1. Introduction

1.1. General information

| Name of the partner/expert organisation: | Action for Rural Women’s Empowerment (ARUWE) |
| Country of implementation of the activities: | Uganda |
| Reporting schedule: | 1st September 2018-30th April 2019 |
| Author of the report (name + email address): | Agnes Mirembe aruwe@aruweug.org |
| Date: | 15th/ 06/2019 |
1.2. The women2030 programme

WOMEN2030 is a 4.5-year programme of WECF, APWLD, GFC, GWA and WEP aiming to “Build capacity of women’s and gender civil society organizations to advance local, national and regional gender-responsive sustainable development policies (2030 Agenda & climate), through participation in policy development and monitoring, mobilizing citizen’s support and demonstrating best practices”. The project strengthens regional and global women’s civil society network organisations working jointly for the integrated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at local and national level in more than 52 countries. To execute the WOMEN2030 programme WECF cooperates with experienced Expert CSOs to train and mentor other CSOs in their country. ARUWE has received funding from WECF to implement the project over a period of six months within Uganda.

ARUWE is an indigenous non-governmental organization founded in 2003. Our vision is a world in which communities especially women and their children realize their full social, economic and civic potential.

1.3. Objective of the narrative report

The objective of this report is to share progress, feedback and success arising from the implementation of the project within Uganda.

1.4. Implemented activities

ARUWE implemented activities under package 1 and 2. The accomplished activities have been highlighted in the table below with 2 activities in not yet complete under package 2.

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Description of the activities

Under this contract “Women2030/ARUWE/2018-005”, ARUWE implemented majorly four activities under package 1 and 2

**PACKAGE 1: CAPACITY BUILDING, MENTORING AND SUB-GRANTING**

**Activity 1.2.1: One Training of 10 local CSOs and mentoring on main areas of sustainable development, gender equality and women’s rights in the framework of the SDGs Agenda2030 and the Paris Climate**

The activity aimed at building the capacity of 10 local CSOs in the area of sustainable development, gender equality and the human rights framework of SDGs under the 2030 framework and the Paris climate agreement. Prior to the training, all the targeted CSOs underwent a self-capacity assessment exercise prior that informed the trainer their levels of understanding on the targeted issues. The actual training exercise attracted a total of 11 participants from different CSOs of which two were community based organizations and 9 were Non-government organizations. This training was facilitated by a consultant, ARUWE and WEFC team for over a period of two days.
This training focused on another of themes which included; about the women2030 programme, understanding the sustainable development goals, understanding gender, gender equality and the SDGs, the Parish Agreement, achieving the 2030 agenda and the NDCs etc.

At the end of the two days training, participants developed action plans to incorporate gender and or climate change into their programing.

Activity 1.2.2. Sub-granting to develop a local initiative on gender and SDGs (for example social media campaign, women leadership trainings, gender audit of municipal budget, improving local services for
women and men, movement building and network support, theatre and publications, demonstrations of sustainable technologies)

This activity commenced after the gender training. The exercise aimed at the development of local initiatives on gender and SDGs. It was conducted in a series of processes. These included drafting and sharing of a call for proposals among the trained CSOs. Expression of interest and evaluation of submitted concepts was conducted where a total of 7 proposals were evaluated of which 5 CSOs were selected. These are:

I. Ngabo Youth Friendly Services
II. Edu Child Foundation Uganda
III. Young Women Creating Opportunities and Networks for Economic Transformation
IV. Angel’s Centre for Children with Special Needs
V. Rural Health Promotion and Poverty Alleviation Initiative

A formal awarding process followed after, where the above 5 CSO were awarded Euros 1,012. CSOS were oriented on the project, project documents and reporting templates and project requirements to enable them comply. The orientation and continued support has enabled sub-grantees to successfully implement their respective activities as highlighted below.

**Sub-grantee 1: Edu Child Foundation Uganda (EDF)** is a local non-profit organization in Uganda operating in the communities of Goli – in Nebbi District (West Nile region of Uganda) with a vision of creating an all-inclusive and transformed Ugandan communities where children, women and youth are empowered to live to their fullest potentials. ECF accomplishes this through offering education sponsorship for orphans and other vulnerable children (with 80% focus on the girls); advocacy for girl child and children's rights, plus women and youth empowerment for better future and livelihood. Our high commitment is to positively contribute towards the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 in Uganda

EDF implemented the **“Girls With Promise” Project**, an initiative that aimed at championing gender-responsive interventions to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls in rural communities of Goli – Nebbi district and strategically in terms of policy development and monitoring and educational and awareness raising activities on gender for better societal development and realization the of sustainable development goals by 2030.

