



AWARE- UGANDA

ACTION FOR WOMEN AND AWAKENING IN RURAL ENVIRONMENT

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ORGANIZATION PROFILE

WHO WE ARE

AWARE UGANDA (Action for women and Awakening in Rural Environment) was formed in 1989 by a group of Local rural women of Kaabong District in Karamoja region. It was initiated by Mrs. Grace Loumo with an aim of taking women out of their plight in this region by net working rural women to build their skills, learn their rights as women, fight poverty, violence, suffering and HIV/AIDS.

It's a fully registered organization with the national NGO board Reg. No. S.5914/1033 operating in 3 district of Karamoja region with its headquarters in Kaabong district ie Abim, Kaabong, Kotido, Karamoja Region in the North Eastern part of Uganda.

AWARE-UG was formed because of gender imbalance, resulting in to high levels of domestic violence & GBV, family neglect, women and human rights abuses, Ethnic clashes and cattle rustling causing high family death, highs levels of illiteracy among Karamojong women, depriving/nomadic culture, high levels of HIV/AIDS as a result of rural nomadic migration.

AWARE boasts of a very experienced, exposed team in the social, economic and cultural problems affecting grassroots women in Karamoja. This team is not only well versed with the geography of the place, but has also a truck record of successful implementation of rural projects over the years.

AWARE has more than 27 yrs experience in implementing women's emancipation project/programme. Its broad aim is to advance the social, cultural and economic status of women in Karamoja, interventions on Food security and Nutrition, Girl Child Education, AIDS/HIV & women/Human Rights campaign to build consistency of empowered grassroots women, to engage in local development, so that they can make positive contributions to their well-being, homestead and the region at the large.

AWARE UGANDA PARTNERS

Our partners include; Kaabong Local government, Local CBOs, DHO, Traditional Leaders, NAADS, RHU, Religious Leaders,, Slum women initiative Jinja, Oxfam GB Kaabong, MSF kaabong, National Ass. Of women organization in Uganda, Women count network uk. HAUIROU COMMISSION, Karamoja peace network, UCOBAC, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS, GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN, AJWS, PACE UGANDA, STRAIGHT TALK FOUNDATION, UN WFP, CEDOVIP, UWONET, KAABONG LOCAL GOV'T, MINISTRY OF HEALTH UGANDA, UGANDA LAND ALLIANCE, KITCHEN TABLE CHARITABLE TRUST,

OUR MISSION

To empower Karamoja women build their confidence, and status through their participation in groups in which they can determine programs to secure livelihoods of their families.

OUR VISION

To promote women's active involvement in development of their communities to raise their standard of living.

CORE VALUES

All indigenous community women to live in dignity and Respect to enjoy their Human Rights and build their Livelihood.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To improve the livelihoods of women through access to modern farming methods/tools, entrepreneurial skills, functional adult literacy, saving and loans schemes to boost household income and food security.
- To improve the knowledge and skills of the community particularly women on prevention, care, support and management of HIV/AIDS and other health impact on their families and communities.
- To educate women and wider community on Women/Human Rights, land/property ownership, domestic violence prevention and reporting avenues and justice systems to seek redress for human rights violations and abuses experienced.

WHAT WE DO (PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES)

1. CULTURE, EDUCATION/ FAL WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:

AWARE believes and treasures the Karamojong culture as a tool to promote society growth, women livelihood and wellbeing, we have a developed cultural members group with 50 members, who promotes and teaches young people on how to make Karamojong cultural clothes, dances, folk songs, dances, beads/ bangles, skin ware; we have entertained tourists and visitors at our centre, conferences with all these cultures aspects as a source of income and cultural promotions , We have promoted women's rights and campaign against gender based violence, violence through cultural dramas and theatre plays.

AWARE continues to run an early childhood Education and development at our women centre, we have so far enrolled over 100 children who come to learn how to read, write, speak English, play, interact among others, we feed them, wash them, provide medication if need be among other things,

We plan to lift the standards of our early childhood development centre so that the children can be able to go for primary education when they already have some basic knowledge this is why we have recruited some new teachers to give the basic skills to the children.

