

2024

ANNUAL REPORT
“Building momentum”

COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN IN AFRICA
(CEEWA-UGANDA)

Email: info@ceewa.org

Website: www.ceewa.org

FOREWORD

In 2024, despite limited financial resources, meaningful progress was made through focused verbal advocacy, and active participation in national high level dialogues. We also engaged with target communities taking small but meaningful steps to influence existing –mind-sets, which helped lay the groundwork for our programming. This collaborative effort was supported by our partners who provided valuable in kind and modest financial contributions.

Our stakeholders consistently acknowledge our successes and the vital role we play in advancing women's economic empowerment and gender equality. Their support reaffirms our commitment to leveraging our strengths and collaborating with partners to establish a robust framework for strengthening governance and fostering partnerships in the realm of women's economic empowerment.

We actively sought and welcomed new partnerships, achieving some milestones such as becoming an implementing partner with both a regional and international organisation. We also successfully registered in the partnership databases of the African Development Bank (AfDB)'s Civil Society Engagement Initiative and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This positions us to access valuable collaboration and funding opportunities.

Programmatically, we strengthened the foundation for evidence based programming by actively engaging with target communities, particularly the women and youth of Makandwa village in Kitende. In collaboration with the LC1 women representative we mobilized 30 women and 30 unemployed youth, indirectly linking

our initiatives to approximately 4,000 people in this community. Preliminary assessments to include them in our database of target beneficiaries have already been undertaken.

At the launch of the report on national progress over the past 30 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, organized by the European Union, UN Women, and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, we were honoured to receive an award from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry. This recognition reflects CEEWA-U's contribution to the women's economic empowerment agenda in Uganda and underscores the importance of our interventions.



Looking ahead, we anticipate implementing activities with our new partners, focusing on data collection that will provide insights on progress made to date and the persistent challenges faced by women and youth. The findings will inform our upcoming strategic plan review. We remain optimistic that ***the momentum we are building*** will soon translate into significant impact

HIGHLIGHTS

Advocacy, Policy Influencing and Networking



Group discussions at National Women's Manifesto 2021-2026 workshop – Her voice, your mandate.

CEEWA-U attended and contributed to 11 national high level dialogues, and 3 information dissemination sessions organised and funded by our partners including, Action for Development (ACFODE), Advocates for Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), Civil Society Advocacy Group (CSBAG), European Union (EU), FOWODE (Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Makerere University Economic Policy Research Centre, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MOFFED) Uganda, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC), Office of the Prime Minister- Sustainable Development Secretariat, Uganda NGO Forum (UNNGOF), Uganda

Women's Network (UWONET), and UN Women.

Key advocacy issues discussed included the recognition and measurement of unpaid for care work, progress made in Uganda regarding land rights for women, advancements made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the & Maputo Protocol, as well as concerning regressive trends in statistics related to gender equality, and rising incidents of violence against women and men.

Information dissemination sessions highlighted researches on unpaid for care work while significant key challenges and opportunities were discussed. The need to influence gender stereotypes within family units was emphasised as a means to address the burden of unpaid for care

work. However, this approach was recognised as limited, given that children spend a substantial amount of time both in school and at home, where their behaviours and attitudes are shaped within the context of each relevant environment most importantly at home cultural norms and in school sometimes by peers.

It was underscored that future studies should focus on identifying strategies to mitigate gender stereotyping that arises from peer interactions with peers in educational settings, and the burden of unpaid for care work borne by men in family settings should be recognised.

Furthermore, greater effort must be devoted to combating gender-based violence, which affects both women and men. Clear strategies of reducing incidents need to be developed. One effective method is through

collaborative efforts that foster collective action among all stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society, local governments and communities.

CEEWA-U and other stakeholders were encouraged to infuse strategies in their programming to influence change, promote the causes and advance specific agendas we particularly committed to play a vital role in disseminating essential information to communities, that will enable them better understand and implement existing laws. By raising awareness in the communities we work with, we can guide them in taking ownership of collective actions aimed at reducing gender based violence, and alleviating the burden of unpaid for care work. This awareness raising will be integrated in our economic empowerment initiatives.

