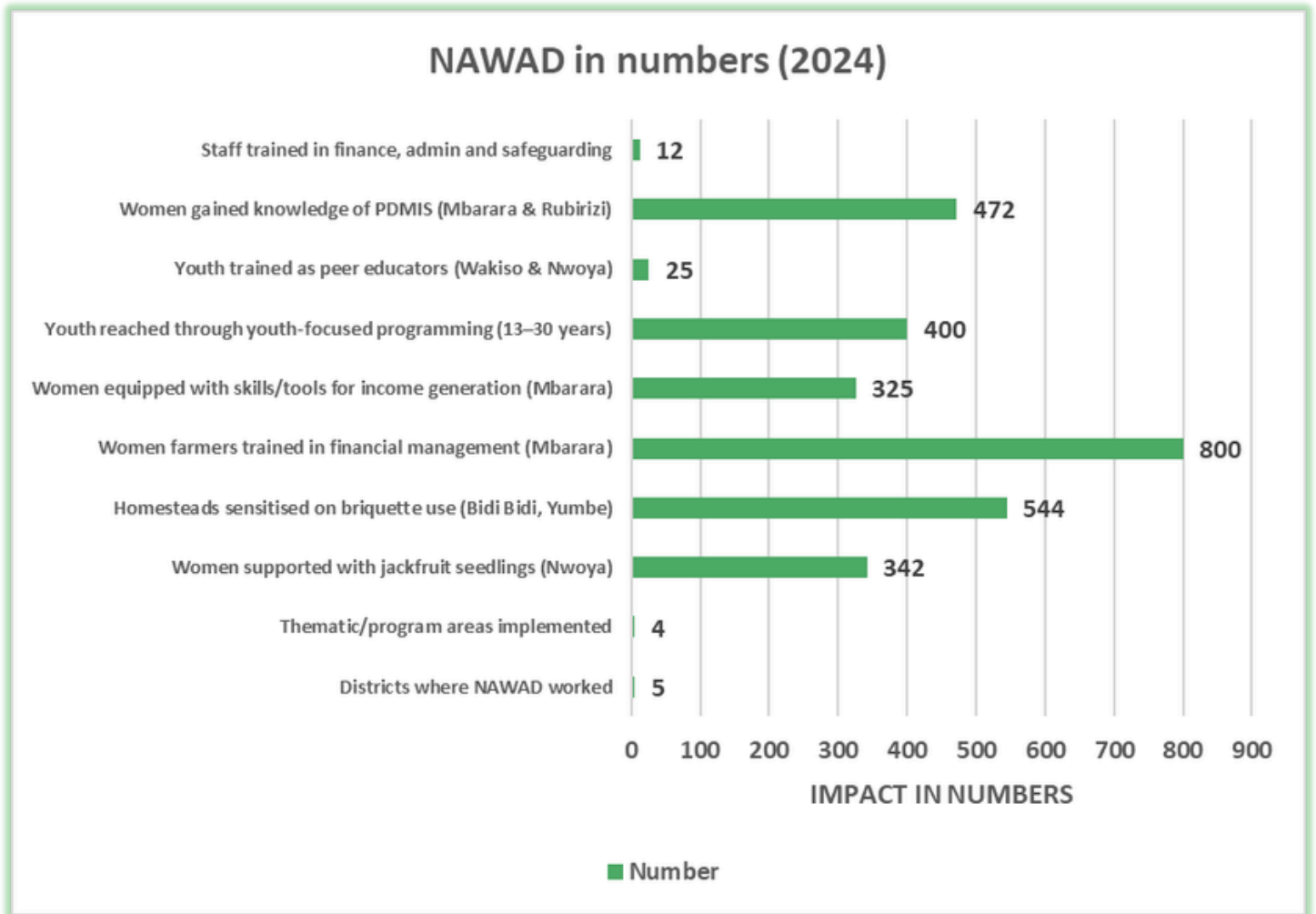
#16DaysOfActivism2024: Youth peer educators mobilised communities to speak out against SGBV and promote access to youth-friendly SRHR information and services.