In Africa, where many girls spend their formative years at the right hand of their mothers, it can be a cross-generational relationship that is both emotional and practical. African girls are traditionally expected to help their mothers - in the fields, gathering water and firewood, with the preparation of food, and with the care of the young and the elderly.

Due to gender inequality, the roles played by girls in many African communities can come at some cost to their own personal development. In many households, the work done by girl children is at the expense of their education.

Happily, traditions are changing, and the numbers of girls attending school is growing by the year. However, a majority of the 100 million children not in school worldwide are girls, and at secondary school level in Africa, far fewer girls than boys complete their education. Figures from Sub-Saharan Africa show that less than 60 girls per 100 boys are currently enrolled in second level education.

The question of gender inequality has therefore been one of the key contributors to poverty; and girls across Africa still face huge challenges with this form of discrimination and most of all with
getting a quality education. For instance, 9.5 million girls in sub-Saharan Africa cannot acquire formal classroom education. In many rural communities, including Nebbi where EDF serves; a mix of poverty and cultural practices mean that most families often fail to prioritize sending their daughters to school, leaving many girls excluded from the important decisions that will affect their lives.

Missing out on education for many girls in rural Nebbi District lead to discrimination, abuses, even forced child marriages and early pregnancies. A girl without an education is also less likely to send her own children to school, creating a vicious cycle of inequality. Its upon this background that EDF implemented the GWP project to contribute to addressing such inequalities in the education section.

EDF implemented a number of activities to realize their goal including;

Engaging key stakeholders including local authorities/leadership in community dialogues in Jupangira and Pawong Parishes (Nebbi District) under the theme: Empowering Women and the Girl Child to Thrive. These dialogues offered a conducive discussion space for members to identify the gender gaps existing in the communities, specially gaps in the education sector and discussed how best they could address them, and more specifically, how they could support the girl child in attaining quality education and proposing strategies which could be used in order to ensure rights of women and girls are highly respected. In these dialogues, communities were sensitized about the value of empowering girls and women in the society.

The dialogues also discussed issues on gender based violence where EDF advocated for an end to gender-based violence – especially against women and girls.

Mr. Orombi Emmanuel, Board member - Edu Child Foundation Uganda speaking during the community Dialogue on Gender Inequality held at Goli Mixed Primary School (Jupangira Parish)
Miss. Liberty, Programs Manager of Edu Child Foundation Uganda speaking during the consultative meeting on Gender Based Violence (GBV) held at St. Jospeh – Jupangira Primary School

To ensure communities and the targeted participants (girls) are fully involved, EDF launched the GWP school clubs in 4 schools namely; Goli Mixed Primary School; Uringi Senior Secondary School; Nebbi Progressive Senior Secondary School and Sunrise Senior Secondary School. The aim of establishing the GWPSC was to create a platform for positively changing behaviours of students – both boys and girls – acting as fora to communicate accurate and appropriate behavioural change messages about girls’ and women’s rights and generally create a proper understanding on gender and its wider implications in the general community and sustainable development. In each school, the club composed a number of 20 boys and 30 girls totalling to exactly 50 students. Through the GWPSC EDF was able to create an environment where the club members would find it easy to share their challenges and learn from shared experiences. For EDF, this was an opportunity to talk to the members on how to fight the high rates of school drop outs, especially among the girls, and encourage boys to become ambassadors in communities and at school in supporting the girls to stay in school. EDF also conducted a gender education to raise awareness on the issues affecting the different genders, limiting their potentials to thrive.
On March 8th, 2019, Edu Child Foundation Uganda (ECFU) was able to organize the 1st International Women’s Day (IWD) Celebration in Goli, Nebbi District with the support of the funding from the Women2030 under the theme, “BALANCE FOR BETTER. INVESTING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS.” The celebration took a direction of an awareness raising match/walk. Participants (women and children from the communities) came together to peacefully match in the entire village and trading centre of Goli while holding different cards with messages about gender equality written in both English and the local language (Alur). The celebration attracted local community members and authorities including local council members, teachers, police, religious leaders, among others. The main reason for holding this celebration in the community of Goli, Nebbi District was to inspire positive actions towards addressing all forms of inequalities against women and girls in the communities and to enable full and active participation of those in the communities EDF serves in the event – give them a voice. Participants past on different messages to the community members and the local leadership like which aimed at raising awareness on the importance of the girl child in the communities, demonstrating commitment towards supporting the girl child and women against all forms of inequality affecting their lives in the community and encouraging stakeholders to take actions against all forms of abuses melted on women and girls in the communities.
PICTURES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY MATCH - ACTIVITY:

On left above, children, together with Edu Child Foundation Uganda team take the lead in the awareness raising walk held in Goli on International Women’s Day (March 8th, 2019) while on the right, the team poses for a picture with some of the children who participated in the event.

