

**THE GENDER EDUCATION PROGRAMME ON THE PREVENTION OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN KYANKWANZI AND WAKISO DISTRICTS**

AN EVALUATION REPORT

**SUBMITTED TO
INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION (ISF) AND UGANDA MEDIA
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (UMWA)**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CECE	Community Efforts for Child Empowerment
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEDOVIP	Centre for Domestic Violence and Prevention
COFCAWE	Concern for Children and Women Empowerment
DV	Domestic Violence
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FM	Frequency Moderation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IRDI	Integrated Rural Development Initiatives
ISF	International Solidarity Foundation
LCI	Local Council One
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
MP	Member of Parliament
MUST	Mbarara University of Science and Technology
NGOs	Non Government Organizations
NRM	National Resistance Movement
OC – CID	Officer in Charge – Criminal Investigation Department
PWDs	People With Disabilities
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TC	Town Council
TOR	Terms of Reference
TOV	The Other Voice
UCC	Uganda Communications Council
UMWA	Uganda Media Women Association
UNHS	Uganda National Health Survey
UNICEF	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
WTCCA	Wakiso Town Council Community Activists Association

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The evaluation of the “Prevention of Domestic Violence in Wakiso and Kyankwanzi Districts Project” being implemented in partnership with Uganda Media Women’s Association (UMWA) was conducted between July – September 2012 in Uganda. The ToR for this evaluation were consistent with ISF principles and strategic objectives and directions for Development Cooperation that point to the need for closer collaboration, synergies and leveraging of knowledge across spaces and regions. They were also consistent with UMWA’s mission and vision, values and strategic programme objectives which aim at providing development and human rights information to women and other marginalized groups for effective decision-making.

The main purpose of the evaluation was to analyze the impacts, results, sustainability, relevance and efficiency of the project on preventing domestic violence in the target areas. This involved examining the project strategies and activities, and the extent of achievement of the project results, purpose and goal and the impacts generated by the project- both expected and unexpected; and based on the findings, identify and suggest lessons and give concrete recommendations that will form the basis for a possible continuation of the project.

Specifically, the evaluation focused on:

- i. Analyzing the impacts/results, sustainability, relevance and efficiency of the ‘Prevention of Domestic Violence Project in Kyankwanzi (formerly part of Kiboga) and Wakiso districts’;
- ii. Assessing the project strategies and activities and the level of achievement of the project results, purpose and goal and the impacts generated by the project (expected and/or unexpected) and;
- iii. Suggesting concrete recommendations for possible continuation of the project.

The evaluation focused on the DV project period starting 2009 to June 2012 and was carried out in the two project areas of Mulagi Sub County and Wakiso TC. It covered a total of 12 villages (7 villages in Mulagi Sub County and 5 villages in Wakiso TC) out of the 31 villages covered by the project. This represented 40% coverage of the project area.

Methodology

The evaluation design was purely qualitative and employed participatory approaches that used a range of methods and sources of data-both internal and external to the project areas. The principal population was the people of Mulagi Sub County and Wakiso TC who were the target for the sensitization activities on DV, Community Activists, community leaders and

professionals, UMWA/Mama FM staff, ISF staff in Uganda, government departments dealing with GBV and other UMWA partners in implementing the DV project.

The methods used included a review of relevant documents; key informant interviews with UMWA board members and project staff, semi-structured interviews with local leaders and partner organizations staff, focus group discussions with community leaders and members of communities, in-depth case studies with households/families that had experienced DV and observations.

The limitations faced during the evaluation in the two project areas were similar and different given the context of these areas. The very nature of DV posed the first limitation: DV is amorphous, fluid, and intrinsic and in some instances intangible. Some types such as sexual and to some extent emotional violence are highly secretive in manifestation and occurrence. This was worsened by the rigid cultural and traditional beliefs and practices attached to family and intimate relationship issues. To collect reliable data on this phenomenon was to some extent a challenging task.

