



CEEWA - UGANDA

*COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN OF
AFRICA - UGANDA CHAPTER*

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

NEW BEGINNINGS

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1. Message from Chairperson

I am delighted to welcome you to the Council for Economic Empowerment for Women of Africa – Uganda Chapter (CEEWA-U) Annual Report 2022, a highlight of “New beginnings” as we reposition ourselves to overcome the operational challenges resulting from the aftermath of COVID- 19.

Over the past 3 years CEEWA-U has been in a very difficult operating context of drastic decline in donor funding. It registered marginal success in the areas of women economic empowerment initiatives but was held afloat by loyal members, volunteers and donors.

On a small scale we continued to pursue our mission by enhancing women’s access to and benefit from economic opportunities and resources. Our main intervention which was built on research conducted in 2021 was the Advocacy Program for Gender Responsive Taxation Regime which was designed and executed in collaboration with the Southern East African Trade Information and Negotiation Institute (SEATINI) and funded by the Urgent Action Fund for Africa. Organized under four platforms namely a validation meeting, a policy advocacy meeting targeting technocrats in all state and non state agencies, a talk show and a sensitisation workshop for members of parliament it brought together state and non state stakeholders.

In October 2022 we transitioned from the 10th to the 11th Board, and since CEEWA-U is a membership organization the members who attended the Annual General Meeting (AGM) resolved to pursue an aggressive membership drive that will ensure an integral and robust membership that will add value to CEEWA’s activities.

In the same AGM upon reflection on the challenges faced by CEEWA-U the restructuring of the Secretariat was prioritized..

The journey ahead appears to be as challenging as it would be exciting. In the year ahead we will reorganize ourselves, mobilise resources, forge new partnerships and aim at still playing an important part in the women economic empowerment arena.

I take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to our leadership the former and current Board of Directors, members, partners, networks, our volunteers and supporters who invested invaluable time, expertise, knowledge, finances and other forms of contributions to our activities. And to our beneficiaries, women economic empowerment cannot happen without your participation so thank you for believing in our mission and vision.



Sarah Kitakule
Chairperson

2. Who we are and what we do

The Council for Economic Empowerment for Women of Africa-Uganda Chapter (CEEWA-U) is a non governmental and professional women membership organization legally registered in 1997. It established an Empowerment Resource Centre (ERC) as its income generating arm and private company in 2005. ERC has not delivered on its objectives and has mostly been financed out of CEEWA-U resources.

CEEWA-U boasts of 27 years of promoting the economic empowerment of women of Uganda and plays a key role in the National Development Plan of Uganda (NDP) and global sustainable development agenda cross cutting SDG 1 – Zero Hunger, 5- Gender Equality, 8-Decent work and economic growth, 13 – Climate Action, and 17- Partnerships for goals.

Mission

To promote the economic empowerment of women through mainstreaming of women's concerns in development.

Vision

A Uganda in which women's economic aspirations, rights and productive potentials are fully recognized and mainstreamed in the framework of equitable and sustainable human development.

Core Areas of Focus

- ▶ Enhance the capacity of stakeholders to pursue gender responsive programs aimed at enhancing economic status of women and girls, especially the vulnerable.
- ▶ Advocate for gender responsive incentives and interventions for employability and gainful employment for women and adolescent girls.
- ▶ Promote the growth of sustainable and competitive enterprises, especially agro-businesses.
- ▶ Strengthen CEEWA-U's capacity for self-management, learning and advocacy.

3. Inspiring Stories

Budget Advocacy for a Gender Responsive Taxation and Local Authorities' Users Fees Regime

This intervention brought together a total of 104 State and non State beneficiaries, those who were in charge of making the policies and on the other hand those on the receiving end of policy implementation.

The advocacy campaign which was informed by the findings of a rapid gender impact assessment of taxation and local fees regime (RGIAT) of micro and small scale entrepreneurs in select urban markets in Kampala and two border posts namely Busia and Mutukula undertaken in December 2021 was organized under four platforms – a validation meeting; a policy advocacy meeting targeting technocrats; a sensitization workshop and a talk show. It was attended by 4 women market vendors, 20 Members of Parliament, and 42 representatives from relevant central government ministries, agencies, and departments, and 38 from like-minded civil society organizations, the media, and the private sector

During the course of each platform gender disaggregated findings of RGIAT were shared with the participants

This facilitated enhanced awareness about the emerging gender concerns related to prevailing taxes and user fees regimes, including their enforcement, at both central and local governments.