We have had over 50 FAL classes, VSLA training, business skills training to over 50 women groups in the last 10 years, to improve their level of business understanding, trade gainfully, learn to read and write, know about the bank use, leadership skills among others.

We had peace dram shows within the District of Kaabong and this included the distribution of starter kits to the HIV/AIDS positive people and the kits comprises of the following mosquito nets, water vessel, filter cloth , condoms ECD beneficiaries were also screened within the year of 2015.

There was training of ECD care givers, this was aimed at making the care givers the right information to the children who are studying at the centre, we also distributed scholastic materials to students and they included books, pens and pencils.

We also had a SACCO assessment by the team from MSF and thus were looking at improving the operation of the SACCO, we also had a meeting that was making on the operation of the SACCO.

We had assessment of the early childhood development centre by the Ministry of Education through the DEO's office in Kaabong District.

We had a regional annual meeting and NAADS meeting, this was to ensure that the organizations activities are coordinated to that of the District for a better impact on the society.



Fig 1: Women listening attentively during FAL Business classes at AWARE Centre



Fig 2: Grace and OVC at AWARE centre kaabong, Grace on back ground



Fig 3: AWARE Cultural group entertaining guest at a meeting

2. GBV, VAW, DV HUMAN AND WOMEN RIGHTS

In the last few months AWARE Uganda created and oriented 4 child Rights school clubs in 4 schools headed with patron, they have been trained and given guidelines on activities and demand as a way of promoting child awareness on girl child education, child activist in creating awareness among other children, in regard as a way on protecting and creating awareness on child rights abuses in both schools and homes geared towards Ending child marriages, ESGBV, EGBV in communities, schools and homes. These schools selected were konkom girls, Kaabong Secondary schools all in Kaabong district, guidance and orientation was conducted by 5 AWARE staff , and children reached were 200. With 300 communities members in near by schools awareness created on GBV, VAW reporting procedures, land rights, women economic empowerment, through dialogues, sensitization, sensitization from our community paralegals.

AWARE has conducted awareness creation, capacity building and GBV/DV ACT to 20 police, 15 health workers, 20 elders, 10 district councilors in Kaabong district to sensitize them about all forms of discrimination against women and Human rights, EGBV,EVAW, DV ACT, case handling, reporting procedures, this has been conducted with the guidance of community legal facilitators in Kalapata, kapedo and Kaabong town council, as a way of promoting duty bearers active participation in creating awareness on EVAW,EGBV, ESGBV, to promote women rights and community empowerment and development



Fig 4: girls rescued from GBV, sexual violence and Early child marriages

We have rescued over 50 girls who have had all forms of violence, like ECM, GBV, Forceful marriages, in several locations of Kaabong, counseled them, treated them in all reproductive health matters together with support from Kaabong hospital, We continue to run a safe House at AWARE's women's centre to keep women/girls who are being abused in the forms and reunited with safe relatives later. We hired an on call counselors, therapists and defenders, to help victims and survivors of Domestic violence through counseling and guidance, through hospital guidance, police reports and follow up.

AWARE Uganda carried out consultation meetings with Local Leaders in attendance were subcounty chiefs, parish chiefs, Kraal leaders, Local councilor 1, other Actors and stakeholders on the ground as well as traditional leaders to inform them on the intended project, topics discussed included leadership support on fighting and eradicating Sexual Gender based violence, GBV, promoting SRHR which includes safe deliveries, right and when to conceive, how many child you want, when to have sex, rape and promoting women rights. This took place in March, in the subcounties of Kaabong west, Kathile, Kamion and Loyoro, refreshments were provided during the meetings and in attendance in all the three subcounties were 80 women and 60 men for the closed meeting.

AWARE is in partnership with UWONET, and CEDOVIP in combating GBV, women's rights promotion, domestic violence act creation, women leadership promotion, we have sensitized over 10,000 communities members on all this in Loyoro, Lolelia, Kaabong Town council, Kathile, we have rescued over 200 girls who had been forcefully married over the last 5 years, followed up and made arrest to over 400 committers of GBV, Domestic violence, helped in prosecution of over 300 cases of GBV/DV.

