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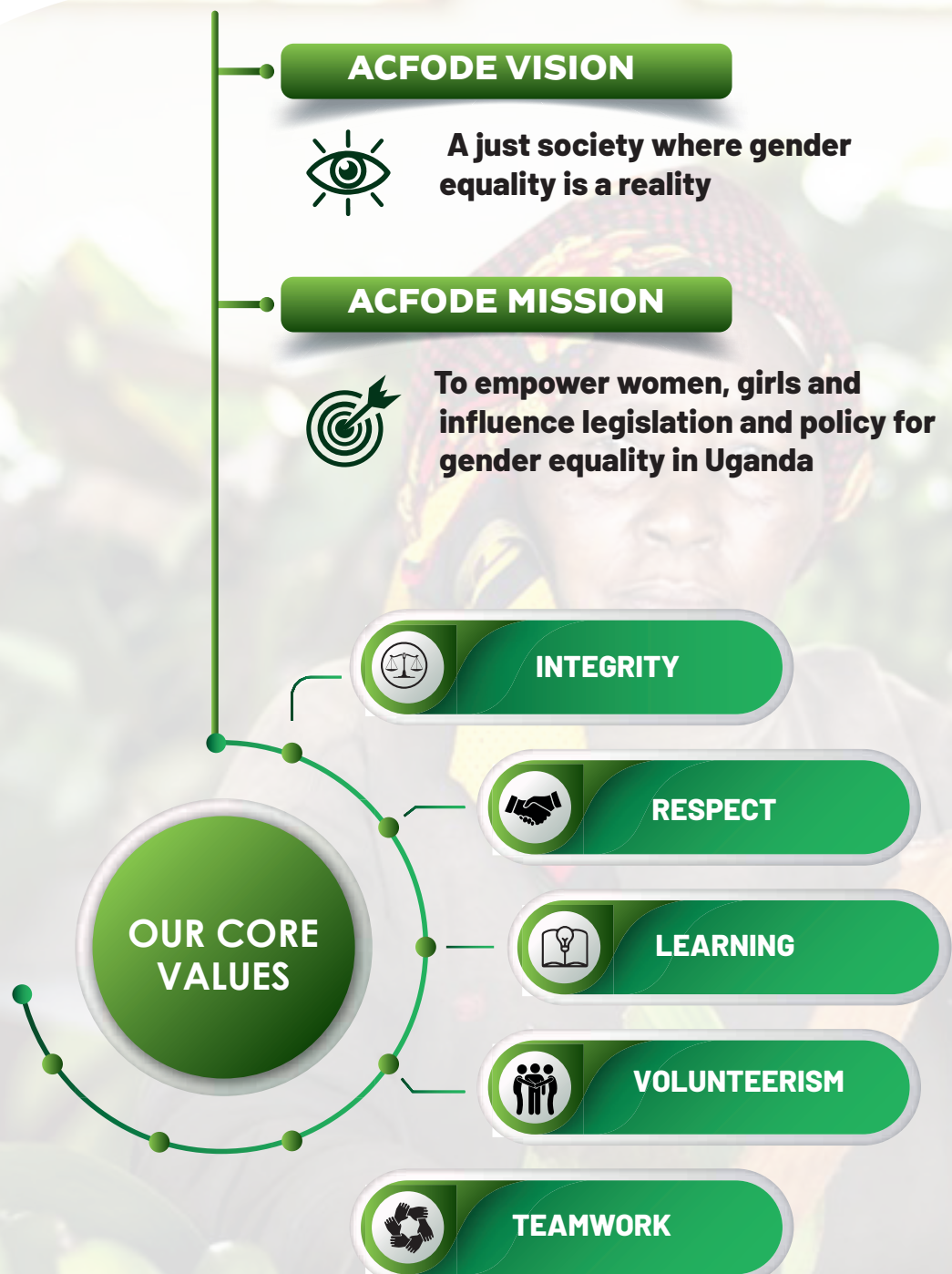
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Editorial

Welcome to the quarter II of ACFODE Newsletter. This quarter, we continued with commitment to our Vision of seeing a just society where gender equality is a reality and the Mission of empowering women, girls and influence legislation and policy for gender equality in Uganda. We have worked on a number of exciting programs and initiatives, and we couldn't be more thrilled to share them with you. We appreciate the overwhelming support rendered in the quarter by all our partners and members as we implemented the various activities.



