Gender Disparities exist in Karamoja. It is important to continue engaging the men to appreciate rights and roles of women.
FORWARD

I greet you all our esteemed partners in Development. On behalf of the Board we extend warm greetings and appreciation from the ARUWE family. It is at this point in time when we share what has transpired during course of the year. In pursuance of our vision: “A world in which women and children realize their full social, economic and civic potential”, great strides have been taken in the year ending 2016/2017. ARUWE has reached out to a lot more women and youth under our thematic themes; women socio-economic strengthening, sustainable healthy communities, climate change resilience and adaptation and education and lifelong learning.

All the achievements we are reporting about would not have been realized without support from our esteemed partners, you have made us shine. The Board recognizes the tireless efforts of the technical team. You are our foot soldiers we owe this success to your commitment and resilience.

As the ARUWE Board we commit to give policy direction and strategically guide the organization in conformity with governance best of practices. We shall ensure that enabling policies are put in place and existing ones enforced for the best interest of the organization.

I present to you ARUWE annual report 2016/2017. Wishing you fruitful reading. Feedback will be openly received.

KEVIN JUDITH NASSAKA
BOARD CHAIRPERSON
We are greatly indebted to all our partners. The respective District Local Governments where we implement our projects and the community we serve have been very cooperative in 2016/2017. The technical team, I am lucky to be heading during this point in time. They have churned out the results we are proud about.

At ARUWE we have had a mixed bag of fortune in the financial year ended. We have reached out to a lot more women and youths. These have managed to access credit, incomes have increased and access to health care services improved. Women have been empowered in business startup, financial management, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, property and land rights. Better sanitary facilities have been provided to schools hence creating conducive learning environment.

At organization level; strategic plan 2016/2021 has been finalized. ARUWE has strengthened her presence on platforms and Networks. System strengthening has been undertaken. Tailor capacity building trainings have been designed and delivered to staff. Annual review and planning has just been concluded. All this is aimed at ensuring efficiency and effectiveness.

As we enter the new financial year premised on the theme; “Being a Team of Responsible Individuals. Building Together”, I take the opportunity to wish you a nice reading of the annual report. We commit to steer ARUWE to greater heights.

Executive Director
ARUWE
CORE THEMATICS AREAS

**Women Economic and Social Strengthening:**
1. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security and Nutrition
2. Agribusiness and Enterprise Development
3. Women Financial Inclusion
4. Women Rights to Social, Economic and Natural Resources

**Sustainable Health in Communities**
1. Water Sanitation and Hygiene
2. HIV and Sexual Reproductive Health

**Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation**
1. Environmental Conservation
2. Renewable Energy

**Education and Lifelong Learning**
1. Inclusive Education for poor and marginalised groups
2. Improved Children’s Learning Environment
3. Life Skills Improvement / Vocational Skills
ARUWE empowers women to eliminate discriminative practices that inhibit their potential in socio-economic development.

Key strategies
1. increase agriculture productivity to enhance food security and incomes for women
2. Enhance agricultural entrepreneurship, increase access to proactive resources, inputs, knowledge, value addition and markets opportunities.
3. increase economic opportunities for women
4. Enhance access to economic resources and basic services, promote ownership and control of natural resources, introduce appropriate new technologies and entrepreneurship initiatives and support access to financial services.
5. Empower women to engage in policy advocacy and good governance to establish favorable economic policies for women and girls to thrive.

