



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOLEMN DECLARATION
ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA IN 2017
(SDGEA)**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADF	Allied Democratic Forces
ART	Antiretroviral therapy
AU	African Union
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Council
BTVET	Business Technical and Vocational Education and Training
CAR	Central African Republic
CCTs	Coordinating Centre Tutors
CEDAW Women	Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEWIGO	Centre for Women in Governance
CPTCs	Core Primary Teacher Colleges
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
e- MTCT	elimination of Mother to Child Transmission
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EIC	Equity in the Classroom
EOC	Equal Opportunities Commission
FGM	Female Genital a Mutilation
FY	Financial Year
GBB	Gender Bench Book
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GER	Gross Enrolment Ratio
LRA	Lords Resistance Army
HCT	HIV counseling and testing
ICWEA	International Community of women living with HIV in Eastern Africa
IRCU	Inter Religious Council of Uganda
JLOS	Justice Law and Order Sector
JSI	Judicial Studies Institute
LC	Local Council
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army

MARPS	Most at Risk Populations
MDAs	Ministries Departments and Agencies
MFPED	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
mobile VRS	Mobile Vital Records Systems
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOJCA	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
NAP	National Action Plan
NDP11	National Development Plan II
NGBVD	National GBV Database
NSP	National Strategic Plan
OPM	Office of Prime Minister
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PMTCT	Prevention of mother-to-child transmission
RTR	Tracking and Response
SBCC	Social Behavioral Change and Communication
SDGEA	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDS	Social Development Sector
SESMAT	Secondary Science and Mathematics Teachers
SFGs	School Facilitation Grants
UAC	Uganda Aids Commission
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UPDF	Uganda People's Defense Forces
UPE	Universal Primary Education
UPF	Uganda Police Force
UPHIA	Uganda Population HIV Impact Assessment
USE	Universal Secondary Education
UPHIA	Uganda Population HIV Impact Assessment
VAC	Violence Against Children

INTRODUCTION

1. This is a synthesis report of implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) by Government of Uganda. This report focuses on the period **January to December 2017**. The report is in accordance with the reporting template provided by the African Union. The report is structured as follows:
 - A. Overview of the State implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
 - B. Progress, achievements, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of each Article in the SDGEA
 - C. Conclusion

A. OVERVIEW OF THE STATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOLEMN DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA

2. Government of the Republic of Uganda signed the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) in 2004 and has since been submitting periodic reports on progress in implementation under each commitment area. During this period, there were opportunities that facilitated implementation of the Declaration.
 - The country was already implementing its second National Development Plan II (NDPII) 2015/2016- 2019/2020, which is the overriding national planning framework for the Country. The NDP II is implemented under Vision 2040 and its focus is on strengthening Uganda's sustainability for wealth creation, employment and inclusive growth.
 - The NDP II is aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and focuses on five priority areas of investment namely: Agriculture; Tourism; Minerals Oil and Gas; Infrastructure Development and Human Capital Development. Gender equality and Women empowerment is core for attainment of the NDP11 goals and the National Machinery operationalizes the NDP II through its Social Development Sector Plan (2015/16- 2019/20) by focusing on the following thematic areas namely: promotion of Rights, Gender equality and women's empowerment in the development process, labour and productivity, social protection and community development.
 - In order to domesticate the SDG indicators, Government of Uganda formulated the National Priority gender equality indicators to assist in tracking the progress of the attainment of SDG 5 and other SDG targets. This framework guides the production of quality data needed for tracking Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in the Country. The data from this instrument eases reporting to various international and regional commitments including the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.
 - Enforcement of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) 2015, continued. The Equal Opportunities Commission continued to assess the Budget Framework Papers and Ministerial Policy Statements for Gender and Equity compliance in accordance with the Law.

- The Uganda Gender Policy of 2007 underwent review. The review showed tremendous progress towards achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment with remarkable progress made in eleven out of twelve indicators as follows:
 - Proportion of the population below the poverty line
 - Proportion of women indecision making (all levels)
 - Proportion of population accessing justice
 - Percentage of the population accessing public services
 - Maternal Mortality Ratio, although this was slow
 - Proportion of girls completing formal education
 - Incidence of gender based violence
 - Proportion of population with registered land
 - Proportion of the population accessing and utilizing credit schemes
 - Proportion of business registered
 - Adult literacy rate (total)

It was only the twelfth indicator "proportion of girls in leadership positions whose achievement was not quantified".

B. PROGRESS, ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EACH ARTICLE IN THE SDGEA

3. The following sections provide information on the progress and achievements on implementation of the Declaration. It also highlights the opportunities that existed during the reporting period. In line with the Guidelines, it focuses on administrative, institutional and legislation mechanisms put in place with special attention to the best practices and innovative programmes and strategies employed to accelerate the implementation of each Article of the SDGEA.

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and other Related Infectious Diseases

1.1 Progress, achievements and opportunities

4. Uganda is a signatory to the Global reporting obligations and requirements on the progress of the National HIV and AIDS response. The National reporting is guided by the National Strategic Plan (NSP) (2015/16- 2019/20), The National Priority Action Plan (2015/16- 2017/18), The Monitoring and & Evaluation framework and other National key commitments. The Country developed the National Action Plan on Women, Gender Equality and HIV/AIDS 2016/17-2020/21. It is aligned to the Global Strategy on fast track to end AIDS by 2030 and the NSP for HIV and AIDS activities in Uganda 2016-2020. The overall goal of the Action Plan for women, girls and HIV is to promote gender responsiveness in the national HIV and AIDS response.