ELECTED WOMEN POLITICAL LEADERS GIVEN CAPACITY BUILDING ON THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Over the last years, we have seen a number of women running and being elected to different offices. This means that the new leaders need their leadership capacity built so that they can handle their new roles conscientiously. To respond to that need, ACFODE conducted capacity building trainings for the elected Women Councillors from the districts of Ntoroko, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa, Bundibugyo, Apac and Kaberamaido on 3rd- 4th May 2022. The Women Councillors were equipped with the skills and information about their roles and responsibilities, advocacy, lobbying and communication to enable them effectively champion women and other vulnerable group's issues in the local development plans and budgets.

Hon Juliet Kabasomi, Ruyonza Sub County in Kyegegwa District appreciated ACFODE for the training and shared her experience on how she managed to retain her seat.

"I credit all this to the excellent mobilization skills that I attained during the ACFODE training. I made sure to reach out to my community as much as possible and obtain support. In the end, I was well positioned that no one stood against me. My goal to become a leader was achieved" Kabasomi is currently serving her first term as the female councillor representing People with Disabilities (PWDs) in Ruyonza Sub County, Kyegegwa District.

She is now able to mobilize her colleagues to take on challenges while also engaging in income-generating activities like making crafts, weaving mats and baskets, which enables them to earn their own money rather than relying on hand-outs. Even though they are yet to find sufficient market for their products, they believe this is a more sustainable way to go about their lives".



Women Councillors in Kamwenge District pose with posters after the workshop

FORMATION AND SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S CAUCUSES

A total of six district women and 12 sub county women caucuses have been established as mechanisms to strengthen agency and collective the voice among women politicians at local level.

ACFODE facilitated the formation of District and Sub County women caucuses among the women leaders in each of the six districts of Ntoroko, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa, Bundibugyo, Apac and Kaberamaido districts.

Women caucuses bring women leaders together from different party affiliations in effective alliances around a common goal. Women's caucuses defend women's legislative priorities and increase their influence in politics. Caucuses promote

gender mainstreaming in the work and functioning of institutions thus improving the institution's sensitivity to gender equality.

The caucuses serve as "watchdogs" or focal points to ensure that a gender perspective is included in all debates, plans, programmes and services are gender responsive.

ACFODE will continue working with and supporting the caucuses to hold regular reflection meetings and to sharpen their communication, monitoring & evaluation, documentation and reporting skills further.



**Women Councillors
in Kamwenge District
pose for a group
photo at the end of
the 2 day workshop**

BI-ANNUAL MONITORING VISIT BY ACFODE AND WE EFFECT TO BUKOMANSIMBI, KALUNGU, RUKIGA AND KISORO DISTRICTS

ACFODE has been appreciated by her partner We Effect for the remarkable work done in the districts of Bukomansimbi, Kalungu, Rukiga and Kisoro while implementing the 3- year project of Protection of Women and Children's Rights. This was revealed during the bi-annual monitoring visit to the districts of Bukomansimbi, Kalungu, Rukiga and Kisoro. The monitoring team was composed of- We Effect representatives (2 from the regional office in Nairobi and 2 from Kampala office) and ACFODE Executive Director Ms Regina Bafaki and the Accounts Assistant-ACFODE. The purpose of the monitoring visit was to assess progress towards project implementation, achievements of project outcomes and document success stories.

Several stakeholders from the District and Sub County focus group discussions in the sub-counties of Lwabenge, Kalungu district, Kamwezi sub-county, Rukiga district and

Murora sub-county, Kisoro district attended the meeting.

The Executive Director ACFODE in her welcoming remarks welcomed the We Effect team and appreciated the district leadership and shared a summary of the implemented activities in the district from July 2020 to June 2022 which included training of model couples, training of CSO representatives, paralegals on VAW/C, , development and dissemination of Informative, Education and Communication Materials (IEC), development of training manual on VAW/C prevention, training of elected leaders on their roles and responsibilities, media campaigns during 16 days of activism to raise awareness on VAW/C, training of financial literacy and entrepreneurship for survivor groups, support formation of one small scale business/ social enterprise in six targeted districts. The model approach was appreciated for transforming households



and communities as highlighted below:.. This is what some members shared about the model couple approach

“Being chosen as a couple to be trained by ACFODE was an eye opener to me, before the training I used to hide my source of income and generally speaking there was no family collaboration. Everyone used to hide his/her money, now we plan together as a couple and there is joint decision making in our family. We treat one another with respect. Before the training I never used to value girl child education but these days I encourage my neighbours to give priority to girl child education because those are the future mothers of the nation. After the training we formed a group of model couples and we do home visits to families with domestic challenges ,carryout awareness campaigns on SGBV, offer psychosocial support and also refer cases that are beyond us to the CDOs’ office”

Noted Mr. Bareberaho Justus a model couple from Kamwezi sub county, Rukiga District.

