

March –June 2009
Issue 03

CEEWA-Uganda Gets a New Board:

Council for Economic Empowerment for Women of Africa-Uganda chapter (CEEWA-Uganda) held its 12th Annual General Meeting and Annual Planning Meeting on 30th May 2009 at CEEWA-Uganda Secretariat Kansanga Kiwafu Road.

The purpose of this meeting was to enable members to review and guide the implementation of programs and future plans for CEEWA-Uganda as well as elect a new CEEWA-Uganda Board.



Participants at the planning meeting

The Board makes policies, monitors

programs implementation while the Expert groups give guidance to program work and bring new ideas for effective and timely implementation.

At the AGM, the following members were elected to the new Board to serve a three year term 2009-2012; Chairperson Ms. Margaret Kakande, Vice Chairperson Ms. Nakato Odoi Juliet, Ms. Katumba Norah Wandera as the Treasurer and Ms. Agnes Yawe as the in coming Board secretary.

During the same meeting, the outgoing Chairperson Ms. Edith Mwanje highlighted the achievements of

CEEWA-Uganda over the years and appealed to members and secretariat staff to fully support the new Board to move the organization to greater heights and make its vision a reality.



Ms Edith Mwanje (Left) the outgoing Chairperson hands over to the New Chairperson Ms Margaret Kakande at CEEWA—Uganda Secretariat

The new board will continue to steer CEEWA-Uganda towards achieving its goal to promote women economic empowerment, strengthen membership.

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Status of Gender Awareness and Practice in Local Government:

CEEWA-Uganda challenges the repressive social norms and structures that are undemocratic and render segments of the population, especially women and youth, powerless to influence decisions. CEEWA-Uganda works to see an end to the negative social/cultural practices, which marginalize some segments of communities and in the long run impede democracy and impact negatively on the livelihoods of all people. CEEWA-Uganda has been implementing a project for Building Local Democracy through popularizing the Uganda Gender Policy in four districts of Nakapiripirit, Bukedea, Apac and Koboko targeting Local Council III (Sub-county) councilors and district leaders since 2008. In 2009, the programme was extended to the districts of Iganga and Masindi. This necessitated conducting a baseline survey in these two districts with the objective of establishing the current status of gender awareness, practice and existing gender gaps.

The survey targeted Resident District Commissioners (RDCs),

LC V Chairpersons, and heads of departments of Health, Education Production/Agriculture, Community Development, District Planner, Women and Men councilors at sub-county level.



FGD with women councilors at Pakanyi sub-county, Masindi district

Summary of the Findings

- According to Iganga District Planner, the MGLSD is allocated only 2.6% of the total district budget - and this has implications on the gender activities.
 - Most of the CSOs and CBOs in the districts do not integrate Gender issues in their work.
- Local governments do not integrate Gender issues in their work.
- Limited awareness about the Uganda Gender Policy, especially among Sub-county councilors.
- Departments at district and sub-county perceive gender issues to be a sole responsibility of the community development office.
- Translating the Gender concepts and knowledge

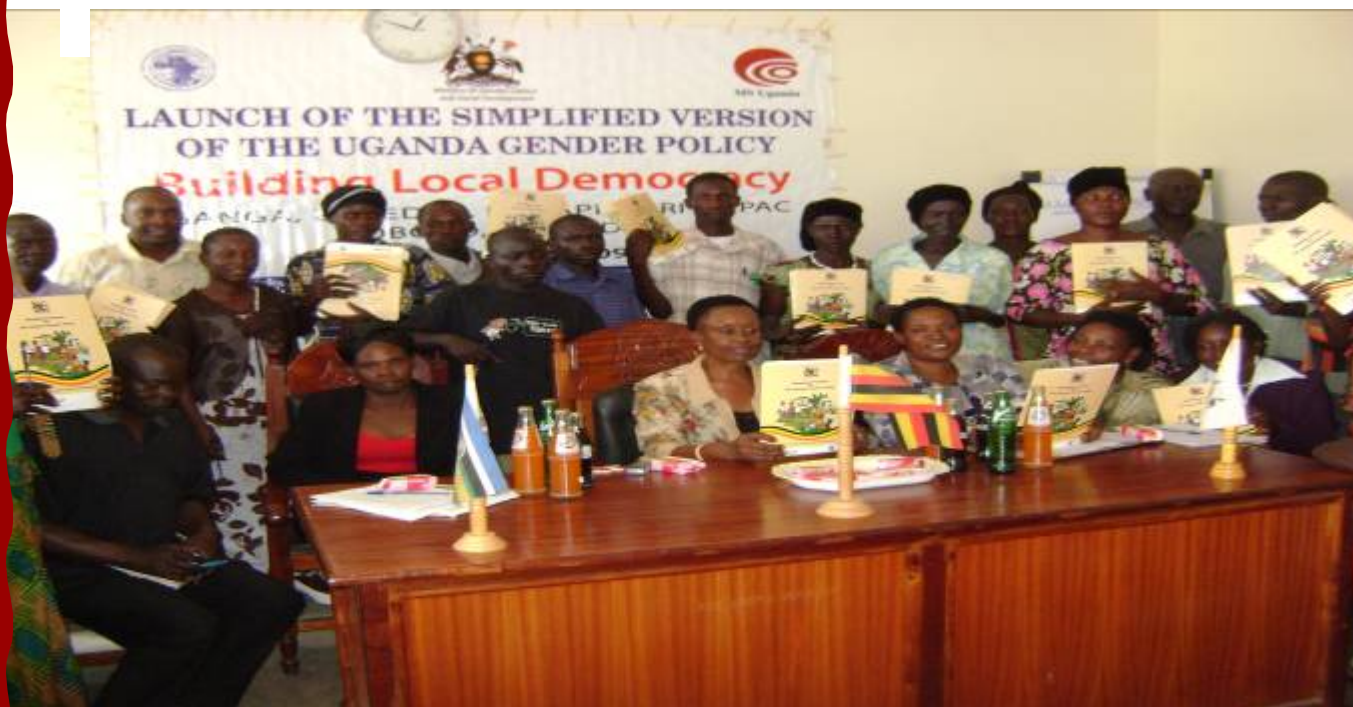
into action by staff is a challenge.