Progress in HIV Response

5. Uganda has made significant progress in the national HIV response. The supreme frameworks of the country also provide for equal rights, opportunities, and access to services for men and women, boys and girls. The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) provides for equal opportunities and rights for men and women, boys and girls. The Uganda Population HIV Impact Assessment (UPHIA) conducted from August 2016 to March 2017 demonstrated that HIV prevalence declined across socio-demographic sub groups and across the country. Among women and men, HIV prevalence declined from 8.3% and 6.1% in 2011 to 7.5% and 4.3% in 2016/2017 respectively. In urban areas, it declined from 8.7% to 7.1 % while in rural areas it fell from 7.0% to 5.5%. The study brought out that the prevalence of the viral load suppression among all HIV positive adults aged between 15 – 64 in the country was on average 59.6% and 62.9% among females compared to 53.6% among men. This indicated that women are more likely to adhere to ART.
6. HIV-related mortality is declining due to increased enrollment of HIV positive people on antiretroviral therapy (ART). The Recent data from the Uganda Population-based HIV Impact Assessment study (UPHIA) show that HIV prevalence rate among the population aged 15-64 is 6.2%; 7.6% among females and 4.7% among males (MOH and ICAP, 2017). It is estimated that 1.4 million people are infected with HIV (UNAIDS, 2017) Uganda has also made tremendous achievements in countering the further spread of HIV and mitigating its consequences. Statistics showed that new HIV infections have reduced from 135,000 in 2010 to approximately 52,000 by 2016 (UNAIDS, 2017) - (40% reduction among men and 60% among women). Among children, new HIV infections dropped from 26,000 in 2010 to 4,000 by the end of 2016, largely as a result of the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission (eMTCTC) programme. Out of the 1.4 million people estimated to be living with HIV, 78% had been linked to care by June 2017. This has resulted into an increased number of people on ART from 898,197 in June 2016 to 1,028,909 in June 2017 (UAC, 2017). This can be attributed to the 'Test and Treat' policy adopted countrywide.
7. Annual AIDS-related deaths have reduced from about 100,000 in 2004 to 28,000 in 2015 (UAC, 2017b). Viral load suppression is about 60% (MOH and ICAP, 2017), which indicates some substantial success in care and treatment, although much more effort is needed to reach the 90-90-90 targets. These achievements have been a result of a concerted effort operationalized through a multi-sectoral response that comprises of government, non-government, international and community actors, who have all played varying roles to contribute to the above progress. The HIV response in Uganda has also benefitted from political support from the highest level of governance in the country, currently for instance reflected in the Presidential Fast Track Initiative which seeks to end AIDS by 2030.

Gender and HIV&AIDS in Uganda

8. HIV prevalence in Uganda depicts clearly gendered patterns, in terms of prevalence, driving factors and impacts. Women and girls in Uganda continued to face disproportionate risk to HIV infection due to biological,

social, cultural and economic factors. According to the UPHIA study (MOH and ICAP, 2017), the prevalence of HIV among the adult population aged 15-64 is higher among females (7.6%) compared to males (4.7%). HIV prevalence is almost four times higher among females aged 15-19 and those aged 20-24, compared to their male counterparts (MOH and ICAP, 2017). However, HIV prevalence is higher among men compared to women in the 45-59 age categories. Of the 1,400,000 people living with HIV, 73% know their HIV positive status; and out of those who are HIV positive, 78% are on ART (UAC, 2017) and 56.9% are virally suppressed (AUC, 2017b); implying that treatment programs were successfully reaching the majority of the population with HIV. Prevention interventions were guided by the National Strategic Plan (NSP).

9. The HIV response in Uganda has also received renewed impetus through the Presidential Fast Track Initiative to end AIDS by 2030 which was launched on the 6th June 2017 following the 69th United Nations General Assembly Declaration to end HIV as a public threat by 2030. The Presidential Fast Track Initiative outlines a 5-point agenda that should guide the country to reach the 2030 targets.

The 5-point Plan of the Presidential Fast-Track Initiative

- Engage men in HIV prevention and closing the tap on new infections particularly among adolescent girls and young women
- Accelerate implementation of Test and Treat and attainment of the 90-90-90 targets particularly among men and young people
- Consolidate progress on eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- Ensure financial sustainability for the HIV response
- Ensure institutional effectiveness for a well-coordinated multi-sectoral response.

10. Through the above efforts, Uganda has made tremendous progress in addressing HIV. According to the UPHIA study results, HIV prevalence rate has reduced from 7.3% in 2011 to 6.2% (MOH and ICAP, 2017). These declines in HIV prevalence were due to a decreasing number of new infections in recent years due to the impact of the intensified HIV prevention and treatment services in the country.

Challenges

11. Despite the progress, enormous need remains to further halt the spread of HIV and to reverse its devastating consequences on individuals, families, communities and the nation at large. HIV remains a major public health problem, and its consequences affect all sectors of the economy and all aspects of life. HIV&AIDS remain a major cause of death and reduced productivity among the Ugandan population, and it is estimated that everyday 151 people in Uganda get infected with HIV (UAC, 2017b). Of the estimated 1.4 million people living with HIV, about 300,000 of them remain undiagnosed and do not know their HIV status. These constitute mostly men, whose poor health care seeking behavior remains an issue of great concern.

12. The greater risks of girls and women to HIV/AIDS are attributed to a multitude of factors. Young girls lack access to adequate information and skills that can help them keep themselves safe from HIV. Early onset of sexual activity, multiple sexual partnerships and peer pressure all combine to put young girls at heightened risk of acquiring HIV. Both young and older women continue to lack economic resources that would empower them to make informed choices and negotiate favorably for safer sex. Given the patriarchal nature of the Ugandan society, most women leave decisions relating to matter of sex to men. Fear of violence leads many women in relationships to keep quiet about condom use, HIV testing and other related matters.
13. Experience of violence within intimate relationships itself forces women to withstand highly risky relationships and not to protect them from HIV. Women continue to face significant levels of stigma if they are known or suspected to have HIV, or if they get out of a marriage even if it is for their safety. There are also harmful social-cultural practices such as early marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), widow inheritance, and polygamy, which are experienced by a big number of women in Uganda, and continue to expose them to the risk of HIV. These factors are compounded by an inadequate resources and weak implementation of existing laws and policies that should protect women and girls and promote gender equality.