Mr. Turyahabwe Edson a model couple, “As a couple we have been able to reach out to other couples through home visits and offered mediation and counseling services to them especially those with domestic challenges, as

a couple we have managed to reconcile three other couples that had domestic challenges. During the ACFODE training on the model couple approach I was very happy to learn about children and women’s rights because I realized that at times I would violate their rights unknowingly”

Ms. Ninsiima Irene a CSO representative from Kigezi Women in Development (KWID). “KWID has been collaborating with ACFODE to sensitize the women on their rights in the parishes of Kyabuhagwa, Kashekye, Kigara, Kibanda and Kyogo through radio talk shows, and drama shows. In addition, the KWID staffs’ capacities as TOTs on GBV has been strengthened and as a result in December 2021, KWID and ACFODE jointly conducted community awareness campaigns on violence against women in Kamwezi Sub County, Rukiga District”. Ms Faith from We-Effect thanked everyone for their effort in addressing violence against women and children and urged them to continue and do proper documentation of events that has been going in the district especially perpetrators of sexual violence and abuse. She also commended them for the keenness in following up and urged them to keep up the spirit particularly the case of the Councillor who defiled a young girl of 13 years until justice was prevailed.



ACFODE team with the We Effect team posing for a photo at the Kisoro field office

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE TRAINING FOR WOMEN COUNCILLORS AND THEIR SPOUSES

Women Councillors and their spouses were given social enterprise training which aimed to help women councillors and their spouses get the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their roles. ACFODE conducted training in the districts of Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kamwenge and Kyegegwa in June 2022.

The trainings built the women leaders and their spouses' skills and knowledge in identifying social problems and how to start successful business aimed at addressing the identified problems for improved household economic status. The trainings focused on understanding social entrepreneurship, opportunities within the community for the social enterprises, market research, saving,

book keeping, branding, and value addition among others.

Harriet Katusiime, Butama-Mitunda Town Council, Bundibugyo District shared her experience, "I thank ACFODE for including our spouses, and the training has opened our minds to the opportunities around us to add to our income. I saw an opportunity to make some money from my kitchen garden for example.

My husband and I really learned from the session on planning ahead for your family, thereafter we sat together and planned how to increase our savings for a bigger investment in the future."



The Facilitator, Ms Allen Baguma takes participants through a session on Market Research

ROLE OF CULTURE IN DEVELOPMENT IN ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN UGANDA TRAINING IN KALISIZO KYOTERA

The Cross Cultural Foundation organised a 3 days' training to help all Civil Society Organisations understand the role of culture in development at Nabisere Hotel in Kyotera District. The training under the theme "Consolidating the use of positive cultural resources to end violence against women and girls in Uganda" focused to enlightening members from CSOs about the concept of the "Culture in Development" Approach to end violence against women and girls. Over 15 organisations were represented and ACFODE participated in the training and was represented by Ms Violet Nakiggwe-Communications and Advocacy Officer and Ms Sheebah Claire Mukyala - Programmes Assistant-GBV Prevention Programme

A "culture in development" approach recognises, builds upon and integrates positive aspects of culture in all spheres of development. It uses practical examples to illustrate the value of culture in development (as a resource) and also acknowledges and manages the challenges associated with achieving synergy between the "modern" and "traditional" approaches to development.

There are a number spheres where culture can be used not only in development but also the promotion of the rights of women against violence such as teaching women different skills such as craft making to enable them to earn a living, awareness on women's rights through Music, Dance and Drama, laws and policies, advocating for gender sensitivity in education, dialogues with religious leaders and cultural leaders, settling land disputes, inheriting of property and many more. Though several CSOs including ACFODE are already incorporating culture in their programing, there is still a lot to be done in that aspect especially with the positive aspects of culture such as "Obuntu Bulamu" in Buganda that encourages harmonious living as respect of people.