- Limited financial resources for gender activities.
- Limited staff training on gender. The head of department indicated the need for comprehensive training of their staff in Gender.
- Local governments' budget provision for gender activities is largely on Women's Day celebrations and this needs to be changed if we are to achieve a significant impact in development.

Recommendations

- CEEWA-Uganda should continue to build the capacity of district-based partners and empower them to build capacity of district, sub-county staff and Community leaders in gender concepts and analysis for better understanding of gender issues so as to be gender responsive.
- CEEWA-Uganda should continue with the development and production of the guidelines (Users Guide) for the implementation of the Uganda Gender Policy.
- Gender Mainstreaming in all sectors and departments at all levels is relevant in the development process.

Launch and Dissemination of the simplified version of the Uganda Gender Policy (UGP) 2007:



Launch at Koboko district headquarters. Photo by CEEWA-Uganda

CEEWA-Uganda in partnership with Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), MS Uganda and District CSO Partners officially launched and disseminated the simplified version of the UGP 2007. The launch and dissemination exercise was held on 15th to 21st May 2009 in six districts of Iganga, Bukedea, Nakapiripirit, Apac, Koboko and Masindi.

The simplification of the policy was done by CEEWA-Uganda with the technical guidance of MGLSD and financial support from MS Uganda.

The simplified version

targets Local council III Councilors, because it is where the planning, budgeting and implementation of the Budgeting process begins.

During the launch, participants (Councilors) committed themselves to read and understand the simplified version of Gender policy and use it in planning and budgeting process.

"We can only develop our country and our people, when we focus our thinking, planning and budgeting on both women and men; we welcome the simplified version of Uganda Gender policy here."Semei Okwir Assistant RDC Apac

Key priorities of the policy are:

- Gender and Livelihoods
- Gender and Rights

- Gender and Governance
- Gender and Macro-economic management

For copies, see the CEEWA contact at the end page or contact CEEWA Local partners below.

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Pan-Commonwealth Meeting Mainstreaming Gender in Trade Policy and Export Promotion

The Ministry of Trade Tourism and Industry (MTTI) established a National Steering Committee on Gender and Trade comprised of MTTI, Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development, Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, National Export Promotion Board and CEEWA-Uganda. The major activities of the committees is to do research on Gender issues in bilateral regional trade agreements and training in gender and trade targeting MTTI officials, MGLSD, Policy Makers and Training of Trainers.

The committee was invited to participate in the Pan-Commonwealth Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender in Trade Policy and Export Promotion held on 4th–6th May 2009 in New Delhi, India.

Trade and Gender in Uganda Context

Gender equality and implications of globalisation and trade liberalisation arise because these phenomena do not eliminate existing inequalities in access to resources, power and decision-making between men and women in society. Gender and women's empowerment in the past have mainly focused on social welfare and human rights areas.

According to CEEWA-Uganda, Gender is realised as a key factor in economic growth and global competitiveness. Such statements have acted as a spring board and represent

global thoughts that have spurred us into mainstreaming women into trade.

- It is estimated that in Uganda atleast 43.7% of MSE's are owned and operated by Women.
- 29.50% of women in business in Uganda are in exports.
- Most women exporters are in sectors of Handicrafts, Horticulture and Apiculture.

Challenges Women Face in Trade in Uganda.

- Commercial environment – In spite of the legal provisions, there is still silent discrimination against women in the regulatory business environment.
- Capacity and human capital development–Women's capacity relating to capabilities, skills and productivity are still wanting.

“Train a Woman, a Nation is trained,” could be stretched to Trade with Women, a Nation is enriched.

- Trade finance – Women face peculiar challenges in accessing credit facilities. They often lack collateral to offer to financing institutions.
- Trade Competence and Quality Standards Management Issues – Women's financial position makes it difficult for them to afford quality and standards certification.
- Trade Information–Often compounded by low literacy levels and family commitments impede

women's access to information is compromised. This affects their ability to respond to opportunities and to match products and services to buyer and market requirements.

