



International Community of Women
Living with HIV & AIDS Eastern Africa

ARE WOMEN ORGANISATIONS **ACCESSING FUNDING** FOR **HIV&AIDS**?



A RAPID SITUATION ANALYSIS OF ACCESS TO FUNDING BY
ORGANISATIONS OF *WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV*, GENDER
AND WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS IN UGANDA

With support from AWID & Norad

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OCTOBER 2014

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**Women account for
58% of people
living with HIV in
Sub-Saharan Africa.**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to all organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women human rights organisations who on a daily basis work hard and strive to improve and change the lives of women and men, girls and boys and society in general and many times do this with meager resources or voluntarily.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to all organisations of women in Uganda who provided information that informed this assessment and all key informants.

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ACRONYMS

ADPs	AIDS Development Partners
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency Syndrome
AWID	African Women in Development
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSF	Civil Society Fund
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DFID	Department for International Development
FBO	Faith-based Organisation
GFATM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICWEA	International Community of Women Living with HIV Eastern Africa
JCRC	Joint Clinical Research Center
LTIA	Long Term Institutional Arrangements
MTN	Mobile Telecommunications Network
NAFOPHANU	National Forum of People Living with HIV Networks in Uganda
NASA	National AIDS Spending Assessment
NGO	Non-government Organisations
NNGO	National Non-Government Organisation
NSP	National Strategic Plan
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PC	Partnership Committee
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PF	Partnership Fund
PNFP	Private, Not For Profit
PR	Principle Recipient
RFA	Request for Applications
SCE	Self Coordinating Entity
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
TASO	The AIDS Support Organisation
UACP	Uganda AIDS Control Programme
UGX	Uganda Shillings
UNAIDS	United Nations Joint Programme on HIV&AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USD	United States Dollars
UWESO	Uganda Women's Efforts to Save Orphans
UWONET	Uganda Women's Network

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study was conceived by the International Community of women living with HIV Eastern Africa (ICWEA) out of the realization of the need for information to provide evidence on the extent to which organisations of women living with HIV and other gender and women's rights organisations are accessing funding from funding mechanisms set up to support HIV and AIDS work in the Eastern Africa region.

In line with its mandate, the International Community of Women Living with HIV Eastern Africa noted that in a number of International and global Forums, stakeholders and development partners in particular, held a false assumption that by putting resources in the existing global funding frameworks and mechanisms like the Global Fund and PEPFAR, access to these funds by organisations of women living with HIV as well as gender and women's rights organisations is guaranteed. This assumption was particularly noted in November 2008 during the International Forum on Women's Rights and Development (AWID) 1 in South Africa, in the session, Where is the money for women's rights?, as well as at the Eastern and Southern Africa Donors' Forum in 2009 in Johannesburg - South Africa. On the contrary however, there was wide outcry among organisations of women living with HIV, of the serious limitation of access to funding.

The International Community of Women living with HIV Eastern Africa therefore commissioned this study with the objective of determining the extent to which organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women's rights organisations are accessing funding from existing funding mechanisms.

Specifically, the study sought to;

- i) Map out the existing funding mechanisms in Uganda to which organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women human rights organisations could apply to access funding;
- ii) Assess the extent to which organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women human rights organisations are accessing funding from existing funding mechanisms;
- iii) Examine the factors influencing access or lack of access to funding by organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women human rights organisations;
- iv) Make recommendations regarding improving access to funding by organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women human rights organisations.

¹ AWID is the largest recurring event of its kind, bringing together women's rights leaders, donor agencies, development practitioners, grassroots leaders and activists from around the world. It is held every three to four years.

The scope of this study was limited to Uganda as a case study. Using a qualitative and quantitative methodology, a rapid assessment of the status of access to funding by organisations of women living with HIV, gender and human rights was conducted.

The findings of the study indicate that over the years, there have been a number of funding mechanisms in the country including external Multi-lateral sources like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). There are also external- Bilateral agencies such as UNDP, UNAIDS, DFID, SIDA, DANIDA, Irish AID and Embassies. In some instances, National Joint donor funding arrangements have been in place to facilitate funding for HIV and AIDS response, including the Partnership Fund (PF), the Civil Society Fund (CSF). Civil Society organisations have also accessed funding through other external sources of funding through direct partnerships with international NGOs in the north or through contributions and donations from corporate companies.

The study has found out that to a large extent, organisations of women living with HIV and women's rights organisations are not adequately accessing funding particularly organisations dealing with human rights and advocacy. Although a total of 1,109 billion Uganda shillings (586.6 million USD) and 1,167 billion shillings (579.7 million USD) were spent on HIV and AIDS in 2008/9 and 2009/10 respectively, increased funding nationally did not match with access by women organisations.

It was also noted that since women constitute a big proportion of Uganda's population (50%) and that HIV prevalence is higher among women than among men, the increasing HIV prevalence and incidence rates in the country imply an increasing impact of the epidemic on women. This can be partly associated with disproportionate allocation of resources to women.

Whereas external multilateral funding sources are accessed by some women's human rights organisations, many women organisations fail to access funds due to technical and stringent requirements and the apparent limited capacity of the organisations to compete for funding. Yet the significant contribution to AIDS financing by households indicates that there is high burden of care to women, who are primary care providers in households.

The assessment has also revealed a number of factors influencing access or lack of access to funding which include;

- a) Size, adequacy and sustainability of funding
- b) Activities funded and reporting requirements
- c) Type of organisations often funded
- d) Donor funding requirements and restrictions
- e) Operational and currency challenges
- f) Funding cycles, durations and multiple donors
- g) Competition and capacity
- h) The politics of funding and availability of funding information

Following this assessment a number of recommendations have been made to improve access to funding by organisations of women living with HIV, gender and human rights organisations. Government, Development Partners and funding mechanisms in general, should dedicate internal resources to women organisations in order to enhance the response as far as women issues are concerned. Women organisations should continue to build on their efforts in advocacy, economic empowerment, legal awareness and improvement of wellbeing which are the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to HIV and AIDS. Such areas need to be supported to reduce vulnerability to HIV which will contribute towards an effective response to HIV and AIDS.

It is important that donor funding priorities and the priorities and strategic objectives of organizations of women living with HIV, Gender and Human Rights, are aligned. This should be a joint responsibility. This will enhance access to funding by these organisations and the available funding will address the real needs of women. Women organisations should also endeavor to build partnerships or consortia in developing proposals. Efforts should also be made by all stakeholders in developing the capacity of women organisations. The donors should also tailor funding for women organisations with lower capacities by developing simplified proposal formats and adopting an affirmative action for women organisations.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

It was noted that there is a false assumption taken by most Global Funding Partners that by putting resources in the existing global funding frameworks and mechanisms like the Global Fund and PEPFAR, access to these funds by organisations of women living with HIV as well as other women's rights organisations is guaranteed.

1.1 Background

The International Community of Women Living with HIV&AIDS Eastern Africa (ICWEA) is a membership regional network run by and for women living with HIV including young women living with HIV in Eastern Africa. Founded in 2005, ICWEA exists to give visibility to women living with HIV through promoting collective women's voices at all levels and to advocate for changes that improves our lives. As an advocacy organisation, ICWEA's advocacy is based on evidence of the daily lived experiences of women living with HIV complemented by research that is usually carried out by women living with HIV through participatory processes to addresses the priorities of women living with HIV at all levels.

ICWEA's work is mainly around influencing policy change and development, programmes and funding; representing the voices of women living with HIV to ensure that policies made, programs agreed on and funding allocated, takes into consideration women's needs and realities and that they are within the human rights framework. ICWEA builds capacities of its membership to understand policy, programming, human rights and gaps related to access and utilization; and to understand issues and challenges that affect and cause women to demand for change and increased access. A lot of focus in the past years has been on Sexual Reproductive Health and rights, Policy analysis and advocacy, defending human rights of women living with HIV including young women and mentoring young women living with HIV.

In November 2008 during the International Forum on Women's Rights and Development (AWID) 2 in South Africa, in the session, Where is the money for women's rights?, it was made clear that women's rights organisations, including organisations of women living with HIV have very limited access to funding to execute their mandate of advocating for women's rights and evidence-based issues relating to access. This was also re-echoed by women living with HIV from Eastern and Southern Africa at the Eastern and Southern Africa Donors' Forum that was jointly organized by ICW Eastern and Southern Africa in 2009 in Johannesburg - South Africa. It was noted that there is a false assumption taken by most Global Funding Partners that by putting resources in the existing global funding frameworks and mechanisms like the Global Fund and PEPFAR, access to these funds by organisations of women living with HIV as well as other women's rights organisations is guaranteed.

However, there is a general perception and anecdotal information indicating that most organisations of women living with HIV and other women's rights organisations are not accessing funding, that most funding for HIV and AIDS for example, has been directed towards service delivery interventions. This has significantly affected the work of women organisations, especially those that advocate for the rights of women and girls including women living with HIV and those that work towards policy change. Consequently, this has placed women, who are the most affected and most vulnerable segment of the population in the region, only at the receiving end of services.

2 AWID is the largest recurring event of its kind, bringing together women's rights leaders, donor agencies, development practitioners, grassroots leaders and activists from around the world. It is held every three to four years.

This has in turn seriously compromised the quality of the responses to HIV&AIDS, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights as well as meaningful engagement and involvement of women, which are vital in ensuring improved access and effective response to HIV&AIDS and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights in the region.

1.2 Rationale and scope of the rapid situation analysis

The 2009 Donors' forum mentioned above recommended that a situation analysis be conducted to establish the extent to which organisations of women living with HIV, gender and human rights organisations are accessing funding from existing funding mechanisms. This would help in guiding funding policy and decisions as well as taking actions which would ensure increased access to funding by organisations of women living with HIV and the women's human rights organisations. The study focused on Uganda as a case study and its findings and recommendations will be generalized and replicated to other Eastern African countries and elsewhere in the world. Uganda was particularly selected because it is one of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, if not the only one, whose HIV epidemic is currently rapidly escalating despite the protracted response which hitherto received global accolades for innovation and success in the 1980s and 1990s.

This situation analysis aimed at providing evidence on whether organisations of women living with HIV, gender and human rights organisations are accessing funding. This evidence will be used to guide decisions and actions that will address bottlenecks to access by these organisations in Uganda, Eastern Africa and elsewhere in the world.

1.3 Objectives

The overall objective of this study was to determine the extent to which organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women human rights organisations in Uganda are accessing funding from existing funding mechanisms.

1.3.1 Specific objectives

- i. To map out the existing funding mechanisms in Uganda to which organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women human rights organisations are eligible to access funding;
- ii. To assess the extent to which organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women human rights organisations are accessing funding from existing funding mechanisms;
- iii. To examine the factors influencing access or lack of access to funding by organisations of women living with HIV gender and women human rights organisations;;
- iv. To make recommendations regarding improving access to funding by organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women human rights organisations.

2.0

APPROACH TO THE RAPID SITUATION ANALYSIS



2.1 Design of the situation analysis

A Cross-sectional design was adopted; applying dominantly qualitative and partially quantitative approaches and methods of data collection, analysis and interpretation. This design was adopted because the study involved selection of a representative subset of a population to describe the status of funding at one specific point in time. This implies that the findings from the sample population can be used to describe the status of funding among all women organizations in the country. A cross-sectional study also supports inferences of cause and effect relationships between the variables being studied (Mugenda and Mugenda (1999). Therefore using this design helped to explain some causes and effects of the status of funding for women's organisations.

2.2 Individuals and organisations reached

To obtain comprehensive information on the status of funding of organisations of women living with HIV, gender and human rights organisations, this study targeted population categories which had direct interaction with women living with HIV and other women's human rights and gender programmes as well as organisations that fund their activities. The following population categories were particularly involved;

- i) Funding organisations, especially focusing on organisations that fund the activities in which most organisations of women living with HIV, gender and human rights organisations engage.
- ii) Organisations of women living with HIV, gender and human rights organisations working in Uganda.
- iii) Individuals working in stakeholder organisations in the HIV and AIDS response in Uganda at the national level.

2.3 Scope

This study focused on organisations that are based in Uganda, irrespective of district of location. This applied even to donor agencies although it was understood that some women's organisations may be obtaining funding from donors who are not resident in the country. The study mainly addressed itself to establishing the current status of access to funding by the selected organisations. In a few instances, funding patterns over a period of the last three years between 2010 and 2013 was also looked at. While some information about the causes and consequences of the funding patterns were obtained, this was not the primary focus of the study.

2.4 Sample selection

Being a largely qualitative study, a purposively selected sample of 40 respondents and key informants was obtained. To select this sample, a directory of women's organisations developed by the Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) was obtained. This directory gives profiles and contacts of all women organisations linked to this network. To ensure that women organisations

focusing on HIV and AIDS were represented, an attendance list of the participants of the 7th General Assembly of the National Forum of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) Networks in Uganda (NAFOPHANU) was used to get the contacts of such organisations. From the above listings, one respondent was selected from each organization. In most instances, the respondents targeted were Chief Executives (Directors) of the selected organisations, although in some instances, long-serving senior staff were interviewed. The study also included key informants from selected organisations that coordinate and provide funding for HIV and AIDS as well as women's rights programmes in the country such as the Civil Society Fund and Uganda AIDS Commission.

2.5 Data collection

2.5.1 Document review

In addition to the directories and profiles of organisations developed by umbrella organisations, a number of documents were reviewed to find out the status of funding for women organisations. Such documents included Request For Applications (RFAs) released by the funding organisations, to establish whether they had components relevant to the issues concerning human rights, gender, advocacy, Sexual and Reproductive Health and women living with HIV in general. National policies and reports such as the National AIDS Spending Assessment report, reports of Donor organisations as well as reports of women organisations themselves were reviewed. Literature on funding patterns globally, regionally and within Uganda was also reviewed to enrich this analysis with a wider perspective on issues pertaining to funding for women organisations at a global and regional level.

2.5.2 Key informant interviews

Selected individuals were identified, especially from government institutions as well as funding agencies who participated as key informants to this study. These included members of development partner forums, staff of donor organisations, government officials, civil society advocates and activists on women and girls rights among others. These provided analytical information regarding access to funding by the organisations of focus.

2.5.3 Direct interviews and self-administered questionnaires

An interview guide was developed, which was either directly discussed by a member of the research team and the respondent or for the case where respondents could not be reached physically, the tool was sent to the respondents by email. In some instances respondents were interviewed via telephone.

2.6 Data analysis

Qualitative data analysis techniques were applied to analyze the data based on identified themes from the objectives of the study. Content and context analysis was applied on the documents obtained to establish the status and trends of funding for the organisations in question.

2.7 Limitations of the situation analysis

During data collection, it was noted that some respondents were not comfortable disclosing the amount of funding they had received over the years. Disclosure of funding information is perceived to be risky because of fear of competitors accessing this information. It was therefore not readily possible to determine how adequate the funding was for some organisations. In this case the respondents were requested to provide ranges and estimations to give a rough picture.

It was also difficult in some instances to get the respondents primarily targeted to be interviewed such as Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) or Finance Officers and whereas some delegated persons provided most of the information required, in a few instances they did not know some of the aspects that the research required. In this case, the respondents were given time to consult and in other cases call backs were made to fill in the information gaps.

As shown in the methodology, this study mainly used qualitative methods. Therefore selection of the samples was not random but mainly purposive and in no way should its findings be interpreted as if they were from a survey. This methodology allows some degree of bias in the study since the respondents are selected purposively. However, the sample was representative enough to the general population, given nature of information that was required. Therefore this was the most appropriate methodology to adopt.



3.0

EXISTING FUNDING MECHANISMS AND ACCESS TO FUNDING BY WOMEN ORGANISATIONS

3.1 Funding mechanisms and trends for HIV and AIDS in Uganda

Uganda is one of the first countries in the Sub-Saharan region to make commendable success in managing the HIV and AIDS epidemic. As a result, the country made unprecedented achievements in attracting global resources available to support the HIV and AIDS response. The Uganda National AIDS Spending Assessment survey (NASA) (Uganda AIDS Commission, 2012) indicates that a total of 1,109 billion Uganda shillings (586.6 million USD) and 1,167 billion shillings (579.7 million USD) were spent on HIV and AIDS in 2008/9 and 2009/10, respectively. Of these amounts, 68% and 67.3% for the above periods respectively, were from external sources. While the above information shows increasing trends in funding in the country, this did not seemingly tantamount to increased funding for organisations of women living with HIV and other women's rights organisations.

The NASA report groups the sources of funding for HIV and AIDS in Uganda into three main categories namely; External, Private and Public sources of funding. External sources of funding include the multi-lateral agencies like the United Nations, Global Fund, World Bank and PEPFAR. There are also bilateral Funding agencies such as UNDP, UNAIDS, UNFPA, DFID, SIDA, DANIDA, Irish AID and Embassies. In other cases, there are Foundations like Elton John and the Melinda and Gates Foundations as well as funds mobilized from developed countries by International NGOs that provide direct support to local NGOs.