We currently partnership and have a running program for with IRC-Uganda on Rescue of victims of GBV in Kaabong district to provide psychosocial support and referrals to gender based violence survivors in Kaabong district

Under this program we encourage gender based violence survivors to use available response mechanisms set in the communities Provide counseling to GBV survivors, Conduct outreaches on services available, Train staff on Case management, Carryout referrals for GBV survivors for locally available health, Police, human rights agencies magistrates for further management of the cases, Provide basic essential items to survivors, Follow-up survivors who are referred for other services, Attending GBV coordination meeting with stake holders at the district

AWARE has on ground well trained 70 community paralegals training the community on GBV, Land rights human/women rights, mediating disputes, reporting cases, Following prosecutions, orienting the communities on right issues,

AWARE has carried out over 500 sensitization meetings, one on one dialogue, open focused discussion, market day dialogue, community dialogue, conducted by paralegals in human rights situation in the community at Kamion, Abim, Karenga, Kaabong urban and Kaabong Rural sub county and kotido, these took place at the district and sub county headquarters, in attendance we had government officials, traditional leaders, women group leaders, community paralegals representing the sub county, stakeholders, women group members, the police, and some members of the Ugandan Army, message delivered was women/Human Rights abuses and preventive

measures, how to defend rights, grabbing land, GBV and domestic violence and reporting avenues.

Over 50 VHT and 70 Community paralegals Monitored over 137 cases violated and reported over 149 cases of human rights violations - especially during warrior movements and disarmament process for example, the number of people beaten, raped killed, and other categories of abuses experienced by the community.

Over 125 Referral cases were reported for justice systems for redress.

We Organized events of world Aids day and women's Day among others to promote women/Human Rights awareness and gender equality this included matching around kaabong town council with music speakers mounted on our vehicle .

We are empowering grassroots women in Karamoja on land property rights, this would make the rural women in Karamoja have a say on issues that concerns their rights and property unlike before that women were not given a chance to make decisions that concerns property and their rights were not valued.

AWARE has established a safe GBV house at AWARE centre to help treat victims of GBV through counseling, post trauma treatment, providing safety and meals before relocating them to safety to their nearby relatives.



Fig 5: Uganda's first lady Janet Museveni visiting AWARE maternity waiting centre in Kaabong

3. HEALTH SERVICES

AWARE has a well-built service of over 100 trained Home based care givers, who have supported assisted, helped, cleaned, cooked, people living with HIV/AIDS in Kaabong, in the subcounties of Kathile, Kalapata, Loyoro, Kaabong Town council, Kaabong Rural, they have collected medication on behalf of the sick, and help them know how to take their medicines, we have an established Healthy living community centre established at AWARE, where we carry out counseling and guidance, parental talk, PMTC Therapy

AWARE has carried out programs to improve knowledge and access to HIV/AIDS and health care services in the community particularly among women through sensitizations, community dialogue, one on one discussions, open focused discussion, radio talk show, community workshop on prevention, care, support and management of HIV/AIDS and other health impacts such as TB, malaria, STIs and unplanned pregnancies among others.

AWARE continues to operate a maternity waiting house for care, mothers at risk and PMTCT Programs for mother who come from far distant place and need to be near the main hospital for safe deliveries and for mothers at risk, this is taking place at our women's center in Kaabong Township with 20 beds.

Over the years we have conducted sensitization on HIV/AIDS within the community specifically on VCT and PMTCT for expectant mothers which took place in Kamion, kaabong rural, kalapata and sidok subcounty with over 220 sensitization community dialogues taking place. We linked up the community to health care services on VCT and PMTCT with over 380 new positive living people registering for ARV Therapy at Kaabong main hospital.

We further carried out Referral for further management to identified health and HIV/AIDS services; such as PMTCT, ARTs, routine counseling among others

AWARE registered and trained 270 Village Heath team to operate in Kamion, Kaabong Rural and Katheli Subcounty for Follow up of those who need further care at household or community level using home based care givers services.

