



# Centre for Women in Governance

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021





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## ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Centre for Women in Governance (CEWIGO) is a National level, Non-Governmental, non-partisan, not-for-profit advocacy organization that was established in 2006. CEWIGO implements activities at national and local levels in partnership with government line ministries, district Local Governments, parliamentary committees, women councils, women led Community Based Organizations (CBOs) as well as national, regional and international women's organizations and networks.

### Our Vision

CEWIGO envisions a world in which society values and cherishes good governance, where women and men equally participate and benefit from good governance.

### Our Mission

To mobilize women and build their capacity to influence governance at all levels and to increase awareness that where women and men share equally in the generation and maintenance of good governance, the benefits accrue to all society.

### Our Values

- Integrity
- Mutual respect
- Excellence
- Equity
- Commitment
- Innovativeness



## OUR PROGRAMMES

### **Women's Leadership Development (WoLD) Programme**

The objective of the Women's Leadership Development Programme is to strengthen the role of women and men in promoting and engaging in good governance. An important milestone under this program has been the training of women leaders including parliamentarians at national level and local councilors at district and other lower local councils to strengthen their capacity and increase their effectiveness. We engage political and technical leaders for gender responsive legislation, planning and budgeting. The program also focuses on creating a positive mind set by engaging communities, spouses of women leaders, religious leaders, cultural leaders and civic leaders to improve their appreciation and support for women's political leadership at all levels.

### **Women's Rights Advocacy Programme (WRAP)**

The purpose of the Women's Rights Advocacy Programme is to advocate for conditions that promote the protection of women's rights. Under this program, CEWIGO increases public awareness of women's rights, strengthens the capacity of women's rights focused organisations/institutions and advocates for the formulation and implementation of gender responsive laws, policies and programmes

### **Citizen's and Community Empowerment Program (CEP)**

The Citizen's and Community Empowerment Program aims at empowering citizens to demand for accountability and good governance. Under this program, CEWIGO supports community members to understand their rights and duties and facilitates feedback platforms for interface between leaders and the citizenry for effective accountability.

### **Strategic Objectives**

- To strengthen women's leadership and capacity to influence positive change at national, local and grassroots levels.
- To advocate for conditions that sustain women's peace and security for good governance.
- To take lead in influencing the integration and delivery of key aspects in national civic education programs that support women's participation in governance.

## OUR APPROACHES

- Capacity building to enhance women's capacities to effectively participate in the governance agenda. Public awareness on the value of women's political leadership, service delivery and rights and duties of citizens and the state.
- Working with Local Governments to influence decision making in favour of women's rights and good governance.
- Male involvement (engaging with religious, cultural & opinion leaders and spouses of women leaders).
- Partnership with key stakeholders at National, Local and community levels
- Advocacy on women's rights including Women, Peace and Security



## CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

As we bring you the 2021 annual report, we are thankful to all stakeholders who have been, and continue to be part of CEWIGO's work. We are able to make an impact in the communities because of the support we receive from development partners, government entities, other NGOs and the various individuals that we work with in one way or another. Thank you for investing your time and resources to make a difference in the lives of Ugandans by enhancing women's participation in leadership and decision-making processes.



The year 2021 continued with the challenges of 2020, most significant of which were the Covid-19 pandemic and the continued suspension of DGF, our major funder. Nevertheless, the staff stayed in touch with the beneficiaries in the DGF project districts, and implemented the AWDF-funded project. We give thanks to God for this as we continue to explore more ways in which we can serve our communities and contribute to the development of our country.

The Board of Directors continues to support the processes and work with management to impact our women and men for a more inclusive and tolerant society. I appreciate fellow Board members' support in 2021. Thank you Team.

Margaret Akello

Chairperson, Board of Director



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



We have the pleasure of bringing you the CEWIGO Annual Report 2021. It was by God's grace that we were able to implement any activities, given the circumstances. The operating environment was less than desirable and we were continuously hounded by uncertainty due to funding challenges and the Covid-19 pandemic. However, we were able to use the structures we set up previously to remain in touch with our beneficiaries as we gave them some support.