The other limitation, especially in Mulagi was the carving of Kyankwanzi district from Kiboga district. When the project started in 2009, Kiboga was still one district. The district officials trained belonged to Kiboga district. In 2010, Kyankwanzi was created and this led to separation/sharing of physical and human resources between the two districts. Some trained staff at district level were transferred to the far off Kyankwanzi district headquarters while others remained in Kiboga. This state of affairs was worsened by the fact that Mulagi Sub County is nearer to Kiboga district headquarters than it is to Kyankwanzi District headquarters. This became a story of the *“bat – whether it is a mammal or a bird”*. It was therefore quite difficult to find district officials who were trained by the DV project and consistent with the project activities. In the same way because of its proximity to Kiboga, many community members of Mulagi SC preferred to seek services from the nearby community service delivery points in Kiboga District.

In Wakiso TC, it was difficult to mobilize community leaders and members for interviews and FGDs. This was due to the fact that being an urban setting; people are highly mobile and impersonal. Their main concern seemed to be daily survival rather than participation in voluntary community activities. This was further complicated by the uncertainty surrounding the legality of LC I structures.

Findings

The key findings of the evaluation have been presented and discussed under five major themes of project relevance, implementation process, impact, sustainability and effectiveness and efficiency of the DV project.

Regarding project relevance, the main findings were:

- i) DV was a real community development challenge (both in magnitude and severity) that needed urgent intervention: During interviews and FGDs, it was revealed that DV physically, emotionally and economically affected all sections of the community-women, children and men. It was further revealed that when there is DV in a home; livelihood activities especially livestock and crop gardens are not attended to, thus causing food shortage and insecurity, and poverty.
- ii) During FGDs with community members and interviews with village leaders in the twelve sampled villages, it was reported that while some of them did not participate in the initial project identification process, after being trained and sensitized by UMWA, they realized that DV was a serious problem that needed to be addressed.
- iii) The participatory approach used in project identification and sensitization facilitated its acceptability to the target communities. Both the approach and content which were reported to be educative, appealing and friendly rather than the earlier 'confrontational' messages on women equality.
- iv) The use of a two-pronged approach (participatory training and mass media-Mama FM and TOV) in the sensitization and advocacy campaign precipitated the process of knowledge acquisition about DV in the target communities. Specifically, in Wakiso TC community members reported the instrumental role played by Mama FM in creating awareness and offering a public platform where issues concerning DV are shared. TOV which largely targets policy makers has been able to expose not only the dangers of DV but also other national issues from a gender perspective. The evaluation further established that the media approach had provided an information sharing and dissemination platform to other ISF partners such as COFCAWE and IRDI.
- v) Although the participatory and media approaches used were reported to be educative and appealing, they treated the project beneficiaries as homogenous. Salient differences that exist among people on the basis of gender, age and tribe were not adequately catered for. What emerged during interviews and FGDs was that men's participation in sensitization meetings was still low; migrant communities (Banyarwanda and Bakiga) in Mulagi Sub County were reported to experience relatively more DV cases; PWDs were/are still more vulnerable to DV; the trained peer educators' dropout rate was high; and the urban lifestyle in Wakiso TC was a

challenge because community members were more pre-occupied with day-to-day survival.

On the DV project implementation process, the findings show that:

- vi) The project involved the community and consulted leaders at different levels and in different ways to select the 31 project villages (20 in Mulagi sub county and 11 in Wakiso TC), and the community activists. This process helped to build a strong foundation for the project as it created momentum for its acceptability and became a key entry point into the community.
- vii) The project made use of the existing local structures to gain community entry and existing infrastructure to conduct training and sensitization of beneficiaries.
- viii) Where the existing community structures were weak, it posed a challenge especially in selection of community activists and mobilization of communities.
- ix) The training received by UMWA staff was relevant, appropriate and timely as it equipped them with knowledge and skills and the right attitude to implement the DV project
- x) The psycho-social methodology used to train and the content received by community activists and local leaders challenged and in the majority of cases changed their traditional beliefs and practices that promoted DV.
- xi) There were some gaps in the implementation process regarding the relationship among duration of training, content load and the use of participatory training methods. The majority of trainees complained about content overload.
- xii) Whereas the UMWA board of directors' supervisory/ advisory role was spelt out at project design, it was evident during the evaluation that they have not been very active in the supervision of the project. This seemed to stem from the fact that most Board members work outside Kampala. This subsequently denied the project the crucial role of oversight, supplementary advocacy and lobbying; and general guidance on policy issues.
- xiii) As a community training manual, the handbook 'speaks' to its intended users with learning objectives, relevant exercises, guiding questions and good formatting. More importantly, the handbook gives a number of team building tactics and relevant plays and skits to be played out during training sessions.
- xiv) The main gap identified is that the manual lacks attractive illustrations and animations that are recommended in participatory community training tools.