Furthermore, the platforms provided opportunities for women market vendors to share their experiences. They underscored challenges in migrating from informal to formal trade and engaged with stakeholders in discussions revolving around measures to deal with gender issues in taxation and user fees regime.

i. Validation Meeting

The objective of the meeting was to present preliminary findings from RGIAT, in order to facilitate discussions and secure input on the scope of gender biases and recommendations.

Attended by 35 participants (24 women/11 men) this hybrid (10 virtual/25 in person) half day event had a representation of women market vendors from Busia and Nakawa, Government ministries, the Local Government Finance Commission, Private sector bodies – (Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), Federation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Uganda (FSME), KACITA,) and Vendors Platforms, and Civil Society Organizations - The East African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI), Institute of Social transformation (IST).

The meeting was interactive. Women market vendors shared their experiences, participants engaged in discussions of the study's findings and contributed to the process by recommending advocacy messages to policy makers that targeted the 2022/23 national budget process.



ii. Policy Advocacy Meeting

The objective of the meeting was to present preliminary findings from RGIAT, in order to facilitate discussions on emerging gender biases, explore on going gender responsive intervention and build consensus on measures to address gender inequality in tax regimes.

Attended by 48 participants (33 female, 15 male) this one day event had representation from women market vendors from Mutukula and Nakawa, Government ministries – Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Kampala Capital City Authority, the Local Government Finance Commission, Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), Private Sector Bodies - Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) Federation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Uganda (FSME), KACITA, Vendors Platform, and Civil Society Organizations - The East African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI), Institute of Social transformation (IST).

The meeting was organized along the same pattern followed by the validation meeting. Women market vendors shared their experiences, participants engaged in discussions of the study's findings and inputted into advocacy messages to policy makers that targeted the 2022/23 national budget process.



iii. Sensitization Meeting

The objective of the meeting was three- fold: To enhance the capacity of newly elected members of Parliament especially women legislators; to pursue an informed parliamentary debate on the gender responsiveness of Tax bill (Finance Bill) for fiscal year 2022/23 and equip the new legislators with knowledge and evidence to advocate for provision of ex-ante gender and equity assessment of new tax proposals, ex-post assessment of taxes and user fees regime; and to build the capacity of the new members of Parliament so that they can advocate for issuance of gender and equity certificate for tax proposals by Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development to Parliament.

This half day event was attended by 43 stakeholders, 20 members of Parliament and 23 from different organizations including East Africa Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women, Institute of Social Transformation, SEATINI, members of UWOPA parliament, women entrepreneurs and policy makers from Uganda Revenue Authority, Kampala City Council Authority and Local Government Finance Committee.

An informative and interactive approach was adopted.



Representatives from the Uganda Revenue Authority and the Local Government Finance Committee educated participants on policy matters related to the existing taxation and local government users fee regimes. Then the main findings of the study related to gender issues in taxation and user fees regime based on a rapid gender impact assessment of taxation and local fees regime complemented by experiences of two women market vendors were disseminated to participants. This was followed by discussions in which the policy makers focused on gender biases in enforcing local authorities revenue mobilization measures (user fees), functionality and relevance of ongoing interventions by government and stakeholders to promote gender and equity responsiveness taxation regime as stipulated in the Public Finance Management Act. Thereafter recommendations towards the enhancement of gender and equity responsive tax and user fees in local authorities as per requirement under Public Finance Management ACT 2016 were derived.



iv. Talk Show

The show facilitated a public engagement on the findings from the rapid gender impact assessment of taxation and local fees regime RGIAT, sought views on emerging key gender biases in Local Authority user fees and solicited public voices and views on corrective measures.

It was held at 7.30pm of 3rd March, 2022 on Radio 1 FM 98.9. The panel consisted of Ms. Nabunje Tracy-CEEWA-U, Ms. Nanzige Catherine- Market vendor, Nakawa Market, Kampala, Ms. Wagabi Maureen- Executive Director for Institute for Social Transformation, and Mr. Waiswa Ronald- Lead Researcher for the Rapid Gender Impact Assessment of the Taxation and Local User Fees Regime on micro and small businesses in urban market.

Discussions revolved around gender biases in existing taxation and Local Authority user fees regimes; gender issues in taxation and user fees such as public toilet use and garbage collection,

relatively higher tax and fee burden on medium and small enterprises, and effective use of taxes and user fees to improve delivery of public services in the markets.

Recommendations underscored the need to:

- ▶ Review the trade licensing, tax and users fee regimes
- ▶ Reduce double taxation,
- ▶ Enhance tax education on structure and value for taxes, engagement of stakeholders in the formulation and review of tax and users fees regime,

and provision of modern market with provision for gender and disability responsive facilities.