Above, the Women’s League in Jupangira and Pawong Parishes participate in the awareness raising walk held in Goli on International Women’s Day (March 8th, 2019) organized by Edu Child Foundation.

On the right above, Miss. Liberty, Programs Manager of Edu Child Foundation Uganda leading the way in the awareness raising walk held in Goli on International Women’s Day (March 8th, 2019) while on the left, young girls from the community join the walk in commemorating the special day.
Sub-grantee 2: Young Women Creating Opportunities and Networks for Economic Transformation (YWCONNEC) is a non-partisan, Community based Organization, registered with the District Community Development office, Registration Number 503/338. The prime motto of YWCONNECT is empowering through skills development for youth, women and vulnerable communities. YWCONNECT shares a common vision of using varied skills and expertise to economically and socially transform the lives of the women, youth and vulnerable communities of ARUA district. YWCONNECT believes that every human being has the ability to transform their lives, only if they change the way they look at themselves. Therefore, YWCONNECT is built on the foundation of mind-set change as a key to social and economic transformation to support women, youth and vulnerable communities to change the way they look at themselves.

YWCONNECT implemented a project entitled “Women in action for climate change adaption project”
The purpose of the project was to advocate for inclusion of gender responsive strategies in climate change adaptation plans in Arua.

About 75 percent of the world’s poor men and women live in rural areas and depend on agriculture, forestry, and fisheries for their livelihood. For Uganda this percentage is even higher at 86 %. Climate change jeopardizes agricultural production and food security at a time when the world is working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal. Women farmers are more exposed to climate risks compared with men, for many of the same reasons that farm productivity is lower for female farmers than males – namely, women have fewer endowments and entitlements, they have less access to information and services, and they are less mobile. Yet they are the main suppliers of energy, water, food and medicinal plants to their families; sectors that are negatively impacted by the vagaries of climate change. This then widens the gender gaps hindering the achievement of SDG 5 of gender equality.

Ajia and Oluko sub-county found in Arua district (Uganda) where this project has been implemented are one of the areas that have experienced adverse effects of climate change in the district. These are areas where charcoal burning is a major economic activity. This is partly because of inadequate knowledge about the negative consequences of deforestation on their main means of livelihood (Agriculture). Yet women in these sub-counties are the main bread winners for their families.

Therefore YWCONNECT project has been implemented to reverse the above challenges and a number of activities have been executed including the following;

Rapid Baseline survey
YWCONNECT conducted a rapid baseline survey as the first activity that enabled the organization to get baseline data from female and male group members where the project was to be implemented. The results of the baseline survey has been used as reference data and it assisted in strengthening the project activities during the implementation period. The project baseline survey focused on two categories of people that is group members (4 groups targeted) household members and local leaders. This project baseline focused on assessing the current climate change adaptation knowledge of group members and whether leaders have helped in enacting bylaws in relation to climate change.
The results of this baseline survey provided a set of the current data, which contributes to the project outcome. This survey applied a participatory rural appraisal method by applying a questionnaire consisted of four major parts:

- Basic profile of the respondents
- Their thoughts about climate change (what they know about bad and good practices and which bad practice is most common
- How they get information in relation to climate change
- An understanding of what the leaders have done in relation to climate change

Inception meeting
YWCONNECT carried out inception meeting with local leaders at the sub county headquarters. The main purpose of holding this inception meeting was to kick off and launch the women in action for climate change adaption project, to create a shared vision about the project, to share knowledge on the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders and to understand the local context of climate change adaptation practices in Ajia Sub-county. YWCONECT team informed the leadership that climate change has negatively affected their communities and encouraged leaders to prioritize its mitigation. In this meeting, stakeholders shared experiences of climate change in the sub-county and proposed environmental friendly actions that will foster adaptation to the impacts of climate change in the sub-county and change the face of sub-county since they are the representatives of the bigger community in the meeting.
Awareness creation on climate change adaptation