As far as project impact is concerned, the evaluation found that:

- xv) All interviewed local leaders and FGD participants were able to define DV and to identify at least 3 of its types. It was recognized as a human rights abuse and its effects to the community were contextually explained. The communities were

reasonably alert about DV and, extent of its disapproval was equally impressive and interviewed community members knew where to go when they experienced DV. These findings did not seem to agree with UMWA's own monitoring study which showed that by June 2012, 25% of men and 35% of women in Mulagi Sub County and 15% of men and 20% of women in Wakiso TC were able to define at least 3 different types of DV. This difference could be explained from the different methodologies of data collection adopted by UMWA and the evaluation team. The qualitative tools used by the evaluation team were open ended and allowed respondents to freely express themselves and also had room for probing.

xvi) The awareness raising trainings on DV and women's rights helped women participating in the project to strengthen their self-esteem and confidence. Women have begun to be more assertive both at household and community levels in as far as their rights are concerned and have started engaging in small income generating activities.

xvii) Much as it is still early to report on change in the negative attitudes and practices but during interviews and FGDs with community activists, community members and leaders, there was sufficient evidence to show that some positive changes were beginning to take place. Local council leaders, for example, reported that they were doing things differently such as:

- Listening to DV victims instead of sending them back to their homes to settle their issues within the family;
- Mediation between the DV victim and the perpetrator and not blaming the victim;
- Putting in place by-laws to support non-violent relationships,
- Providing shelter to the DV victim to get her out of immediate danger;
- Creating confidential spaces to listen to cases of DV and have done away with local council charges (Empabi) while dealing with DV cases. (these changes were reported in some villages of Mulagi Sub County)
- Keeping the DV victims issues confidential;
- Working together with community activists; and
- Referring DV cases to police where cases are beyond their jurisdiction.

Among men/husbands, it was reported that some men were now becoming more sensitive and concerned about women issues. They were doing things differently such as:

- Appreciating non violent relationships and DV as a violation of ones human rights and as a crime;
- Allowing their wives to engage in income generating activities;
- Allowing their wives to join community groups and participating in community leadership;

Overall, there are indications that there is a gradual process of change in attitudes and values, knowledge, skills and practices towards dealing with the problem of DV.

- xviii) In both Mulagi and Wakiso TC, the officers in charge of the police stations confirmed that there is a dramatic decrease in the number of DV cases reported; dropping from an average of 6-8 cases to 2-3 cases a week. This trend was attributed to several factors but those specific to the DV project were reported to include: the sensitization and media campaign and training carried out by UMWA that has turned DV into a shameful issue to those who practice it; increased knowledge about the different support/delivery service points within and outside the project areas where DV cases are reported; as well as settling matters with community activists before going to police.
- xix) The DV project also had some unintended outcomes (both positive and negative). Some of these include: beneficiaries in project areas starting income generating activities, some trained activists and UMWA staff playing mediation role in addition to raising awareness about DV among others.
- xx) Negative outcomes such as men looking at UMWA/ISF intervention as a problem to their marriage, some husbands/fathers abdicating their responsibilities; and some local leaders trying to use the project to gain political influence were also reported during the evaluation.
- xxi) Although some significant change has been registered in awareness and attitude change towards DV in the two project areas, the change is quite slow because DV is a cultural practice and changing people's attitudes requires time. Some knowledge discrepancies especially in the explanations of the causes of DV was evident in the communities hence a need for more advocacy and sensitization using a multi-media approach. Also, use of quantitative measures of impact assessment is inadequate because by its pervasive nature, DV is difficult to be accurately quantified.