- 300 women received value chain training
- 584 women farmers accessed business loans and 300 agricultural credit
- 280 women increased production for maize per acre. From 8 bags 12 bags (100kgs each)
- 124 women farmers supported to carry out collective marketing (soy, maize and beans).
- 240 women registered increased incomes as a result of increased investment.
- 31 women who set up alternative income generating activities as a result of ARUWE programs.
- Women cooperative of 300 members established.
- ARUWE Agro Ecology learning Centre for rural farmers in Kyankwanzi established.
- 300 women aware of their land/property rights and entitlements.
“My name is Sylvia Nakito, from Gayaza Sub County, Kyankwanzi. I am 36 years old. Through the agricultural loan I got from ARUWE, I have been able to increase my income from agricultural activities. I invested a loan amount of Uganda Shillings 287,000 in addition to my savings of 600,000/= in my 4-acre maize garden enabled me to earn Uganda Shillings 2,400,000 from season one of 2016. This was Uganda Shillings 1,000,000 more from previous season on same acreage with minimal capital investment. After deducting all expenses, I got a net profit of 1,780,000. With increased income, I am able to send my children to school and meet other household needs.”
Nakayunga Kotilda is a 57 year old single mother of six dependents with no formal education. She is from Kaseka village, Kiryajjobyo Parish Gayaza. Her main source of income is farming. Previously she has struggled to make ends meet due to limited capital. ARUWE came to her rescue by extending credit from the community fund. In her words she points out the fruits; “I have benefited so much from agriculture loan scheme as well as the trainings in savings mobilization and credit management. I was supported with a loan of Ugx175, 000 which I used to purchase maize seeds, herbicides and pay for labour. I planted 5 acres of maize from which I harvested 56 bags (5,600 Kgs). I earned Uganda Shillings 4,240,000 after sale. Initially I used to plant on 8 acres but because I had less capital to purchase better quality inputs, I used to get low yield. For instance the last season of March 2016, I got 5.5 bags (550 Kgs) per acre yet this season (August 2016) I got 11.2 bags (1, 120 Kgs). Because of this increase in income, I am able to take the children back to school with a paid up bank slip. I have also got money that is going to help me complete my house. ARUWE staff trained me in savings and credit management as well as planning, costing and pricing and record management. I purchased a book in which I record all my transactions. This has helped to track my progress. Many of us (rural women) have limited or no education at all which puts us at a disadvantage. Applying this knowledge I have seen significant change in my business”. ARUWE has empowered more mothers like Kotilda with knowledge and financial support as well as access to market. Supporting women in basic adult literacy and skilling will offer them opportunity to compete. This will contribute to fostering economic development.
Carolyne Nakimuli is a 62 year-old grandmother with 4 orphans under her care. In her dreams, she never expected to own a mobile phone. She benefitted from ARUWE’s financial support. From proceeds after selling her maize and beans, she saved some money to buy a phone. This has since made communication easy. She is able to transact business and keep in touch with friends and relatives. “I am more informed about community developments, market prices and trainings. I am even more time conscious now that I have a phone to tell time. I am a grandmother on air”, said Carolyne.

“I now have a mobile phone” – Excited Grand Mother.

COUNTING BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO A GROUP

“Through collective actions such as; procurement of farm inputs, group loan guaranteeing, marketing of our produce, self-help group savings, leadership and advocacy for our property and land rights, we have achieved what we could not do as individual women. Through our savings, we have been able to purchase household items that we did not have before. Through groups, we have developed our leadership capacity. Some of us were bold enough to vie for community leadership positions. We are also happy that one of us, Ms Ganyana was selected to be the chairperson of Kyankwanzi District Land Board. We would like to see more of our fellow women join us. Together we can do much more”, said Namuli a community paralegal.
COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGAINST ILLEGAL LAND EVICTIONS

Through ARUWE’s land rights programs, 114 households in Lwenjunju village are able to securely live on their land and utilize it for their agriculture and other economic activities. Through the program, ARUWE supported the community to engage the duty bearers to stop illegal eviction from their land enforced by land lords.

“Through the awareness trainings about property and land rights and where to get legal aid from, I was able to defend my land left behind by my late father. Our male relatives wanted to grab our property saying that I could not be in charge it since I was a woman. Having been equipped with knowledge on the steps I need to take to utilize my lands rights, I was able to secure all our family property”, said Nansiimo-Paralegal at Gayaza Sub County.

Community members from Lwenjunju village receiving legal advice from one of the lawyers ARUWE partnered with to offer legal aid for land cases.
Under this thematic area, ARUWE supports inclusive education of vulnerable and marginalized children especially the girl child. The purpose is to reduce gender disparities in education for vulnerable girls and children. ARUWE champions and promotes equal access to quality education and vocational training. ARUWE is mindful about retention and health of children at school thus, carrying out interventions to improve Water, Sanitation and Hygiene status (WASH) and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). This includes infrastructural development and knowledge dissemination.

- 200 girls and 89 boys of St. Joseph Senior Secondary School Vvumba Kyankwanzi benefitted from improved dormitory facilities.
- 50 students were equipped with tailoring skills. This will enable them start own income generating projects.
- 487 pupils of Busi Parents Primary School are able to access improved ECOSAN toilet facilities.
She no longer fears going to school during her menstruation cycle

Besides the poor hygiene standards of the old sanitary facility Busi Parents Primary School, 14 year old Cissy Namukwaya was equally concerned about privacy. Often times during her menstruation cycle, she was filled with great fear. There was no privacy, with no wall separating the boys’ side from girls. On the extreme, she would miss school. This changed in 2016/2017. In her own words, this is the story she has to tell;

“I am so grateful to ARUWE-WECF for supporting our school, especially with the latrine facility. One of our old latrines collapsed but we had no other option, we could risk and use it with of a lot fears. I have always felt scared and threatened because it was so dilapidated and dangerous to our health especially us girls. We were exposed us to numerous diseases and infections due to the unhygienic conditions.