Private sources of financing for HIV on the other hand include private corporate entities that may contribute to the response through donations or direct implementation of HIV and AIDS programmes. This may also include contributions from Private, Not For Profit (PNFP) organisations such as the Catholic and Protestant Medical Bureau. The NASA also categorizes household contributions to the national response among Private sources. The Public sources include funding from government coffers, including funds from the treasury as well as contributions by local governments from local revenue. This section will examine these sources of funding and analyze the extent to which women organisations have benefited from them.

3.1.1 External Multi-lateral sources of funding

As indicated above, a significant percentage (up to 67%) of AIDS funding was received by Uganda from external sources by 2010. However, further analysis of the external sources of funding indicates that the proportion of external funding contributed by multi-lateral funding agencies between 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 was only 1.2% and 9.6% respectively. The major sources of multi-lateral funding at the time included the five years Uganda AIDS Control Project (UACP) Loan Funds to the Government of Uganda from the World Bank, the Global Funds to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Since the scope of this study covers the past three years before 2013, only GFATM and PEPFAR will be considered here because the UACP had closed.

3.1.1.1 Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)

It should be noted that in the period before 2010 (around 2005-2006), a Global Fund audit reported gross mismanagement and low absorption of funds disbursed to Uganda. This resulted into GFATM withdrawal of funds initially approved and halted funding altogether. In the period that followed, an aide memoir was signed between Uganda and the Global Fund in which the country embarked on putting in place Long Term Institutional Arrangements (LTIA) to ensure that the above mentioned mismanagement does not occur again. During this period of negotiation with the GFATM, limited funding, to cater for emergencies and essential commodities was provided to Uganda. This partly explains the low levels of funding in the years that followed. With this size of funding from GFATM, the primary priority was put on direct service delivery and acquisition of commodities. As a result, most of the work for organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women's rights organisations was not prioritized.

However, the hope for organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women's rights organisations rose following the lifting of the funding ban on Uganda by the Global Fund, in August 2011 under Global Fund round 10. In the new arrangement, The AIDS Support Organisation (TASO) was appointed and started receiving grants as second Principle Recipient (PR) to ensure access to funds by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

Are women organisations accessing Global Fund grants?

In its current contract ending 31st July 2014, TASO has so far signed 3 grants worth USD 44,087,984 of which USD 42,955,439 has been committed and disbursed to the organization³. The three grants include;

- Towards virtual elimination of MTCT transmission of HIV and universal access to HIV care and treatment Uganda (HSS component)
- Consolidating Malaria control in Uganda (Malaria component)
- Scaling up Prevention, Care, Treatment and Health Systems Strengthening for HIV/AIDS

As regards the civil society organisations benefiting from these resources, available information indicates there are 10 Sub Recipients; 7 for Round 10 Malaria and Health Systems Strengthening and 3 for Round 7 Phase II HIV and AIDS Component. The organisations ranged from, International NGOs like PACE and International Health Network to renowned National NGOs like Uganda Health Marketing Group and AIDS Information Center with a few Community-based organisations like PILGRIM and Kagumu Development Association. There are also some Faith-Based Organisations (FBO) like Uganda Episcopal Conference and Church of Uganda. Most of the organisations funded are engaged in direct service delivery activities as opposed to issues of women living with HIV, human rights and advocacy.

³ Information provided on Global Fund website <http://portfolio.theglobalfund.org/en/Grant/Index/UGD-708-G13-H>

The text box below shows the list of the beneficiary organisations of the Global Fund.

Round 10	Round 7 Phase II HIV
1. PACE	1. AIDS Information Center (AIC)
2. UHMG	2. Uganda Episcopal Conference
3. Church of Uganda	3. Integrated Community Based Initiatives (ICOB)
4. Kagumu Development Association	
5. PILGRIM	
6. Crane Health Services	
7. International Health Network	

The above information indicates that organisations of women living with HIV and AIDS, gender and human rights organisations are not among the Sub-Recipients of the Global Fund grants through TASO even we learnt that some organisations had submitted their concepts for round 10 and till now have never been informed of why they never qualified for funding. This study did not find evidence to show that some women organisations are receiving funds even from the sub-recipients of TASO. For example, in the malaria grant, under the Church of Uganda Sub-Recipient, TASO supported two Sub-sub recipients namely African Evangelistic Enterprises and Busoga Trust which are also not women’s rights organisations. Besides this, the indicators of performance on all the grants so far disbursed to TASO (see footnote 2 above) are on direct service delivery and not on aspects of human rights and advocacy, which is the major focus of women organisations.

3.1.1.2 United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

The United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is one of the major funding partners of Uganda’s AIDS response. In its Uganda Country Operation Plan (COP) for the Financial Year (FY) 2007, PEPFAR demonstrated interest in supporting the work of Civil Society organisations in the HIV and AIDS response. Some of the major civil society organisations that managed PEPFAR funds in Uganda included Africare, African Medical and Research Foundation, AIDS Information Center, AIDS Relief Consortium/Catholic Relief Services, ACDI/VOCA, AVSI, Baylor University/Paediatric Infectious Disease Clinic, CARE, Christian AID, Hospice Uganda Africa, Integrated Community Based Initiatives, International Rescue Committee, Johns Hopkins University, Makerere University Institute of Public Health, Mildmay Center International, Research Triangle Institute, Opportunity International, Plan Uganda, Population Services International, Salvation Army, and The AIDS Support Organization.

PEPFAR support to Civil Society has also been through the Civil Society Fund⁴. In subsequent sections, we will analyze in detail, the extent to which organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women's rights organisations are accessing this funding. The PEPFAR Uganda Country Operation Plan FY 2012 indicates that up to USD 298,388,372 is available to support programmes in Uganda. Among the key issues to be considered in the programmes are;

Increasing women's access to income and productive resources
Increasing women's legal rights and protection.

This study has found out that most of the funding to support civil society is channeled through programmes such as STAR EC, NU-HITES as well as partners like Africare. At the community level, PEPFAR grants are channeled through a few organisations and projects including TASO, STAR WEST, STAR SW, SUSTAIN, SPEAR, WALTER REED, NU-HITES, PREFEA, Uganda Red Cross, Baylor Uganda, Mildmay, Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau among others,

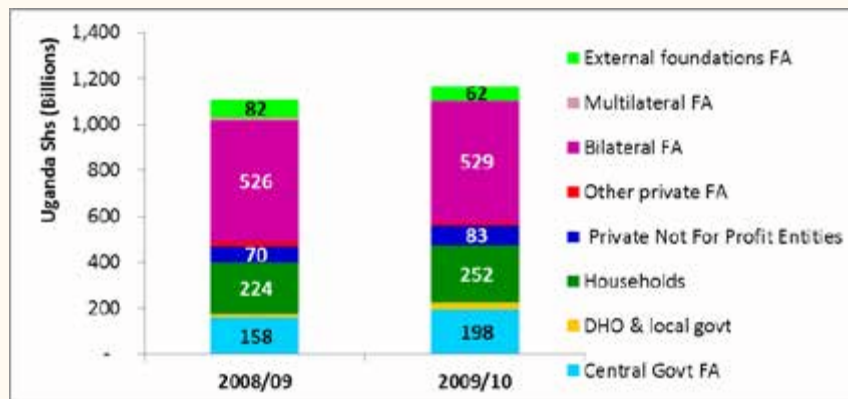
It is possible that through the above recipients and projects, women organisations may be benefiting or at least there are programmes that focus on the rights of women living with HIV and gender issues. However, this study did not find evidence that PEPFAR grants are directly targeting organisations of women living with HIV, gender and human rights organisations in Uganda. Therefore, even if these organisations may benefit through other organisations as sub-grantees, it is the organisations that try to adjust their interests to fit within the focus areas of the funding organisations rather than the funding mechanism responding to the needs of women as perceived by the women themselves.

3.1.2 External- Bilateral agencies

Another major source of AIDS financing in Uganda is Bilateral Funding agencies such as UNDP, UNAIDS, DFID, SIDA, DANIDA, Irish AID and Embassies. As shown in figure 1 below, further analysis of the financing agents presented in the NASA report reveals that most of the funding for the national response to HIV and AIDS was from bilateral agencies. For example, whereas the contribution from multi-lateral financing agencies was very small and insignificant in 2008/9 and virtually absent in 2009/10, bilateral agencies contributed over 500 billion Uganda shillings in both periods.