With DV project sustainability the main findings are:

- xxii) Although much remains to be done, a good foundation has been laid by the DV project for sustainability. The evaluation identified scattered but promising efforts at individual and community level to address the problem of DV. For example local council structures at the village level, religious institutions, and community activists are all fundamental sources of sustainability.
- xxiii) Through partnerships with other organizations such as CECE, CEDOVIP, COFCAWE, CIMEL and institutions like police and health centers, providing different services such as treatment and counseling, project facilitators were able to refer DV victims to services that were outside the scope of the project. The DV

project was also able to tap into resources that it did not have through these networks with its partners.

- xxiv) A number of initiatives and by-laws have been put in place in the two project areas to ensure project sustainability. For example in Wakiso, community activists formed an association called Wakiso TC Community Activists Association (WTCCA) to sustain their activities. In Mulagi, bye-laws have been initiated and the most outstanding ones include : bars not to open before 2:00pm and closing by 10:00pm (*over consuming of alcohol was identified as one of the fuelling factor for DV*), children under 18 years not allowed in video halls, children and women consenting to all decisions made in a home among others.
- xxv) The community service delivery points such as OC-CID, Child and family Protection Officers and OC-Community Liaison office were fairly equipped in form of training especially on what constitutes DV, the causes and they were helped to appreciate the manner in which to handle cases of DV. The major constraints to their work were reported to include: sporadic transfer of trained staff and inadequate facilities at the police stations. The health structures however, were found to be the most neglected service delivery points in the DV project.
- xxvi) Whereas, the community activists and partner organizations are doing a commendable job, the evaluation identified several challenges that seem to threaten the DV project performance and sustainability. These included: high dropout rate among community activists especially in Wakiso (50% among adults and 75% among the female and male youth), wavering commitment, high expectations from the project and responsibility overload. As a response to some of the challenges, in Wakiso TC, community activists have formed an association called Wakiso TC Community Activists Association (WTCCA).
- xxvii) The key factors influencing UMWA's effectiveness are closely and intricately related to its wealth of experience in the arena of women empowerment, the experience and dedication of its staff, level and management of available resources-human, physical and financial; organizational structures and reporting systems as well as accountability and optimization of finances and information systems.
- xxviii) At the project level, interviews with senior managers and project staff revealed a great level of satisfaction with the project output, reporting and accountability structures, managerial competency and the general performance of the project vis-à-vis its goal of "communities disapproving domestic violence by end of June 2012".
- xxix) Whereas UMWA has made significant strides in dealing with the problem of DV, its effectiveness is coming against a number of hindering factors which are both internal and external. Internally, there are challenges of inadequate staff remuneration which is incommensurate with the current high cost of living. This is likely to affect the commitment and enthusiasm of the staff working on the project.

- xxx) There is also a challenge of a weak Mama FM signal which does not cover Mulagi Sub County and other rural parts of Buganda. As the flagship and mouthpiece of DV, the radio also faces stiff competition for listenership with over 100 FM radio stations that largely and sometimes, exclusively focus on entertainment rather than development issues
- xxxi) Externally, prevalence of traditional beliefs rooted in the patriarchal and religious customs that variously continue to perpetuate gender discrimination and allot different privileges to men and women is a challenge to the project's full realization of the intended objectives.

Lessons learnt and recommendations

Project relevance

Lesson: DV was a development problem that was/is silently destroying the family and social fabric of society. However, the project used similar methods and approaches in identifying and dealing with the problem, even though the project was being implemented in two areas with different socio-economic and demographic features. The evaluators did not note any significant difference in the methodology used given the uniqueness of the two project areas.

Recommendation: The next phase should focus on teasing out more concretely the uniqueness of the two project areas. The DV project should avoid the 'one-size-fits-all' approach it used in the implementation of the project and instead recognize the economic and demographic differences existing between the two project areas (rural and urban). Identify challenges of men in as far as the approaches used: discussions with experienced community workers recommended *'finding men where they are than inviting them for meetings and workshops'*. Others that need special considerations are PWDs, and the migrant communities in Mulagi Sub County.