Article 2: Peace and Security

2.1 Progress achievements and opportunities

14. Implementation of the Second Generation National Action Plan (NAP) on implementation of UNSCR 1325 was completed in 2015 and an Evaluation was carried out. Uganda is now preparing to develop the third generation NAP and a multi stakeholder Technical Committee is in place for this purpose. The new plan will be aligned to the 5 priority areas of the NAP, namely;
 - Legal and Policy frameworks,
 - Improved access to health and medical services & psychosocial services for GBV victims,
 - Women in leadership & decision making,
 - Prevention of GBV in Society and
 - Budgetary allocations for implementation of UNSCR 1325, 1820 and Goma Declaration.
15. Building on the progress registered in previous years, the Government continues to engage with CSOs to localize the National Action Plan, coming up with district based issues which are being addressed as per National Action Plan indicators.
16. Uganda is a host to nearly 1.5 million refugees, the largest in Africa, majority of them from South Sudan and is also a major contributor to the AU peace keeping mission. To this end, a number of efforts are in place to ensure peace, including training the security personnel on GBV issues. However, this hasn't been quantified per capita. The police force annually plans and budgets to address GBV related cases and continues to implement the police GBV curriculum which equips police trainees with skills on handling GBV cases. This curriculum was initiated in 2012.
17. The Uganda Police established a sexual offences Department under the Criminal Investigation Directorate (CIID) which complements the work of the Family and Child Protection Unit. The sexual offences department investigate all sexual offences in the country and has established desks in all police units throughout the country.
18. In the military, UPDF officers and their spouses received training on GBV and reproductive health rights to increase their effectiveness during deployment. The topics covered by the training included human rights activism, legal services, counselling services and medical services. Basic military and pre-mission training on GBV is carried out for peace keepers and a review of Police Cadet Officer's training curriculum to mainstream Gender is ongoing.
19. The Directorate of Women Affairs in the UPDF started in 2008 as a wing that was later elevated to Directorate level. In addition, there is a Spouses Desk as one of the mechanisms to address issues of women in the military and the spouses of soldiers. Ugandan women particularly those in Military forces are also engaged in peacekeeping missions around the borders and in the neighboring countries of Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan and Somalia. Attempts have also been made to engender the peace agenda. Redress for victims of human rights violations is being addressed.

20. The Peace and Security processes have been facilitated by existing structures e.g. Peace and Security Committee at all levels, Political commitment; and partnerships with Civil Society Organizations that work on peace related issues. By November 2017, there was a move to transform the Child and Family Protection Unit in Police into a fully-fledged Directorate. In addition, the draft Police Gender Policy was set for approval by the Police Council. The Policy sets standards on recruitment, promotion, accommodation and welfare of female officers.

2.2 Challenges

21. Negative perceptions that women are weak and therefore not able to participate in peace building and negotiation processes still persist. Regarding international representation, there is absence of properly established information sharing channels to ensure that as many capable women candidates are notified of the available opportunities. At the grassroots level, women are not sufficiently consulted nor involved in decision-making processes on the various resettlement programmes. This is aggravated by women's low literacy levels and the cultural norms on women's position and inadequate co-ordination of women initiatives at the grass root level.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

3.1 Progress, achievements and opportunities

22. Recruitment of Children into armed forces was perpetuated by the insurgency groups such Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). Since the end of the Lord's Resistance Army LRA insurgency in Uganda in 2006, there has been no in-country recruitment or involvement of children in the armed conflicts. Government has however put in place mechanisms for protecting and promoting the rights of all children. At policy level, Uganda ratified the optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC) in 2002. Its principles were integrated in the amended Children's Act (2016). The Children Act was amended in 2016 and it provides for protection and promotion of the rights of the child including protection against violence, recruitment into armed forces and trafficking.
23. The National Children Authority was established as an autonomous body in 2016. It has an expansive mandate in protection and promotion of children's rights in the Country. It advises on and monitors all activities, programmes, policies and measures relating to children's rights. The Children (Amendment) Act (2016) sets minimum age of employment at 16, which is below the UPDF minimum age of 18 years. Nonetheless, it is currently impossible to gain employment in the UPDF and the Uganda Police without a national identity card. National identification cards are compulsory for recruitment and this helps with age determination. The UPDF has a Directorate of Human Rights which equips its officers with knowledge on child protection and rights for children in areas affected by conflict. These cover among others; Security Council Resolutions and legal instruments in armed conflict.
24. In 2017, the National Child Protection working group housed by the national machinery developed a five-year strategy for the period 2018-2022 to guide its operations as well as the operations of other stakeholders. In addition, the group conducted a nationwide dissemination of findings of the Violence Against Children Survey conducted in 2015. The group further held a national learning event on child wellbeing, bringing together all stakeholders involved in children's welfare. The event identified gaps in child protection which guided development of policy briefs at national level and practice briefs for Local Governments. A case management Handbook for the Child Helpline and a Child Safeguarding manual were also developed.
25. There is in place the Child Help Line which provides an opportunity for thousands of children across the country to be heard and have their concerns addressed and their lives changed for better. Through the help line, government is committed to ensure that abused children get the help and support they require and deserve. In 2017, the Help line recorded 328,348 calls, 64% of which were complete and 36% were abandoned. In partnership with other duty bearers, 36% of VAC cases were closed. There is Reporting, Tracking and Response (RTR) Guidelines in place to support this service.

3.2 Challenges in addressing the recruitment of children into armed forces

26. There is still limited registration of births of children and national coverage of institutional arrangements. Registration is also still irregular, thus making it difficult to ascertain the age.