We further carried out Monthly planning, refresher with the home based care givers on their work. We have continued to do campaigns against HIV/AIDS by sensitizing people on HIV/AIDS through dram and we have distributed 10,000 pieces of condoms to the community of Kaabong district, this is seen to be one of the ways of combating the spread of the disease.

3.4 FOOD SECURITY

AWARE is currently implementing a one year food distribution and monitoring project in 2 sub counties of Lolelia and Loyoro under Extremely Vulnerable House Hold and Food for work component in partnership and support from UN WFP, we have supported over 5000 households under this contract which has greatly improved the health being of several women and children.

We are also currently implementing a human wild life mitigation project under UNDP and NEMA in Lolelia and Kapedo in Kaabong, to promote wildlife conservation as a community benefit and appreciate co-existence between communities in Kapedo, Lolelia and wildlife to create bio diversity and livelihood growth.



Fig 6: Food items received from WFP for distribution in Kaabong

We also foster awareness, sensitization and training towards community behavioral change on wildlife as a human benefit towards environmental conservation and natural resource management by management of human and wildlife conflict. This project involves chilly and Honey production in 4 communities of about 200 people as a form of human livelihood, under this program we are Training, Capacity building and Empowerment of communities in agriculture on bee farming, Chilly growing, crop

protection, better agricultural methods, Craft and art making for sustainable income growth, with learnt techniques of setting up a nursery bed.

Conservation of environment through protection of wildlife against poaching for generations to come. Increase in crop production and alternative water source for animal use created.

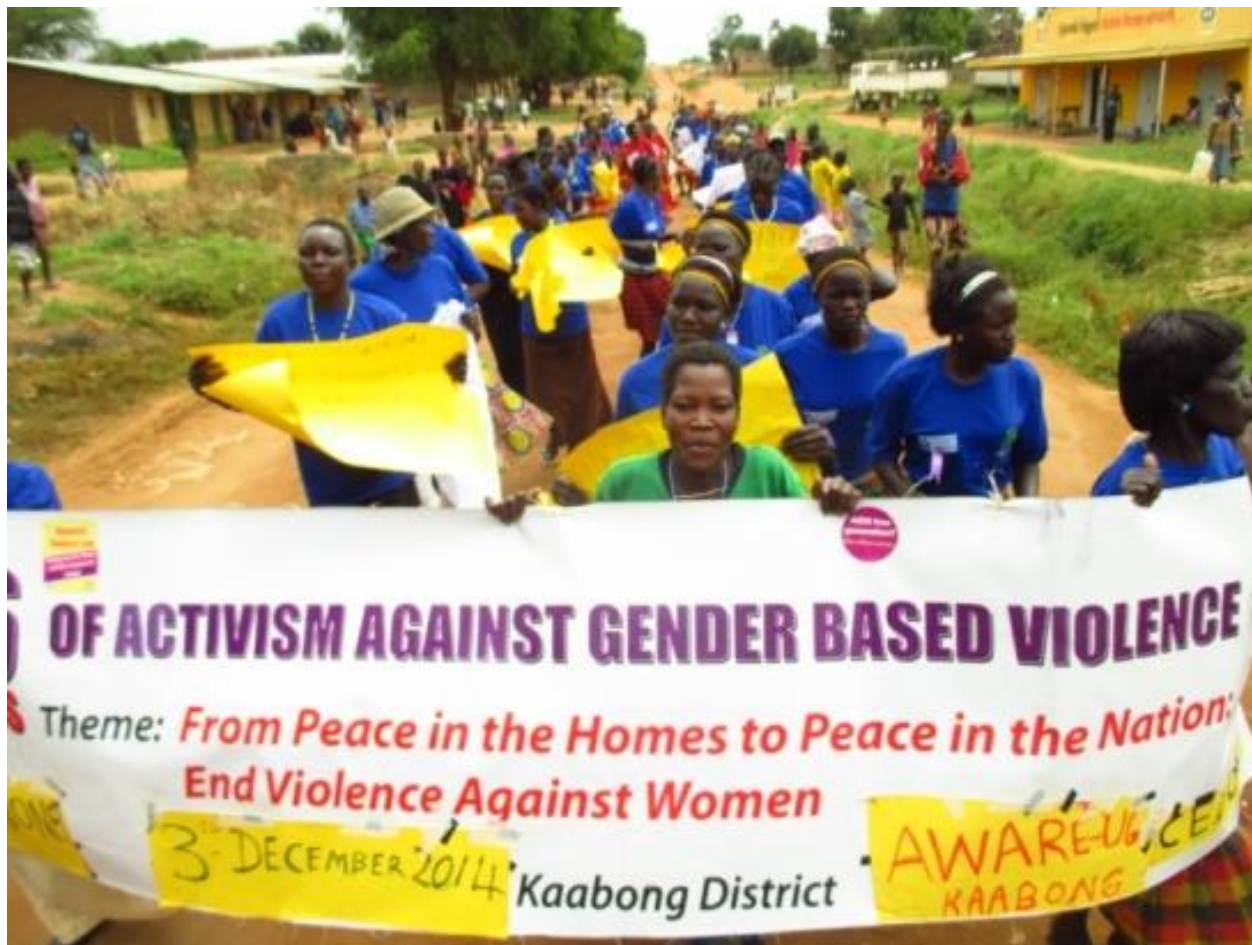


Fig 7: AWARE Members on the march on 16days of Activism on GBV

AWARE Uganda has carried out over 28 Trainings of 10 women group members on the use of modern farming methods; use of ox plough, crop spacing, making and use of compost to improve soil quality and crop yields, this took place at Kaabong rural, Sidok and Kalapata subcounty early last year, we are happy to report that skills were developed on various agricultural practice among the group members, kitchen garden were introduced to over 370 households. AWARE purchased 25 ploughs 25 ox chain, 550 hoes, pangas, axes, which assisted in these forms of agricultural practices.

which were successfully distributed to the 10 women groups in Loyoro, Kaabong rural, Kamion, Karenga and Kaabong urban, these equipment were used during the onset of the rainy seasons, we purchased improved seeds in form of 100kg of sorghum seeds, 150kg Groundnut seeds, 80kg maize and 150 kg of millet distributed to the women groups

by the end of the 2nd season we are happy to state that we successfully had a fairly good harvest of millet, sorghum, Groundnuts, maize among others.

We purchased a 10,000 liter water tank which is used at the women's centre as source of clean drinking water through water catchment storage, the facilities is at the moment providing water to expectant mothers at AWARE'S women centre as well as for other members who come to the centre for various activities.

We have Held over 20 functional adult literacy classes among the women groups at Kaabong rural sub county, Kamion, sidok, Kaabong urban, these trainings have shown signs so far with over 200 AWARE members in groups learning and have known to read, count and write hence cannot be cheated on their small business, this is continuous and by the end of this year we hope to have a greater number.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ORGANIZATION

- AWARE has built a well-established fenced women's centre with offices and other facilities in Kaabong town council
- Our ECD centre has been in position to recruit qualified teachers and this has brought a very big impact on the children's learning there because they are now able to read and write some words and if they continue like that by next year the children will be far much better.
- We have been able to intensify our fight against HIV/AIDS through sensitization by our drama team that is being facilitated by MSAP whom we sign an agreement with, we are also distributing condoms, counseling and home based care this has renewed hope of the sick.



Fig 8: AWARE UGANDA Maternity waiting house in Kaabong AWARE Centre

- Our SACCO acquired a loan from micro finance support centre and we know this would be one of our greatest achievements because this would do much to the community at Kaabong as we will be able to give much bigger loans to the interested small groups and individuals who would be willing to do business.
- During the year we were able to build the capacity of our care givers, this has greatly improved the performance of the children at our ECD centre and this is an achievement we have made on the education department



Fig 9: AWARE UG Members learning ox-ploughing skills.