This new latrine is indeed a relief to us. Time had come when I was very scared of coming to school because I had experienced my periods and yet there was no place for me to manage myself at school. Life has been so difficult because the facilities we had: had no separation wall between the boys and girls.

With this new toilet, we are so much relieved and feel happy coming to school because this facility caters for all of us. It accords us the privacy we need to manage ourselves as girls due to the way it has been constructed. However despite this inclusive nature of the facility, we as girls still have the need of a wash room and continue to ask ARUWE to support us with at least one-a place where we can wash up because the ECOSAN does not permit the usage of water. I however continue to thank ARUWE and WECF and continue to pray that it is able to continue supporting our school as well as many others that lack the basic sanitation facilities”.

Cissy Namukwaya is all smiles for the new sanitary facilities at her School.
ARUWE EMPOWERS THE WOMEN AND GIRL CHILD THROUGH VOCATIONAL SKILLING

The objective of the Vocational skilling Project is to create opportunities and increase youth employment even when students have left formal education. The program aims at equipping youth with sustainable skills that will empower them to compete favorably in a dynamic market. Empowering the girls with such skills helps them to resist manipulation and temptations. ARUWE is glad to report that thus far, school going and out of school community members (mainly girls) have been equipped with tailoring skills. Hence enhancing opportunities for them to create own employment. So far, four of the community members trained in tailoring have opened up businesses. They are now able to provide basic needs for their families. This program is enabling rural women to rise out of poverty and provide basic needs and school fees for their families. ARUWE commits to continue empowering the woman and girl child economically with support from other Development partners.
SUSTAINABLE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

ARUWE empowers communities to demand, access and utilize health services. This is done through:

1. Improving and increasing accessibility, availability of sexual and reproductive health services.

2. Creating massive awareness on sexual and reproductive health rights among women, men and youth in the reproductive age group.

3. Establish/strengthen platforms for citizens to engage and influence national and district health policies

4. Create linkages to sexual reproductive health service providers in communities

5. Increased access to safe water, sanitation facilities and hygiene practices for schools, households and communities.

6. Support improvement of Menstrual Hygiene Management at school. ARUWE contributes to reduction of malnutrition among children under five years, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

7. ARUWE supports nutrition education, safe food chain, kitchen gardening.

ARUWE promotes the prevention of new HIV infections, link citizens to health care providers.

“I started accessing sexual reproductive health services mainly Ante Natal Care and Post Natal Care services at our Nabilatuk Health Centre III. Through the trainings we received from ARUWE in SRHR and services, I realized that I had a right and responsibility to access and utilize health services. Our cultural practices had inhibited my and other women in my community from using the availed services. I was able to deliver a bouncing health baby girl whom I take good care of”, said 21- year Aweny from Lojoor village, Nabilatuk.

- 10 households can now access clean water. Constructed ferro cement tanks from water credit.
- 2000 people aware of their SRHR and available services.
- 16 community groups engaging in advocacy and monitoring health service delivery (SRHR and HIV/AIDS).
- Increased utilization of ANC and PNC services in intervention areas.
- 370 Trained and aware of their rights, entitlements and responsibilities in health service delivery.
- 7 health advocacy champions trained
- 4 health media champions trained
- 15 groups trained in SRHR
- 70 women community leaders got bicycles to ease transport.
- 10 health public forums organized
ARUWE with funding from PATH implements the Advocacy for Better Health community led project. Through advocacy for better health community-led engagements with duty bearers and decision makers, there has been improved health service delivery in Maternal Child Health and HIV/AIDS in Mpigi district. ARUWE supported community groups to hold public forums with duty bearers at district and sub county level.

In response to the engagements, Buwama HCIII has stepped up efforts to increase supply of drugs and essential materials like surgical gloves, washing powder, threads and among others. The strategy they have used is to re-allocate supplies from an over supplied to an under supplied health centre with high demand as stipulated in the Ministry of Health guidelines. Therefore, more expectant mothers have been able to utilize ANC and PNC services.

Through these engagements, Butooro HCIII managed to secure solar system in 2017. This serves women in maternity section at night. 30 to 43 births each month would be handled. This according to Health centre in charge,
Through continued engagement under ABH, citizens have reported improved patient care by health workers at Sekiwungu and Muduuma Health Centre III. “Through our advocacy efforts, the health centre in charge put a suggestion box at Muduuma Health Centre III which enabled community to put forward their concerns on health service provision. Some of the concerns that kept coming up included poor customer care and health worker absenteeism. These have since been addressed leading to increased utilization of health services”, highlighted David Sebisubi, chairperson of the Health Unit Management Committee (HUMC).