Sheeba Mukyala
sharing her cultural
norms and values
with the team

PROJECT EXIT REVIEW MEETINGS PREVENTION OF SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE EXIT MEETING VISIT TO PARTNERS IN KYAKA 11 REFUGEE CAMP

After 3 years of being at the fore front of prevention of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Kyaka II refugee settlement and the neighbouring communities, ACFODE held strategic meetings with key different stakeholders. During the meetings, ACFODE appreciated the partners (ALIGHT, OPM, UNHCR) and other organisations that have supported the project for 3 years; and the sustainability strategies to ensure the gains made are not negated. The project has impacted over 5,000 refugees and neighbouring communities and has helped to reduce the number gender based violence cases.

The Executive Director thanked the partners for the support rendered to ACFODE which has made the project a success. "During the 3 years, we have been able to utilize different resources / structures to implement this project. We have employed different approaches notably the Model couple approach as one of the transformative gender approaches that contributed the overwhelming success stories registered as impact from a number of households in Kyaka II and the neighbouring communities." Ms. Regina stated

Mr. Joel Magoba the speaker of Kyegegwa District thanked ACFODE and her partners for the great efforts made towards prevention of GBV in Kyegegwa District. He encouraged all stakeholders to continue with collaboration even after the project closure. Mr. David Musazi the team leaders of ALIGHT in Kyaka II recommended that more donors should start supporting such projects that create positive changes in the communities.

ACFODE has also trained CSO's on understanding the concept of gender and gender mainstreaming which has birthed great impact as far as gender equality is concerned. An example in this regard is in the employment scheme where both male and females are accorded equal opportunities in jobs allocation.



Mr. Magoba Joel,
District speaker
Kyegegwa District
giving his remarks

ACFODE CONTINUES TO IMPACT LIVES OF COMMUNITIES LIVING AROUND CONSERVATION AREAS IN MBALE

ACFODE has registered great success in the Mt Elgon conservation areas over the last 2 years since the inception of the project "Promoting Equitable, Just and Accountable Conservation in the Mt Elgon area. This project was implemented with financial support from the Swedish Foundation for Human Rights. This was revealed during the breakfast meeting organized by Action for Development on 12th May at the Skyz Hotel Naguru. Happy Ainomugisha, the Program Manager also shared the project progress, achievements and lessons from the project implementation. ***"The project has brought visible changes in the communities of Mt Elgon after just 2 years of the project implementation and improved collaboration between authorities like UWA and frontline communities"*** Happy Ainomugisha



Ms Happy Ainomugisha - ACFODE sharing project success during the meeting

The meeting offered a platform to take stock of the events in the Mount Elgon Conservation Area and for the different duty bearers' to share alternative ways of mitigating human rights violations and protection of frontline communities in Mt. Elgon Region as the project comes to an end. Ms Okono Dinah the project resource person shared some key findings and recommendations during implementing of the project that include; strengthened multi stakeholder inclusive approach in pursuance of human rights principles in all conservation initiatives, establish community structures as a liable link between authorities and the community, peace based committees in communities to promote unity and solve disputes, extension of gender responsive service delivery in Mt. Elgon and incorporation of gender in conservation initiatives



Ms Dinah Okono- the project resource person sharing some of the project insights during the meeting

ACFODE SKILLS WOMEN LEADERS IN BUNDIBUGYO

Women's equal representation and participation in politics and public life are essential in our communities and democracy. We know that woman's political leadership results in better outcomes for women and girls, as well as for the whole of society. Having more women in political leadership delivers progress in policy areas that are vital for economic growth, gender equality and development.

ACFODE trained women leaders in the Bundibugyo District and the impact on their leadership journey has been substantial. For example, women were taught how to present their views in the council from an informed perspective with the relevant data for example on Teenage pregnancy. They realized that this attracts more support from their male counterparts than when presented without evidence.

The women leaders from Ntoroko Sub-County have sensitized women about the practice of saving and since the previous training in March, so far 4 saving groups have been formed which are improving the standards of living.

Women leaders from Ngite Sub-County purchased land for constructing sub-county headquarters to enable women and girls have a safe place to discuss their issues affecting them.