Community Engagement and Empowerment



Women and youth from Makandwa village attending the MSME Day Expo

In partnership with Makandwa's Local Council Women Representative, we successfully mobilised 30 unemployed youth and 30 women micro entrepreneurs as prospective target

beneficiaries for our grant applications, making it possible for us to indirectly reach approximately 3,000 underserved people in this community. Furthermore with support from the

Sustainable Business Forum (SB4U), we facilitated 3 women and 2 youth at MSME Day expo under the theme “The Growth engine for women and Young Peoples’ Entrepreneurship and Resilient Supplies. Through active listening to success stories and observing their experiences, the group of 5 individuals demonstrated positive shifts in their mind set. This attests to the power of meaningful progress in empowering underserved women and youth, even with limited resources. This experience underscores the potential for incremental growth and development through targeted community engagement and support.

Testimonies:

Mugerwa Enoch... *“Attending the exposure day made me feel inspired and hopeful. I completed my senior four certificate, but my*

grades weren't the best. At the event, I met many young people who shared their success stories. One person created a business making earrings from plastic bottles, which helps reduce plastic waste. Others were selling juices or using social media platforms like TikTok for their businesses. It really motivated me! Now, as I look for casual jobs, I'm thinking about starting my own business, and I've been really interested in shoe making”.

Mulera Immaculate Mugisha...

Hearing all the success stories despite the challenges faced by each entrepreneur inspired me to start a sugar cane juice business. I am now also considering growing urban mushrooms in a small space at home. I probably wouldn't have thought of these ideas if I hadn't attended the EU/SB4U event that day. Listening to the stories of creative and determined business people made me excited to come up with new ideas.

Institutional Strengthening



Participants Community Mobilisation Approaches workshop organised by the East African Philanthropy Network and the Uganda NGO Forum

Through associations and affiliations CEEWA-U benefited from 2 physical and 20 online capacity- building programs. Notable training sessions included community mobilisation

approaches organised by the east African Philanthropy Network and the Uganda NGO Forum, localisation workshops organised by MZN International, Fintech Business training

facilitated by the EU, PSFU, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and Ministry of trade Industry and Cooperatives. We also participated in Impact Investment training for NGOs organised by MZN International. We also engaged in monthly master classes in NGOs/CBOs Strategic Technical Support led by Haven Foundation. These in kind contributions boosted our knowledge, enabling us to navigate effective fundraising methods.

Our fundraising efforts made steady progress throughout the year, thanks to our partners who facilitated grant application information sessions, which have honed our skills this area.

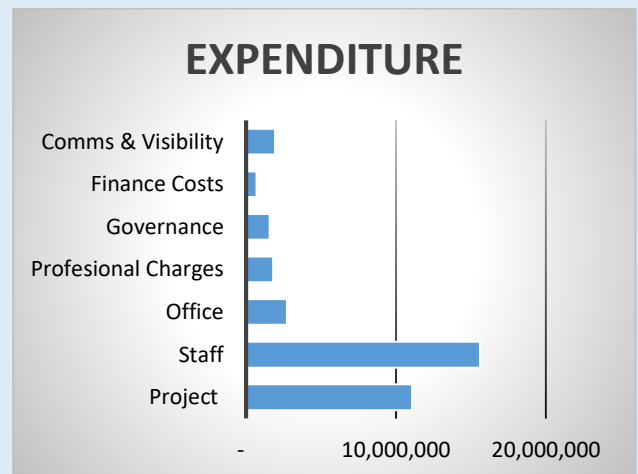
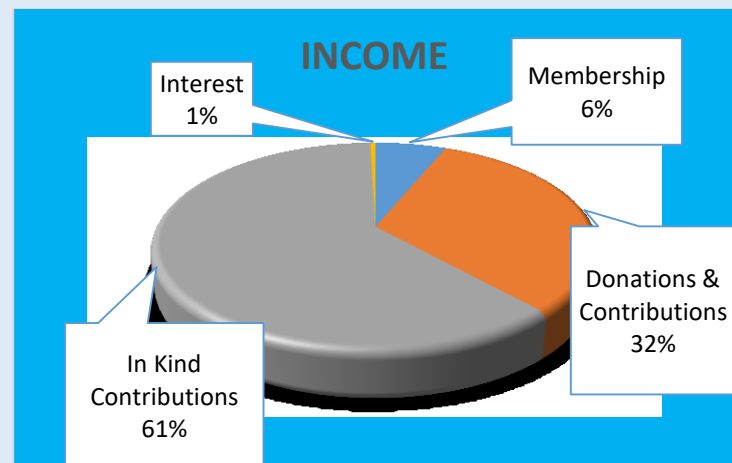
And, thanks to donations from the Empowerment Resource Centre we made a modest investment with Old mutual, with a plan to grow this investment to address future financial sustainability concerns.