Stronger access to support: NAWAD acquired a toll-free line (0800 365 365) for GBV reporting and SRHR guidance.

Green livelihoods and clean energy (Wakiso): ANDE-supported initiative strengthened women's involvement in briquette production and marketing (launched October 2024).

• Presence closer to communities (Yumbe): A new operational office was established to strengthen delivery in refugee settlements and host communities.

Year At a Glance



Note: Figures reflect direct reach recorded across NAWAD-supported activities in 2024; some participants may have been reached through multiple activities.

Foreword From the Chairperson



On behalf of the Executive Board of the National Association for Women's Action in Development (NAWAD), I am honoured to present our 2024 Annual Report under the theme: "Women at the Forefront: Building Climate-Resilient, Safe and Economically Secure Communities." This theme reflects what NAWAD exists to do namely; empowering women and girls to achieve social justice, economic security, and sustainable management of natural resources, while staying true to our motto of "Putting women at the forefront."

In 2024, NAWAD delivered programming across our field locations in Wakiso, Nwoya, Yumbe, Mbarara, and Rubirizi, supporting grassroots communities, especially women, girls, and youth through our four thematic areas: Agriculture and Women's Economic Empowerment; Climate Change and Natural Resource Management; SGBV and Social Justice; and Organizational Capacity Strengthening.

We are proud of the practical progress made in 2024. Under climate justice and natural resource management, NAWAD concluded the PROCOWCA project in Nwoya, which strengthened women-led climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry for resilience. In Yumbe, we launched the Clean Cooking Solutions in Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement (CCSBR) project, promoting energy-efficient stoves and briquettes to reduce deforestation while easing the time and safety burdens that fall heavily on women and girls. We also expanded economic opportunities for women farmers through improving mobility and access to markets in Mbarara and Rubirizi. Further, NAWAD supported youth-led Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) as well as Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response in Wakiso and Nwoya, through peer education, community outreach and policy engagement.

As a Board, we also recognise that impact depends on strong systems and accountability. In 2024, NAWAD invested in strengthening internal controls through staff and leadership capacity building in financial management, monitoring and evaluation, administration and safeguarding, reinforcing our commitment to safe, ethical and transparent implementation. We further strengthened community access to reporting and support through the acquisition of our toll-free line 0800 365 365, enabling communities to report GBV, seek SRHR guidance, and receive timely assistance.

I extend sincere appreciation to our donors and partners, our staff and volunteers, and most importantly the communities who place their trust in NAWAD. Your solidarity is what makes women-led change possible. As we look ahead, the Board remains committed to good governance, safeguarding and responsible stewardship, while supporting management to deepen the work captured in this report: women at the forefront, advancing resilience, safety, and economic security for all.

Associate Professor, Florence Kyoheirwe Muhanguzi
Board Chairperson, NAWAD
30th February 2025

Message from the Acting Executive Director



As we present NAWAD's Annual Report for January–December 2024, I am grateful for the trust communities continue to place in our work and for the commitment of our staff, partners, and Board. Under our theme: “Women at the Forefront: Building Climate-Resilient, Safe and Economically Secure Communities”, 2024 reminded us that when women lead, households adapt faster, communities organize better, and change becomes more sustainable.

In 2024, NAWAD implemented programmes across Wakiso, Nwoya, Yumbe, Mbarara, and Rubirizi, delivering integrated interventions through our four pillars: Agriculture and Women's Economic Empowerment; Climate Change and Natural Resource Management; SGBV and Social Justice; and Organizational Capacity Strengthening. Our approach remained consistent, grounded in feminist leadership, accountability to communities, inclusion, survivor-centred safeguarding, and evidence-informed learning.