As the country went to the polls in January 2021, CEWIGO was actively involved as election observers in 9 districts, fully accredited by the Electoral Commission. We also continued to be actively involved in the Women's Situation Room as we took charge of the western region, with the physical situation room at Hotel Triangle, Mbarara City. We had a call centre which was receiving election-related calls. I am very grateful to the Electoral Commission (EC), the Uganda Police Force (UPF) and the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) for their support in this exercise. They sent us officers who occupied the relevant desks in the room with the purpose of handling complaint/comments as they came in. They were quick to address any type of complaint, with some of them rushing to the scene to get first-hand information, witness what was happening and offer the necessary support. Thank you very much, fellow countrymen. We do not take your support for granted.

We trained women councillors and engaged with community leaders in Mbarara and Fort Portal with support from African Women's Development Fund (AWDF).

On behalf of the CEWIGO staff, I acknowledge and appreciate the support of the Board of Directors and all the organisations and individuals we worked with in 2021. May God bless you.

Jocelyn Ekochu

Ag. Executive Director

## OVERVIEW OF THE OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

The unexpected suspension of the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) in February 2021 by the and the continuing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic affected the implementation of all planned project activities. The DGF project activities were effectively put on hold while the AWDF activities were downsized in adherence to the Ministry of Health guidelines regarding SOPs. There was, however, continuous feedback from beneficiaries from both projects, and collaboration with other actors, which helped to keep track with beneficiaries in the project districts.

### **Collaboration with state and actors non-state**

CEWIGO continued to work with the Women International Peace Centre (women Situation Room in creating violet free environment before during and after elections. In 2020, CEWIGO trained 200 women and peace advocates to champion advocacy for peace before, during and after elections, who were engaged in 2021. In 2021 CEWIGO trained 200 election observers in Ntungamo and Isingiro districts. In 2021, CEWIGO was mandated to take charge of the physical Situation Room located at Hotel Triangle, Mbarara City, from where election-related challenges, complaints and comments were received and passed on to the relevant stakeholders for solutions.

CEWIGO was also contracted by VNG International for a consultancy to support its IDEAL Project in Uganda. The objective was to support the establishment of Leadership Networks in Bushenyi Ishaka Municipality and other Municipalities.

CEWIGO has continued to work with state actors, mostly the Electoral Commission, Local Government and National Women Council in preparing women for effective participation in electoral processes as well as training election observers, for information sharing, lobbying and networking on gender-related issues among others.

## Feedback from project districts

Despite the suspension of the DGF project activities, CEWIGO has been receiving feedback on the state of the beneficiaries from district-based contact persons, mentors and beneficiaries. This has been made possible by community structures put in place during previous. These have reported on both progress and challenges they are facing in this COVID-19 Situation for example

- According to Mr. Innocent Aligumya the Senior Community Development officer of Kigorobya town council the Gender desk which was created has helped in receiving gender related cases as well as receiving small support for the vulnerable groups in the town council during the lockdown. He noted that upon receiving these cases they have worked with different stakeholders like police and women council chairperson to resolution the issues. He noted that over 30 cases have been received in the space of 3 months related family negligence, fights in homes, adultery in families, failure to provide home basics by men among others.
- Siwa Tonny the Senior Community Development officer for Ngege Sub County, Kween district reported that the Health Centre which was constructed has improved access to health services among women, reduced maternal mortality related risks and reduce the numbers of women delivering from tradition birth attendants. He appreciated CEWIGO for its continued support of empowering women legislators as well as empowering communities to demand for accountability and service delivery.
- It has been reported that the community gender advocacy groups have continued to use their platforms to condemn acts gender-based violence which have been on the rise during the lockdown. However, restriction of movements and gatherings has affected their advocacy in the community.
- It has been reported that the passed gender resolutions regulating opening of bars and child labor in Bumbaire Sub-county Bushenyi District, Karungu, Nsika Bwehweju District,



Nyangahaya, Karujubu and Pakanyi Masindi District, Kigorobya Town council Hoima District has reduced the cases of gender-based violence and child labor according to community gender Development officers, District councilors and Gender officers. According to the district councilor of Karungu Mr. Mutambi Julius the formed caucus and Community gender advocacy groups by CEWIGO has create a strong voice in the sub county on women issues and Mr. Bikangiso Medard the Chairperson LC3 of Engaju sub county reported reduced cases of gender-based violence and child labor as a result of collective efforts from women legislators and Community advocacy groups.

