

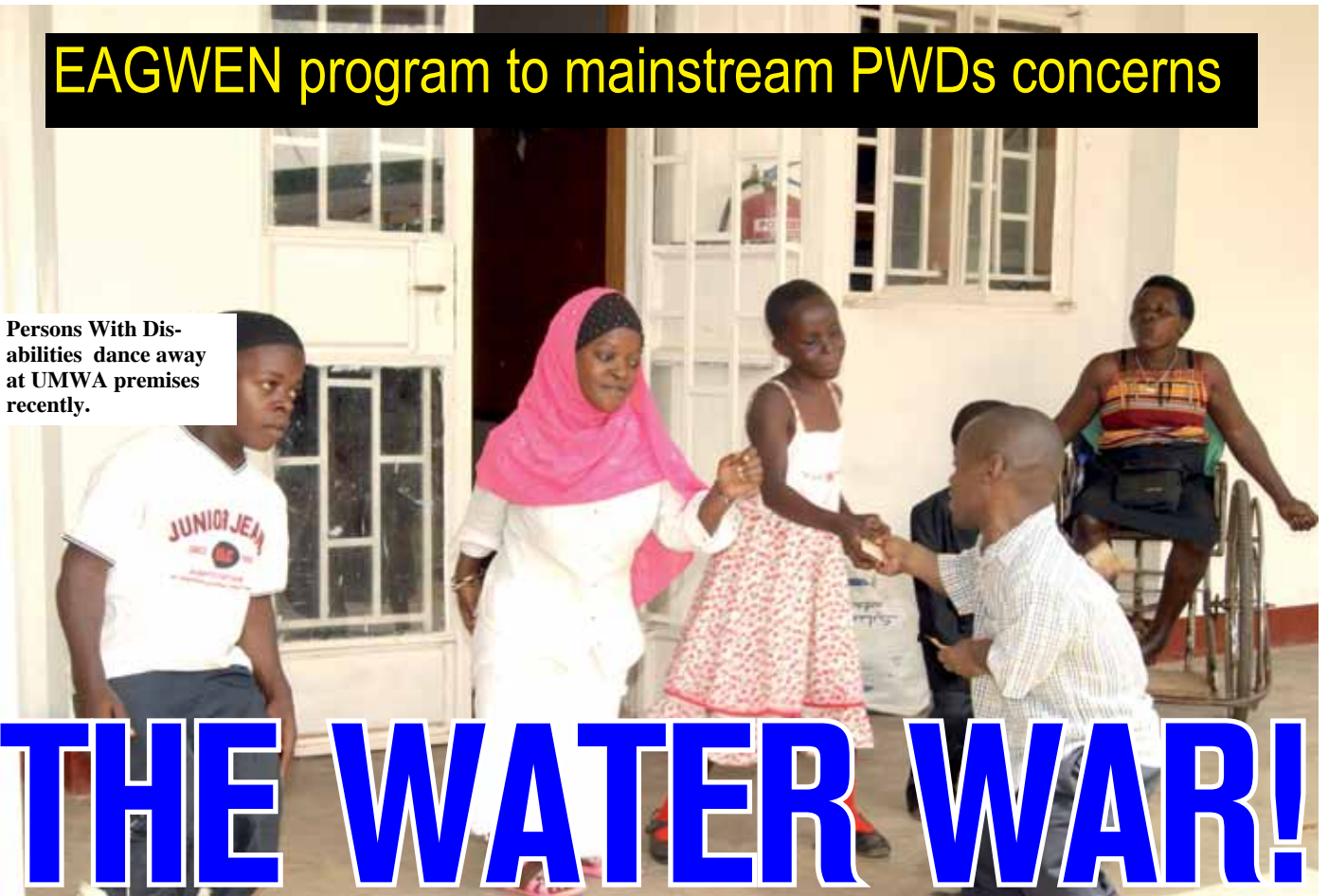
# GWEN NEWS

The Newsletter for Grassroots Women's Empowerment Network

December 2014

## EAGWEN program to mainstream PWDs concerns

Persons With Disabilities dance away at UMWA premises recently.



# THE WATER WAR!

## How youth education has been affected by the rising water scarcity

By GWEN Team

The relationship between water and education is not clearly defined, but the availability, and access to clean water greatly complements somebody's success.

Unfortunately, many people especially in the developing world, teenage girls in particular, have to wake up even before dawn to search for water, many

kilometres away! They get tired, and many miss school, the lucky ones, attend half the school!! Doing this many years, takes away school time, and the cycle continues! Poverty sets in! Because education is a major factor in breaking that cycle.

But how do young people cope with the family demands, and the scarcity of water?

**Cissy Nanfuka says:** "Water

scarcity contributes to poor personal hygiene. We need adequate water for bathing and to avoid bad smell. We need even more water during the menstruation period. And if I fail to get the water, chances are, I miss school, this affecting my academic performance. It is also true that male children are favoured when it comes to access to water. It is us the girls who are expected to fetch the water. My coping strategy in times of scarcity, is to store water in jerrycans, and use it sparingly. The school also stores water in the drums and tanks".

**Mary Alezuyo, a Cook at COWA!**  
"Cooking and cleaning requires a lot of water! We greatly get affected if there is a scarcity of water; because, then the work moves on slowly, and sometimes food is served very late. This affects

the students' program, because they do not only get food late, but they too have to participate in the collection of water, 500 metres away from the school compound. Last year, the students' programs were greatly affected following a breakage in the water system that took over 2 weeks to fix. Students had to collect water twice a day, to cope with the situation. Rainy seasons are better, but the situation is bad during sunny situations, because then, we have to depend on only one source of water tap".

**Harriet Namutebi, a student at COWA, but comes from Kiboga District:** "Majority population in Kiboga depend on rainy water which is harvested in home-made water tanks.

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## GWEN Opinion

# Build on achievements made

As we move to the year 2015, we take a moment to register and celebrate our achievements during this year.

The 2014 EAGWEN landmarks include but not limited to:-

- Designing the Network's 3-year Strategic Plan.
- Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among the participating EAGWEN partners.
- Increasing knowledge and skills in designing a Results Based Program; and enhanced cohesion among the three organizations.

Therefore as we enter 2015, we want to promise to build on the achievements so far made, and continue pooling synergies to even aim higher!

2015 is a year of politicking as it precedes the election year in Uganda! This is the time when women's social rights especially expression, and association are mostly abused. More suffer domestic violence yet others are chased out of their homes, and others die, at the hands of their spouses who cannot stand a divergent opinion on the choice of the candidate.

As EAGWEN partners, we shall protect these rights, highlight and report the abuses for action.

Happy 2015!



Many young people of school-going age spend more time at the well than at school.

# How climate change adversely affects youth education

By GWEN Team

However, this is not sustainable during the dry season, when several have to depend on streams which are unfortunately contaminated with animal droppings.

Depending on such water means contracting water borne diseases which calls for a high cost to treat oneself. The elderly are most affected by the scarcity of water as they have to depend on buying a 20-litre jerrycan at Shs 500=, which is already too high for their earnings. Young girls and women, are another group most affected by the scarcity of water, as they face rape or defilement on the way in search of water".

Winnie Anying, from Kitgum Quarters: "No water, no economic activity! The scarcity is most felt at the time of brewing local waragi "arege auma auma". We need a lot of water as a coolant in the production process. The intensity of work and the quantity of water needed, depends on the amount of crude beer available to brew waragi. On average, a woman can make 5 shifts of brewing processes, requiring at least 250 litres of water, a day. For such a woman, that means several trips in search of water, sometimes making 2 kilometres a trip!!

Water scarcity like fuel wood shortage are direct consequences of climate change. It is therefore important for all stakeholders to walk the talk of pro-



Many households now have tanks to harvest rainwater.

tecting the environment, and offer alternatives to the local population to avoid further depletion. Awareness programs are key! Schools and homesteads should devise water harvesting mechanisms to facilitate learning of children and the young people, without interruption.

# Household responses to fuel wood scarcity

By GWEN Team

Time check: 6 am! Saphinah Yahaya has already lit his stove to prepare snacks for sale because his usual customers, pick them by 7 am. He uses at least Uganda Shillings 150,000 (One hundred fifty thousand only) a month for the fire. And already feeling the heat. Saphinah is a former student of COWA-CVTS who chose self employment after school.

COWA-CVTS uses about Uganda Shillings 250,000 (Two hundred fifty thousand only) a month for fuel wood, but the amount would be much much more if it were not for energy saving stoves that are utilized, says Poni Beatrice, a cook at COWA.

In Uganda, like any other developing country, fuel wood is the primary source of household energy for light, to prepare and preserve food. The demand for biomass is also dictated by the population pressure which is not planned for... leading to forest depletion in many parts of Africa. Fuel demand is not confined to households only, but also to public consumption in restaurants, schools, businesses like tobacco cuning, brick laying, pottery, brewing, salt production, black smithing, fish smoking, among others. In the absence of committed government policy implementation, Uganda, may witness associated impacts of deforestation.

But how do ordinary people cope with the high cost of fuel wood / charcoal?

**Musoke Joy, Second Year Catering Student at COWA says:** "In my home district, Kasese, we use jack fruit and avocado tree branches, and selected cassava stems for cooking. We also deliberately select older coffee trees that produce less coffee seeds for fire-wood. We have become more careful now".

**Anena Brenda a tailoring student at COWA CVTS says:** "Soaking leguminous foods like beans and peas before cooking is one of the best ways of dealing with fuel wood scarcity. Traditional leguminous foods like "lapena" (pigeon peas), "gobe", "coroko", beans and cow peas require a lot of energy and time to cook. Eating them frequently means spending a lot of money on biomass fuel. When soaked they cook faster thus reducing on the amount of biomass thus minimizing costs incurred on fuel wood or charcoal and less pressure on trees. Fuel should be burnt only at the time of cooking. And when done, the stove should be put off immediately".

**Asuru Foska says:** "Use optimal amount of water for cooking which will boil faster, and cook the food faster. Putting a lot of water in the saucepan wastes a lot of fuel, and take a lot of time for cooking the dish. When cooking, cover the saucepan, to ensure all the hot vapour is trapped to heat the food, and it is more advisable to use the aluminum type, which once heated takes long to cool. You can also put another saucepan of water on top of the food you are cooking. This hot water may be used for other purposes such as preparing posho, tea or bathing.



**Many families have learn't how to save wood fuel by adopting energy-saving stoves.**

The greatest gain in fuel efficiency comes from the size and shape of the saucepan itself and its ability to transfer the heat – without obstruction. The flame under the cooking pot should make direct contact with the pot without the flame spilling over the edge. Because any excess flame that travels up the side of the pot is wasted fuel. Broad bottomed, shallow cooking pots tend to be the most energy efficient".

Driwaru Lillian advised against cooking leguminous foods with their covers as these are harder for the heat to penetrate. It is better to remove them first and add the local sodium bicarbonate (magadi) to quicken the cooking, thus saving on fuel.

But as we save on fuel, it is important to care about the nutrition and other associated impacts.

It has for example, been stated that more people including semi-urban folks are increasingly choosing on foods that require less fuel sometimes eating one meal a day, feeding on junk foods and sometimes taking unboiled water and even raw foods. This should be taken with precaution to avoid catching associated diseases.

All in all, as individuals cope with the increasing fuel prices, governments ought to take deliberate efforts to arrest the situation. This would include controlling the population growth and an aggressive nationwide awareness campaign on social and economic issues including environment protection and forms of fuel saving mechanisms. Resources into such a campaign and provision of alternative sources is a must.



MAFA's exhibition was well attended.



COWA value addition stall on indigenous foods.

## EAGWEN Partners Increase visibility, linkages and fundraise locally

By GWEN Team

As if EAGWEN partners were already looking into their 2015 – 2018 Program which aims at a strengthened Network, institutional growth, visibility and improved local resource mobilization, partner organizations in the last half of 2014 executed activities that will surely contribute to the program goal.

Partner organizations initiated, and participated in national Network activities, as well as exhibitions. On October 24th, EAGWEN partners participated in an agricultural show, in a suburb of Kampala. While the three partners point to benefits that accrued from this, perhaps, MAFA, may have benefitted much more due to her close proximity to agriculture.

The exhibition was under the theme: "Indigenous Foods and Family Farming: Feeding the World, Caring for the Earth". It was aimed at promoting the production and consumption of indigenous foodstuffs, as well as for marketing in order to get small holder farmers out of the poverty trap; in recognition of its importance in form of income generation; nutritional and medicinal value; resilience to weather changes such as droughts as well as to diseases and pests; the important cultural roles played by indigenous foodstuffs as well as their immense contribution to food security.

MAFA, members who constitute small-holder farms showcased their products in their various forms including plantains, seeds, produce, and value added products. They provided information on their uses, habitats, preparation methods and seasonalities to other exhibitors and the general public drawn from all over the country. By the end of the day, the membership sold off their produce at a relatively higher than the normal price given for the same produce.

**Angela Zawedde, Program Officer with MAFA says:** "We did not only sell ourselves as an organization, but everything that was exhibited by our farmers was sold off."

COWA-CVTS, too showcased processed packaged and branded products, drawing attention



EAGWEN stall at UMA grounds had a lot of visitors.

from several exhibitors and the general public.

On her part, UMWA, through her radio station, Mama FM, developed and published content on the exhibitors and the exhibits especially focusing on fellow Network members. This, contributing to their visibility, and perhaps the accrued benefits, especially linkages, thereafter.

But perhaps, COWA-CVTS mark was made in June during a fundraising exhibition at Ndere Cultural Centre. With support from AVSI Foundation and Mbabazi House of Style, COWA raised more than Uganda Shillings 50 million as they showcased clothes made by their students. Fashionable ware included blouses, shirts, trousers, pants, wrappers, jackets, wedding gowns, accessories, among others. Such proceeds, *Romana Francesca Bilak, COWA Principal* – will enable students whose sponsorship had stopped, to continue with their studies.

Romana continues: It was a learning experience for all because participants joined in food preparation to learn from / teach students some

new tricks. Moreover, it helped bring out potent and latent student abilities in fashion and design; tailoring and garment making and the associated cat-walking, as well as in catering. That they gained self confidence is not worth mentioning but in all, it was an exercise not in futility because it exposed not only theirs, but also the school's capabilities and potentialities. We became more visible and are sure to create more linkages and possibly start new projects.

UMWA, being a rights and media focused organization, participated in two other Fairs: Civil Society and the Annual women's Week. In both, UMWA sold her radio station as a civil society voice attracting several NGOs that pledged to partner with the station in the near future.

Other exhibitions that the EAGWEN partners participated in included the CBS-PEWOSA, and the Buganda Kingdom Tourism Fair. And as one participant said: "Such experience is not only great for the organizations, but also for our beneficiaries!"

# Why PWDs do not attend parties

BY GWEN TEAM

PERHAPS, you the reader, like most people may have never reflected on why there is usually a huge absence of Persons living with disabilities (PWDs) at public places / functions: weddings, religious services, recreational activities such as sports or musical / dance galas. Seminars too, to mention but a few.

Are PWDs not interested in such events? The Uganda Demographic Survey (2011) indicated that 16 out of 100 Ugandans are persons with disabilities. This translates to 5.5 million Ugandans. And yet again according to the recent international statistics, Ugandans are the 'happiest' people in the world, meaning they love to enjoy life: dancing, drinking, interacting, etc. Never mind if they are not that rich to afford such a life.

**Ms. Josephine Namirimu, Administrative Assistant of Cheshire Services** provided a simple and an obvious answer for all those who cared to know. Ms. Namirimu, has both of her legs deformed and moves with the support of a wheel chair. She said: "The first thing I think of, after receiving any invitation is: "Does that place where I'm being invited to have easy access? Will I be able to move on my wheel chair, to that office / that meeting room? Does that place have toilets that are user-friendly to people like us who have disability issues? The truth is that most of such places are not disability-friendly. The best I can do, if I really have to attend that wedding for example, is to go early, take my time to get there, ensure that the groom or the bride has seen me, and I leave early before nature calls – because I know the places of convenience are not disability-friendly".

**Mr. Martin Senoga, Capacity Building Manager with NUDIPU concurs:**

At a three-day training for EAGWEN partners, on Understanding and Disability Mainstreaming, Senoga says: "Disability may look obvious but the problem is that society, including the duty bearers who would bring about the needed changes, have not yet committed. Persons with disability continue to face discrimination, exclusion and they daily, have to live with derogatory language and labels.



**Josephine Namubiru always minds the place where she is invited.**



**Grace Lekuru a woman with disability demonstrates how she carries water from a well.**

He continues: In 2006, Uganda enacted the Disability Act providing for articles and clauses that would ensure that the rights of PWDs are respected. Take the article that provides for all public places to provide easy access to PWDs. To date, this article has not been observed by over 99 out of 100 such places. Hotels, schools, universities, media organizations, hospitals, recreational places, among others, are all culprits. And government does not seem to be in a hurry to enforce the Act subjecting PWDs to all forms of discrimination and exclusion".

The EAGWEN partners at the training had a chance to among others: define disability, discrimination, exclusion, and brainstorm how society

treats PWDs. This was meant for them to first appreciate the concepts. Later, they were provided with an opportunity to assess their organizations on how they treat PWDs. While the three noted that PWDs are discriminated, and do not enjoy their rights, and hugely excluded from opportunities, only one of them had taken deliberate efforts to mainstream disability in her programs. But even then, that organization was only doing it on trial and error basis.

By the end of the training, the three organiza-

tions pledged to take conscious efforts to actively join, and support the ethos of the disability rights movement. While all agreed that disability mainstreaming is costly, and not a one-time event, they concurred that it starts with commitment, and change of the organizational culture, thus incorporating the values and principles including a mission that are committed to sensitivity and inclusiveness of PWDs.

The three-day training was conducted by NUDIPU and sponsored by FOKUS. The EAGWEN partners included: Maganjo Farmers Association (MAFA), Companionship of Works Association – Centenary Vocational Training School (COWA-CVTS) and Uganda Media Women's Association (UMWA). The three are partners with the Norwegian Women Family Association, NWF.



**Lack of ramps hinders access to buildings for the disabled.**

# COWA partners with skilling organizations



**Staff development session in progress.**



**Part of the COWA team which participated in a staff development seminar.**

By GWEN Team

Every year thousands of Ugandan youth qualify in different professions with ordinary or advanced certificates, diplomas or degrees but remain jobless! The private and public sectors can't absorb all of them! As a result many of the youth resort to self employment, with insufficient management skills. The result: such businesses collapse!

It is for that reason, that this year, COWA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to especially provide practical marketing and other forms of business knowledge to their students.

The MoUs were signed with two organizations that empower the youth with entrepreneurship skills. Digital Opportunity and Trust Uganda (DOT) is one such organization. It is an innovator in enabling students and community members to access and apply Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to create education, economic and entrepreneurial opportunities. The other is Mentor, Coach and Empower Uganda (MCE). This trains the students in

leadership, entrepreneurship and apprenticeship. The training required that the student had to contribute some money, and start a business and sell for profit.

This entrepreneurship training has helped COWA trainees, alumni and youth from the surrounding areas including Nsambya, Makindye, Kansanga, Ggaba, Namuwongo, Kibuli, Katwe, Kibuye and Namasuba discover their business potentials. So far at least a total of 250 participants have been trained and awarded certificates in the reach up entrepreneurship training. The participants include COWA second year students, COWA alumni and the youth in the surrounding communities.

**Faulryera Rose, a Catering Student says:** "The package was very interesting, and satisfying. It was more than we expected. I was majorly touched by the 5Ps in marketing of a business: Price, Promotion, Place, Produce, and People. I also came to learn and appreciate the use of computer in creating documents, designing business

cards, brochures, presentation and electronics spreadsheets for business records; internet for communication, among others, not to mention research. The training has given me more confidence, and we can now lead independent lives. I'll use the acquired knowledge and skills to start my own business".

**Nakubulwa Deziranta, a Tailoring student shares her experience:** "The training gave me a deeper understanding of entrepreneurship and business management. In the practical training we were grouped into business groups and assigned tasks of starting up a business. Each group member had to contribute money to buy items for sale. This made us become more practical and creative as different groups dealt in selling different products including sweets, roasted groundnuts, juice and other snacks. Evaluations were later made and it is here that we realized our weaknesses. Losses are made due to poor planning and budgeting. We were able to confirm later that a lot of planning, budgeting, commodity costing and consideration of business costs and slates are key in a business.

The most interesting aspect in this package was the business games played. They depicted the production of commodities and business market. They made us realize how to cost materials and the actual price to sell in order to realize profits. I have also realized that before starting any business you need to do research, do proper planning and have a mentor. Most of us had earlier thought that once you have capital, you are ready to go!"

**Aisha Namuli, Program Officer MCE-Uganda:** "Students are usually given theory without mentorship or follow up programs. And yet this is the core time for them to develop business skills. MCE therefore attaches value to mentoring, follow up of trainees in the field, and attach them to business firms dealing in similar businesses to gain more knowledge and skills for managing their businesses for growth. The training we provided to the COWA students shows that the students have gained self confidence and adequate skills to start up their own businesses. This is benchmarked against the beginning of the course when literally none of them would express themselves".

The funds from the tripartite collaboration are very evident as evidenced from the trainees when they implemented their entrepreneurial skills during their second term holidays. Ochieng Raymond and Ssemuddu Anthoby, catering students were engaged in chapati and rolled eggs businesses from which they practically learnt a lot of business and customer management. Similarly Boaz got engaged in salon and photography businesses which he is still doing up to now. From the group business ideas some of the members tried running their own businesses from home. Musoki Joy started a business of making and selling pan cakes. From the profits Joy bought her practical service materials for her end of course exams and used some of the profit for meeting her other personal needs. At the certificate awarding ceremony, Joy said she does not regret dealing in simple business as she is able to meet her personal needs.

**COWA offers life skills to all their students.**



# UMWA staff and volunteers learn audience survey techniques



Three day training of UMWA staff in progress.



Rebecca & Annukka from Finland share a moment with Mama FM's Sports reporter, Betty.

By GWEN Team

As part of the staff development program, UMWA organized a three-day training for its staff and volunteers in radio audience survey, attracting 25 participants. And as a result, interest for all staff particularly on Mama FM, to improve performance, and listening to the needs of the listeners has increased.

The training need was identified late 2013 when according to the Media Monitoring Company, Synovate, reported reduced listenership of Mama FM. The station was founded late 1990s and with support from NORAD and FOKUS through the Norwegian Council for Africa (NCA), it was officially launched August 24th, 2001. Since then, the station has been utilized by human rights groups in particular women NGOs to advance and articulate their cause. However due to limited funding, and therefore dependence largely on volunteer staff

who after being trained, later look for greener pastures, the station, has since faced various forms of uncertainty.

Catherine Apalat, Programs Director of Mama FM says: "It is difficult to rely on a force of volunteer staff, who use the station as a stepping stone to greener pastures or other forms of employment. Stability at the station can only be assured if we are able to attract and retain at least 12 highly skilled personnel. And without funding, we are unable to make the stride we want. That uncertainty has also contributed to the slackening in our programming and quality. To revive the station, we thought it best to start with establishing how we are rated by the audience. So we sought to ask questions like these to improve: Who listen to us, and why. What else do they want to listen to? Does a women focused radio station have a place in the highly competitive radio environment?"

Twenty five people including project staff, presenters and producers were therefore trained in simple but highly revealing techniques to undertake small-scale research, around the station mission, the programming and our performance".

Three major studies were done including: (i) A Group Survey to test program and presenters' performance. (ii) Cultivating Audience Feedback by requesting audiences whether through phone or physical visits, whether they listen to Mama FM, or not, and why, if they so listen. They were also requested to propose topics of discussion, or their information needs.

Perhaps the major study that actually revealed a lot was the Individual Survey. It was done in the 5 divisions of Kampala, mainly targeting the markets, hospitals, tax parks, religious gatherings, workplaces and residences. Out of the 1,000 persons (60% women, 40% men), 849 respondents returned the questionnaire. Some of the responses reveal that at least 10% of those targeted listened to Mama FM. A major and pleasant surprise was that men, too, listen to women's issues! Responses on where to improve were given, and largely the information needs of the listeners were also established.

As expected, the results of the study have informed the new Mama FM that we want. But all this will be possible with the continued support of the leadership, management, staff, and the audience at large. But above all..... the availability of resources to implement the new strategy. But for now, the staff and volunteers, have started upping their game, thanks to the support from FOKUS through the Norwegian Women and Family Association (NWF) which appreciated the need for staff development in an organization.



Participants in a community dialogue at UMWA.



Games like Scrabble and Ludo were part of the fun day.

Uganda Media Women's Association has for the past 31 years been involved in advocating for the wellbeing of the marginalized and vulnerable groups in Ugandan especially women, children and Persons Living with Disabilities (PWDs).

Awareness programs on rights through outreaches, and Mama FM radio shows have been organized. Training sessions for such groups on rights claims and actualization have also been part of UMWA's work, in addition to sessions with duty bearers to touch base with those whose rights have been violated. Because of UMWA's previous interaction with Persons With Disabilities (PWDs), the organization went ahead to deconstruct its premises to allow easier accessibility to PWDs. Thus a ramp, and a disability-friendly toilet, were constructed in 2014 at the premises.

But December 13th, 2014, was different. No training – but fun! Fun and fun! Dancing and singing for and by Persons With Disabilities. A function was held at the UMWA premises attracting over 200 people. Standard Chartered Bank provided the tents, and worked with Sight Savers to examine people's eyes for prescription or quick medication. Span Medical Centre provided HIV testing and counseling.

Under the theme: *Day Out For Friends, Relatives and colleagues with Disabilities*, the function attracted over 25 Persons With Disability Organiza-

## UMWA organizes fun day for persons with disabilities (PWDs)

tions, Local Government officials, Social and Health workers including Mulago Hospital, and the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU). Others included: Little People of Uganda, Uganda Albino Association, National Council for Disabilities, Brain Injury Support Organization, National Association for Women with Disabilities, among others.

The Fun day which climaxed with a huge lunch to all, provided by UMWA, also featured some experience sharing by PWDs, who also demanded that their rights be respected. The day also contributed to enhancement of inter-organizational linkages and network. Not to mention increasing visibility of people with disabilities, because radio and television stations plus the print media were well represented, and published what they saw and heard on their media!

### Experience sharing:

**Jane Nantume says:** "Several occasions people of our kind are discriminated against in the public transport. Drivers don't want to give us space in the vehicles as if we cannot afford to pay!



Martin Senoga, Capacity Building Manager, NUDIPU, joined in the fun day.



# Fun day for persons with disabilities

From Page 8

They treat us as lesser human beings”.

Godfrey Bagada of Little People in Uganda says: “I am happy that some persons with disabilities, can exploit their talents for a living. But a lot should be done for the full enjoyment of our rights. Derogatory terms against PWDs should stop. We are very short and our size is not as normal as that of other ‘normal’ growing people, but that doesn’t mean we should be discriminated against, disrespected or ostracized. Some people have gone to the extent of saying we are a curse to our families and labeling us Congolese yet we are Ugandans. It is because of this that we decided to form Little Persons of Uganda to advocate for our rights”.

Joyce Kusigire said: “Many organizations, including those that purportedly work towards bettering our well being pay lip service to our course. For example, a few have endeavored to make their premises accessible to us. Therefore we thank UMWA to walk the talk not only for the Day Out but also for putting in place PWD user friendly facilities, at her premises. Mama FM is our station!”

A student who was denied entry into the University due to a disability decried the discrimination, and called upon powers that be to correct the situation.

Martin Senoga, Programs Manager, Capacity Building at NUDIPIU – explained the role of his organization, saying it is an advocacy organization, and usually deals with policies and laws. Appreciating UMWA for practicing what it preaches, he called upon participants to be very vigilant against those who discriminate them. He said, “Take note of the number plates of those vehicles that refuse to transport you, those organizations that deny you those opportunities because of your physical set up. It is criminal. Bring those cases to NUDIPIU so we can pursue them. That is part of our mandate”.

The Staff and volunteers at UMWA / Mama FM, competed in a dancing session with PWDs. The Fun day was requested by a group of PWDs, who had earlier participated in a project implemented by UMWA. They noted that PWDs are always neglected, and never have fun like the able bodied.

The day long event culminated into calls by participants to all stakeholders to respect the rights of all people, especially PWDs, and government in particular to make and enforce appropriate laws.

The day can be summarized as one participant noted: “All people – be they able or disabled, women or men – are the same, and given the same freedom and the same opportunities, they can prosper to the limit only of their own abilities, and not inabilities”.



Deus Turyatamba, Assistant Public Relations Officer, Standard Chartered Bank, addresses participants at UMWA PWDs Fun day. Left is Mama FM's Leila Mutebi.



Children with albinism also participated in the Fun day.

# Discuss issues, not personalities

## Norwegian Mission In Uganda Cautions CSOs

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with financial support from Norway have been urged to discuss issues rather than personalities, especially in the run up to the 2016 General Elections.

His Excellency Thorbjørn Gaustadsaether, the Ambassador of Norway to Uganda, gave the counsel at the annual platform seminar for CSOs receiving financial support from Norway through the Embassy or NORAD. He said Norway is committed to the growth of civil society in Uganda but cautioned that without serious commitment from local partners, such efforts will be betrayed.

He said, local partners, know best the local problems and how best they can be addressed, therefore Norway can only come in to support such initiatives, regretting the media's apparent obsession of personalities instead of focusing on issues. Reacting to concerns from participants, the Ambassador noted the importance of community media in the transformation of the lives of the local communities and promised to ensure that support is provided to this thematic cause.