Across our economic empowerment and agriculture work, we strengthened women's capacity to manage finances, grow enterprises, and access opportunities within existing systems. Through our Women Financial Inclusion initiative, we supported women smallholder farmers with practical financial literacy and agribusiness skills, linkages to trusted financial services, and support to engage digitized government systems. In 2024 alone, 800 women were trained in financial management, 472 women gained knowledge of PDMIS, and 325 women were equipped with tools/skills for income generation, key steps toward more resilient livelihoods and food-secure households.

Our climate justice work continued to demonstrate that adaptation is strongest when paired with tangible resources and women's leadership. In Nwoya, our climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry actions supported women to strengthen soil and water conservation, improve post-harvest practices, and diversify livelihood options. We also promoted agroforestry through the distribution of jackfruit seedlings to 342 women, a practical investment in long-term resilience. In West Nile, our clean cooking work in refugee and host settings showed how climate action can also be protection action: by reducing reliance on firewood and charcoal, women and girls face fewer time burdens and risks linked to fuel collection, while communities reduce pressure on natural resources. In BidiBidi, we sensitized 544 homesteads on briquette use and clean cooking options during baseline and trained 30 Trainers of Trainees to support in the training and skilling program of refugees and host communities in briquette production and stove making.

We also deepened our commitment to social justice and safety through youth-led SRHR and SGBV prevention and response. In Wakiso and Nwoya, we reached 400 young people (13–30 years) with youth-focused programming and strengthened leadership through training 25 peer educators to mobilise communities, promote youth-friendly services, and expand referral pathways. Importantly, we expanded access to support by establishing NAWAD's toll-free line (0800 365 365)—a practical step toward reducing barriers to guidance, reporting, and timely assistance.

Behind these results is a year of deliberate investment in stronger systems. We trained 12 staff in finance, administration, and safeguarding to strengthen compliance, quality delivery, and risk management. We also established an operational presence in Yumbe to improve responsiveness in refugee-host contexts, where programming requires flexibility, trust-building, and careful attention to safeguarding and inclusion.

Our learning journey in 2024 reinforced key lessons: women's financial inclusion is most effective when paired with practical enterprise support and trusted partnerships; climate outcomes accelerate when technologies are affordable and linked to livelihood pathways; and youth engagement grows when young people are treated as co-creators and leaders—not only participants. These lessons are shaping how we design, deliver, and measure impact going forward.

Message from the Acting Executive Director

I extend sincere appreciation to the communities we serve, our partners and donors, district and community structures, our dedicated staff and volunteers, and NAWAD's Board for steady governance and guidance. Your collaboration makes women-led change possible.

As we look ahead, our priorities remain clear: deepen women's economic security, scale climate-resilient and clean energy solutions, strengthen youth-friendly SRHR and SGBV response systems, and continue investing in the organizational capacities that safeguard trust and ensure accountability. Together, we will keep putting women at the forefront—advancing resilience, safety, and economic security for all.

Mugabirwe Beatrice.
Acting Executive Director, NAWAD
30th February 2025

About NAWAD

National Association for Women's Action in Development (NAWAD) is a women-led non-government organization dedicated to promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls that was founded and registered in 2010. It focuses on promoting a stable and peaceful society where women and girls access equal rights in the different spheres of life all around Uganda.

Our Mission

Empower women and girls to achieve social justice, economic security and sustainable management of natural resources through capacity building, research, advocacy and service delivery.

Our Vision

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

Our Core Value

Honesty
Respect
Dignity
Justice
Transparency
Excellence

Cross-cutting commitments

- Gender equality and feminist leadership
- Survivor-centred safeguarding and protection
- Inclusion (disability, age, marginalization)
- Do-no-harm and data protection
- Accountability to communities

Our Strategic Pillars

- Agriculture and Women's Economic Empowerment
- Climate Change and Natural Resource Management
- Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Social Justice
- Organizational Capacity Strengthening

Our Moto

Putting women at the forefront

OUR WORK IN 2024

NAWAD delivered work across four pillars: 1) Agriculture & Women's Economic Empowerment; 2) Climate Change & Natural Resource Management; 3) SGBV & Social Justice; and 4) Organizational Capacity Strengthening, reaching grassroots communities (especially women, girls, and youth) across five districts in Western, Central, Mid-Northern and West Nile regions.