- According to Ms. Harriet Aseko the District Community Development Officer for Kapchworra District , the 30 women and youth groups mobilized have benefited from government projects amidst COVID-19. These started up projects including buying and selling of produce, vegetable growing, dairy products and pottery among others. This has had a positive impact on families, through the provision of basic needs.
- Mr. Joyce Katabalya, Community Development Officer Buseruka Town Council reported that two youth groups namely Tonya Moto Bike group in Tonya parish, Tonya village and Rwamutonga produce youth group in Nyakabingo Parish who received 12.5 million and 8 million respectively have benefited in the funds. These groups were able to trade in produce which has helped improve their standard of living.

Feedback from women legislators indicate that there is still limited participation of women in council decisions. Speakers and women legislators from sub-counties and town councils noted that 80% of the women are new in council and they need support through capacity building. This is affecting their capacity to demand accountability and service delivery as well as advancing gender equality and women's rights. According to the district development officers and senior community development officers Members of Parliament from Jinja, Masindi, Hoima, Bushenyi and Mbarara have fulfilled their commitments

of buying ambulances and supporting farmers both women and youths in the communities as well as lobbying for better roads in the districts and municipalities. This has enhanced access to health services among women as well as increasing family incomes among women and youth groups who were supported by their leaders

Women Councilors noted that they are committed to following up on all commitments made by leaders as well as continuing lobbying for their people. They reported poor coordination and limited skills in advocacy, Networking, Community Mobilization as challenges to their effectiveness in the community. District Community development officers, District Chairpersons for women council and Senior Community Development officers noted that the women council efforts to advance gender equality has been affected by COVID-19 Restrictions.

## Challenges

- Women legislators in some districts are facing coordination challenges and working as teams in committees since they were not inducted and majority are new in council, which is likely to affect the quality of their debate.
- The restriction of movements and gatherings affected the work of women legislators and community gender advocacy groups.
- According to the District Community Development Officer, Kapchorwa, the law and resolutions on FGM are being implemented but they are receiving strong community resistance due to strong cultural norms. There is also a claim that the resolutions regulating opening of bars are poorly implemented due to political interference
- In Buhweju, Masindi and Jinja districts, resolutions on early marriages, alcoholism, prostitution, sanitation among others are being implemented, although they are not receiving enough support.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AWDF PROJECT

- ***Development of the women politician hand book:*** A Training Manual for Elected Women Councillors 2021 was developed through a consultative process, and 100 copies were printed. This was supplemented with 100 copies of the Standard Rules of Procedure for Local Government Councils which were also printed and distributed to the women councillors. This further supported their learning and the two booklets are being used as reference materials even after the orientation trainings. The manuals provide several helpful modules including; effective leadership, conflict management, communication skills, lobbying and advocacy, roles of councillors among others. They are handy in building knowledge, women councillors' understanding and improving their skills and confidence in executing their roles.
- ***Orientation training of newly elected women leaders:*** A two-day training targeting 40 women and female youth councillors in each of the project areas was conducted. In Mbarara City, 33 participants attended the training while 31 participants attended the training in Fort Portal City. In total 64 out of the expected 80 women and female youth councillors turned up for the training. The remaining number of women councillors were not able to attend due to some unavoidable circumstances. The purpose of the training was to build the capacity of newly elected female councillors to effectively perform their roles and responsibilities. The training focused on the following areas;
  - Decentralization (objectives, types, benefits, challenges etc.)
  - Understanding the Local Government Structure, systems and operations (importance, roles of leaders, functions of committees, inter-relations)
  - Leadership, communication and good governance (skills



and qualities of a good leader, balancing personal and public life, good governance accountability, inclusiveness, transparency, principles)

- Conducting council business (standard rules of procedure,
- Conflict and conflict resolution (meaning, causes, types, resolution approaches)
- Gender and gender concepts (understanding gender equality and gender equity, stereotypes, mainstreaming, gender budgeting and planning)
- Caucusing and action planning (meaning, importance, modalities, success indicators)
- Financial literacy (saving, investing, income generation/ entrepreneurship, book-keeping and documentation)