This year, we placed emphasis on regulatory frameworks. We addressed the backlog that came to our attention in 2023 and made significant progress in addressing most of the critical issues, outstanding matters will be prioritised in the coming year.

As we stabilise and deepen our engagement with communities, we have sought to leverage local resources to conduct some activities, particularly mobilisation of target beneficiaries. We plan to adopt this approach wherever feasible moving forward.

Finances

Cash inflows of UGX. 41,981,909 realised from donations, in kind contributions, and membership subscription funded expenditure amounting to **UGX 35,413,459** resulting in a surplus of **UGX 6,568,450** for the year, an improvement on the results of the previous year.



CEEWA-U's IMPACT AND RELEVANCE

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

MISSION: To promote the economic empowerment of women in the development process through advocacy, training, research, information dissemination and research.

CEEWA-U's activities are currently guided by its vision and mission, along with the midterm programme 2022-2026, titled "*Women: Enhanced employability for Gainful Jobs, and Lucrative Opportunities in Uganda.*" Our initiatives contribute to the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically – SDG 1 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), plus other crosscutting goals such as SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for Goals).

The government of Uganda subscribes to international conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the Maputo Protocol. CEEWA-U aligns its efforts with Uganda's National Development goals, thereby actively contributing to fulfilling these commitments.

In 2024 CEEWA-U participated in voluntary reviews assessing progress made implementation of all the aforementioned global and national agendas that guide our work. Recognition of our successes and

achievements by our partners spotlighted our work as a significant role in advancing the women economic empowerment agenda in Uganda.

The year ahead

We are confronted with global and economic challenges. The rapid pace of technological advancement has highlighted operational weaknesses that digitalisation can expose. To address these vulnerabilities, we must seek to enhance our efficiency and capitalise on new opportunities. Rather than giving up, we should build on the momentum gained, and strive to implement more impactful initiatives.

In 2024 we made progress in key operational areas. As we move in the year ahead we will leverage these milestones by fostering strategic partnerships that hold potential for long term collaboration. Additionally, we will focus on achieving operational efficiency through a nimble and highly effective core team as well as enhanced digital financial management processes.

Our plan is to capitalise on a first mover advantage in localisation as we aim to position ourselves as a robust NGO. To further strengthen our mission and vision, we will conduct a strategic review and draft a new plan to guide our future initiatives.

Networking and partnership engagements will continue and we will leverage our mission, vision and when completed, the strategic plan to forge more strategic partnerships so as to form a firm foundation that will underpin our evidence based economic empowerment programming.

APPRECIATION

We extend our heartfelt gratitude, the chairperson, board members, members, staff, former members and the families of deceased members who have supported us in overcoming challenges that once seemed

insurmountable in our journey toward building momentum. Additionally, we want to thank our partners who stood with us both emotionally, in kind, and financially, Thank you for believing in us, and reminding us that the work we do is still important, giving up is not an option.

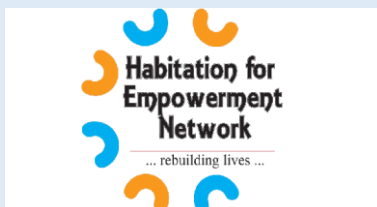
Contributing Partners



Delegation of European Union to Uganda



Enabel in Uganda



Office of the Prime Minister- Uganda





THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT.