

Fact sheet on Women's Participation in Leadership: Case of Lyantonde and Masindi Districts



FORUM FOR WOMEN IN DEMOCRACY

Background

Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) is implementing the [JA1] "Advancing Women's Engagement: Strengthening Opportunities to Mobilize for Equality" (AWESOME) programme in Uganda.

The programme seeks to prevent and eliminate sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women and girls and strengthen women's leadership and participation in decision-making.

As part of the programme implementation, FOWODE commissioned a study to undertake a gender budget tracking study focusing on the allocations to initiatives towards participation of women in leadership. This fact sheet presents the main findings, presenting results of allocation at National level and Districts (LG) of Masindi and Lyantonde.

Policy and legal framework for allocation to women in leadership.

Article 4 and 7 of the 1979 Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) provides for the adoption of [JA1] temporary special measures to bring about substantive equality and elimination of discrimination against women and girls in political and public life. In Uganda, the 1995 constitution of Uganda, Local Government Act CAP 243, Uganda Gender Policy 2007, underpin affirmative action with a requirement for representation of women at all levels of leadership.



At National level the representation of women in parliament reduced from 40% in the 10th parliament to 33.8% in the 11th parliament[1]. At district level, less than 2% of the female councillors were directly elected while at the Sub-County/Town Council 8% female councillors were directly elected.

At schools and health centres, the guidelines provide for a minimum of 30% representation of the women on the management committees. This criterion was met by the schools and health centres visited in Masindi and Lyantonde.

Composition of the district Women Councils: all the sub-county chairperson and 4 ex-officio members. The sub-county executive councils are composed of chairpersons of the parish executive councils with three ex-officios while the parish women council executive composed of all village council chairpersons

At the LG level, in FY 2020/21, UGX 2,150,886,898 was allocated to the operations of the women council in the districts which is about a quarter of the whole social development sector budget. The drawback was that only UGX 106,753,442 (5%) of this budget was allocated to allowances, the biggest portion of the money was allocated to travels and donations. Implying that councils are not facilitated to sit and discuss issues affecting women

If UGX 106,753,442 is divided for 135 districts in Uganda, each district averagely is allocated UGX 790,766 for NWC meetings. This translates into UGX 197,691 per quarter

Similarly, UGX 2,129,173,893 was allocated to the youth councils in the districts (average allocations to all the districts in the country). Of this UGX 151,777,816 (7%) was allocated to allowance which translates to about UGX 281,070 quarterly.

Allocations to women in leadership: Lyantonde and Masindi LGs.

In Lyantonde district UGX 1,720,000 was allocated to women councils in FY 2020/21, of this UGX 710,000 was allocated to seating allowances which translates into UGX 177,500 per seating. This is inadequate based on the breadth of the composition of the women councils. In Masindi district, the allocations to the women councils in FY 2020/21 was UGX 22,800,945. Most of this money (UGX 19,801,521) was allocated to welfare and entertainment, none was allocated for allowances. Implying that the women's council in Masindi did not meet during this FY.

Youth Councils in Lyantonde district were allocated UGX 1,720,000 in FY 2020/21 of this UGX 1,520,000 that was allocated to seating allowances which translates into UGX 380,000 per seating. On the other hand, Masindi District youth council was allocated UGX 8,082,441 and most of it 3/3 was allocated to travel while the rest was on welfare and entertainment and none under seating allowances

The district youth council consists of; youth chairpersons of every Sub-County/ Town Council, secretary for women affairs at Sub-County/ Town Council, secretary responsible for finance, representatives of NGOs involved in youth activities, youth with disability, officer in charge of youth affairs, two students, two youth councillors and the executive secretary of the council.

The Sub-County/ Town Council youth executive committee consists of; all members of the parish youth committees in the Sub-County/ Town Council, 2 students, one youth with a disability, 2 youth councillors at the Sub-County/ Town Council, the Sub- County chief/Town clerk, and the executive secretary.

- In summary, there has been improvement in women's representation both in National Parliament (34%) and in the districts. However, most of the women are elected on affirmative action (In the districts only 2% of the women councillors were directly elected)
- There are mainly two types of funding dedicated to women's representation and leadership, these are support to National Women Council and support to the youth councils. On a concerning note, a very small portion of this money is allocated for the sitting allowances implying that these councils do not convene as much as they ought to hence do not sufficiently discuss matters affecting women..

RECOMMENDATIONS

- FOWODE should support MGLSD to lobby for more funds for operations of the National Women Councils and the Youth Councils and to ensure that MGLSD provides guidelines to the districts on how to correctly budget for these funds ensuring that sufficient funds are allocated on allowances for meetings.
- FOWODE should sensitize the community member, especially the women on the benefits of participation in leadership to ensure that there are more women leaders in the councils. To ensure that these women members on the councils become very productive to their constituencies, they need to be trained on their roles and responsibilities and on the council procedures in this way they will be
- able to appreciate and fulfil their mandatory functions.
- FOWODE should support economic empowerment of women by linking them to government programmes and providing them with entrepreneurship training. Economically empowered women can easily present themselves for elections and sustain the campaigns and they can easily fight and uphold their rights.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY;

**FORUM FOR WOMEN IN DEMOCRACY
P.O BOX 7176 Kampala, Uganda
Plot 15, Vubya Close, Ntinda - Nakawa Road**