Article 4: Gender Based Violence

4.1 Progress, achievements and opportunities

27. In the year 2017, Uganda made progress through development of policy and legal frameworks, programmes and projects addressing GBV as well as advocacy interventions by both state and non-state actors. Firstly, the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development conducted a survey to enrich and further strengthen the implementation of the GBV policy, and the report is ready. The report will inform implementation by focusing on the critical factors that perpetuate the vice so that they are holistically addressed under the multi sectoral framework. Implementation of the approved National Policy on the Elimination of Gender Based Violence is ongoing, guided by its Action Plan and its dissemination is on-going at national and sub national levels. In addition, The Uganda Gender Policy 2007 was reviewed in response to emerging trends such as the economic empowerment of women, the adverse effects of climate change, and Gender Based Violence, among others.
28. The National GBV Database (NGBVD) was upgraded to record case management (incidence, referrals and evidence). More so, a number of programmes are still being implemented by the National Machinery addressing GBV among girls and women, with support from the World Bank, Irish Aid, UNFPA and UNICEF, among others. There is also continued advocacy for establishment of special GBV courts with support from Civil Society Organizations and Development Partners.
29. Government has put in place mechanisms for reporting child marriage such as Uganda Child Help Line which is a 24hour services to receive cases of child abuse and offer referral services. There is Reporting, Tracking and Response (RTR) Guidelines in place to support this service.
30. In addition to NGBVD and Child Help Line, SafePal2 a web based platform and mobile application was created to ensure that young people confidentially report cases of sexually violence and get linked to the nearest service providers for help. Service providers include Health Centres, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Judiciary, GBV Safe Shelters, Police and District Local Governments. CSOs provide social support; judiciary offers education and mediation; referral for medical support while GBV safe shelters help to house the victims.
31. Since the majority of the victims are young people requiring the same services, the NGBVD and Child Help Line have been harmonized to create Sauti Help Line.
32. Efforts have continued to engage communities to adopt Declarations on Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Religious leaders of various denominations have exhibited high level commitment and cascaded interventions in communities on abandonment of FGM in the six (6) FGM practicing district. For example, religious leaders under their umbrella Organization, the Inter Religious Council organize annual marathon as advocacy of abandoning the practice.

33. In addition, Standard Operating Procedures on FGM have been developed and are used by the practicing districts. In the same vein, the Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Desk was established and is functional in Kapchorwa district.
34. The Male Engagement Strategy on Gender Based Violence was developed and launched. The Strategy aims at engaging men and boys as agents of change in the struggle against gender inequality. The National Action Plan on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV was also developed and launched. The plan seeks to attain a gender transformative HIV response; and strongly identifies the linkages between HIV and GBV as well as strategies and interventions to address them collectively and comprehensively.
35. GBV survivors, most of whom are young women and girls continue to receive medical legal and psychosocial services in the seventeen (17) GBV shelters spread throughout the country. Also at these centres, temporary accommodation, security and safety and basic necessities are provided.
36. During the year 2017, the GBV shelters spread across the country have been strengthened through support supervision and inspection as well as strong collaboration with Local Governments to ensure sustainability. More so, collaboration with the media and private sector has been enhanced through a Multimedia Strategy against Gender-Based Violence developed and launched in 2016. The strategy has been disseminated and rolled out among all actors at national and sub national levels. This facilitates gender responsive media reporting of GBV cases with survivor centered Approach and Human Rights based principles.
37. The national machinery has continued to coordinate the GBV response through GBV Reference Group meetings and regular FGM Alliance meetings with all actors. In addition, logistical support has been provided to police, health centres and community development officers who interface with communities.
38. Regarding GBV and violence against children, (sexual and child marriages) in the humanitarian settings, emphasis is on capacity building of service providers. For example, in 2017, 167 Government officials in humanitarian setting were trained in utilization of psychosocial support guidelines, 198 workers that is clinical officers, midwives and doctors were trained in Clinical Management of Rape (CMR). Male action groups and peer educators in 18 districts were trained in community dialogues and over one million people were covered.
39. Reproductive health kits were procurement and utilized in prevention of GBV in refugee settings, 7,000 dignity kits were procured and utilized by new mothers, and HIV testing kits were procured and supplied in health facilities. 2,273 hygiene kits were procured for girls in drought affected districts and humanitarian districts for use by the most disadvantaged girls.
40. Tents for youth only and women only spaces were installed in refugee settlements and utilized to provide psychosocial support to women and young people. Delivery beds were procured and distributed to new refugee settlements to facilitate deliveries.

41. All refugee host districts have functional coordination systems and mechanisms for prevention and response to GBV. All refugee settlements have functional women and girls' spaces.
42. In January 2017, following the abuse of women and children in road construction (Kamwenge – Kabarole Road), the Government with grant support from World Bank started to implement a project on Supporting Children's opportunities through Protection and Empowerment (SCOPE) which aims at enhancing violence prevention programmes and response services to sexual violence and child abuse in the two districts of Kamwenge and Kabarole. The project is coordinated by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in close collaboration with line ministries, local governments and civil society organisations (World Vision, International Justice Mission and BRAC).
43. During the year, the project registered the following achievements:
 - 55 police officers, 10 Community Based Services Department Officers and 3 Prisons officers were trained by International Justice Mission in conjunction with Uganda Police and Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) on specialised investigation and response to sexual violence against children
 - 2 Child safe spaces have been established at Ruteete Health Centre III and Bigodi Health Centre III for provision of child friendly services for survivors of sexual violence.
 - 28 Health facility staff have been oriented and continuous mentoring is planned throughout the project period
 - 32 Health workers from Bigodi, Ruteete Health Centres and surrounding health facilities have been oriented on standards and guidelines on medical examination of victims of sexual assault including evidence preservation for case management
 - Twenty-four (24) community psychosocial and SGBV facilitators (15 females, and 9 males) were identified and trained by World Vision to identify and appropriately refer child abuse and other GBV cases in target communities and beyond
 - 35 Peer leaders have been trained to enable them support the vulnerable adolescents and survivors of VAC in Girls' Clubs.
 - 6 new adolescent girls' Clubs have been formed while the ones formed during the Emergency Child Protection Response (ECPR) have been transitioned to SCOPE Project
 - 2 District Action Centres have been established and provided with equipment and logistics to receive and manage Sexual and Gender Based Violence cases.
 - 45 political and technical leaders in Kamwenge and Kabarole Districts were oriented on Standard Operating Procedures for Child Protection and Sexual violence against children. This has demonstrated the district support and commitment in coordination and supervision to address violence against children and gender based violence through policy guidance and oversight.
 - 50 DAC and NGO staff (21 males and 29 females) were oriented on VAC and GBV data collection and reporting through the Uganda Child Helpline and National GBV database

- 12 Community dialogues on GBV/VAC were conducted with duty bearers and Grievance Redress committees at sub-county level in Kamwenge. The target group included Chiefs, CDOs and Cultural Leaders who are critical duty bearers.
 - 9 Cases of Child abuse have been followed up under SCOPE (2 Kamwenge, 7 Kabarole)
44. Government efforts have been complemented by Civil Society efforts such as the AIDS Support Organization (TASO) that provide medical kits for handling GBV survivors, mobilizing and facilitating champions that carry out advocacy and sensitization on GBV in local communities, including referral of cases to appropriate duty bearers as provided in the GBV Referral path way. Other SCOs such as Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) have scaled up activism against GBV through SASA methodology to mobilize communities. Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) has continued to train and provide guidance to survivor support groups and activists to identify and utilize economic empowerment opportunities and also provide linkages to existing government, NGO and private sector programmes.
45. Partnership with Religious Institutions in particular the Inter Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) and the Uganda Episcopal Conference has continued. These religious institutions continue to conduct GBV awareness sessions especially among women, men and youth using SASA and faith integrated human rights approach. Religious leaders conducted media advocacy campaigns, inter faith networks at the sub county level in the areas of operation were established and Khadi court adjudicators were trained to deliver justice. The Uganda Episcopal Conference focused on conducting SASA faith interactive talks with church communities and conducted media and advocacy campaigns to end gender based violence in families. The Christian religious faiths continued to conduct mass weddings in order to make wedding ceremonies affordable to many couples.
46. The fight against GBV has been catalyzed by political will at national and district levels, male involvement guided by the male engagement strategy, collaboration with partners and a strong coordination mechanism through structures at national and district levels.

Challenges in addressing GBV

47. The remaining challenges in addressing GBV include; persistent low socio-economic status/ dependency of women, patriarchal mindsets, cultural values, practices and attitudes regarding women especially in marriage. Other factors are limited resources which undermine programming and implementation of laws and programmes, the slow process of law reform and especially in relation to gender sensitive legislation.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

5.1. Progress, achievements and opportunities

48. The gender parity principle is embedded in all legal and policy frameworks of the country. The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda has enshrined the principle in Articles 32 and 33, where discrimination on all grounds is outlawed. More so, the country continues to pursue women's full and equal participation in decision making as provided for by the Uganda Gender Policy (2007), the Equal Opportunities Policy (2006), the National Development Plan II and other sector specific gender policies. The Affirmative Action policy is still being implemented in the areas of politics and education as provided in the Constitution.
49. In addition, key planning frameworks have been aligned to the global 2030 Development Agenda adopted in 2015. These include among others, the National Development Plan 2015/16- 2019/20, and the Social Development Sector Plan (SDSP) 2015/16 – 2019/20 which operationalize the Manifesto of the ruling party. The Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) which was enactment in 2015 is still being utilized in assessing the compliance of all government sectors to the principles of equity and equality. This has compelled all Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to have gender and equity compliant plans and budgets.
50. Coordination mechanisms on Gender Equality and Women's empowerment have been strengthened through the establishment and operationalization of Thematic working groups that are supported by Issue - based working committees. These coordination mechanisms have been replicated at the district and the lower levels.
51. On the political front, progress has been registered in the representation of women in parliament and local councils. Since the National General Elections for the President, Parliament and Local Council held in 2016, the number of women members of parliament has increased as follows:
- 34% women (149/427)
 - 115 women (77.2%) elected on affirmative action
 - 16 (10.7%) elected on open constituency seats
 - UPDF3 /10 (30%), Youth 2 /5 (40%), PWDs 2 /5(40%) workers 2/5 (40%)
52. In the Judiciary, women constitute 4 out of 10 judges of the Supreme Court, 4 out of 11 judges of the Court of Appeal, and 24 out of 53 High Court Judges. The 10th Parliament has the first ever female Speaker and Female Leader of the Opposition. Women are increasingly leading Parliamentary Committees. Only 3 district councils out of 116 are headed by women, but this is a rise from one woman since the last term. The percentage of female cabinet and state ministers has increased over the years from 21% in 2003/4 to 33% in 2016.
53. Uganda boasts of a strong critical mass of women leaders in the local council system from national, to district, sub county and parish levels. At the national level, there are four positions of Chairperson, Vice chairperson, Publicity secretary, and Secretary for finance. At the sub county level, there

are five positions of Chairperson, Vice chairperson, Secretary, Publicity secretary and Secretary for finance. Women leaders are spread as follows at the various levels; Municipalities 184, Districts 454, Village 290,855, Parishes 37,550 and Sub county 7,090.

54. The government Ministries, Departments and Agencies are still utilizing the National Priority Gender Equality Indicators adopted in 2016 as a tool for monitoring gender equality in the Country's implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Following on this, Government also undertook production of gender statistics to avail information for gender responsive policy formulation, planning, monitoring and evaluation.
55. To implement the Public Finance Management Act which legalizes Gender and Equity Budgeting (GEB), a National Gender and Equity Budgeting Capacity Development Plan was launched in June 2017 with the aim of establishing and improving national capacity within Government MDAs to take lead on integration of gender and equity in public financial management. GEB training manual, curricular and assessment tools are in place and used by training pool gender and equity budgeting trainers (26 trainers) and assessors.
56. The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) reaches out the entire Country through the Local Government Structure and Circuit Tribunals. This is supported by a staffing level of 50 in FY 2016/2017, a rise from 26 in FY 2013/2014. The Commission is chaired by a female and out of the four members, one is a woman.
57. In addition to the affirmative action provision in political representation, there are measures taken to increase women's representation in leadership especially sector specific Affirmative Action initiatives and strategies. The Uganda Police Force is implementing affirmative action in recruitment whereby 30% of newly recruited staff must be women. The Ministry of Health through the Health Sector Strategic Plan, established the Village Health Systems Strategy which reserves 1/3 of Village Health Team (VHT) membership for women.
58. Positive actions have also been taken by the UPDF including promotions, recommending female officers for further studies and implementing the UPDF Act that allows for 60 days of maternity leave. In addition, female combatants are allowed to work half day for a period of six months following their maternity leave to allow for breast feeding and child care. In addition, the Act allows for compassionate leave and annual leave. UPDF has a fully-fledged Gender Directorate headed by a female officer at the rank of a colonel which is the second highest rank among female officers.

5.2 Challenges

59. There are persistent trends of patriarchal patterns of behavior and stereotypes in relation to the role of women in the private and public spheres.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

6.1 Progress, achievements and opportunities

60. Government has ratified a number of human rights instruments at sub-regional, regional and international levels. Some instruments have been ratified without any reservations while a few were ratified with some reservations. At international level, Uganda ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, and the African Charter on the rights and Welfare of the Child.
61. Uganda has initiated the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW. Consultations among various Government stakeholders are ongoing and will culminate into a recommendation to Cabinet for ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW. At national level, the rights of women are taken care of in the 1995 Constitution, laws and policies. The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda outlawed discrimination on the basis of sex among other things and also provides for affirmative action in favor of marginalized groups including women; in Articles 31, 32 and 33.
62. The Local Government Act (1997) stipulates that election of special groups requires that at least one of the representatives is a woman for each of the key categories, including women and this helps to ensure the participation of women in decision making and politics. The National Women's Council Act, 2015 and National Women's Council (Councils and Committees) Elections, Regulations, 2011 facilitate mobilization of women at all levels to participate in development initiatives at various levels.
63. Other efforts for ensuring protection and promotion of women's rights include development of a training module for judicial officers on gender sensitive legislation by the Judicial Studies Institute (JSI), The "Gender Bench Book (GBB) on Women's Access to Justice in Uganda". Additionally, the JSI offers a curriculum on "Gender, the Law and Practice in Uganda", whose goal is to stimulate the development of practical skills that the Judicial officers and support staff need for their work. Human rights Institutions like the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission are in place and compile annual reports on human rights as well as summon different actors in public and private sectors to get reports on compliance with human rights principles.

6.2 Challenges

64. Patriarchal patterns of behavior persist and discrimination against women and girls still exist as manifested in the areas of; preference for male to female employees, women's limited access to information, and discrimination against women and girls with regard to inheriting property.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

7.1 Progress, achievements and opportunities

65. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, all land in the Country is vested in the citizens but the State has a mandate to protect natural resources including land, water, wetlands, minerals, oil, fauna and flora on behalf of the people. The Land Act (2010) provides a framework for land ownership, distribution, utilization management and control in the country. The significant sections in the Act are: Section 28, which outlaws discrimination against women. Other frameworks include The Gender Strategy for National Land Policy Implementation; The National Housing Policy 2016; The National Urban Policy 2016; The Physical Planning Act, 2013; The National Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation.
66. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development is currently implementing interventions focusing on the following:
- Ensuring effective participation of women in decision making bodies for Land;
 - Combating intersectional and multiple forms of discrimination through reorienting state institutions and cultural institutions to recognize the dividends of eliminating women on the access to, use, ownership and development of land and its resources;
 - Harmonization of the existing laws, policies and programmes to protect women land rights as they transition along the path of life (single, married, divorced, separated and at death);
 - Ensuring women's right to legal security of tenure;
 - Protecting women against forced evictions at the hands of the public and private actors;
 - Legal pluralism from a gender perspective;
 - Access to justice and the enforcement by women where it is linked to the traditional justice system or at least a referral path;
 - Promotion of the positive aspects of customary systems of tenure for women.
67. In particular, Government has continued to do the following:
- Strengthen the capacity of the ministerial zonal offices which are nearer to the communities and carryout land registration. Land information systems in these zonal offices has been strengthened.
 - Issuance of customary certificate of ownership to spouses and families.
 - Digitalization of land records and land transfers in order to improve efficiency and transparency in land transactions.
68. Regarding asset ownership, the most current Uganda Demographic Health Survey 2016/2017, revealed that just under 4 in 10 (38%) women age 15-49 own a house, and 3 in 10 (31%) own land. Over half (54%) of men age 15-49 own a house, and just under half (48%) own land. Men are much more likely to own a house (38%) or land (33%) alone than women are. Documentation of ownership of assets is important for the security of the tenure, and also for the ability to leverage or liquidate assets. 81 % of women and 80% of men who own a house do not possess a title or deed for

that house. 69% of both women and men who own land do not possess its title. A clear picture is expected once the documentation the ministry has started is fully operational.

69. Regarding other assets, only 13% of women and 22% of men have a bank account that they use; while 46% of women and 66% of men own a mobile phone. About 72% of both sexes who own a phone use it for financial transactions.
70. Decision making especially regarding earnings has improved though women's earnings to men's earnings has not changed much. The proportion of women whose husbands decide on their own regarding earnings has fallen from 18% in 200 to 9% in 2016. Specifically, among currently married women, aged 15-49 years with cash earnings, 91% participate in decisions about the use of their earnings, 53% of these make decisions on their own, while 38% make joint decisions with their husbands. The same survey identified that 51% of currently married women aged 15-49 years participate in household decisions either alone or jointly with their husbands. However, this power in decision making is higher for health and other decisions than for major household purchases.
71. Government is implementing the National Gender Strategy on Land (2016) which was put in place to operationalize the Land Act, (2010) Cap 227 and the Land Policy (2013). The two instruments contain provisions for security of tenure and safeguard of the land rights of women and children as well as other vulnerable persons, and to address historical and cultural injustices and inequalities in access to and control of land.
72. To end poverty, Government's emphasis and strategy is on household wealth creation particularly amongst those households at risk of poverty. Hence Government has put in place programmes to enable each household to put in place an investment to generate income and for basic needs (food, shelter, and clothing) as well as generate savings for improved livelihoods. These programmes include:
 - Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) through which households access affordable agricultural planting and breeding stock.
 - Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) which targets unemployed young men and women by providing affordable credit and entrepreneurial skills for starting and managing business enterprises.
 - Mobilization of communities to establish Savings, Credit and Cooperative Organisations (SACCOs) and Village Loans and Saving Associations (VLSAs) through which communities pull resources and loan each other in order to improve their livelihoods.
73. Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) targets women who cannot access formal credit are provided affordable credit and entrepreneurial skills for starting and managing business enterprises. Specifically, the programme seeks to strengthen the capacity of women for entrepreneurship development, provide affordable credit to enable women establish and grow their business enterprises, facilitate women's access to markets for their products and services; and promote access to appropriate technologies for production and value addition. By end of 2017, 3499

projects have been financed to the tune of UGX 18.5 Billion, benefitting 44,570 women. Some of the major achievements of the programme include acquiring assets such as Land, household items and livestock. In addition, participation in the programme has led to women's empowerment through having a voice at household and community levels, self-employment, financial inclusion and reduction of the dependency syndrome.

74. With continued implementation of the programme and other similar economic empowerment programmes, the position of women is expected to improve in key aspects such as acquisition of land and other productive assets, owning personal bank accounts, owning mobile phones and utilizing the phones for financial transactions to improve their economic status; and general empowerment through increased self-esteem and positive change in attitudes.

7.2 Challenges

75. The persistent challenges to full access and control of land resources include: Inequality in land ownership; Inequality in utilization of land; Inequalities in access to land rights in regard to inheritance; Land disputes and illegal land evictions; access to justice; and compensation for Infrastructural Projects; inequality in land control and management; and security of tenure.

Article 8: Girls Education and Women's Literacy

8.1 Progress, achievements and opportunities

76. Government has continued to implement Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE) as well as other initiatives like reservation schemes for girls on entry into Public Universities. The affirmative action policy has been at the core of these interventions, targeting girls. As a result of these interventions, Uganda has made significant progress in girls' education. The focus areas of government interventions are the following;

- Appropriate laws and policies to support enrolment, retention and completion are in place. For instance, the policy for reentry after pregnancy.
- The Revised Gender in Education Policy (2009) was launched on the International Day of the Girl Child on 11th October 2017 by the First Lady of the Republic of Uganda. The Policy aims to achieve gender parity in access, participation and pass rates across all sub sectors in education by 2030; increase women in employment at all levels; increase resources for gender mainstreaming and create gender responsive planning environment in order to reduce violence against children.
- Mobilization campaigns for girl child education are ongoing with support from Civil Society Organizations such as Plan International, cultural and religious institutions as well as the media. A multimedia strategy was developed to guide all government interventions in engaging the media to address gender inequality.
- Economic opportunities for girls have been enhanced. The Uganda Women entrepreneurship Programme targets women in business by giving them startup capital, the Youth Livelihoods Programme targets 30% female youth with startup capital, the Inclusive Green Growth Programme targets young people with startup capital for enterprises that focus on the protection of the environment; among others. These economic empowerment initiatives have positive effects on girls' self-esteem, confidence, translating into positive decision making on staying in school, sexuality, family planning, leadership and other areas of their lives.
- Incentives for schooling
- Life skills especially through the Skilling Uganda Programme, Vocational skills development through government youth centres, vocational institutions and apprenticeship.
- Sexual and Reproductive Health knowledge- piloting DREAMS model for empowerment of girls with life skills, HIV/AIDS knowledge and SRH services.
- Ending child marriage and early pregnancy
- Targeting education of girls through Early Childhood Development projects.

77. The sub section below highlights the status of the various levels of education in the year 2017:

Pre Primary

Total enrolment increased by 18.2% from 477,123 (236,284 boys; 240,839 girls) in FY 2015/16 to 563,913 (i.e. 279,089 boys; 284,824 girls) in FY 2016/17 ; and, the Gender Parity Index at pre-primary stood at 1.02 in FY 2016/17 showing a disparity in favor of girls.

Primary

The education sector registered an increase in total enrolment by 4.7% from 8,264,317 (4,122,663 males; 4,141,654 female) in FY 2015/16 to 8,655,924 (4,294,473 males, 4,361,451 female) in FY 2016/17; Gender parity Index in primary likewise stood at 1.02 in FY2016/17 implying that for every boy enrolled there is at least a girl enrolled.

Secondary

There was an increase of 13.5 % in total enrolment from 1,284,008 (675,163 boys; 608,845 girls) in FY 2015/6 to 1,457,277 (765,406 boys; 691,871 girls) in FY 2016/17. The transition Rate to Senior Five also increased by 4.2 percentage points from 25.0 % (28.1%male; 21.4% female) in FY 2015/16 to 29.2 % (33.9% male; 24.2% female) in FY 2016/17. The Gender parity index in secondary education stood at 0.88 in FY2015/16, down from 0.90 in FY2016/17. This therefore implied that for every boy enrolled in secondary school there are less girls.

BTVET

The overall enrolment in BTVET increased by 3.2% from 105,905 (Female: 41,943 and Male: 63,957) students in FY 2015/16 to 109,305 (Female: 39,325 and Male 69,980) in FY 2016/17. The construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure in the various BTVET institutions in FY 2016/17, helped increase the number of facilities hence reducing congestion in BTVET institutions given the increasing enrolments. In addition, maintenance of the solar energy packages was conducted in 140 post primary schools throughout the country.

University Education

Total enrolment in tertiary education increased by 0.4% from 257,855 (143,212; 114,643 female) in FY 2015/16 to 258,866 (114,314 males, 114,552 female) in FY 2016/17; The percentage of male students remained constant at 56% between FY 2015/16 and FY 2016/17. The female students on the other hand accounted for only 44.5% and 44.3% in FY 2015/16 and FY 2016/17 respectively; and under the loan scheme, out of the 1,325 beneficiaries 403 (33%) are female compared to 922 males (67%).