The awareness creation meetings were carried out in Ajia and Ombokoro Parishes in Ajia Sub county. The purpose of the awareness creation was to disseminate knowledge leading to enhanced awareness and behaviour change at the sub county, community and individual level on climate change adaptation practices; and increase awareness on what could be done to adapt to the short and long-term impacts of climate change in Ajia Sub-County. During the meetings with local leaders at the sub-county, YWCONET advocated for gender considerations in climate adaptive measures and sub-county plans. YWCONET emphasized that in Ajia sub county, the differences between women and men are demonstrated through unequal access to natural resources and land ownership, women’s limited opportunities to participate in decision-making and access to markets, capital, training, and technologies; as well as through women’s common double burden of responsibilities both inside and outside the household. For example, with regards to agriculture, women are mostly not viewed as farmers, despite undertaking agricultural operations such as sowing, planting, weeding, harvesting and processing work for their family as subsistence farmers. Despite women’s important roles and contributions, they face hardship securing land rights and access to resources. These are some of the reasons why women are considered vulnerable yet women can often lead the way in adapting to climate change impacts, such as through small-scale entrepreneurship and business like making energy saving stoves. Therefore, recognizing these different vulnerabilities, needs and capacities is central to effective environmental protection and management in the face of climate change. YWCONET encouraged the leaders to plan for renewable alternatives to curb down extensive deforestation in ARUA.
Establishment of demonstration sites
Furthermore, YWCONECT trained targeted group women in the establishment of kitchen gardens in the homes. The primary goal was to train group members on how to make simple kitchen gardens to help them cope with the challenges of climate change and be able to produce vegetables throughout the year for both home consumption and income generation. YWCONECT explained to the participants why it’s important to have kitchen gardens and one of the participants had this to say 'I have been lacking this knowledge for all these years. It’s clear that my family will not suffer from hunger and malnutrition if I put all I have learnt into practice. Moreover, I will also be able to generate income’
Sub-grantee 3: Angel’s Centre for Children with Special Needs (ACCSN) is a non-government organization with Registration number S.5914/12226. It’s a centre for children with special needs that was founded in 2012 with the aim of reaching out to children with mental disabilities and their parents through training, equipping and rehabilitation to be able to support them in their physical, emotional and cognitive development to reach their potential goals in life. ACCSN strives to ensure that parents are supported in coping with raising children with special needs, through psychosocial support and community based rehabilitation.
Angel centre implemented a project “Amplifying Mothers’ Voice”. Amplifying Mothers Voice project has been conducted to entirely address the needs of mothers raising children with disability with a focus on empowerment through awareness raising and life skills development. This project aimed at; advancing gender equality, equity and empowerment of mothers to prevent elimination of all kinds of violence and discrimination against mothers through awareness creation and capacity building. It provided an environment that allowed these mothers to develop in all aspects of life and foster community behaviour change and improve the standard of living conditions in beneficiaries’ households.

Angel centre implemented the following activities

**Gender and advocacy training to mothers of children with special needs.**
The purpose of this training was to build capacity of mothers on foundational basic gender concepts with specific focus on how gender impacts parenting a child with disability. The training also emphasized on lobbying and advocating for policy change in regards to protection of children with disability. A total of 10 mothers of children with special needs participated in the training. The 2 days training focused on women rights, ways of integrating gender into disability and understanding different personality traits to improve the lives of our children with special needs in line with Extrovert Vs. Introvert character. During the training, mothers gave their testimonies on the challenges they have experienced in raising children with disability.

*Nabasumba Joan, 29 years, a mother to Kirabo Tesla Nalusiba narrated her story of protection and security over our children with special needs. One evening when she had returned from work, to pick Tesla from her friend’s home, Hajat, a neighbour made a tormenting statement that aroused her impulses. Her neighbour blamed her for birthing a child with disability. A child with cerebral palsy. this story was an encouragement for mothers to always protect their children from stigma faced among families and the communities we live in. This story too, encouraged mothers to get used to how the community views their special children and look out for ways of how we can improve the lives of these children by involvement with income generating activities, initiate home visits for comfort of fellow mothers and start up a group saving scheme for the mother to overcome financial constraints*
“Nakakande Safina, 42 years, a mother to Tamale Nussif a 27 years old boy with Down syndrome shared her experience with fellow mothers how the late husband used to mistreat and isolate Tamale from the siblings”. He used to say filthy words towards Tamale and had rejected him from his other children. This led Safina to confidently say, “There are things that I won’t be able to tolerate like degrading my son!” eventually Safina had to give up her marriage and separate. This was the only voice left for Tamale’s acceptance in society and her family as well.

Parents’ Dialogue Meeting and formalization of cope clubs

A one day parents’ dialogue meeting was organized with the purpose of raising awareness regarding the project, formalization of the mothers support group and also providing an opportunity to share experiences in their journeys of raising children with special needs. During the meeting, two activities were conducted and this involved the parents’ discussion and sharing parents’ stories. It was agreed to formulate cope clubs for mothers. The main reason of creating cope clubs was to make strong social networks for mothers’ in order to have a platform for support. A total of nineteen (19) parents attended the meeting. Out of 19, 3 were male and 16 were female.