NYIM VSLA
LUYAM VILLAGE

Agriculture and Women's Economic Empowerment

The main goal of this Pillars is to advance gender-transformative agricultural systems for women's economic empowerment and food-secure households. In line with this goal, in 2024, NAWAD targeted women's economic empowerment and food security by strengthening women smallholder farmers' productivity and adoption of improved practices (including training and uptake targets). We also expanded women's access to credit and income diversification through mechanisms such as the Parish Development Model (PDM), alongside strengthened post-harvest handling and value addition.

2024 Interventions



Through the Women Financial Inclusion (AINAPI III) Project (June 2024–June 2025), implemented with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through Civil Society Strengthening Activity (CSSA) in Mbarara and Rubirizi (South Western region of Uganda), NAWAD delivered practical training to strengthen women's financial and agri-business management.

We developed a user-friendly financial literacy guide, trained staff to deliver modules, and supported women to build budgeting, saving, investment and loan acquisition skills. We also supported women to navigate digitized government systems by training them on Parish Model Development Information System (PDMIS), and facilitated savings groups while linking women to formal services, including Centenary Bank

To strengthen income and market access, we supported value addition through a grain milling initiative with Bunenero Farmers Group and improved mobility and marketing through a Tuku Tuku to reduce transport barriers and losses. In Nwoya, we expanded income options by introducing beekeeping (Apiary) and training women in modern hive management.



Agriculture and Women's Economic Empowerment

What changed

- 800 women farmers trained in finance management to strengthen agribusiness sustainability.
- 472 women gained knowledge of PDMIS, improving access to government services and opportunities.
- 325 women equipped with skills/tools for income-generating activities and enterprises.

Partnerships

USAID/CSSA, Centenary Bank, Bunenero Farmers Group, and women farmer groups/community structures in Mbarara, Rubirizi and Nwoya.

Story of change

Women's groups shifted from subsistence farming to enterprise—using financial skills to save and invest, and strengthening value addition and market reach through milling and improved transport.

Lessons

Financial inclusion is strongest when linked to practical enterprise support and trusted financial partnerships, while community norms must be engaged to sustain women's leadership in “non-traditional” livelihood spaces.



Climate Change and Natural Resource Management



This pillar is aimed at promoting climate action and sustainable natural resource management for gender-responsive development. During 2024,

NAWAD's plan prioritized building women SHFs' capacity to adapt to climate change and conserve natural resources, including sensitization and adoption targets for climate-smart/organic practices and large-scale tree planting/re-afforestation, complemented by community mobilization and awareness actions. In addition, initiatives around clean energy were implemented.

2024 Interventions



In Nwoya District, NAWAD implemented PROCOWCA (Promoting Community-based Women-led Climate Justice Solutions in Agriculture), funded by the Global Fund for Women.

The project strengthened farmers' climate resilience through training that combined modern and indigenous knowledge: agroforestry (including integrating jackfruit with crops), improved seed selection, soil and water conservation approaches, and practical post-harvest strategies such as sun-drying and use of PICS bags to reduce losses. The project also promoted value addition and diversification, including milling and beeswax candle-making.

In West Nile, NAWAD advanced clean energy as climate and protection action through the Clean Cooking Solutions in Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement (supported by UKAID/Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), launched May 2024). We sensitized households on briquette utilization and promoted energy-efficient approaches to reduce dependence on firewood/charcoal, reduce emissions and ease women's time burdens. In Wakiso, we launched a new clean energy project (supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) through Aspen Network for Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE)) to strengthen women's involvement in briquette production and marketing.