- We are also in alliance with other NGO's in Karamoja region, the alliance is focusing on peace building in Karamoja and wants people in Karamoja to live without having a gun short that is known to some people to be a normal situation, we expect this alliance to bring to an end the conflict between the different communities in Karamoja such as the Jie and the Dodoth.
- We were able to carry on with the small distribution of scholastic materials to school going at both primary and secondary level and at the same time advise them to carry on with education through telling them about the values of education.

- Our orchard has been able to produce some fruits and we were able to generate some income from the sale of the fruits, the little we generated was very important for the running of the organization and also supplied our staffs with fruits to eat.
- The organization was also able to harvest over 2000kg of cereal that included maize, sorghum, and ground nuts and other crops such as potatoes and others, this was a big achievement for the organization that made it possible for us to carry on with other activities as we were able to sell and others were left for food to group members who participated in cultivating the garden.
- We were also able to send some women to Kampala for the workshop with the land owners association, this has really equipped the women with legal issues on hand and they are able to go and begin sensitizing women on the land rights by next year, we hope this will bring a great change in the lives of the rural women.

CHALLENGES FACING THE ORGANIZATION.

- Inadequate funding, this affects the administration of the organization and hinders the provision of services to targeted communities, and this is a great setback to efforts of the organization due to the inadequate funding, the programs/ activities cannot reach the clients as planned.
- Karamoja being a very patriarchal society further puts women on the extreme; usually they are subjected to the authority of their husbands without any question including domestic violence meted on them and marital rape among others.
- As a process to marriage, young girls are forcefully raped by young men as a custom to marriage/adulthood. With such a background, women have no resource rights such as access to land let alone control over their reproduction which is defined in the act of marriage with paying cows. Polygamous marriages further put them at increased risks of HIV/AIDS infection and other STIs as men can marry as many as they want. At the moment the infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate is high and alarming in Kaabong district with MMR 750/1000 and IMR 109/1000.
- Inability to attract well qualified staff for a long time which affects work and organizational memory.
- Impassable roads within the Kaabong communities since no clear roads were demarcated by the local authorities, with only foot path roads.
- Because of high level of illiteracy, it is nearly impossible to get local people who are qualified to take up some of the positions in the organization.

- Because of illegal guns and cattle rustling in the area, organizational work is hampered by high level of insecurity, some areas are nearly impassable and accessible because of insecurity and we have had cases where families have lost their stores grains to rustlers.
- Political interference affecting organizational decisions and focus for example, some politicians wants the programme to go to their areas even when it is not AWARE's priority area, want their relatives to be employed by AWARE regardless of qualification required for the position. Generally, they place a lot of demand on AWARE which is beyond the organizational capacity and ability.

ORGANIZATION MANAGEMENT AND STRUCTURE

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	:	MRS. GRACE LOUMO
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	:	MS TEDDY AYOLO
PROGRAM CO-ORD	:	MR.LOPOTE SAMSON
TEAM LEADER	:	MS. VIOLET NAKWANG
PROGRAM OFFICER	:	MS. LOPA ANGELLA
FINANCIAL COORD	:	MS. JANET ATAPI
PROGRAM MANAGER	:	MR. BENETON LOMONGIN
Project Officer	:	Mr. ODERO ALBERT

5 women and 3 men Form the management Team.

- We also involve volunteers during the running of our programs
- Staff capacity is 8 management staff.
- board management, 150 members and 50 volunteers,
- AWARE-UG is a women Led Organization and we have more women on Board in decision making.
- Decision making is made through the board who are the final decision makers which passes the decisions to the management team for implementation.

BOARD MEMBERS:

AJilong Margret (chairperson)	:	Degree in Nursing
Grace Loumo (Vice Chairperson)	:	Hon Degree in Nursing& midwifery.
Abuku Mark (General Secretary)	:	MA in Social Science
Sylvia Awor (Program monitor)	:	Hon. degree in Social Works and Science MUK
Rev. Nebbi Lopu (Treasurer)	:	Hon. Degree in Human Resource Management UCU
Christine Akong (member)	:	Hon. Degree in Agric and Food nutrition MUK
Agnes Namugit(member)	:	Diploma in development Studies

- **5 women and 2 men Board members.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

PRIMARY CONTACT PERSONS:

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