- ***Tweet Chat:*** A tweet chat was conducted to discuss the existing opportunities and strategies for women politicians in advancing gender equality. It focused on exploring and generating new strategies, opportunities and approaches to enhance women representation and participation in decision making processes. Four eminent women were identified to lead the conversation. Dr. Joyce Tamale, a renowned Feminist and Social entrepreneur moderated the chat. She worked with three panellists; Ms. Lillian Babirye the National Coordinator for Network of Women in Politics, Ms. Mary Lamunu the Executive Director for Uganda Women Parliamentary Association and, Hon. Adeke Anna, Woman Member of Parliament for Soroti District. A report from twitter providing us with the statistics on the reach of the tweet chat is available. Different ideas on the existing opportunities and strategies for women politicians in advancing gender equality were discussed. They included; raising societal awareness of women in leadership and building capacity of female leaders among others.
- ***Radio Talk Show:*** Six radio talk shows were conducted; that is, three in each of the targeted cities (Mbarara and Fort Portal). The one-hour radio talk shows were held at Radio West and Voice of Toro in Mbarara and Fort Portal respectively. The panellists included the Woman Member of Parliament representing Fort Portal city (Hon. Linda Irene), women councillors, town clerks and the Mbarara City Deputy Mayor Muganzi Prisca. The radio talk shows were intended to; create awareness on the value of women participation in political leadership for gender equality and women's rights, and how the women councillors can work hand in hand with other leaders and community members to ensure effective service delivery. The listeners that called in requested the councillors to work for the people in their communities as they had promised during their campaigns. Others urged fellow members in the community to work hand in hand with the councillors to see that services are delivered in the rightful way.



- Annual engagement meeting with technocrats and political leaders:*** A two-day engagement meeting targeting 120 participants was conducted. Participants included political leaders and division technocrats in each of the project areas. In Mbarara City, 54 participants were able to attend the engagement, while 64 participants were able to attend the training in Fort Portal City. In total 118 out of 120 participants attended the training in the project areas. Only two women councillors were not able to attend due to some unavoidable circumstances. The purpose of the engagement meeting with technocrats and political leaders was to help them clearly understand their roles and responsibilities, and to improve the working relationships between councillors and technocrats. The engagement focused on a number of topics including; the roles and responsibilities of different actors in council, understanding the different local government sectors, as well as gender budgeting and procurement. The trainings were facilitated by CEWIGO staff with support from selected trainers with knowledge and vast experience in political leadership at Local Government Level.



- ***Support supervision visits for women caucuses:*** One-day support supervision visits to the selected women caucuses in each of the respective city division councils in the project areas (Mbarara and Fort Portal cities) were conducted. In Mbarara City, 34 women councillors were attended, while 28 women councillors attended in Fort Portal City. In total 62 out of 80 women councillors attended the support supervision visits for women caucuses. The purpose of the visits was to assess the performance of women caucuses and to provide them with technical guidance and support in order to sustain advocacy on the promotion of women's rights in political leadership and to enhance the capacity of women's caucuses in influencing council decisions.



- **Annual community dialogues:** Half-day community dialogues were conducted in the project cities, targeting both political leaders and community members. Over 200 community members, in addition to 71 (both male and female) political leaders in the two cities, attended. The theme of the dialogue was “Women’s participation in Leadership is a Key to Development”. This dialogue aimed at increasing community awareness on the value of women’s political participation and to enable the masses interact with their leaders’ (female and male councillors) and other local leaders on matters affecting them.
- **National Dialogue:** A half-day national level dialogue targeting the key government actors who included; Members of Parliament, Local Government Officials and line ministries including Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Local Government and Ministry of Public Service; CSOs including non-Governmental organisations, the media and development partners among others. The dialogue attended by 52 participants. A presentation on the status on women participation in decision making processes amidst COVID-19 was presented to the participants. The presentation highlighted key issues affecting women, existing opportunities and strategies for women amidst COVID -19.





- End of project monitoring and evaluation:*** An evaluation of the project was carried out in both cities of Mbarara and Fort Portal. A total of 40 beneficiaries participated in the exercise which was led by an experienced consultant supported by the project officer. The evaluation sought to assess cross-cutting issues on gender, youth, other marginalized/vulnerable groups and the human rights based approach, and how they have been addressed during project implementation. It also helped to assess effectiveness and efficiency in project implementation as well as project sustainability. It also helped in assessing the impact of the project in the Local Governments in which it was implemented. In addition, the evaluation was a form of accountability to the donor. Recommendations from the evaluation were to inform future programming to CEWIGO.



















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