

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the ACFODE monthly Newsletter where we highlight all the events that have happened within the Month and we share the good news. The Newsletter is also a collection of activities happening within the office. I hope you enjoy the reading.

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ACFODE STAFF RESOURCE MOBILIZATION TRAINING



1 Group photo of ACFODE staff after the training

ACFODE staff attended resource mobilization training from Thursday 4th –5th Friday, March 2021. The training is under the STOP project which is implemented by ACFODE in partnership with EIRENE eV international Christian Service for peace and with financial support from BMZ The project aims to promote gender equality and women's empowerment among refugee and host communities in Uganda (Kyaka 11 refugee settlement, Kyegegwa district).

The training was to equip all staff members with the basic knowledge of fundraising resources for projects. All the staff members that attended left with sufficient knowledge in developing concept notes, innovate thinking, how to look out for fundraising opportunities and writing project case studies.

ACFODE looks forward to more of such trainings that skills staff and help them become more efficient at doing their work.

VISION

A just society where gender equality is a reality.

MISSION

To empower women, girls and influence legislation and policy for gender equality in Uganda.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT TRAINING FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED WOMEN LEADERS IN KAMWENGE DISTRICT

ACFODE in partnership with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) conducted capacity enhancement training for newly elected women leaders and their spouses in Kamwenge district (Bwizi, Busiriba, and Bigodi sub-county) for 2 days (24th-25th March 2021). The training had 46 participants (33 females and 13 males) with the objective of orienting the elected councillors on their new roles and responsibilities, advocacy, lobbying, and communication skills to enable them effectively champion women's issues in local government plans and budgets and enabling spouses/partners appreciate gender, the importance of women in leadership; and to support their wives' political aspirations and functions as to change agents in the communities they serve.

The training focused on Understanding gender and women's rights, a legal framework for women's participation in politics, Introduction to lobby advocacy and networking, Maintaining and sustaining leadership, making use of women caucuses plus Balancing private and public life.

In her appreciation remarks to ACFODE, the woman MP-elect for kamwenge district Hon Bahireira Sylvia noted that the approach of inviting women leaders with their husbands was a brilliant idea because the husbands would then respect and ably support their wives in the new journey of leadership. She recommended the training be extended to other sub-counties in Kamwenge district to enable other women councilors to acquire these same skills.



TRAINING OF WOMEN GROUPS AND CHILD MOTHERS IN AMOLATAR, APAC AND OYAM

ACFODE in partnership with British Council is implementing a project titled 'Addressing Gender Gaps with Interactive Leadership Education (AGILE) programme; for women in the social enterprise sector in the Northern Uganda districts of Apac, Oyam and Amolatar.'



Under this initiative, ACFODE conducted leadership training workshops for child mothers and women in social enterprise groups in the aforementioned districts. The workshop focused on leadership and financial management skills, the roles and responsibilities of the various members and the benefits of the being member to a social enterprise group. A total of 120 participants attended the workshops.

In Apac district the workshop was held on 22nd – 23rd March and was facilitated by Mr. Okwir Samuel, the Senior Community Development Officer of Apac District Local Government and Jenet Odongo the sub-county Chief of Ibuje sub-county.

In Oyam district, the workshop was held on 22nd- 23rd March and was facilitated by Mr. George Ogwai and Mr. Gira Chris, community development officers from Oyam District Local Government.

In Amolatar district the workshop was conducted on the 25th-26th March 2021, and was facilitated by Mr. Orech Micheal and Ms. Apio Immaculate, Community Development Officers at Amolatar District Local Government.

POLICY ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH

PROMOTING EQUITABLE, JUST AND ACCOUNTABLE CONSERVATION IN THE MOUNT ELGON CONSERVATION AREA PROJECT.

Action For Development (ACFODE) in partnership with The Swedish Foundation for Human Rights is implementing titled "Promoting equitable, just and accountable conservation in the Mount Elgon conservation area project to advocate the respect, protection, and fulfillment of the rights of frontline communities living around Mount Elgon National Park. It's implemented in the districts of Mbale, Sironko, Namisindwa, and Manafwa. Several activities were undertaken in March which includes:

STAKEHOLDERS TRAINING ON MONITORING, DOCUMENTATION, AND REPORTING ON HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO CONSERVATION AND DO NO HARM PRINCIPLE IN MBALE DISTRICT.

The 2 days training was attended by 30 stakeholders (19 males and 14 females) including representatives from CSO's, frontline communities, police, district, and wildlife Authority) At the end of the training, the participants were able to learn how to monitor, document, and report on the state of the environment and human rights violations in the region using a simplified data collection tool and appreciate the HRBA and DNH principles regarding environment conservation programming and management.



Community Monitoring training in Mbale district.

This was a two-day training organized to equip community monitors of Mbale with knowledge and skills on gender Human rights, roles, and responsibilities as well as policies and guidelines governing protected areas.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT TRAINING IN KYAKATWANGA VILLAGE, KYEGEGWA DISTRICT.

The training was conducted from Monday 22nd– Thursday 25th March 2021 with a total of 46 participants. The aim of the training was to equip community facilitators and model couples with knowledge about VSLA's. From the training, participants were able to come up with VSLA's, learned financial management, and income-generating activities say for example saving and investing in the VSLA's, farming for sale, rearing animals and birds such as cows, chicken among others.



SOCIAL CHANGE

Launch of the Peace Hut in Itamba Biniga Zone, Kyegegwa District.

Construction has been finalized and handed over to ACFODE. This Peace Hut will be a counseling ground for the GBV survivors in the community.

Prevention of sexual violence in refugee settlements and host communities in Uganda.

ACFODE in partnership with EIRENE eV international Christian Service for peace and with financial support from BMZ is implementing a project entitled; STOP. The project aims to promote gender equality and women's empowerment among refugee and host communities in Uganda (Kyaka 11 refugee settlement, Kyegegwa district), and the following activities were implemented.

SOCIAL CHANGE

ADVOCACY FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF GBV LAWS AND POLICIES

ACFODE with support from TROCAIRE conducted training for sub-county women caucus groups from Bobi and Koro sub-counties in Omoro district and Lokung and Paloga sub-counties in Lamwo districts which took place on 29th and 30th arch 2021 respectively. A total of 34 sub-county women LC 3 councilors (18 from Lamwo and 16 from Omoro) were trained on the GBV policy and the Domestic Violence Act 2010, Local Government System -Key legal frameworks, understanding council procedures, Women councillors' participation in the budgeting processes, their roles and responsibilities, lobbying and advocacy to influence and integrate GBV issues in the plans and budgets during their council meetings.



The participants had an experience-sharing session where they shared their successes, challenges, and lessons learned during which they thanked ACFODE for building their capacity and equipping them with advocacy, leadership, public speaking, and communication skills and pledged to aim for higher positions to front GBV issues and influence decision-making regarding GBV prevention and response.

LAUNCH OF THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS PROJECT IN MASAKA AND KABALE DISTRICTS.



Action for Development in partnership with We Effect and with financial support from European Union launched a three-year project titled "Protection of Women and Children's Rights in Uganda" on 16th and 17th March 2021 in Masaka and Kabale respectively. The Project launch theme was "Building on women's strengths in a COVID-19 world."

In Masaka, the project was officially launched by the Resident District Commissioner of Kalungu district, Mr. Tukaikiriza Caleb while in Kabale, the project was officially launched by the Chairperson LCV of Kisoro district, Hon. Abel Bizimana in the company of other district leaders, Mr. Elijah Kajubbi from We Effect and Ms. Regina Bafaki, the Executive Director of ACFODE.

In her opening remarks during the launch in Masaka, Ms. Regina reminded everyone about their responsibility to protect women and children's rights. Elijah Kajubi from We Effect in his remarks also spoke about the need for gender equality to address the systematic root causes of gender-based violence which are found in gender-based power inequalities and gender-based discrimination. He also added that any person faced with violence due to their gender should not be defined by their experience in life.



REVIEW MEETINGS WITH MODEL COUPLES FROM FOUR WE EFFECT PARTNERS IN KASESE, BUNDIBUGYO, AND KAMPALA.

ACFODE with financial support from We Effect organized review meetings for model couples in Kasese, Bundibugyo, and Kampala on 29th, 30th, and 1st April 2021 respectively to share their experiences in terms of achievements, challenges, and recommendations as a result of the previous training. In November 2020, ACFODE conducted training(s) for 40 model couples selected from the membership of four (4) We Effect partners i.e. Shelter and Settlement Alternatives (SSA), Uganda Central Cooperative Financial Services (UCCFS), Mt. Rwenzori Coffee Farmers' Cooperative Union (MRCFCU) and Semuliki Cooperative Union (SEMUCU). The training included sessions on gender, power, gender equality, basic counseling skills, and the legal framework. The training empowered the couples to become agents of change in the promotion of gender equality through transforming other violent couples within their communities.

The review meetings provided a platform for experience sharing and learning plus generating lessons and recommendations for improving the interventions by model couples. Among the achievements of model couples included; peaceful homes as a result of planning and budgeting and working together; joint decision making compared to before the training where women were voiceless, reduction in cases of GBV as shared by the police officer Kasanvu zone Mr. Emiti Cuthbert "Cases of GBV have reduced in number i.e. before the training, 15 -20 cases were reported to police in a week. But after the November training, we sensitized people and now 10 to 15 cases are reported in a week".

The model couples are now respected and referred to as counsellors in their communities.

TRAINING OF MODEL COUPLES IN BUKOMANSIMBI AND KALUNGU DISTRICTS.

ACFODE in partnership with We Effect and with financial support from the European Union conducted a two days training for model couples in Bukomansimbi and Kalungu from 29th March to 1st April 2021. The couples were selected through consultation with local leaders, police, and church leaders in the different sub-counties of operation namely Bigasa and Kitanda in Bukomansimbi; Lwabenge and Kyamulibwa in Kalungu. The criteria for selecting the couples focused on both transformed and non-transformed couples, age diversity i.e. 25 to 50 years, and socioeconomic diversity.

The two days training aimed at enhancing the knowledge of couples on gender, social norms, VAW/C, and counselling; providing an opportunity for reflection and change in attitudes among the couples towards preventing VAW/C; and enlightening the couples about their roles and guiding them on strategies for preventing VAW/C.

Among the issues highlighted by couples in the two districts included; the high number of cases of early marriages, lack of knowledge about existing laws and policies that protect women and children's rights, lack of adequate information regarding the referral pathway, high level of alcoholism and poverty leading to increased cases of domestic violence.



Testimonial from one of the participants

"Last night I reflected on my life and the lives of those who come to my office to seek services. I have realized that we men are violated because of the way we act or because of our actions" –
Community Development Officer in