⁴ Details of this is presented in section 3.2.3

Figure 1: Financing agents for HIV/AIDS resources in Uganda



Source: National AIDS Spending Assessment 2008/9 – 2009/10

The funding from bilateral funding agencies is in many ways similar to the funding from multi-lateral agencies. For example, most of the funding from these agencies is channeled through government systems. Access to these funds also requires submission of technical proposals and possession of robust systems such as financial systems, audited accounts, Monitoring and Evaluation systems, qualified personnel, policies and procedures, as well as experience in managing donor funds. Most of the women organisations in question do not adequately satisfy most of these requirements. Therefore, whereas some organisations of women living with HIV and AIDS may be accessing these funds, most of them are not because of capacity constraints.

The above significant contribution to AIDS financing by bilateral agencies is partly attributable to the Paris Declaration⁵ that emphasized harmonised funding. As a result, most major AIDS Development Partners (ADPs) in Uganda formed a Development Partners Group with joint funding arrangements. The ADPs contribute to funding baskets like the Partnership Fund and the Civil Society Fund. The following section will focus on joint funding arrangements in Uganda and the extent to which women organisations have accessed funding from these arrangements.

3.1.3 National Joint donor funding arrangements

3.1.3.1 Partnership Fund (PF)

As part of efforts towards enhancing coordinated funding and in line with the Paris Declaration, the Key AIDS Development Partners in Uganda such as UNDP, UNAIDS, UNFPA, DFID, SIDA, DANIDA Irish AID and some Embassies came together in

⁵ This declaration by world donors to ensure coordinated funding for HIV and AIDS in order to enhance aid effectiveness

2002 and formed a Joint funding arrangement called the HIV and AIDS Partnership Fund (PF). The fund is managed by Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC) with oversight from the HIV and AIDS Partnership Committee. This Fund largely covers coordination costs of the Self Coordinating Entities (SCEs) and UAC Secretariat compiled together into an integrated work plan endorsed by Partnership Committee (PC) and approved by UAC.

The report of the Institutional review of Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC 2011) shows that a total of UGX 6.1 billion (USD\$2.6million) had been accumulated on the Fund in form of grants by 2010. The main contributors to the PF included DANIDA, DFID, and Irish Aid. The fund grew by 41% from UGX 3.6 billion in 2009 to 6.1 billion at end of 2010. The review further indicates that UGX 1.6 billion (26% of fund amount) was disbursed to various categories of sub-recipients with SCEs being the major beneficiaries (57%).

It should be noted however, that with no independent Self Coordinating Entity for Women Organisations or of women living with HIV, gender and human rights organizations on the Partnership Structure, Organisations of women living with HIV are presumed to benefit from the 57% of SCE funding through the SCE of People Living with HIV and AIDS under the National Forum of PLHA Networks in Uganda (NAFOPHANU). For example, during the year 2012-2013, NAFOPHANU received Uganda Shillings 478,891,934 from the Partnership Fund to manage a nation-wide programme. Apparently, save for the size of funding being small, the funding accessed by NAFOPHANU focuses on supporting the functionality of NAFOPHANU district networks and the secretariat but not the programmes of organisations.

While the Forum expected to receive Uganda Shillings 645,819,800 for the period 2013-14, these funds were meant to serve up to 50 district networks⁶. With the membership of NAFOPHANU comprising of 100 districts forums for People Living with HIV & AIDS and 12 national networks⁷, most of the funding to NAFOPHANU focuses on supporting coordination activities with minimal support to district networks. The above information indicates that the Partnership Fund is not necessarily a reliable source of funding for organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women's rights organisations. Moreover, the Fund is steadily dwindling with most donors delaying or reducing disbursements. According to NASA, by 2011, the outstanding commitments awaiting disbursement and provided for in the year amounted to UGX 4.5 billion (74% of fund amount). A big proportion (65%) of the allocated amount was earmarked to settle contractual balances on special projects and SCEs were to receive 19%, line ministries 15% and UAC 1% (UGX48 million).

The above means that even if women organisations were to receive this funding, they would not rely on it as a source of sustainable funding. Indeed, during this research almost none of the organisations interviewed mentioned the HIV and AIDS Partnership Fund as one of the sources of their funding.

⁶ Information was obtained from NAFOPHANU 2013 AGM documents

⁷ These include Support on AIDS Life through Telephone Helpline (SALT), Mamas' Club, International Community of Women living with HIV (ICWEA), UNERELA+, Uganda Young Positives, UNYPA, NACWOLA, Friends Of Canon Gideon Foundation (FOCAGIFO), National Coalition of Women Living with HIV & AIDS (NACOA), Global Coalition of Women Living with HIV & AIDS in Uganda (GCOWAU), Uganda Youth Against AIDS Foundation (UYAF), Teachers Against AIDS Group (TAAG), Positive Men's Union (POMU), MAMAs Club and UPDF.

Although a total of 1,109 billion Uganda shillings (586.6 million USD) and 1,167 billion shillings (579.7 million USD) were spent on HIV and AIDS in 2008/9 and 2009/10 respectively, increased funding nationally did not match with access by women organisations.



3.1.3.2 Civil Society Fund (CSF)

Following realization that the bulk of the National AIDS response was in form of interventions by Civil Society Organisations, the Civil Society Fund was set up in June 2007 under the Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC). The Fund was meant to support the objectives of the National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS, the government of Uganda National Action Plans for HIV and AIDS and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) services being delivered by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The goal of the CSF was to streamline and harmonize the CSO's participation in the National response. The major contributors to the CSF include United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Department for International Development (DFID), Irish AID, Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA), The Italian Cooperation, and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). Deloitte Uganda Limited was contracted as the Financial Management Agent (FMA).

According to the Institutional review of UAC (UAC 2011), by end of 2010, CSF had disbursed grants and other investments amounting to about US\$60 Millions. By 2011 it had awarded 149 grants to civil society organizations including 8 National Non-Governmental Organisations (NNGO) providing large scale HIV and AIDS service delivery, 85 CSOs addressing the sexual transmission of HIV, 45 providing OVC services, 3 providing paediatric services and 7 technical support services.

The CSF Annual Report July 2012 - June 2013 however, indicates that by 2013, the programme managed three Requests for Applications (RFAs) during this period as shown in the table below;

RFA No.	Type of CSO	No. of Sub-grantees	Geographical Coverage
10-001	NNGOs	8	Nationwide
11-001 (HIV3)	Various categories of CSOs	23	6 districts
12-001 (HIV4) and 12-002 (HIV5)	CBOs/FBOs and District-based NGOs	61	30 districts

Source: CSF annual report 2012-2013

The report further indicates that during the year 2012-2013 alone, CSF disbursed about 26.6 billion (UGX 26,628,964,046) to National NGOs (NNGOs), CBOs, FBOs and other district-based NGOs. By 2013, CSF had given out 180 CSO grants and 79 district grants supporting 129 CSOs⁸.

Although it was not readily possible for this analysis to determine the number of organisations of women living with HIV, Gender and Women's rights organisations which benefited from these grants, it is clear that there were not many women organisations benefiting directly. For Example An analysis of the recipients of the 12-001 and 12-002 RFAs which were meant to target CBOs, NGOs and FBOs indicates that only 9 out of the 61 sub grantees (11%) were women organisations

Women organisations that benefited from CSF RFA 12-001 and 12-002

Hukeseho Lwagosia Women's Group

Youth And Women In Action (YAWIA)

Namayingo United Women Group (NUWOG)

Katakwi Grassroots Women development Initiative (KAWODI)

Can Opwonya Widows and Orphans sub-Project

Ochero Women's Effort Against HIV/AIDS

Hope for Orphans and Women (HOW-Uganda)

Together Against AIDS Positive Association (TAAPA)

Sikyomu Development Group for PHAs

NAFOPHANU also received grants from the Civil Society Fund during the period 2009-2010. However, the Forum only sub-granted about six million Uganda shillings per quarter to MAMAs club for about five months. Therefore, most national level women organisations that focus on policy issues have largely not accessed CSF grants.

The above findings indicate that despite the small proportions, the Civil Society Fund is one of the funds that have, to some extent benefited organisations of women living with HIV and women's rights organisations in the country. This study has in fact revealed that at least some of the organisations interviewed mentioned CSF as one of the sources of funding for their programmes.

However, one Key Informant noted that the fund has largely focused on granting to a few selected National NGOs that have been given affirmative action and yet they have reasonable capacity to compete and develop technical proposals ignoring a constituency of women that are more vulnerable and a backbone to the response. Smaller organisations with low capacities were presumed to be supported by the bigger organisations through the "Lead Agency" model of capacity transfer. This means that many CSOs and women organisations in particular, missed out on this funding. Besides this, since the sub-recipients have to utilize the sub-granted funds in line with the proposal of the Lead Agency, they may not necessarily address their areas of focus nor their needs and priorities.

Information obtained by this study from Key informants reveal that since 2012, the Civil Society Fund is facing serious management and governance challenges and it is undergoing major transformation. With plans to totally overhaul its institutional set up and reduce the overbearing operational cost, the national steering committee was dissolved and a board was set up, which has not yet been functional. The contracts of the Monitoring and Evaluation Agent and the Technical Management Agent expired

and were not renewed and all grant management tasks were entrusted with the Financial Management Agency. As one key informant retorted;

“ the future of CSF is not predictable, but certainly the only fund that has for once provided a sense of hope to the civil society and grassroots community, seems to be on its way to total collapse” Key Informant, National level Partners.

With the above information, it is clear that organisations of women living with HIV and other women and girls rights organisations can no longer rely on the Civil Society Fund for present or even future funding.

3.1.4 Other external sources of funding

There are also funds received by women organisations from external Foundations or that are mobilized from International NGOs from Developed Countries that provide direct support to local NGOs. In fact, most of the organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women's rights organisations that operate at the national level mainly access funding from this source. This was partly explained by the fact that since most of the funding from multi-lateral and bilateral agencies is mainly channeled through government institutions, it is often difficult for organisations that engage government through advocacy for human rights to access such funding. Since the International NGOs are engaged in advocacy, they are often willing to fund local NGOs directly especially for advocacy work as well as for building their institutional capacity. These funds are given to an NGO irrespective of their capacity or past experience in managing donor funds and they do not require submission of detailed technical proposals as long as they are championing the same cause.

In fact, some of this funding is channeled to local organisations directly through the branches of some international NGOs such as CARE, Action Aid and ACCORD among others which are operating within the country and sometimes implementing programmes jointly with the local organisations they are funding. The text box above shows some of the organisations in question as mentioned by respondents of this study.

- ACCORD
- Action Aid International
- African Women Development Fund
- Global women's water initiative
- HIVOs
- Institute of Democracy Facility (IDF) ,

- AFW
- AKIBA VHKI Foundation
- American Jewish World Service.
- Austrian Development Cooperation
- AWID
- AVAC
- CARE International
- Dan church AID
- Democracy Governance Facility (DGF)
- Diakonia
- Disability Rights Fund-
- Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EDD)
- Ford Foundation
- Fredkorpset (FK), Norway
- German Foundation for World Population
- International Foundation of Health and Human Rights Organizations (IFFHRO)
- Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
- Mama Cash
- National Endowment for Democracy(NED)
- NETWAS
- NORAD
- Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa(OSIEA)
- Oxfam
- Partners for enterprising people –ICCO
- RCNF
- Stop AIDS Now
- Stop TB Facility
- TROCAIRE
- UNAIDS GENEVA
- UNAIDS UGANDA
- Womankind in the UK
- Global Human Rights-USA

To further illustrate the above information, a word cloud below was developed from the respondents indicating the main sources of funding for the women organisations in Uganda.



The word cloud clearly shows that most funding to organisations of women living with HIV and other gender and women's rights organisations are from organisations like American Jewish World Service (AJWS), Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), CARE, Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA). Some of the women organisations are actually supported by local organisations like Joint Clinical Research Center (JCRC), Uganda Health Marketing Group (UHMG) and Uganda Women's Effort to Save Orphans (UWESO) among others.

The word cloud further confirms that very few of these organisations are accessing funding from Multilateral and Bilateral agencies like DANIDA, World Bank, UNDP, Global Fund for Women, Global Fund to Fight AIDS Malaria and Tuberculosis (GFATM) and DFID. Apart from UN Women, the major funding organisations are international NGOs and Foundations.

3.1.5 Private sources of funding

As indicated in the NASA, twenty two percent (22%) of the funds spent on HIV and AIDS programmes in Uganda was from private sources. This is a significant source of funding compared with the government contribution of 10%. Private sources of funding for HIV and AIDS programmes in Uganda may include funding from private corporate entities such as MTN and Stanbic Bank as part of their corporate social responsibilities. It may also include contribution of Private, Not-For-Profit (PNFP) organisations such as Catholic, protestant, Pentecostal and Islamic medical bureaux and health facilities. Private funding also includes in-kind and cash contributions by households and community-based organisations, especially those that are taking care of the affected.

The NASA reports that the contribution of private sector to HIV funding is so small and insignificant (1%). We have noted that despite the existence of a Self Coordinating Entity, the private sector has not been effectively mobilized to contribute towards the AIDS efforts in the country. There are only a few corporate sector companies such as standard Chartered Bank, Stanbic Bank, MTN and Coca Cola which have invested in HIV and AIDS Programmes, but even then, most of them focus on implementing HIV and AIDS Workplace policies within their companies and not sponsor HIV and AIDS programmes in the National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS nor fund local AIDS Service organisations. Therefore, organisations of women living with HIV and other women organisations have not accessed funding from this sector.

The Private, Not for Profit (PNFP) agencies were primarily established by Faith Institutions and they provide direct health services in health facilities to supplement government efforts. The funds to establish these institutions were either locally mobilized or they were from specific donors. In fact, most PNFPs currently get government subsidies or they too compete for donor grants with other Civil Society Organisations. Therefore, this source of funding may not be reliable for organisations of women living with HIV and other Women's organisations whose work is largely on advocacy and human rights.

Apparently, household and individuals comparatively constitutes a significant source of private funding for HIV and AIDS in Uganda. The statistics shown in the NASA report indicates that households contributed UGX 252 billion to the national AIDS spending compared to PNFPs (UGX 83 billion) and corporate private organisations (only 1% of total funds spent).

The fact that the second largest source of funding is indicated to be from household contributions could also imply that the burden of the epidemic is largely borne by women, who are the main care providers in households. This further justifies the need for increased funding for women organisations, not only to advocate for policy change, champion gender and human rights and challenge the funding policy and environment, but also to channel funding to grassroots women organisations so as to reduce the burden of the epidemic at the household level.

Private funding also includes in-kind and cash contributions by households and community-based organisations, especially those that are taking care of the affected.





4.0

FACTORS INFLUENCING OR LIMITING ACCESS TO FUNDING BY WOMEN ORGANISATIONS

The one off-funding received by some organisations helps in building some capacity and experience in managing donor funds; however, it is not sustainable.

There are peculiar issues and challenges surrounding access to funding by women organisations. Even in cases where women organisations are accessing funding, one needs to consider what kind of organisations are accessing funds and which ones are not, what activities are funded, what is the size of funding, what conditions are precedent to the funding? The following section briefly examines these issues in order to give a picture of the environment surrounding even those organisations that access funding.

4.1 Size, adequacy and sustainability of funding

Despite the challenges in access to funding by organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women human rights organisations, there are some organisations that have had access to funding. As shown below, a few respondents reported that all their programmes were funded and in some instances this funding had been consistent in the past three years.

Organisation	Funding received (in last 3 years)	Source of funding
CEEWA (Kampala)	Approx. Ugx 385,000,000	Action Aid, UN women, African Women Development Fund
FOKAPAWA (Kalongo Town Council Agago District)	Approx. Ugx 1,060,221,001	TROCAIRE, CARE International in Uganda, ZOA Relief, ACCORD, JCRC/UHMG, UN Women
Gulu Women with Disabilities union (GuWODU)-	Approx. Ugx 178,750,000	American Jewish World Service. Disability Rights Fund
Katosi women Development Trust (Mukono)	Aprox. Ugx 343,000,000	Danida NGO Fund NETWAS, Drop in the Bucket, Swiss Hand, Waterloo, VGIF, Berea Union Church, Global women's water initiative
Uganda Women's media Association	3% from Income Generating Activities (Radio) 86% from grants 11% Grants from INGOs/public foundations	The International Solidarity Foundation, Ethnia Association, the Ford Foundation, other revenue streams like advertising on Mama FM radio
Patongo town council, Agago district	Ugx 40,000,000	JCRC

Source: Records and information provided during interviews

From the above information, it is clear that the amount of funding for organisations of women is meager. It was also noted that the competition for funds among women organisations is high. This was particularly illustrated by the fact that most respondents considered disclosing the sources or amounts of funds received as confidential and most of them could not disclose it even for purposes of this study.

It was also reported that there are often several budget cuts when proposals are approved. The “do more with less” approach of some donors push organisations into situations where they are expected to operate very lean budgets, but deliver more on targets. Organisations have to write several proposals over a long time to be able to access some funding. The one off-funding received by some organisations helps in building some capacity and experience in managing donor funds; however, it is not sustainable. It also puts the credibility of the organisations in disrepute when they have to close programmes they have initiated in the communities without any exit plan.

4.2 Activities funded and reporting requirements

The programme activities mostly funded include Training and Capacity development of women and women groups, media campaigns, policy advocacy, rights education, protection and promotion in health, economic empowerment, HIV awareness and prevention programmes, partnerships and networking, Psychosocial support, support to victims of Gender Based Violence, leadership and governance as well as peace and security.

However, there are some organisations with serious funding gaps who reported to have not received funding in a long time. There are also serious funding gaps especially in areas considered to be vital to the response; including provision of home-based care, adherence support, advocacy for women’s rights, women’s economic empowerment, institutional funding to cater for staffing, management and governance activities. It was reported that most donors are not interested in funding these activities although organisations find them important in the fulfillment of their mandate.

4.3 Type of organisations often funded

It should however be noted that most of the organisations that reported to be accessing funding are the indigenous organisations which are bigger, have been around for a long time and have mainly established direct partnerships with advocacy oriented organisations in the developed countries. Most of the smaller organisations on the other hand have either not received funding and have been working on voluntary basis or they have accessed one-off funding for specific activities from a partner or donor.

4.4 Donor funding requirements and restrictions

The study further found out that even with organisations that have had access to funding, this has not been without numerous challenges. Highly technical proposals are required by the donors yet most women organisations lack the technical staff or funds to hire consultants to develop proposals. The donor also requires organisations to possess several years' experience of managing donor funds and robust financial, monitoring and evaluation and governance systems in order to grant funding. This perpetually keeps women organisations stunted since they cannot get the experience unless they are funded in the first place.

There are numerous restrictions on donor funds like not allowing procurement of automobiles, and renovation or construction of premises, limited recruitment of staff, only 5-7% allowable for administrative overhead costs which are inadequate to cover staff salaries, fuel, rent, and other administrative costs. Some of these restricted items are vital for the success of programmes, but they are not provided for by the donors. This partly explains the work overloads, work stress, high staff attrition rates and probably degenerating quality of work in some organisations.

4.5 Operational and currency challenges

One of the major challenges reported by organisations of women who have received funding are the delays in disbursement of funds. There are some cases where an organization submits grant proposals and they get feedback of approved funding after a year. By then many things could have changed, although the proposal is funded as it was submitted without allowing for adjustments. Even when approved, the disbursement of funds may delay sometimes for a quarter, yet the donor expects the organization to report on time stipulated within the grant agreement. For organisations receiving grants in hard currency, projects are affected by the frequent currency fluctuations resulting into exchange rate losses, which some donors do not compensate, thus affecting targets.

4.6 Funding cycles, durations and multiple donors

Most of the available funding opportunities for women organisations provide short-term project based funding as opposed to funding strategic plans or core funding. This means that the funding focuses on delivery of project targets without taking into consideration institutional growth. Other than the challenges of sustainability, this challenge has resulted into some organisations swaying away from their mandate towards areas where funding is available. In addition, organisations have had to apply for grants from multiple donors. Reporting to many donors, with every donor requiring reports according to their format not only take a lot of staff time to prepare different reports for different donors but also results into duplication within the same organizational programmes.

4.7 Competition and capacity

The increasing number of women organisations in Africa in particular and Non-Government organisations in general has apparently been faced with contracting donor funding opportunities. This has made the competition among the donor-seeking organisations so stiff that only the very strong and exposed organisations are able to survive. Many women organisations have fallen victim of this stiff competition and some have been driven out of business despite the need for their interventions.

Despite this competition, some organisations of women living with HIV and other women and girls rights lack fundraising skills and technical capacity to compete in writing fundable proposals that articulate their work. Some organisations have failed to meet deadlines, some have failed to account for resources provided while others lack the requisite monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to document and articulate their achievements. Some of the organisations also lack visionary leadership and organizational management capacity. Many organisations have continued to suffer from “founder syndrome” where even when the organisations have grown, their original founders, who may not have the requisite capacity, have insisted on remaining in charge of the organisations rather than building competent management teams.

4.8 The politics of funding and availability of funding information

Some respondents to this study have revealed that the donor world is also riddled by politics in what one respondent termed as “technical know who”. Sometimes, funding is provided to organisations, not necessarily on the basis of the soundness of their proposals or programmes, but depending on the person in charge of the organization. One needs to know someone in the donor organization to be able to access funding. This becomes a challenge to organisations which may not have such connections and yet they are expected to compete for the same resources.

4.9 Volatile global funding environment

The global aid funding environment has undergone significant transformation characterized by factors like the global credit crunch and weakening of the economies that hitherto dominantly provided funding for health programs in Africa. The emerging global economies like China which is forging partnerships in Africa is interested in investing in physical infrastructure and not in social and health programmes like HIV and AIDS. The resource envelop has drastically dwindled thus affecting developing countries like Uganda. There has been increasing interest by donors in funding consortia rather than isolated projects, supporting implementation of research as opposed to mere project interventions and focusing on results and holistic approaches rather than sustainability. The improvements in technology and social networks across Africa and Uganda in particular have also resulted into increased competition for the scarce resources among the civil society. Resource mobilization has therefore become an uphill task, especially for women organisations in Uganda.

4.10 Global Funding priorities

The global mantra for the definitive response to HIV and AIDS as propagated by the United Nations Joint programme on HIV and AIDS is “Know your epidemic, know your response”. This was adopted after recognizing the fact that there is no single prescription for a multitude of diverse HIV epidemics around the world. However, as shown in section 3.1 above, for countries like Uganda where most of the funding for the response is from external donors, it is not completely clear that the country independently decides on the appropriate response. Inadvertently, the HIV and AIDS response agenda is influenced by the funding priorities of the donors and thus the monies available. Often times, Request For Proposals issued by funding agencies come with pre-determined priorities which the applicant has to comply with, sometimes not necessarily putting resources where it would have the greatest impact on the epidemic and therefore ignoring the principle of “Know your epidemic, know your response”, whereby the epidemic in Uganda bears a female face and in a country that is registering more new infections among young women and girls.

However, most of the available funding focuses on direct provision of services. In fact, most funding organisations require numbers, in terms of how many people are reached mainly with biomedical interventions. In essence, organisations of women living with HIV and whose focus is on software matters of advocacy and human rights cannot easily access funding and yet this is equally important.

4.11 National Funding priorities

At the national level, where funds are channeled through government controlled systems, organisations will access funding depending on national priorities, which are defined in the National Development Plan. As indicated above, the national priorities are sometimes influenced by the available funding which is mainly from donations. For example, whereas the NASA report indicates that between 500 to 600 billion Uganda shillings of the funds spent between 2008 and 2010 were to benefit People Living with HIV and AIDS, further analysis of the report reveals that most of this funding was for provision of care and treatment. Other priorities funded included Programme Management and Administration which took over 20% (238 billions) and HIV prevention with over 18% (212 billions). The report does not show any funding for advocacy and human rights among the priorities even if these are included among the systems strengthening objective of the national strategic plan for HIV and AIDS.

On the other hand, when asked about their mandate and the kind of work they do, most of the respondents from organisations of women living with HIV and AIDS indicated that their organisations focused mainly on aspects of advocacy, activism, rights, governance and community empowerment among others.

The list below shows a summary of the core mandate and activities of the organisations.

- *Policy and advocacy (SGBV, participation, legislation, litigation)*
- *Empowerment (Rights education, mediation, legal aid, guidance and counseling)*
- *Economic empowerment and sustainability*
- *Networking and information sharing*
- *Capacity development (Governance, training)*
- *Media campaigns on rights and access*
- *Research, Documentation and Information Sharing*
- *Gender sensitive planning and budgeting*
- *Women's Leadership Development*
- *Institutional Development*
- *Conflict resolution, peace building and transitional justice*
- *Promotion of sexual and reproductive health rights*
- *Health and HIV/AIDS*
- *Social accountability*
- *Psychosocial support*
- *Social Movement Building*
- *Livelihoods Programs*
- *Education services and support for OVC (tertiary and vocational skills training)*

The implications of the above situation is that chances for these organisations to access funding largely depends on what government and funding agencies consider as priority. Since most of these organisations focus on advocacy and accountability, they often have limited chances to access funds channeled through government systems.

4.12 Donor funding requirements

Information provided by key informants of this study at national level indicated that one of the major characteristics of multi-lateral funding sources is that they provide grants on a competitive basis. The beneficiary organisations should possess requirements such as experience in managing donor funds, audited accounts, monitoring and evaluation systems as well as management and governance systems. The paradox is how these organisations can develop the systems and gain experience without funding in the first place. Funds are also accessible by submitting high quality technical and financial proposals often determined by the requirements of donor organisations. They focus on specific pre-determined thematic areas with defined indicators and targets.

On the other hand, most of the organisations for women living with HIV and most women's rights organisations in Uganda are up-start in nature. An interview with a Director of a women's rights organisation in Kampala indicated that although some women organisations access funding from this source.

"..... the majority of women organisations do not possess the requisite qualifications to access this funding. Since proposals to access this funding are highly technical, it requires an organization to hire technical human resources to develop such proposals, which most women organisations cannot afford" (Director, Women's rights organisation-Kampala..

This implies that while the multi-lateral organisations may seem to exist to serve the interests of marginalized and vulnerable communities, these communities do not necessarily benefit from the funds these institutions provide.

4.13 Legal and policy constraints

There are some women organisations that are constrained by the existing legal and policy frameworks in Uganda. For example organisations that work with Female Sex Workers and some LGBTI organisations find it difficult to write proposals for interventions among sex workers who are outlawed. Such organisations are only able to get funding from partner northern NGOs.

There are some cases where an organization submits grant proposals and they get feedback of approved funding after a year.

A woman is seated on a wooden bench, writing in a notebook. She is wearing a white patterned top with a yellow shawl draped over her shoulders and a black skirt with white floral patterns. The background shows a rustic setting with a mud wall and a wooden door.

5.0

IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ideally, increased resources should be expected to result into improved performance of the HIV and AIDS response.

5.1 Implications

The above discourse indicates that women organisations generally have limited access to funding. Given that these organisations are mainly involved in policy, advocacy and rights issues, there is a significant gap in the national response where issues affecting women are not entrenched in the national priorities. This implies that HIV and AIDS continues to negatively afflict women, girls and children who constitute a big percentage of the country's population. This probably explains the fact that HIV prevalence continues to be high among women.

The limited access to funding for women organisations also results into compromised mandate of the organisations. There are some organisations which should be demanding accountability from government on matters of women access to services, however, given that funds for such organisations are channeled through government, their voices are often muted.

Ideally, increased resources should be expected to result into improved performance of the HIV and AIDS response. However, for the case of Uganda, even with the consistent trend of achievements in resource mobilization and spending on HIV and AIDS, this has not matched with a corresponding reduction in the epidemic in terms of HIV prevalence and incidence rates. For example, while the National Sero-Behavior Survey 2005 had indicated that the epidemic had been stagnant at 5.6%, the AIDS Indicator Survey (UAC 2011) results indicate that HIV prevalence had increased to 7.3% by 2011. The Uganda Millennium Development Goal progress report (Ministry of Finance, 2013) which clearly indicates that the country's performance on MDG 6; Target 6.A: "Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS" is not only poor, but it is reversing. These may be attributed to failure to prioritize certain aspects of the response such as addressing gender issues, advocacy and human rights, which are the domain of women organisations.

These trends give an apparent inverse relationship between success in mobilization of funds and success in reducing the prevalence and incidence rates of HIV in the country. This raises a question of the extent to which the money has worked to enhance the response to HIV and AIDS in Uganda. Since Women constitute over 50% of Uganda's population and they are the most affected section of the population, it goes without saying that women have not benefited from the increased funding for HIV in the country. Women's lack of access to funding limits their participation and ability to influence the response towards addressing the issues of women and girls and this could be a contributing factor to a stagnant or increase in HIV prevalence rates.

Most of the organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women human rights organisations focus on issues of human rights, gender, advocacy, Sexual and Reproductive Health and women living with HIV issues. However, this may not be prioritized when it comes to allocation of resources. Srilatha Batliwala et al (2013) in Women Moving Mountains has clearly illustrated how funding women interventions can result into development achievements and the consequences of not funding such organizations to the effectiveness of the national response to HIV and AIDS in general.

5.2 Recommendations

Since women are most affected by HIV and AIDS, there is need to ensure that women organisations get funding to address the vital aspects of their work and issues of women. Government and all other funders and funding mechanisms should dedicate internal and external resources to this area as it is still a very big issue in the country.

As shown in the NASA report, it is possible to assume that Organisations of women living with HIV, gender and women human rights organisations are accessing funding if funding is channeled to aspects of Care and treatment. However, funding for these organizations should be clearly delineated. It should consider advocacy, economic empowerment, legal awareness and improvement of wellbeing which are the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to HIV and AIDS. Allocation of funding to programmes to which women are beneficiaries such as eMTCT does not necessarily mean that they will benefit. It is important for women organisations to be empowered to address women's rights issues and to participate if they will be able to access the services. Funding has generally reduced for most NGOs due to the global financial situation. On the other hand, donors seem to be focusing on accountability, gender based violence and of recent, there is a move towards economic empowerment. It is important that funding priorities and priorities of organizations of women living with HIV, gender and human rights organizations are aligned.

Donors are also interested in organizations working in partnership in order to harness synergy. Organizations of women living with HIV, gender and human rights organizations should continue to form and strengthen partnerships, consortia and alliances in proposal development in order to strengthen their competitiveness.

To ensure that women organisations are accessing funding, global and national funding organisations should consider affirmative action for women organisations. Special requests for proposals should be put in place for women organisations. These should be simple which can be filled by the organisations with limited capacity. Some technical support organisations should be put in place to support organisations develop fundable proposals. The donors should also provide support for institutional support to women organisations. Donors and funding organisations should enable women organisations to be innovative in identifying their priority issues to address, upon which funding should be based. Therefore a Collaborative Fund for women and families in Africa model should be preferred as opposed to where the donors decide on which areas they want to fund and the applicants have to align to those donor priorities. This model is run by women themselves – they set priorities, elect a Community Review Panel that reviews and makes funds decisions (ICWEA 2007-2012).

It is also important to enhance the capacity of women organisations through provision of short-term Technical Assistance, mentorship, placements in order to improve their ability to attract resources and be competitive.

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Uganda AIDS Commission, (2012); The Uganda National AIDS Spending Assessment survey (NASA)

UWONET Directory

Zikusooka M Charlotte et al (2009); Financing for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in Uganda: An equity analysis; discussion paper 75, Regional Network for Equity in Health in east and southern Africa-Equinet

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Interview guide for organisations women, girl's rights and Gender

Organisation information

1. Name of organization
2. Location of organization (head offices)
3. How long has the organization been in place?

Organisation mandate/activities

4. What are the main activities of the organization?
5. What is your geographical coverage?
6. What is your target population?

Awareness of funding mechanisms

7. What funding opportunities in Uganda do you know, that your organization can benefit from.
8. Why do you consider this to be one of the opportunities your organization could benefit from?
9. What are the requirements of this funding mechanism?
10. Have you applied for funding from any of the above sources? If no why?

Access to funding

11. What are the sources of funding for your organization activities
12. Who are/is the funding partner/s of the organization currently?
13. For how long has your organization received funding from the above partner/s

14. Please provide information on funds received in the last three years indicating the sources and estimations of amount
15. What approach does your donor use to call for proposals (competitive bidding, single sourcing/earmarked)
16. What activities of your programme are funded and which ones (if any) are not funded?

Challenges with funding

17. How regularly/consistently has your organization been funded in the past three years?
18. What challenges does your organization face as regards funding
19. How do you go about addressing the above challenges?

Opinions about access to funding

20. What would you comment about the access to funding by organisations of women living with HIV and organisations of women focusing on Human rights, gender, women and girls? What are the challenges? How does access impact on the HIV response?

Appendix 2: Interview guide for funding/granting organisations

1. Name of funding organization
2. Type of funding organization (bilateral, INGO, UN agency e.t.c)
3. For how long has your organization been funding/granting HIV and AIDS work in Uganda
4. How does your organization generate the funds that you grant to other organisations?
5. What approach to you use to select organisations to benefit from your grants/funding
 - a. Earmarked funding,
 - b. competitive Request for proposals,
 - c. sub-granting
 - d. others
6. What is your funding eligibility criteria?
7. What is your most preferred approach of getting organisations to support?Why do you prefer that funding approach?
8. How many funding cycles have you released in the past three years? What size of funding is this (in USD)
9. Which organisations have benefited from your support in the past three years?
10. What is the average size of grant do you provide to the beneficiaries of your funding
11. What is the average duration of your grants
12. What thematic areas do your grants support?
13. What type of organisations does your financial support target?

14. Why are the types of organisations above your primary target?
15. Which, (if any) organisations of women living with HIV and organisations of women focusing on Human rights, gender, women and girls have benefited from your grants in the last 3 years?
16. If none, why?
17. What is your experience or funding organisations of women living with HIV and AIDS
18. What would you comment about the extent to which organisations of women living with HIV are accessing grants?
19. What would you recommend to improve access to funding by organisations of women living with HIV and AIDS and other women organisations.

Appendix 3: Key informant guide for National stakeholders and partners

1. Name of organization the partner works for
2. How long has respondent worked in that organization
3. How does the organization of the Key informant relate with organisations of women living with HIV and AIDS?
4. What does the Key informant think about the extent to which the organisations of women living with HIV are funded?
5. What factors influence access to funding by these organisations
6. What does the respondent recommend

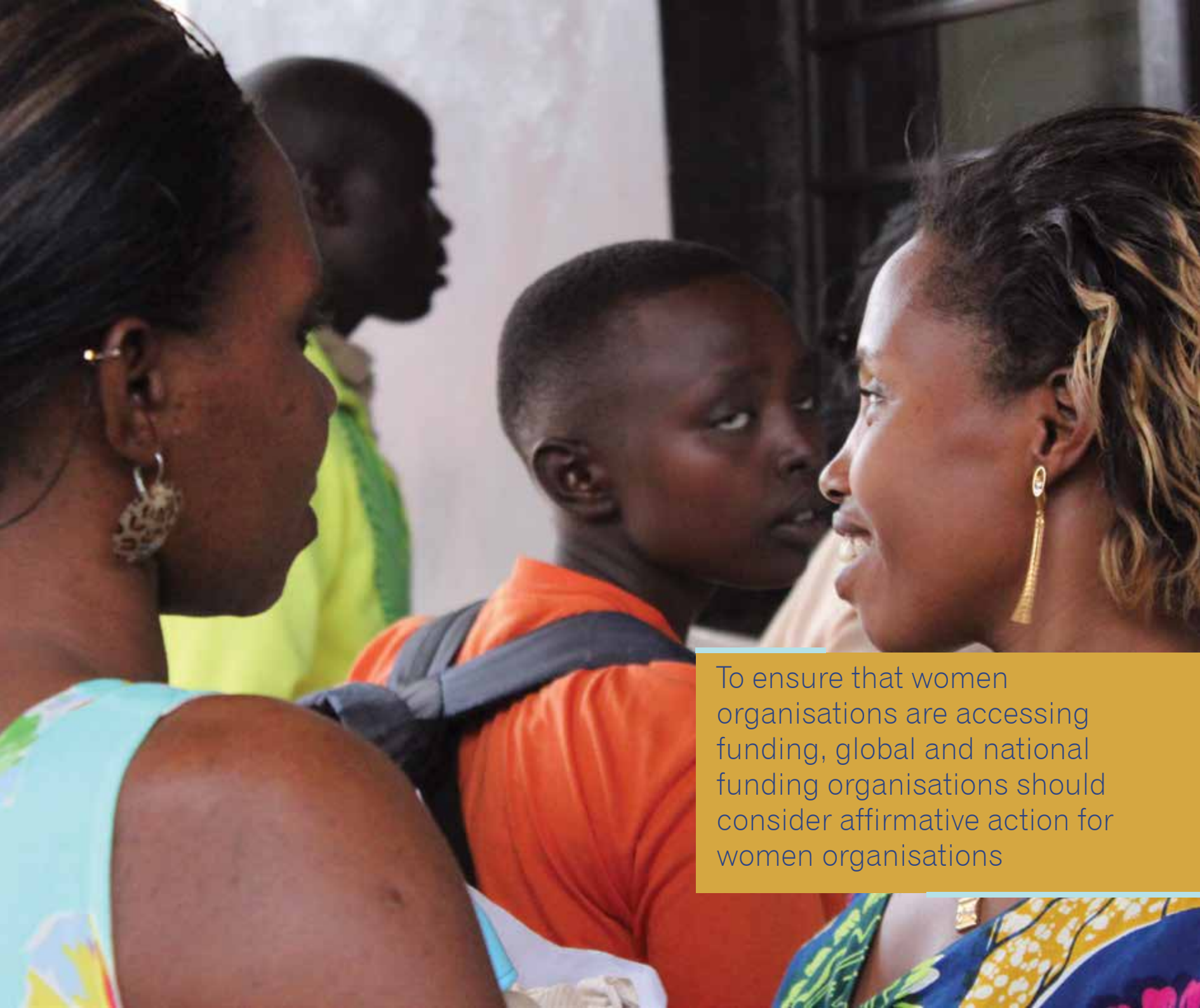
Appendix 4: List of organisations contacted and interviewed

	Organization	Location	Contact person	Telephone	Email
1	Action for Development (ACFODE)	Plot 623 bukoto	Regina Bafaki	0414531812	acfode@acfode.org
2	Campaign against domestic violence in the community (CADOVIC)	Apac	Felix George Arum	0775445580 0772308647	Cadovicapac2005@yahoo.com
3	Council for Economic empowerment for women of Africa (CEEWA Uganda)	Kansanga kiwafu rd	Mary Nanono	0414269477 0414469507	info@ceewauganda.org
4	East African Sub-regional Support Initiative for advancement of women (EASSI)	Plot 87 bukoto-ntinda rd	Marren Bukachi Akatsa	0414285163	Eassi.eassi@gmail.com
5	The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA – Uganda)	Plot 11 kanjokya street, kamwokya	Algresia Akwi	0414530848	fida@fidauganda.org
6	Centre For Women in Governance (CEWIGO)	Near kalinabiri PS, ntinda	Robinah Rubimbwa	0712555499 0414533837 0414532382	info@cewigo.org cewigo@gmail.com rrubimbwa@cewigo.org
7	Forum for Women in Development (FOWODE)	Plot 15, Vubya Close Ntinda-Nakawa Road	Patricia Munabi	0414286063	fowode@fowode.org
8	Isis Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange (ISIS-WICCE)	Plot 4, Myrters rd, Ministers village Ntinda	Executive Director	0414543953	isis@starcom.co.ug

	Organization	Location	Contact person	Telephone	Email
9	Forum for Kalongo Parish Women Association (FOKAPAWA)	Agago	Oyella Alba	0392842150 0782163336	focapawa@yahoo.com
10	Safe Motherhood Initiative In Uganda (SMIU)	Dept. of physiology, Mulago, medical sch	Margaret Kabanga	0414530500	Smiu65@hotmail.com
11	United Deaf Women Organisation (UDEWO)	Kampala	Namarome Rehema	0782703628 0785894617	Udewo2010.ug@gmail.com
12	National Association of Women Organisations in Uganda (NAWOU)			0414258463	nawo@nawouganda.org
13	Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)		Ritah Aciro	0414286539 0759330002	info@uwonet.or.ug
14	Dept. Of Women And Gender Studies, Makerere University	Makerere University		0414531484	wgs@ss.mak.ac.ug
15	Uganda Media Women's Association (UMWA)	Plot 226, block 241, bukoto, kisaasi	Margaret Sentamu	0772469363 0414595125	umwa@umwamamafm.co.ug
16	Women Rights Initiative (WORI)	Jinja	Kigere Rose Kavuma	0414372147 0774572490	Women.r.i@gmail.com exwori@gmail.com
17	Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET)	Ntinda	Dorah Kiconco	0414 574531	kicdor@yahoo.com
18	Women In Law And Development In Africa – Uganda (WILDAF-U)		Margaret Oguli Oumo	0414543953 0414259600	isis@starcom.co.ug susanmuwa@workmail.com

	Organization	Location	Contact person	Telephone	Email
19	Together Against AIDS Positive Association (TAAPA)	Nansana	Muhangi Betty		muhangibetty@yahoo.com
20	Tusitukirewamu Womens group	Bwaise			tusitukirewamu@yahoo.com
21	National Coalition of Women living with HIV and Aids in Uganda (NACOA)				
22	Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA)		Flavia Kyomukama		womenandaids@unaids.org
23	Women's Organization Network for Human Rights Advocacy (WONETHA)	Salaama Munyonyo Road, Haji Abasi Rd (Opp New Life Deliverance Church)	Nakato Daisy	0414 575 426 0774 603754	wonetha@gmail.com
24	National Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (NACWOLA)	Lower Muyenga B, plot 319, Bukasa road	Agnes Atim Apea	04144510528	nacwola@infocom.co.ug agnesapea@yahoo.com
25	Action Group for Health Human Rights and HIV/AIDS (AGHA-Uganda)	Ntinda	Denis Odwe		
26	Gulu Women with Disabilities union	Gulu			
27	Women and orphans support Organisation	Agago			
28	Katosi women development trust	Mukono/buikwe			

Note: The Highlighted organisations are those which were contacted and either interviews were not conducted or no responses were obtained.



To ensure that women organisations are accessing funding, global and national funding organisations should consider affirmative action for women organisations

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- 📘 ICW Eastern Africa



“
**Women account for
58% of people
living with HIV in
Sub-Saharan Africa.**
”

#WLHIVspeakOut



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