4. Reflecting and Learning

CEEWA-U learns from its successes, challenges and missed opportunities. In 2022 we reflected on the positive and negative impacts of the global COVID pandemic as well as our performance over the years.

We noted that while the pandemic brought about changes in the funding architecture amidst all this some opportunities had been created. CEEWA-U missed the opportunity to benefit from post COVID recovery funding because it was not favourably positioned, and now the war in Ukraine and Russia has shifted the priorities of most institutional donors. Despite the missed opportunities and shrinking donor funding we are optimistic that the economic empowerment of women especially the bridging of gender digital divides, and cross cutting issues of zero hunger, youth unemployment and climate change remain major global concerns. We will leverage on these competitive areas to rebrand and reposition ourselves.

The key lesson drawn from our reflection was that CEEWA-U must adapt to global dynamics, and that in these times survival and growth will remain with the fittest.

CEEWA-U is committed to make structural and operational changes that will enable it to become fit for purpose.

To ready ourselves to overcome funding challenges caused by the COVID 19 pandemic we have kept abreast of changes and taken advantage of opportunities to garner new knowledge. CEEWA-U sent representatives who attended the following workshops and trainings conducted and funded by our networks and partners.



Beneficial Ownership and Tax Incentives Capacity Building Workshop

This workshop was aligned to our second area of focus “Advocate for gender responsive incentives and interventions for employability and gainful employment for women and adolescent girls

The main objective of the workshop was to equip Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders with information on Beneficial Ownership and tax incentives with the view to strengthen their advocacy and policy influence

capacity, and to provide them with a platform to cross pollinate ideas on beneficial ownership, monitor tax incentives network and share information on how to conduct advocacy work that will enable to improvement in citizen's agility of holding the Government, mining companies and the Parliament accountable for harmful tax incentives and to come up with practical recommendations on enhancing Beneficial Ownership disclosure and tax transparency in Uganda



Executive Directors and Chairperson Space

This two day space gave Executive Directors and Chairpersons opportunity to reflect and identify the challenges faced by Women Right's organizations, and how they have impacted the effective operation and delivery of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Emphasis was laid on the importance of Non Governmental Organizations' financial sustainability, and most importantly its achievement through social enterprises that don't depend on donor funding but are able to provide a service that generates income which is then used to fund activities that create social

impact.

During the meeting CEEWA-U was able to share it's journey so far towards the proposed transformation into a social business enterprise and some of the challenges it has been facing.



High Level Policy Dialogue on Budget Financing for Uganda's 2023/24 Budget Strategy

The dialogue enabled multiple stakeholders to discuss issues related to the Budget Strategy. Inclusive in the discourse was regional integration as well as the country's post-Covid-19 recovery and development trajectory. It was noted that economic interventions to restore and reignite Uganda's economy to a medium-term growth of 6-7% per annum should be implemented, and that in order to harness economic opportunities presented by regional integration

the sustainable socio-economic transformation agenda should be explored.

The Dialogue interrogated ways in which to effectively exploit existing resources that Uganda can leverage to address the current economic stratagem in post- crisis conditions and the strategic turnarounds Uganda needs to make to reposition herself in this uncertain world.

Focus was laid on internal corporate governance and its role in institutional sustainability, enhancement of NGO operating environment and statutory obligations, as well as exploration of organizational sustainability through social enterprises