Olivia Bwanika a member of the Women of Life group also reported that because midwives and other health workers treat expectant mothers with love and respect as well as provision of essential medicines, there was increased utilization of Maternal Child Health services at Sekiwungu HCIII. The Mpigi health Centre IV ambulance has been repaired and is now fully functional after advocacy engagement meetings with the duty bearers.
Rights and Entitlements Sensitization

CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIANCE AND ADAPTATION

- District Climate Change Task Force established in Sembabule District. Comprised of 12 members (10 males and 2 females).
- 5 households have access to energy saving bio gas stoves to reduce the effect of using firewood. This was through the bio-gas credit scheme.
ARUWE enhances community capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change for sustainable development.

**Strategies of addressing climate change challenges**

1. ARUWE improves access to appropriate renewable energy technologies among households.

2. ARUWE supports introduction of renewable energy technologies including solar energy, green technologies, energy saving stoves and other innovative solutions.

3. ARUWE links communities to microfinance services to secure finances for adoption and scale up of the technologies.

4. ARUWE engages Local Governments to integrate climate change measures into District policies, strategies and plans.

5. ARUWE builds community capacity to engage and influence duty bearers on climate change issues.

6. ARUWE trains communities in environmentally sound agriculture practices such as organic farming and agro forestry.

In partnership with the Environment Natural Resource CSO Network, ARUWE participated in the documentation of good practices, lessons learnt and success stories in the Global Climate Change Alliance Project in the districts of the cattle corridor. These Districts included: Nakasongola, Kiboga, Nakaseke, Luwero, Mityana.
Milestones in 2016/2017

1. Partnership with Semwanga and Muwazi Company Advocates to offer legal support on land and property matters.

2. Published 2 newspaper articles on MCH in Kyankwanzi

3. Supported 2 farmers to participate in annual food fair organized by PELUM

4. Linked women farmers to community fund where they access agricultural credit

5. Linked women farmers to Value chain Enterprises for collective marketing.

6. New partner welcomed on board. AMPLIFY CHANGE.

ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT

ARUWE is committed to strengthening governance and management systems and structures to support effective program implementation. This is done through; strengthening functionality of organizational systems and structures in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), Finance and Human Resources (HR). Building board and staff capacity for effective management and implementation of programs. The organization employs mechanisms like; exposures, coaching and mentoring, training and sponsorship for short courses. Strategically ARUWE is strengthening partnerships to enhance shared learning, resource mobilization and collective policy engagements at national level.

Strides made thus far:

During the financial year 2016/2017 ARUWE with support from Development partners has made significant strides towards system strengthening and general organization Development. The young dynamic technical team has been positive and
responsive to change. Key highlights from previous year include but not limited to the following:

1. ARUWE strategic plan 2016/2021 completed and approved by the Board of Directors.

2. System and software upgrading in; human resource, finance and performance management.

3. Research and documentation strengthened

4. Stronger partnerships established and increased participation in Networks.

5. Improved visibility though branding, marketing and social media outreach.

6. Fundraising visit to European partners (strengthen resource Mobilization)


8. 12 ARUWE staff members were trained in budget and policy advocacy.

ARUWE young dynamic team takes off time to engage in recreation during the annual review at Garuga Entebbe.
FINANCES 2016-2017

INCOME
UGX 1,060,830,517

EXPENDITURE
UGX 988,144,263
Who has financially supported ARUWE’s work?
Challenges Encountered

1. ARUWE has triggered and stimulated demand in the communities. The resource envelope is still small to meet the set targets in the strategic plan.

2. To attract highly experienced and skilled human resource, the remuneration has to match with market dictates. The salary scales are still not able to bridge the gap.

3. ARUWE does not have a permanent home and transport is still challenging. These exacerbate operational costs.

4. The organization still faces some capacity gaps in some areas like; monitoring and evaluation, research and documentation. Support to system strengthening is critical.

Opportunities

1. Conducive operational environment with good buy in especially from Government at all levels.

2. Vibrant dynamic team of young men and women willing to learn and help ARUWE realize its goals and Objectives

3. Structures and supporting policies in place

4. Existing partners appreciating work ARUWE is currently doing.
Women Movement championing SRHR

ARUWE has reached out to a lot more women and youth under our thematic themes; women socio-economic strengthening, sustainable healthy communities, climate change resilience and adaptation and education and lifelong learning.