



National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda | Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

January-April 2017

National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda

Inside this issue:

Paralegals supporting Girls and Women with Disabilities 2

Changing lives 2

Advocating for inclusion of Girls and Women with Disabilities in national policies 3

A Deaf Accountant in the making 4

Special points of interest:

- * Girls with Disabilities gain more than skills
- * Experiences of Women with Disabilities in accessing SRHS
- * Strengthening networks with District Associations

Girls With Disabilities Gain More Than Skills

Mockery and teasing over her lack of growth yet her siblings in lower classes were bigger and taller are some of the reasons that forced Sidora to drop out of school as early as P4. She chose to stay at home and do house chores until she was invited to participate in the apprenticeship program designed to equip Girls with Disabilities practical skills in tailoring and hairdressing by Kasese District Women with Disabilities Association. With overflowing confidence in self and skills in hairdressing, Sidora hopes to start up her own salon as her client base has widened and faces no discrimination.

Jackline (not real name), a survivor of Gender Based Violence also took part and gained skills in tailoring. A school dropout and teen mother at 17 years, Jackline shared that she made a sell of 60,000/= last Christmas and was glad for the training as it has made it possible for her to be financially independent.



Some of the shirts made by girls with disabilities on sale



L-R: Sidora holding a wig head & Jackline at her sewing machine

Raising Awareness on Gender Based Violence

Trained facilitators were acquired to enlighten a total of 230 Girls and Women with disabilities in the districts of Koboko and Pader on the everlasting effects of Gender Based Violence against vulnerable groups. Visual pictures and audio

information translated to local languages were the materials used to equip girls and women with disabilities knowledge about GBV, the referral systems in place in case of domestic violence and individual empowerment to demand

for rights when it comes to accessing Judicial services. Violence against girls and women with disabilities is far more extensive in Uganda than violence against the general female population.

Paralegals Supporting Girls and Women with Disabilities

Community based volunteers knowledgeable in counseling were recruited to advocate for disability awareness within their communities and support girls and women with disabilities. They worked hard to earn their trust and are the ones who guide them when it comes to seeking judicial help in times of Gender Based



Rosaline and her husband alongside the goat he bought to atone for his actions

Violence from their spouses.

Rosaline, a 35 year old with a physical disability reported that on the 17th /4/2015, her husband returned home at 10.20 p.m drunk and found her sleeping. He rudely woke her up to serve him food then got angry and started abusing her. In her attempt to escape, she fell and dislocated her

crippled leg. Rosaline then sent for her parents who took her to report to the paralegal who in turn reported the violence to the area Local Council.

Robert fled the scene but was later apprehended by Police who organized a meeting between the parents, LC 1 and the paralegal. Robert was asked to refund the 35000/= her parents had spent on her treatment and fined a goat for his actions. He promised never to abuse her and since then; they are at peace.

Changing The Lives of Girls And Women With Disabilities

Girls and Women with Disabilities were given the tools for sustainability through economic empowerment training in savings and financial management.

Kereen, a physically disabled 45 year old woman from Nebbi district was married to Mr. Ucak Peter who abandoned her and their children.

She was invited to the training where

financial management skills like savings, group formation for the attainment of funds from banks acted as the stepping stones for financial stability. Kereen said the group not only helped

"The group has helped me start up a small scale business"

her in starting up a small scale business but made borrowing money to pay for younger children's' fees easy.

Before the training, Kereen was helpless as her husband left her with 7 children whose welfare she couldn't maintain due to unemployment. Together with her children; Kereen has managed to set up a thriving farm to support their livelihood.

Yenparwoth is an 18 year old school drop-out from Nebbi district. She was brought out of fear and shame to interact with fellow girls with disabilities during a skills training in tailoring and a village savings scheme which helped kick start her small business in selling roasted groundnuts, maize and vegetables.

Yenparwoth admitted that shyness, teasing from fellow students and low

self-esteem led to her dropping out of school. She was entirely dependent on her parents until the skills training which has enabled her to live independently as she has her own money, goats and gardens. The financial independence has given her much more happiness than she could have imagined as a girl with a disability.



Yenparwoth weeding in her garden

Advocating for Inclusion of Girls & Women with Disabilities in the National Sexual Reproductive Health Rights Policy

National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda’s (NUWODU) current program on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights Services (SRHRS) for Girls and Women with Disabilities raised an alarm when NUWODU discovered that the national policy didn’t cater for Girls and Women with Disabilities and was not in line with the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization guidelines.