Mothers’ tailoring training

The tailoring skills training mainly focused on building the capacity of mothers of children with special needs who are socially disadvantaged. These challenges among other issues of underdevelopment have caused a vicious cycle of poverty and hopelessness from which many women and families find impossible to overcome. The tailoring training has assisted the mothers to acquire skills of fashion and tailoring so as to be able to have sustainable incomes for their families.

The training has directly benefited 16 mothers however, 8 mothers have consistently participated and fully acquired sewing skills.
Community awareness match on streets of Nansana

We conducted a peaceful community awareness match on stigma associated with disability along the streets of Nansana. Over long time for providing community integrated services in Nansana, most families of children with special needs especially single headed families face challenges of discrimination and negative attitudes from the society. It was our time to conduct an awareness match in Nansana but it was also a reflection of real life situation of parents while interacting and sharing their stories.

The key take away was paving way for parents to bring out children with disability into public to receive social services like education, healthcare and shelter. A total of 63 people participated in the awareness walk.
Sub-grantee 4: Ngabo Youth Friendly Service Centre (NYSC) is a mainstream youth led serving organization aimed at championing the access, availability and utilization of quality youth friendly services across the country, through comprehensive programing approaches geared towards increasing participation in governance and the demand for quality service delivery. NYSC envisions a world in which Peri-Urban youth especially the girls are able to fully manage their social-economic development processes. To achieve the vision, NYSC promotes, demonstrates and champions access, availability and utilization of comprehensive youth-friendly service delivery to the youth especially girls with in the Peri-Urban. NYSC areas of focus include; organizational growth and development, health and wellbeing, civic empowerment and meaningful participation and last but not least holistic education.

Ngabo Youth Friendly Services implemented the “Girl Voice Project”. The project was implemented among girls in school within central Uganda, with the aim of facilitating the establishment of platforms for young women and girls to meaningfully advocate for their rights and participate in national development processes for improved service provision. This was done through the enhancement of girls’ competences in advocacy through creating opportunity and spaces for them to ably advocate for their rights and create an enabling environment for girls to thrive.

The project was implemented using a Public Speaking competition model among girls in slum serving schools of Makindye division with the aim of encouraging girls to play a more prominent part in public life, improving the art of communication, developing their skills to speak effectively and articulate with clarity as well as developing self-confidence and personality.

NYSC implemented majorly the following activities;

Identification/selection of schools and orientation.
This activity involved consultations and planning with education officials at Makidye division including the Division Education Officer(DEO) of Makindye Division for the purposes of introducing the project and seeking permission and support for the project to be implemented in schools. NYSC together with the DEO identified schools. These are; St. Denis Ssebugwawo in Gaba, Mirembe College secondary school, Trek high school Kibuli, Katwe Noor high school, Midfield secondary school, Malcom X Academy, Pearl high School and Emirates college school who were consulted and oriented on the project.

Further engagement with all the stakeholders was conducted to agree on the theme for the public speaking competitions. A number of themes were deliberated upon including “The voice of the girl Child impacts, “My space for my views” and “Is health relevant in schools” which was selected with justification that it would give girls an opportunity to speak out issues that affect their health and menstrual management issues in their daily life, especially at school.

Furthermore, several planning meetings were held with other partner organizations such as Galz Forum International, Hands of hope and Vrouwen Zaken Centre to discuss on how the supervision training visits on public speaking in each school and both the semi-finals and finals of inter-schools were to be handled where by a public speaking assessment tool/check list which contained score variables with concepts such as audibility, confidence, tone variation, speech content quotation, audience management, speech ownership attached with marks to be given, comments and observations that were to be written down upon which were to be considered while selecting the first five students.
Coaching/mentorship sessions with the participants in the respective schools.

Coaching sessions were held to train participants about public speaking and why it is always important to air out their options to advocate for change. Emphasis was put the girls/young women and NYSC encouraged them to research more of the pressing issue on health to influence leaders’ during the final competitions.