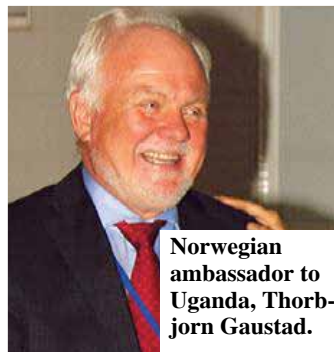
The annual event now in its fourth year, was initiated by NORAD to facilitate direct contact between the local partners and itself. A topical issue is chosen for participants to brainstorm and share on. The 2014 platform was organized under the theme "Financial Sustainability Challenge: What are the Options for CSOs in Uganda?"

The Deputy Head of Mission in Uganda, Rønneberg Annlaug who made the opening remarks. She expressed satisfaction of the choice of the theme, saying it was not only timely, but happy that the CSOs were determined to address such a challenge.

She however noted that while reflecting on the topic, it was important that CSOs ask themselves questions like how committed are their boards, what about the management? Are these two actively engaged in the organization's fundraising efforts, and do they feel that they should be



Some of the EAGWEN partners at the June planning/ review meeting, held at Namirembe Guest House.



Norwegian ambassador to Uganda, Thorbjørn Gaustad.

financially accountable in their organizations?

She also reminded participants to ensure that results of their projects, should be captured well, communicated to the different stakeholders, as this is the only way to account for the financial or technical support, so provided. She therefore urged participants to build monitoring and evaluation mechanism within their organization, adding that, developing financial reserves should be considered to avoid associated challenges.

Dr. Maria Nassali, the Keynote Speaker, also working with the International Governance Alliance urged participating organizations, to diversify their sources of funding, pointing how challenging it can be to depend on one financial stream.

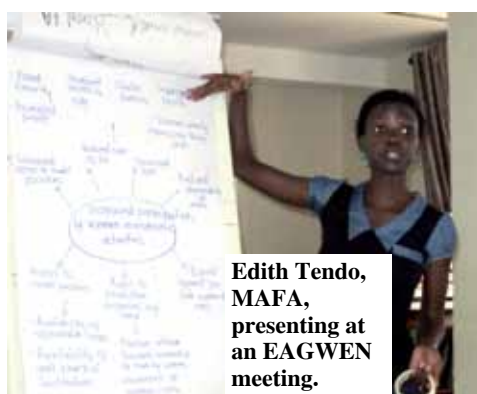
She also emphasized the importance of CSOs to have strong and transparent governance and

leadership procedures and systems, saying this is one of those factors that can not only attract funding but can also sustain it. Important too, she said was the importance of crafting a compelling case statement for the organization, which should be believed in, and also well communicated by the membership, staff and the leadership.

She cautioned against the beggar-donor relationship, saying this no longer works. She said, "donors are tired of the begging syndrome, but are now interested in partnerships. So what is important for CSOs to appreciate, is what is the commonality between us the partners, and the donor. It is this social value that becomes a meeting point, and how well it is articulated".

The CSOs platform annual seminar was attended by about 50 participants, from over 25 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Uganda, including Maganjo Farmers Association (MAFA), Companionship of Works Association – Centenary Vocational Training School (COWA-CVTS), and Uganda Media Women's Association (UMWA), whose Norwegian Partner is the Norwegian Women and Family Association (NWF).

UMWA was elected the Chair of the Organizing Committee comprising five other organizations. The activity was held at Hotel Africana. And financially supported by the Norwegian Embassy in Uganda.



Edith Tendo, MAFA, presenting at an EAGWEN meeting.



# MAFA trains members how to make energy saving stoves

As part of energy saving efforts at the grassroots levels, in MAFA, local women were trained in briquette and energy saving stoves.

The function took place on November 25th in Katikamu – where Abu Mubiru, the MAFA Executive Director warned that unless the majority population does not change their lifestyles, and adopt energy saving methods, Uganda is doomed to extinction.

The workshop facilitator, Richard Kakooza, Voluntary Action for Development (VAD) said adapting to appropriate technology that uses little firewood contributes to environmental protection and avoiding the otherwise negative impacts associated with climate change.

The participants were exposed to the different steps in briquettes making, starting from understanding what briquetting means, to the advantages of using such a technology.

Part of the recommendations after the training included but not limited to briquetting being incorporated into the MAFA training for the targeted farmers. One participant said: "Briquetting does not only save the environment, but once an expert in developing them, you can easily earn an income from them!"



Energy saving stoves from MAFA.



MAMA FM stall at the CSOs exhibition was busy.



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