This propelled NUWODU to take action and research into the policy was made to ensure that girls and women with disabilities had full access to

their SRHRS. With the lead researcher Dr. Otim Charles at the helm; NUWODU joined hands with stakeholders from Ministry of Health, Woman MP Representatives and reviewed the old policy in a national dissemination meeting.

Stakeholders pledged to document gaps within other existing policies and present them to relevant ministries to guide policy reviews for effective implementation.



NUWODU’s Chairperson 2nd L and Executive Secretary 2nd R pose for a photo with stakeholders after the dissemination meeting

Experiences of Women with Disabilities in Accessing Sexual Reproductive Health Services

During training on Rights Awareness in Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Services; a woman with a disability shared her experience on how she was denied services because of her disability.

Lillian (not real name) was sent to deliver on the veranda by a health worker while abled expecting mothers were left inside the health center. She said that, her husband joined her on

the veranda until she delivered. Lillian further revealed a different incident where she took her other child to hospital and the health worker refused to treat her. Overwhelmed with the weight of rejection, Lillian decided to report the health worker to the Sub-county chief where she was summoned. This worsened the situation in that Lillian is forced to go to a clinic and pay for services

she cannot afford as the health worker refuses to treat her and her child whenever she goes to the health centre.



Lillian sharing her experience in Sign Language

Strengthening Networks with District Associations

Women District Associations are the networks National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda strengthens to implement its activities in the districts of focus. A partnership that has seen several success stories for both the district associations and NUWODU.

The Apac District Association discovered that it’s constitution



NUWODU Chairperson inducting the newly elected Executive Committee

was lacking thus necessitating a General Assembly for the formation of a new Board of Directors if the District Association was to deliver successful results.

50 Women with Disabilities from

11 sub-counties were mobilized, elections held and members of the elected executive committee inducted for better leadership under the expert guidance of NUWODU’s Chairperson, Executive Secretary and Program Officer for Gender.

National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda

Plot 61 Ntinda Road

Phone: +256414285240

Email: nuwodu@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nuwodu.uganda

Vision: A society where girls and women with disabilities live dignified lives

We're on the Web!

www.nuwoduganda.org



National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda (NUWODU) is a women-led Disabled People's Organization. It is legally registered in Uganda with the National NGO Board as a Non -Governmental Organization.

It was formed in 1999 by a group of women and youth with disabilities at a National conference held in Kampala Uganda as a result of violation of rights of women and girls with Disabilities, torture, barriers to social services, double discrimination, and lack of recognition by women's Rights movement, Government and societal discrimination as a minority population in Uganda.

It is a membership organization established as an umbrella organization to bring together the categories of women and Girls with disabilities to have a stronger and unifying voice to advocate for their rights and equal opportunities, fight injustices and violence against Women and girls with Disabilities.

Mission: To promote the political, economic, social and cultural advancement of women and girls with disabilities through advocacy for their effective participation in development.

A Deaf Accountant In The Making

I am Nyapolo Peace Patience; a hearing impaired girl pursuing a bachelor in Accounting and Finance at Kyambogo University. The hearing impairment happened by gradual hearing loss and reports from audiologists were that the cause could not be established.

I joined National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda as an intern and being there brought me unaccountable blessings. I attended the first ever mentorship workshop on taking on leadership roles in 2014. I gained skills in leadership from the workshop which I later applied into practice and emerged as a student guild leader for students with disabilities at the institution and their representative in the Student's guild council for the academic year 2015/2016.

As a prerequisite of the University;

there came a need to undergo internship, with the attempt to apply classroom material into practice and without delay, I received a placement in NUWODU. The training environment was excellent. I gained distinguished skills in accounting and finance under the Finance department and much more courtesy of the organization.

National Union of Women



Nyapolo Peace manning the NUWODU stall at the Kyambogo University bazaar

with Disabilities of Uganda is doing an efficient job in the advocacy of rights for girls and women with disabilities. With its continuous effort, girls and women with disabilities won't be left behind in the development process.

NUWODU is doing an efficient job in the advocacy of rights for girls and women with disabilities and with continued effort, no girl will be left behind in the development process.