Project implementation process

Lesson: the success of the implementation of the DV project was determined by the availability, strengths and cooperation of local council and community structures. The key role played by community leaders and community activists in identification of the problem, community mobilization and sensitization as well as prevention cannot be overemphasized. The use of a two-pronged approach (participatory training and multi media in the sensitization and advocacy campaign precipitated the process of knowledge acquisition about DV in the target communities.

Recommendation: Focus on building the capacity of local council structures and other service delivery points through more training on human rights and the existing laws against DV and support emerging local initiatives aimed at preventing DV.

The health centers and workers need to be brought on board and their capacity strengthened to offer counseling services to victims of DV more especially in relation to sexual violence and HIV/AIDS.

Strengthen Mama FM Radio by boosting the transmitter to improve the output to cover a wider area than it is currently serving. The swap deal with Kiboga FM that was initiated to host Mama FM signal on their mast, like wise them also putting theirs at UMWA's mast, as well as having a small transmitter installed in that location seems a viable option that should be explored during the next project phase; Its impact in addressing DV is likely to be felt more in rural areas than in its current area of coverage where it competes for listenership with over 100 commercial radio stations.

Engage the community activists in contractual obligations that clearly spell out the terms of their work, motivate them through establishing a more personal relationship with them and frequent support supervision.

Make the training materials on DV more durable, user-friendly and attractive. There is also need to develop more IEC materials to be used by the community activists and other local leaders.

In addition to working with local structures and community activists, UMWA needs to strengthen the use of Music, Dance and Drama (MDD) to mobilize, and create awareness about DV. The use of MDD is both educative and entertaining – and was recommended as a strategy more likely to reach the 'hard-to-reach' like men and the youth.

The UMWA board should become more visible in the governance and provision of the strategic direction to the DV project.

Impact

Lessons: The impact of the project is visible compared to the situation before the project was implemented (there is sufficient evidence to show that some negative attitudes and practices are beginning to change). The use of quantitative measures of impact is inadequate because by its pervasive nature, DV cannot be accurately quantified. Changes in attitude, knowledge levels and increased awareness brought about by participatory approaches are better captured and judged through qualitative means.

Recommendations: The project has achieved one level of awareness creation and knowledge acquisition. There is need to focus the second phase on activities that integrate critical community thinking and self-assessment to address the underlying causes of DV as many respondents attributed DV to fueling factors like poverty, rather than the unequal power relations that are supported by different structures in society.

Increased awareness led to community disapproval of DV as a human rights abuse. This led to an unanticipated rise in the demand for DV resolution, counseling and mediation services. Since the service points such as health centers and police units were not satisfactorily offering these services, the victims of DV turned to community activists for these very services.

The intensity of the sensitization and mobilization campaign about DV has contributed to the gradual but impressive change in attitudes, behaviors and practices of the target beneficiaries.

Local/religious leaders should be equipped with counseling and mediation skills and knowledge to be able to meet the expectations of the community beneficiaries. Other service delivery points like the police, and health units should be strengthened to perform their designated responsibilities.

Sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness

Lessons: There are interesting community-based initiatives emerging in the two project areas. These initiatives offer a promising starting point for the project to build a strong foundation for the sustainability of the project. Community activists are an equally promising sustainability measure if the gaps identified with regard to their selection, training, and motivation are adequately addressed.

A warm and respectful relationship between UMWA and ISF is at the heart of project effectiveness and efficiency. Each partner has been able to fulfill its contractual obligations. This has been made possible by keeping effective communication between the partners.

Recommendations: Mechanisms should be put in place to support the emerging initiatives in communities that work to prevent DV.

Staff remuneration should factor in the ever increasing cost of living and be commensurate with the work done.

Existing networks and collaborations between UMWA and other partners should be strengthened by signing memoranda of understanding and integrating the activities in the work plans.