- Other Support Services – Access to branding , packaging and labelling as well as transport logistics often pose greater challenges to women.

INITIATIVES

National Export Strategy (NES) Gender Dimension. With gender considerations more specifically expansion of access to productivity , assets and economic opportunities for the marginalised groups.

Mainstreaming of women and other marginalised groups into global value chains and other multilateral trading systems.

- Addressed in the NES, new benefits are bound to accrue to the country. These include;
- Improved operating environment with enhanced productivity and more efficient functioning of the value chain leading to reliable supply of inputs.
- Expansion of access to productivity assets and economic opportunities for the marginalised groups.
- Mainstreaming of women and other marginalised groups into global value chains and other multilateral trading systems.

ICT Advocacy & Networking:

CEEWA-Uganda at Information Science and Technology– Africa (IST-Africa) 2009 CONFERENCE:

CEEWA Uganda participated in information science and technology – Africa conference and Exhibition held on 6th -8th May 2009 at Speke Resort Hotel, Munyonyo Kampala.

A paper was presented under the women and ICT theme entitled “Empowering women through ICT” CEEWA Uganda ICT project experiences.

The presentation highlighted the conceptual framework of the project, achievements, lessons learnt, challenges that limit women’s access and utilization of ICT’s and key recommendations to address the challenges.

The conference was organized by 1st Africa and hosted by the

Government of Uganda through the Ministry of ICT.

The focus was on the role of ICT for Africa’s development and specifically on applied research in the area of health, technology enhanced learning and ICT skills development, open source software, ICT for inclusion, infrastructure development, ICT for environmental risk management, 1st Africa conference series brings together leading commercial government and research organizations to bridge the digital divide by sharing knowledge, experience, lessons learnt and good practice.

Training of District Based partners in Gender Disaggregated Data:

CEEWA-Uganda together with the MS Uganda, Gender Consultant Ms. Folough Olinga began Gender mainstreaming trainings with all Building Local Democracy (BLD) partners. The overall aim of the training was to strengthen gender-mainstreaming skills on Gender Disaggregated Data (GDD). This was intended to build partners skills in generation and analysis of GDD for better quality information. The training was conducted on 7th-10th June 2009 in Masindi District. Participants were:-

CEEWA-Uganda, MS Uganda, Iganga District NGO Forum, Yiga Ng’Okola Learners Institute, Association for World Education-Uganda National chapter, Apac NGO Link Forum, Koboko Civil Society Network, Masindi District NGO Forum, Recreation for Development and Peace (RDP)-Uganda, Uganda National Students Association, Anti Corruption Coalition of Uganda, Teso Anti corruption Coalition, MACCO, MIRAC.

Opinion:

“Environmental Bonus” for Old/used Computers

By Senfuka Samuel, CEEWA-Uganda

On 7th June 2009 Hon. Syda Bbumba Minister for Finance Planning & Economic Development presented a budget proposal for the financial Year 2009/2010 to parliament. In her maiden budget speech she proposed a total ban on old/used computers among others to protect our dear environment, which is a promising initiative despite the limited access to new computers by majority Ugandans due to low purchasing power.

For government to protect the environment and support the ICT sector to grow,

1. It should allocate an “environmental bonus” of UGX ...billion in the budget to pay owners of say 3year and above old computers to be able to acquire new computers from licensed distributors starting 1st July 2009 to 30th June 2010. Government should come up with a flat rate (bonus) say UGX 1,000,000 which it can use to pay for any old computer surrendered for acquisition of a new computer. Then the owner tops up to acquire a new one through licensed distributors. Like it is the case with National Forest Authority and other non-governmental organizations, which reimburse or share the costs with a private forest investor to save the environment. And this should be extended to all other environmentally unfriendly products and ventures but there should be a well thought plan for it.
2. Strengthening our borders and customs control to mitigate entry of old computers in the country. One still wonders where and how the banned “*kaveera*” (polythene bags) in the last financial year get into the country!
3. Government should quickly enact an e-waste policy and operational guidelines.

I strongly support giving our environment high priority otherwise the future is disaster-prone!

Tips on identifying advocacy audiences:

- ✓ Once the issue and goals are selected, advocacy efforts must be directed to the people with decision-making power and, ideally, to the people who influence the decision makers such as staff, advisors, influential elders, the media and the public.
- ✓ What are the names of the decision makers who can make your advocacy goal a reality?
- ✓ Who and what influences these decision makers?

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Vision: A Uganda in which women's economic aspirations, rights and productive potentials are fully recognized and mainstreamed in the framework of equitable and sustainable development.

Mission: To promote the economic empowerment of women in the development process through research, documentation, advocacy, training and information dissemination.

Goal: To increase the level women's access to and control over economic resources namely land, credit, agricultural extension and information.

We're on the Web!

<http://www.ceewauganda.org>

<http://d2.dgroups.org/groups/hivos/ceewauganda>

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