



2023 Commemoration of INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

APRIL 2023

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated widely and differently across the globe. CARE participated in several activities at the district, national and international levels to increase the visibility of CARE's work on digitalization, and women and girls. It was also an opportunity for partnership and collaboration with government, development partners and other stakeholders. In Uganda, the IWD was commemorated under the theme: "Equal Opportunities in Education, Science and Technology for Innovation and Gender Equal Future".

CARE participates at the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

By Lillian Mpabulungi Ssengooba - Program Manager Gender Justice



Some of the participants after the side event organized by CARE.

CARE International participated during the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN Headquarters in New York, from 6th – 17th March 2023. The event was organised by the United Nations under the theme, "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".

The 67th CSW 2023 brought together over 11,000 participants including government officials, legislators, CSO actors, donors across the world and regional entities like the African Union to reflect, share, learn and advocate for investment in, and equitable access to digital technologies as a strategy to advance gender equality.

I participated in the events between 13th -16th March 2023 and provided input to the Ugandan paper presented at the session committee for Africa and the one presented by the Permanent Secretary regarding recognition of social and gender norms.

My observations were: CSOs side events are more effective when linked to the effective government line ministries so that some of the key recommendations are considered in the government position paper.

Secondly, we need more CARE participants if possible for such engagements because they are a good caucus on decision making and realising the localization agenda.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

"The whole society has a responsibility to fight poverty by working hard"- HE. Gen. Y. K Museveni

By Anena Irene - Advocacy Specialist

In Uganda, the IWD was commemorated under the theme: "Equal Opportunities in Education, Science and Technology for Innovation and Gender Equal Future".

His Excellence Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda presided over the National event held at Sanga Town Council, Kiruhura District on 8th March, 2023. In his remarks, the President recognized the contribution of women in nation-building and fighting household poverty.



CARE staff with the Former ICT Minister Hon. Mary Karoro Okurut one of the Awardee at the International Women's Day (IWD) event.



CAREUG



@CAREUganda



CARE International in Uganda



CARE International in Uganda

He called upon Ugandan citizens to embrace hard work by tapping into the available resources including land to reduce household food insecurity, hunger and vulnerability to GBV. "The whole society has a responsibility to fight poverty by working hard. Ugandans should stop excuses and work hard. We also need to fight bad cultural practices that limit women from participating in the development process". Said the President.

During the event, the President launched the Huawei Digi-truck project and CARE's Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity of Women Enterprises (GROW) project worth USD 217 Million. With funding from the International Development Association, GROW aims increasing access to entrepreneurial services for female entrepreneurs. In his address, he stated that ICT is a crucial driver of socio-economic development as envisaged in the National Development Plan 2020-2025. He mentioned that his emphasis on innovation will be on Women's enterprises through the Parish Development Model (PDM).

The Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development, Hon Amongi Betty Ongom emphasized the need to invest in the training of science and technology, promoting women's economic empowerment and supporting small-scale farmers to invest in value chain addition including registration of their enterprises with Uganda National Bureau of Statistics (UNBS).

She recognized the tremendous support from development partners. CARE International was recognized for supporting the government of Uganda through the Ministry of Gender in advancing gender equality.

The Minister also highlighted that CARE's GROW project

would respond to the needs of women entrepreneurs who would like to grow their businesses, sustain their self-employment, and create more jobs.

The World Bank Country Manager, Rosemary Mukami Kariuki noted that the project is intended to provide a significant boost to the economic and social transformation of women entrepreneurs in line with NDPII goals by promoting women's economic empowerment, leadership, and participation.

While presenting a statement on behalf of the Ugandan women, the National Women Council Chairperson, Hajat Faridah Kibowa recommended addressing the digital gap and inclusion of women in ICT opportunities and education. She appreciated the government for Uganda Women's Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) which benefitted women and the Parish Development Model (30% of the funds reserved for women) which have supported them to increase production and scale-up their businesses.

CARE's representatives at the event included: the DREAMS Project Manager, the DREAMS Gender Advisor, the Advocacy Specialist, the Emergency GBV and Protection Advisor and one refugee Woman leader from Kyangwali refugee settlement.

The event was attended by officials from the government, UN Agencies, the World Bank, European Union, NGOs and the Civil society Organizations, women groups and Women's Led Organizations, the Uganda Police Force, Uganda People's Defence Force, Uganda Prisons, Institutions of learning, religious leaders, cultural leaders, media houses and the community of Kiruhura District.

Kyangwali Settlement

"Let us challenge the negative cultural beliefs that bar women from owning property...."

By Moreen Basemera - Graduate Trainee Emergency

In Kyangwali, the event was commemorated on 7th March 2023, at Mukunyu B, under the theme; "Equal Opportunities in Education, Science and Technology for Innovation and a Gender Equal Future".

Key messages about the theme were relayed through drama skits, songs, poems, and speeches from keynote speakers during the event.

The chief guest Hon Musinguzi Katusabe, the Butole Parish Councilor appreciated the government for supporting women through girl-child education which has resulted in equal opportunities for both genders.



The camp Commandant giving her remarks during the celebrations.

He encouraged both men and women to embrace education, technology, and gender equality. "Let us challenge the negative cultural beliefs that bar women from owning property, attaining education. We need to change our

mindsets about technology.” Said Hon Musinguzi. He encouraged implementing partners to engage women in modern agricultural practices which will improve production and promote gender equality.

On behalf of UNHCR, Santa Lamono appreciated the importance of technology in improving the lives of the users. She requested the partners to equip refugee women with knowledge on how to use mobile phones to access markets for their goods.

She also encouraged the women to embrace technology, especially using mobile phones and pledged UNHCR’s support to all partners in ensuring a gender-equal future.

The Settlement Commandant Chaali Tophious, called upon

partners to also tame the boy-child for a gender-equal future. She said, “If we keep empowering the girl-child alone and leave out the boy child, GBV cases will increase because of the gap in information. These boys will not know how to treat girls in the long run hence the increase of the violence against women and girls.”

About 10 outstanding women activists from Kyangwali were rewarded for their contribution towards advancing gender equality within the settlement

Over 500 people including members of the Refugee community, District leaders, refugee leaders, OPM & UNHCR representatives and the other development partners were in attendance.

Imvepi Settlement

Women and girls need to be empowered if they are to compete favorably in business

By Alfred Olweny - GBV Coordinator



Girl Shine group presenting a song on teenage pregnancy during IWD event.

The IWD in Imvepi was celebrated under the theme: “DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality” with support from the APEAL project with funding from ECHO. Several speakers focused on empowering women and girls through digital technology to improve their participation economically, socially, and politically.

The Odupi sub-county chief, Zaitun Yusuf emphasized the need for the empowerment of women and girls in alignment with use of the dynamic technology. “Let us support women in business such that they can compete favourably in the business world. I call upon the

different partners to step up their programming towards the realization of a digital world full of innovation and technology for us to attain gender equality.” Said Zaitun.

The Imvepi Assistant Settlement Commandant, Martine Koriang called upon the partners to start reporting to OPM and UNHCR on all achievements related to innovation and technology which are aimed at gender equality for accountability purposes.

Meriba Luka Abdullah, the Imvepi Refugee Welfare Council III Women’s Representative requested partners to first assess the needs of the women and girls to inform project implementation. She said; “Let your projects be informed by the needs of the PoCs on the ground especially in the livelihood sector, to address the cut in food ration by WFP”.

The event was attended by PoCs from Zone 1 to 4 and protection partners in Imvepi including CARE, IRC, SCI, Peace Wind Japan, DRC, Windle Trust, BRAC, AFI, For Africa, Hope Foundation, YETA, Water Mission and OPM.

Arua City

Women advised to embrace technology

By Collin Kahwa - Graduate Trainee Communications

Hundreds of people turned up for the Arua City IWD commemoration celebration held at St. Joseph College Ombach on 8th March. While presiding over the event, Dr Akello Alice Opio, the Arua City Commissioner encouraged women to embrace new technology and guard against any misuse by their children.

"As you embrace technology, women should be mindful of the information posted on the internet which may lure young girls and boys into bad practices. People use the internet to spread propaganda on bad practices like homosexuality." Warned Akello.

Hon Geoffrey Feta, the Member of Parliament for Ayivu East Constituency said equality can only be realized if young girls have equal access to and use modern technology. " Women's participation in ICT cannot succeed without empowering the girl-child through education. We must support girl-child education to increase women's involvement in ICT." Echoed Hon Feta .J

udith Drate, the Arua City Principal Community Development Officer (CDO) called upon women to fight barriers that limit their participation in science, innovation, and technology leading to low-income. Drate said; "Technology is taking over the world, yet only a few women are embracing it. We need to empower women to increase their participation in ICT if we are to fight poverty and reduce gender inequities".

Representing the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) within Arua City, Jackie Bless Pinyoloya, from Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA Network) noted that the exclusion of women in ICT is a



Ayivu East Constituency MP (Male) and RCC, Arua City (middle) Inspecting products displayed VSLAs supported by CARE Uganda and CEFORD.

huge threat to progress on gender equity and denies women opportunities to improve their lives.

"As partners, we are implementing a few strategies to increase the involvement of women in ICT. According to the World Wide Web Foundation study conducted in October 2020, 27% of the men were using the internet compared to 19% of the women in Uganda, which had the largest gender gap among the four countries in the study."

The Arua City Women's Council Chairperson, Doreen Joy Adiru, urged women to always embrace ICT and use technology in marketing their products to reduce inequities. "You need to embrace mobile banking and online marketing to reach more customers to sell your products. As women, we can be on equal footing if we embrace science, innovation and technology." Said Adiru.

Gulu City

"Women shouldn't limit themselves to the affirmative action"

By Collin Kahwa - Graduate Trainee Communications

Gulu City celebrated Women's Day on 11th March 2023 where Okile Jane Francis, Gulu Resident City Commissioner advised Women to be competitive, and contest as constituency Members of Parliament instead of limiting themselves to women seats in Parliament. "Women shouldn't limit themselves to the affirmative action by the government of Uganda to achieve gender equality in parliament, you should also contest as Constituency Members of Parliament".

Hon. Aol Betty Ocan, Gulu City, Woman Member of Parliament advised young girls and men to opt for science subjects and allow their wives to own smartphones respectively to achieve the digital gender equity. "I encourage girls to take science seriously because ICT is a part of science. I also urge husbands to allow their wives to own smart-phones as these phones can be used for online marketing, communication, and learning." Aol stated.

The Gulu City Deputy Speaker, Akena Lamex Lambert appreciated Government initiatives aimed at achieving gender equality such as the Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunities Act and the Quotas. Akena said; “I encourage women to embrace technology, if we embrace it, we shall have many Doctors, Army officers, Teachers, Pilots and ICT experts hence breaking gender inequalities”. Said Akena.

Christine Olok, the Gulu City Deputy Mayor appreciated the government of Uganda for upholding all legal frameworks that encourage women's participation and promote gender equality in the country.

Over 500 people were in attendance including; civil servants, politicians, community members, and civil society organizations such as CARE International in Uganda, Thrive-Gulu, Hashtag Gulu, UN Women, and many others.



Women Activists supported by CARE marching on women's day.

What they say about CARE'S work



▶ Click here



▶ Click here



P.O.Box 7280, 5th Floor, Union House. Plot 78, Luthuli Avenue -
Bugolobi, Kampala, Uganda
www.careuganda.org Tel: +256 312 258 100



CAREUG



@CAREUganda



CARE International in Uganda



CARE International in Uganda