What changed

- 342 women in Nwoya received jackfruit seedlings to promote agroforestry.
- 544 homesteads in Bidi Bidi sensitized on briquette utilization for clean cooking.

Partnerships

Global Fund for Women, UKAID/FCDO, IDRC/ANDE, district/community leadership structures, and refugee-host community actors in Yumbe.

Story of change

Clean cooking reduced the women's burden and risks associated with firewood collection, while agroforestry and improved storage strengthened household resilience against drought and post-harvest losses.

Lessons

Climate results accelerate when women's leadership is paired with practical technologies (seedlings, storage, clean fuels) and livelihood pathways that make adoption affordable and meaningful.



Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Social Justice

Our goal under this Pillar is to strengthen grassroots efforts to reduce sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and advance social justice, especially for women, girls and youth. In 2024, NAWAD's plan emphasized improving survivor support, strengthening community awareness and referral/response systems, and contributing to measurable reductions in SGBV through prevention, reporting, and coordinated services. We also focused on building youth feminist movement to promote youth friendly SRHR information and services.

2024 Interventions

NAWAD implemented the project Building a Feminist Youth-Led Movement to Promote Access to Youth-Friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Services in Wakiso and Nwoya (March 2024–March 2025). The initiative targeted young people (13–30 years) in- and out-of-school, strengthening youth leadership, feminist organizing, and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) access as part of wider social justice work. We trained youth as peer educators to lead awareness campaigns, facilitate dialogues and share referral pathways for youth-friendly services. We also strengthened parent engagement by training caregivers to communicate more openly and safely with young people on SRHR—reducing stigma and enabling healthier decision-making.



During #16DaysOfActivism2024, youth peer educators mobilized communities to speak out against SGBV and encourage the use of available SRH and protection services. Beyond community action, youth advanced systems advocacy by drafting a petition to the Ministry of Health calling for expanded youth corners, training health workers in youth-friendly services and integrating comprehensive sexuality education.

To strengthen access and reporting, NAWAD also established a toll-free line (0800 365 365) to support GBV reporting and provide SRHR guidance and timely support.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Social Justice

What changed

- 400 youth reached through youth-focused leadership, empowerment and social justice programming.
- 30 parents (Wakiso) trained to discuss SRHR with youth.
- 25 youth (Nwoya & Wakiso) trained as peer educators.
- Toll-free line established to reduce barriers to reporting and guidance.

Partnerships

Youth groups, parents/caregivers, community leadership, VHTs, service providers, and engagement initiated with the Ministry of Health through youth advocacy.



Story of change

Youth shifted from silent service seekers to visible advocates—organizing “Know Your Rights” activities and using 16 Days of Activism to build collective voice and influence.

Lessons

Youth do not seek services in hostile environments; investing in enabling adults and frontline actors (parents, VHTs, providers) is essential for safe, youth-friendly access and reporting.



Organizational Capacity Strengthening

Pillar 4 is committed to strengthen NAWAD’s internal systems and sustainability to deliver high-quality, compliant and safe programming. In 2024, NAWAD prioritized strengthening internal governance and operational systems, especially financial management, safeguarding, monitoring and evaluation, policy alignment and resource mobilization so that programs are accountable, effective and scalable.

2024 Interventions

In 2024, NAWAD invested in targeted capacity strengthening to improve delivery across all pillars. We conducted staff training in finance and administration to strengthen financial management, project administration, coordination and accountability. This training supported improved decision-making, compliance, and day-to-day controls required for multi-district implementation.

We also delivered safeguarding training for staff, board members and organization representatives, focusing on safeguarding concepts, risk identification, prevention, reporting and response procedures—reinforcing a culture of safety and accountability.



To strengthen field operations in West Nile and support growing programming in refugee-host contexts, NAWAD established an operational presence in Yumbe District, improving responsiveness and community engagement. In addition, the introduction of the toll-free line (0800 365 365) strengthened community communication and reporting, contributing to safer access to guidance and services across relevant programming areas.

What changed

- 12 NAWAD staff members received targeted training in financial management, administration and safeguarding.
- Field operational readiness strengthened through establishment of the Yumbe office.
- Community communication and reporting strengthened through the toll-free line.

Partnerships

NAWAD Board and staff teams, field/community structures in Yumbe, and partners supporting program expansion and compliance strengthening.

Story of change

Strengthened staff competencies and safeguarding readiness improved coordination and accountability, enabling smoother delivery and reducing operational risk as NAWAD scaled implementation in new contexts.

Lessons

Sustained community impact depends on strong systems: finance, safeguarding and compliance must be continuously strengthened alongside field expansion to maintain trust, quality and safety.

Our Learning Journey

At NAWAD, learning is ongoing and continues to shape our strategies and strengthen our impact. In 2024, as we implemented projects in Mbarara, Rubirizi, Nwoya, Wakiso, Yumbe, and other areas, we faced challenges that generated practical lessons now guiding our future work.

A major lesson was the persistent financial exclusion of rural women, many of whom lack the collateral, documentation, or financial literacy required to access formal credit. This limited investments in businesses, agriculture, and clean energy enterprises. We learned that financial inclusion must be paired with simplified financial education and trust-building with local financial institutions. As a result, we are integrating basic financial literacy into project designs and expanding partnerships with SACCOs and VSLAs to improve access to appropriate financial services for women smallholder farmers.

We also encountered cultural resistance, especially where women joined male-dominated sectors such as briquette production and milling machine management. This reinforced that skills and tools alone are not enough, mindset change is essential. We are therefore engaging men and local leaders as allies and using storytelling and community dialogues to build more positive attitudes toward women's economic empowerment.

Work in refugee settings, particularly in Yumbe, highlighted how displacement, gender inequality, and climate vulnerability intersect. Refugee women faced compounded barriers, including limited access to land and income opportunities, yet showed strong resilience and willingness to adapt. We learned that trust-building and flexibility are critical in humanitarian contexts, and that programming must be culturally sensitive and inclusive of both host and refugee communities. In response, we invested in longer-term capacity building, including leadership development and entrepreneurship support, to strengthen refugee women's role in climate-smart solutions.

In youth-focused SRHR work in Wakiso and Nwoya, we found that engagement increases when young people are not only participants but co-creators. Programs designed without their input often failed to match their realities. We have therefore shifted toward a youth-led model that supports young women and men to lead awareness and peer education, improving ownership and effectiveness.

Overall, 2024 strengthened NAWAD's ability to adapt, learn, and deliver more responsive programming, reinforcing our commitment to empowering women and communities toward a sustainable future.



Finance and resource accountability

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	Note	2024 Ushs	2023 Ushs
Income			
Projects Income (Restricted grants)	3	1,386,484,976	399,012,381
		1,386,484,976	399,012,381
Expenses			
Project Activity Costs		1,145,637,520	257,274,248
Administration Costs		115,000,406	140,869,474
Depreciation		11,811,735	12,858,383
		1,272,449,661	411,002,105
Fund Balance		114,035,315	(11,989,724)

Tribute To Our Network

This year's accomplishments would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our partners, the trust of the communities we serve, and the dedication of our team. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to each of you. Your continued trust and dedication are what make our work both possible and impactful.

Our Partners



EAST • WEST
MANAGEMENT
INSTITUTE

NAWAD Team and Governance

ANAWAD is guided by a dedicated team of staff, Board members, and members who bring experience, leadership, and passion to advancing women’s empowerment and women’s rights. Their collective efforts strengthen our governance and support the effective implementation of our programs across Uganda.

Meet the people behind NAWAD’s work.



NAWAD Board Members



NAWAD Staff Members



NAWAD Membership Team




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