Gender in Education

The following actions were taken at policy, programme and activity levels to address the gender gaps in education:

78. As mentioned above, in 2017, government launched the Revised Gender in Education Policy developed in 2016. Its vision is an inclusive and equitable quality education and sports and lifelong opportunities, for all girls and boys, women and men in Uganda. The policy is complemented by other policy initiatives and strategic plans that address barriers to girls and women's education in the country. These include the Gender in Education Strategic

Plan 2015- 2020 and the National Strategy for Girls' Education 2014-2020. The Gender in Education Policy was reviewed taking into account Uganda's Vision 2040 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

79. Government has intensified its efforts to reduce the distances to schools in order to minimize the distance between homes and schools and enhance attendance because modes of transport are still inadequate for the majority of the children in rural areas. Government has also put in place mechanisms for provision of separate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities for boys and girls to enhance retention and completion. In a bid to address gender based violence in schools, a multi sectoral framework is in place with involvement of communities, men and boys, cultural and religious leaders to collectively address the vice. The Ministry adopted the SASA model for community engagement; and the model employs multiple strategies to build a critical mass of engaged community members and leaders, and institutions, including local activism, media and advocacy, communication materials and training.
80. In order to provide economic opportunities for girls, government is piloting the ELA (Empowerment and Livelihoods for Adolescent Girls) model in partnership with BRAC to increase economic empowerment for rural girls by providing life skills training, income generation skills and access to micro finance. The programme has spill -over effects to whole families and larger communities, thus shifting the gender dynamics in the community.
81. Other targeted interventions to address girls' education include the following:
A new Programme on Promoting Access to Quality and Equitable Education for Karamoja Children which was launched, targeting 283 primary schools and 23 secondary schools; Dialogues were conducted with district leaders, CCTs, senior women and male teachers from 18 districts. The dialogues focused on the development of strategies to tackle the vices of early/forced marriages, child mothers and teenage pregnancy issues; The Menstrual Hygiene Management Tool Kit was disseminated; 1,100 teachers (740 senior women and 360 senior men) from 25 districts were trained on menstrual hygiene management; The National Strategy for the Elimination of Violence against Children in Schools (VACiS) was launched; as well as operationalization of the Reporting, Tracking, Referral and Response (RTRR) Guidelines on VACiS, and; Mentorship camps were conducted in 13 districts. A total of 4,800 pupils (boys and girls) from the primary schools within the districts were mentored. As a result of the above targeted interventions, survival rates of girls to Upper Grades of Primary improved from 61.1% in 2016 to 63.3% in 2017. For grade 7, survival rates of girls increased from 30% to 32.3%.
82. In line with the Presidential Manifesto Commitments, the education sector focused on provision of infrastructure; development of Primary Teacher Training; Enhancing Teacher's Salaries; provision of instructional materials; enhancing School inspection; Provision of a mid-morning meal and school uniform. These activities were structured according to different sub-sectors (i.e. Pre-primary and primary education, Secondary education, BTVET and Higher Education). A total of 60 different interventions were envisaged and most of them focused on improving quality of education at all levels. By the end of the FY 2016/17, progress had already been made in the implementation of these interventions. Out of the 60

interventions/undertakings, 34 were implemented, translating into a 56% performance.

8.2 Challenges

83. The sector still faces challenges at all levels which undermine the outcomes, particularly for girls. At pre-primary level, the main challenges are: Poor Management and leadership capacity of ECD proprietors; weak Policy Framework that only gives the Ministry of Education and Sports an oversight responsibility without specially addressing the provision of pre-primary education in the country; and poor linkages with Primary education. The structure of the current ECD lacks curricula and pedagogical continuity and there are limited resources to monitor and support the ECD centres.

84. At primary level, there are early marriages and early pregnancies, male child preference, poor school facilities that are not responsive to girls' needs, orphanhood, long distances to school, expenses associated with tuition costs, workload at home and poor academic progress. The main reason for leaving school is cost consideration for both boys and girls followed by lack of funding (boys 33% and girls 31%). Pregnancy contributes 4 percent of the girls dropping out of school (UNHS 2016/17). Other challenges include absenteeism of teachers and learners, dropout and repetition, and high teacher attrition rates. The primary level still faces challenges of low learning outcomes (particularly numeracy and literacy), and inadequate school management supervision. The high Population Growth Rates also put pressure on the existing resources and facilities. More so, community participation in primary school activities has dropped particularly in the rural areas.

Article 9: Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

9.1 Progress, achievements and opportunities

85. Uganda is one of the Countries that immediately signed in 2003 and on July 22nd 2010 ratified the Maputo Protocol, becoming the 28th Country to ratify the Protocol. A multi sectoral framework for implementing and monitoring regional and international frameworks was developed in 2014; Dissemination of international and regional, instruments is done as part of regular support supervision and monitoring of Local Governments. Following parliamentary elections, the MGLSD conducts orientation of Women Legislators on regional and international instruments including the Maputo protocol. Government has domesticated the Maputo Protocol through various Policy and legal frameworks which include the Uganda Gender Policy, Domestic Violence Act, Equal Opportunities Commission Act, Prohibition of Female, Genital Mutilation Act, and The Universal Primary Education (UPE) Policy. A National Task Force on the Maputo Protocol was established, made up of over 20 Women's Human Rights organizations and other CSOs. Uganda has a vibrant Civil Society that advocates for the rights of women and other vulnerable and marginalized groups. In addition, a strong national coordination mechanism for gender equality and women's empowerment is in place and brings state and non-state actors together to advance the women's agenda.

C. CONCLUSION

86. The Government of Uganda is committed to implementation of the commitments contained in SDGEA. The principles in the declaration have been integrated in the interventions of different sectors at national and local levels. Non state actors such as CSOs and women Organisations do complement government efforts in implementation of the declaration.
87. The major challenge however is the requirement for annual reporting. Since change in gender equality and women empowerment interventions take some time, the only option is therefore to report on interventions put in place rather than the change in the lives of women.
88. Secondly, the Declaration requires annual reporting based on the calendar year. However, implementation of interventions in the country is guided by the allocation of financial resources based on the financial years which start from July and end in June of every year. This poses a challenge of sorting out data from country reports.

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Plot 2 Lumumba Avenue,
P.O.BOX 7136, Kampala, Uganda
Tel:(+256)-(0) 414-347854/5
Fax: (+256) - (414) - 256374/257869
Email: ps@mglsd.go.ug
Website: <http://www.mglsd.go.ug>**