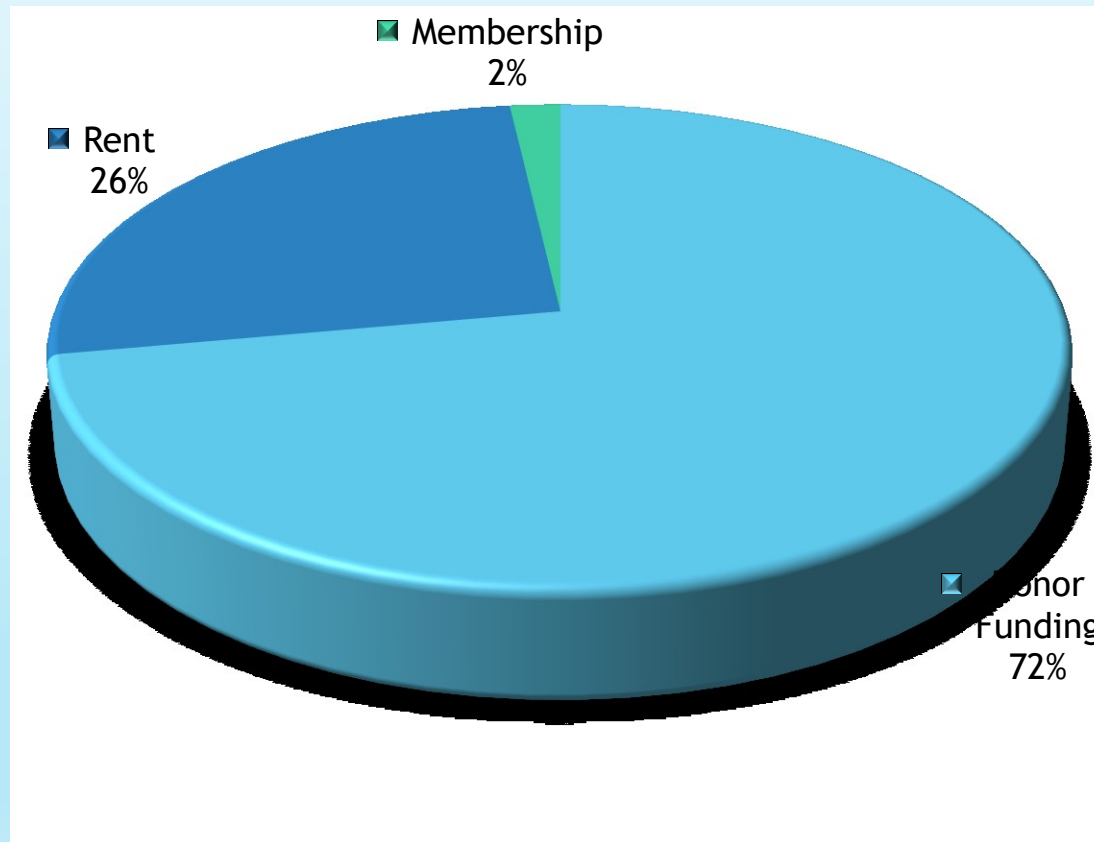
Among the highlighted issues were the adaptive challenges and opportunities of national and regional, in country and regional economic challenges for inclusive service delivery and development.

Discussions on budget financing, opportunities for inclusive regional and continental trade, and logics of industrialization and value addition, underscored the intricacies of national and regional convergence in the management of interdependent economies. This enabled participating stakeholders to discuss issues related to Uganda's Budget Strategy, Uganda's place in regional integration, its nascent ability to exploit market opportunities offered in Europe, Asia, and America, and the country's political economy constraints that militate against its competitiveness

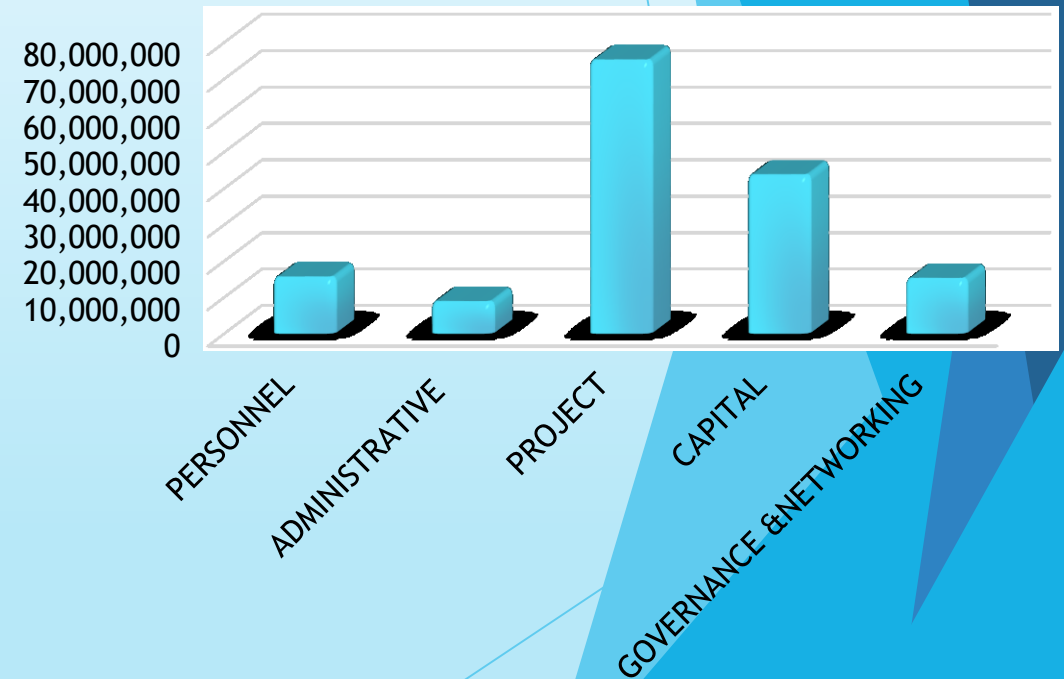
5. Resourcing and Accounting for our Income

In 2023 we raised a modest income of UGX.124,066,062 and expended UGX.112,122,625 on operations and UGX. 43,724,000 on asset renovations that were mostly financed out of borrowings.