First round of competition between schools.
Five students were selected from each school by using the assessment tool mentioned before and they were further guided upon on how to prepare better speeches using the checklist through the several support supervision training visits that were done at different days on public speaking, as they were also shown various videos of best public speakers across the world among which are Former president Obama, Prof. Lumumba Patrick and other role models from Uganda as selected by them. Continuing coaching took place after which, three students were selected that were going to compete at the semi-finals.
Semi-finals and grand finale.
Semi and grand finale were conducted on the same day where by the semi-finals took place in the morning hours and Grande finals in the afternoon hours following the agenda of the day. The finale attracted a good number of stakeholders including the leaders from the education and health sector at division level and local leaders at parish and village levels. The competitions also attracted parents and other CSOs working in the same division who attended to hear student’s messages. The judges used the speech judging sheet using the agreed criteria that showed the marking criteria of 1-5 points for each section with underlying categories highlighted such as speech construction, presentation and delivery, content of speech, language, overall effectiveness and time management. Comments for each participated were noted by the judges which were shared at the awarding session. Five schools participated in the competition compared to the 7 that were planned. At the end of the sessions, different local leaders made their commitments to improve on the health conditions in schools especially to cater for the girl children at school and to protect them from any violence at school and in their communities. Leaders reminded students and other participants about the child protection reporting avenues and encouraged students to use them in case of any violence. Best performances were awarded by certificates and encouraged to become girl’s advocates in schools and in their communities.
Sub-grantee 5: Rural Health Promotion and Poverty Alleviation Initiative (RUHEPAI) is a Non-Governmental register in 2005 number S.5914/5624; to address concerns of women and youth who are fundamental players for socio-economic transformation of less privileged communities. RUHEPAI trains, empowers, mentors and equips participants with knowledge, information and skills of attaining social economic transformation through their own participation. RUHEPAI’s programs lay emphasis on learning, actions and practices that derive to desirable livelihoods. RUHEPAI focuses on agricultural extension services, saving and credit approaches and healthcare support with gender and leadership mainstreamed in our programs.

RUHEPAI implemented the “Women Take the Front” project. The project aimed at advocating for an inclusive policy that addresses economic concerns of women at grass root level within Kaberebere Town Council located in Isingiro district. It advocated for the inclusion of a designated Women market day to offer women opportunities to produce, market, sell and negotiate for better prices for their produce hence attainment of equal rights to economic resources.

Project Inception Meeting with local leaders at Kaberebere Town Council
As one the first activities, RUHEPAI an inception meeting with leaders at Kaberebere Town Council to orient them on the project, consult and plan for its effective intervention. 36 participants; composed of 31 councillors and 5 RUHEPAI staff with a gender representation of 19 males and 17 females attended this meeting. The discussion of the meeting centred on the purpose of the project with focus on creating a dialogue and forming strategic partnerships to influence local authorities in the area to designate a day in a month for a market targeting women farmers and producers. The main purpose of the meeting was to engage local leaders with the following objectives:
To introduce the new project to local council leaders in the area;

To get views on the new project from the local council leaders; and

To seek support from the local council leaders.

The meeting was successful and leaders committed to supporting RUHEPIA throughout the project implementation. Other key officials involved were Community Development Officer for Kaberebere Town Council, District Women Councillor for Isingiro district and Site Coordinator for National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO).

Dialogue meeting with Women leaders and Representative and local leaders

This was a one-day activity where 14 participants of which 9 were women councilors and representatives and 5 were staff from RUHEPAI attended. The objectives of the dialogue included:

(i) To engage the women Councillors and women representatives in Kaberebere Town Council and share knowledge on approaches for promotion of women economic rights.

(ii) To explain to the participants that collective efforts are needed in idea sharing to see how women economic rights can be advanced.

(iii) Share strategies on how include women empowerment plans during council discussions.

(i) Discuss with women representative on applicable approaches of promoting women market days. To review the applicability of the women market day as one of the strategies for promoting women economic rights in the area.

Focus was mainly put on the advocated women market day highlighting its benefits as:

(i) Women economic rights would be observed; therefore, SDG 5 would have been fulfilled.

(ii) Household income would increase since women would have access to the market, their produce would have value.

(iii) Women would have the opportunity to know about market prices and negotiate for best prices for their produce.

(iv) There would be exposure, one would be able to identify their competitors and at the same time be exposed to more market opportunities.

(v) Women would be motivated to work hard and produce more since they are assured of market.

(vi) Women would be able to gauge their capability in the long run to acquire their economic rights.

(vii) Women would be able to provide for their families’ basic needs.

At the end of the meeting women leaders and local leaders pledged and commitment to supporting the action for women market to empower women farmers who are always cheated by the middle man.
At the end of the dialogue the town clerk who presided over the meeting commended RUPEHIA and emphasized that Women play the biggest role in the daily life of families as compared to men, he therefore urged the councillors to support RUHEPAI in the idea of Women Market Day so that in the long run every one would enjoy their fruits and possibly other communities would copy from them. He urged participants to make sure that concrete data is obtained, key aspects be discussed so that a mile stone would be laid in the lives of women in Kaberebere town council.