Income



Expenditure



6. Our Partners and Donors

Urgent Action Fund (UAF) for Africa

Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (PSFU)



Ministry Of Trade,
Industry and Cooperatives

SYC

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
(MOFPED)

Uganda Revenue Authority (URA)



Eastern African Sub regional Support
Initiative for the Advancement of
Women



Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE)



Women of Uganda
Network (WOUGNET)



Southern East African Trade
Information and Negotiation
Institute (SEATINI)



Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group



Advocates Coalition for Development and
Environment

The Uganda National NGO Forum
(UNNGOF)(The Uganda National NGO
Forum (UNNGOF)

7. Looking Ahead

The world has changed and so must we. Since CEEWA-U started operations in 1997, our programmes have been structured along the broad objectives of women economic empowerment. These objectives are still relevant and our future work will cover important development aspects that cut across our primary work objectives.

The global COVID pandemic brought with it many shifts including massive disruptions in programming and operations, financial resource constraints, use of digital communication especially remote and virtual means of working, increased competitiveness, and the fact that survival depends on agility and innovativeness. These dynamics slowed CEEWA-U down but that does not mean we cannot pick up again. There is a lot of unexplored potential in our work space and going forward we intend to fully capitalize on that.

We are repositioning ourselves and transforming ourselves with a new economic arm a social business enterprise that will offer services on a cost recovery basis, the non performing economic resource centre will be dissolved., and of course we will continue to exercise our mandate as a non governmental organization. A nimble but effective secretariat will be developed. It will be staffed

by key positions, consultants, time bound outsources services, and our loyal volunteers will be equipped with relevant skills.

To fund our programmes and projects we are stepping up fundraising effort through aggressive grant application and competitive proposal drafting. As we raise funds we will continuously design relative products that complement our women empowerment initiatives.

We also intend to fully utilize the skill sets our members bring and so we are reorganizing membership through a campaign that will enable us to fully harness the potentials in our membership base.

Meanwhile we will continue to promote women economic empowerment in Uganda through advocacy, training, research, information dissemination and documentation. To align ourselves to new beginnings we plan to revise our mission, constitution, strategy, and using the SMART road map draft a complementary business and marketing plan.

Our plan is to fully take advantage of our mandate as non government organization to expand our national operational coverage. In order to achieve operational efficiencies we will embrace digitization as a means of increasing visibility, membership and partnerships.

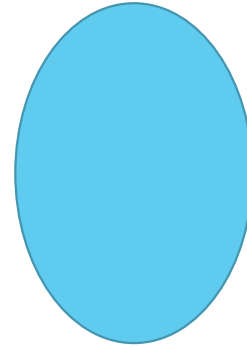
8. Meet our Leaders



Sarah Kitakule
Chairperson



Sonia Kusiima
Vice Chairperson



Mary Kajumba
Treasurer



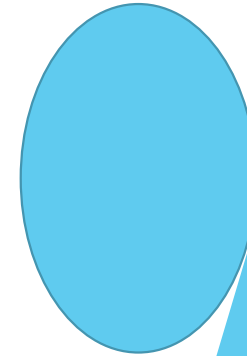
Mary Nannono
Secretary



Phillip Kiryowa
Member



Irene Mutumba
Member



Elizabeth Acayo
Member

9. Partner with us

If you identify with our vision, mission and broad strategic objectives we would like to hear from you. Through membership and donations you can help us improve on our financial position, CEEWA-U welcomes support through:

1. **Become a professional member**

Apply for membership and pay an annual subscription.

2. **Financing specific activities**

You donate for a women economic empowerment activity which appeals most to you. Your donation flows directly into the chosen activity and your money is accounted for in a transparent manner. Even with what one would consider a moderate one off donation, you can help to promote women economic empowerment.

3. **Implementation partner**

If you find that we have the right synergies to complement your comparative advantage in program or project implementation and want to work with us on a women economic empowerment initiatives.

Contact us at info@ceewa.org or Tel: +256 393287133