Before questions for discussion were presented, RUHEPAI program officer first gave a highlight on how important the Women Market Day would be in case the idea had been given their full support. She argued that, a women market would result into the following:

(i) Women would be empowered to have platforms to express and practice their economic rights.
(ii) Women would have access to markets, trade and aids to trade, credit and better prices for their produce.
(iii) Women would be exposed to better ways of branding their produce and learn to negotiate for better prices on their behalf.
(iv) In such a market, women would be exposed and therefore be able to identify more market opportunities and know their competitors.
(v) There would be increase in household income since women would have access to the market.
(vi) Women would be able to gauge their capability in the long run to acquire their economic rights.
(vii) Women would be able to access their families’ basic needs.

He local leaders pledged their support and commitment in making the women’s day a reality. RUHEPIA was tasked to develop a policy paper to be presented to the whole council house for a decision to be taken.

**Presentation of a women market day petition/policy paper**

Before the policy paper presentation, continuous engaged were conducted with the town clerk and later with the Town Mayor who advised on the procedures and protocol of policy paper submission. Submission of the draft policy paper to the offices of the Town Mayor and the Town Clerk was successfully done. The policy paper was drafted following the objectives below;

(i) To highlight the benefits of including a women Market Day in council planning;
(ii) To point out the benefits of Women Market day in relation to promotion of gender equality and women economic empowerment;
(iii) To demand for inclusion of a Women Market Day in council planning

15 participants who form the general purpose committee of the council composed of Isingiro district officials were present during the policy paper presentation. RUHEPAI Executive Director made a presentation of the policy paper putting much emphasis on inclusion of a Women Market Day in the council planning. After the presentation of the paper, the council committee chairperson guided RUHEPAI team that the idea is noted and shall be included in the order paper for discussion. This meeting was attended by different stakeholders including women farmers, media houses representatives.
1.2.1. Training of local CSOs

As highlighted above, all the sub-grantees were trained on the main areas of sustainable development, gender equality and women’s rights in the framework of the SDGs Agenda2030 and the Paris Climate. Additionally, sub-grantees were trained in gender issues and how to integrate gender in their programming. ARUWE further trained CSOs on project documentation and different issues as identified by different sub grantees during the mentorship sessions.

1.2.2. Sub-granting

The five mentioned sub-grantees were sub-granted with Euros 1,012 each, funding at aimed at implementing of local initiatives on gender and SDGs. Sub granting was conducted in a series of processes. These included a call for proposals, expression of interest from CSOs. ARUWE’s evaluation team assessed all the submitted concepts. A total of 7 proposals was evaluated out of which 5 CSOs were selected. These included: EDU Child foundation, Ngabo Youth Service centre, Angel centre for children with special needs, Rural Health Promotion and Poverty Alleviation Initiative and Young Women Creating Opportunities and Networks for economic Transformation. Selected organisations were further oriented and trained on the project requirements before they commenced with their respective projects as detailed above.

Sub granting was real a slow and length process. It actually took more time than planned due to the fact that some sub-grantee required more training before receiving funds and other had issues with their bankers which delayed money transfers.

1.2.3. Mentoring of sub-granted CSOs

All of the targeted sub-grantees were mentored on different issues as requested and identified by the CSOs. Mentorship exercises were conducted using different methodologies including, face to face meeting/trainings and discussions, phone call discussions, field visits and coaching by ARUWE team. The mentorship team comprised a team of representative from the programs, monitoring and evaluation as well as a finance person. Most of the mentorship sessions happened at the CSOs offices and field, while the coaching happened at ARUWE offices.

ARUWE team mentoring staff at Angel center and Ngabo Youth Skills Centre
Mentorship exercise was guided by ARUWE’s mentorship plan and tools and the exercise was organised in such a way that mentee organisation identified their challenges in relation to implementing their programs and integrating gender and or climate/ environmental into programing. This was followed by a discussion around the identification of areas of high performance as well as least performance within the same categorical areas mentioned above. After a very engaging discussion in the two sessions, a third session focused on highlighting current or new thoughts relating the status of the organisation in relation to the mentorship goal. And finally an improvement plan was drawn and the next meeting date identified. Mentored organisations were able to identify areas in which they were strong and areas for improvement.

PACKAGE 2: POLICY MONITORING, PARTICIPATION, ADVOCACY, OUTREACH

2.1.1. Gender assessment

ARUWE conducted a gender assessment whose main objective was to track progress made towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal five, within the Ugandan context. The assessment sought to instigate whether any efforts have been made in regard to gender equality in particular, a manifestation of social justice that is also a prerequisite for sustainable development. The research team used a number of approaches and triangulation of data in order to ensure that the data collected fully provided answers to the objectives of the assignment. The study utilized unstructured interviews and in-depth interviews and was carried out in the West Nile district of Nebbi and in Kyankwanzi District in Central Uganda.

Specific objectives of the assessment include;

1. To ascertain the living conditions, hygiene and sanitation at home and at work/school and their decision making experiences at local and national level.
2. To establish whether there have been efforts made towards gender equality.
3. To appreciate the division of labour between women and men and the time spent for paid, unpaid work and leisure time in both the men and women’s daily profile.
4. To understand who, among men and women, boys and girls has access, power and control over resources
5. Understand issues around domestic violence among the target communities and, the status of Men and Women before the Law including who among them seems most vulnerable

Study Methodology
The team used a triangulation approaches in collecting and analysing data to ensure that the data collected fully provided answers to the objectives of the assignment. The study utilized unstructured interviews and in-depth interviews.

Target Population
The main respondent target populations were adult females and males including male and female youth between 15 to 17 years of age. Other respondents were the main personnel within the District and Sub County, the administrative and support structures to directly work in the communities of the target districts. A sample of at least 349 people were mobilized/invited to participate in the assessment, though only 330 were able to respond to the assessment.
In conclusion, the study revealed that women still lag behind more than the men. They are less educated, more informally employed and most engaged in the unpaid care work. There are still cultural beliefs in existence most of which do not support gender equality put women at a disadvantage for the rest of their lives. More findings in details are attached in the Gender Assessment Report.

Limitations of the assessment
The major limitation of this assessment included the following:

- Cultural norms are still very strong with many interviewees holding on to what they believed was their culture
- Communities seemed very expectant of CSOs and expected something in return for the information they gave during the interviews
- Men have a very strong ego calling for a lot of expertise to manage them

4. Outcomes

- New data regarding gender has been generated through the gender assessment exercise which is good reference for other gender interventions.
- Overall, the project has raised awareness among local leaders, policy makers and media on the issue of gender, climate change and the SDGs. For example, leaders appreciated that being gender responsive in planning for the education sector would keep more girls and children living with disability in school. For example, improving sanitation facilities for girls and children with disability as a development concern for every child. This is very significant given that most children with disability especially mental or intellectual disability in Uganda do not attend school because of unavailable services, facilities and limited support from the government. Leaders appreciated that it is important to plan not to leave anyone behind.
- There has been positive response and support from local leaders in all the districts that sub-grantees have implemented in. Leaders have participated in some of the CSOs activities like the gender awareness March and they have agreed to pass some of the petitions submitted. i.e, supporting the women farmers market day.
- Organization capacity; Following the mentorship visit from Action for Rural Women Empowerment (ARUWE) team, the project has enabled sub-grantees to increase their capacity in proper designing and documentation of project activity reports, concept notes and capturing data among other things. Some CSOs are working on developing some policies which were missing yet important like the gender policy.
- There is increased knowledge and deeper understanding of gender among the sub-grantees but also among the communities CSOs have implemented in. CSOs
have learnt how to better integrate gender and climate adaptive measures in their programming.

- Girls and younger women ably participated in advocating for their rights and improved information and service provision especially in the areas of sexual reproductive health and rights. After building their capacity girls and young women were able to take lead in forefronting their views in line with the project objectives and as outlined in the proposal to address SDG 5.6.1.

5. Communication

Updates on project activities were shared through numerous platforms including social media platforms inclusive of Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and on CSOs respective websites.

All project documents were branded with all partner’s logos. This was done to ensure visibility of donor contribution to the social change within society as well as create awareness on the project. In addition, some sub-grantee hosted awareness shows on local radios.
6. Additional comments

All supported initiatives made small but meaningful contributions towards the realisation of the sustainable Agenda. However, in order that the small achievements are effectively grounded it is important that the supported organisations are further supported to extend the program model and effects to a larger community within Uganda.

The sub-grantees also need further support in mentorship to grow their systems in gender and climate change programing and keeping proper documentation.

The program needs to invest more in building synergies for dialogue at national levels and increasing on media advocacy.

7. List of annexes

Annex 1: Gender assessment report
Annex 2: Financial report
Annex 3: Gender training report
Annex 4: ARUWE mentorship Guide
Annex 5: Activity photos