INTRODUCTION

This section gives an introduction of ISF and UMWA including a brief historical background, mission, vision and activities. It also provides a description of the purpose, methodology, sources, limitations and structure of the evaluation.

1.1 ISF and its development activities in Uganda

The International Solidarity Foundation (ISF) is a Finnish non-governmental organization founded in 1970. Committed to poverty reduction and the promotion of human rights and equality, ISF is currently supporting development projects in three countries: Somaliland, Uganda and Nicaragua. ISF launched its development cooperation in Uganda in 2001. The aim of ISF's work in Uganda is to contribute to the socio-economic development of the country. This is informed by ISF's core values and beliefs, which underpinned by the desire to streamline gender equality in all of its activities, can be summarized thus: participation; sustainability; empowerment; gender equality; networking; accountability; and mutual learning. The primary goal of ISF's development cooperation is to reduce poverty through improving gender equality and the chances of the poorest to earn a living. The critical areas of development emphasized by ISF include decent work, sustainable livelihoods and gender equality. With this focus, ISF has supported a number of local initiatives aimed at improving the livelihoods of the marginalized through upraising their incomes, equipping them with the right information and equipping the youth with vocational skills.

ISF has a well documented experience of supporting grass root development initiatives that are in line with its two thematic programmes of gender equality and improving women's rights. Guided by the overarching goal of reducing poverty among the marginalized sections of the Ugandan society, ISF has over the years supported and partnered with a number of local NGOs to implement projects that target to improve the living conditions of the poor and vulnerable, especially children and women. At the core of this support is the strong belief in the need to empower women by mainstreaming gender equality in all its activities. This is done through programmes that strengthen women's possibilities to freely develop their own lives through work on sexual reproductive health, women's economic empowerment and enhanced decision-making. It is against this background that ISF has been supporting two local NGOs to implement two gender equality projects in Uganda. These projects are:

- i) *“Gender Integrated Education Program On Reproductive Health And STDs/HIV/AIDS For Empowerment Of Children Aged 8 -14 Years And Their Families In Wakiso District”* being implemented in partnership with Concern for Children and Women Empowerment (COFCAWE) and;

- ii) *“Prevention of Domestic Violence in Wakiso and Kyankwanzi Districts”* being implemented in partnership with Uganda Media Women’s Association (UMWA). This latter project is the subject of this evaluation.

1.2 Uganda Media Women’s Association (UMWA)

UMWA started in 1983 as an association to give a voice to the least heard women issues that were not getting due attention and coverage by the media. This followed the realization that there was no umbrella body to cater for the professional interests of women in media as well as the information needs of the marginalized in society. UMWA’s vision is “a nation of women, children and men making informed decisions for gender equality and social justice” and its mission is “To enhance the visibility and status of women and other marginalized groups through advocacy, awareness creation, networking and capacity strengthening to realize gender equity (and equality)”. UMWA is guided in its operations by values of Commitment, Democracy, Equality, Equity and inclusiveness, Integrity, Justice, Love, Mutual respect, Transparency and accountability, and Teamwork and professional excellence. UMWA’s overall programme objective is to provide development and human rights information to women and other marginalized groups for effective decision-making and advocate for gender responsive policies and legislation for improved livelihood.

With a wealth of experience and expertise spanning over two decades of activism and lobbying for gender equality policies and interventions, UMWA has established a strong niche in implementing programmes that improve the living conditions of not only women but also of men and the entire society with strong emphasis on changing attitudes of society about women’s rights and their contribution in society.

Between 2009 and 2012 ISF has been supporting UMWA to implement a project titled ‘Prevention of Domestic Violence in Kyankwanzi and Wakiso districts’. The goal of the project was to ensure that communities in Kyankwanzi and Wakiso districts disapprove domestic violence by end of June 2012. The purpose of the project was to increase knowledge about domestic violence among men, women, boys, girls and leaders and policy makers (Local council leaders, Religious, Village elders, parish chiefs, Buganda government leaders, and family heads) has led to change of attitudes against DV in communities of Wakiso Town Council (TC) and Mulagi Sub County.

1.3 Purpose

According to the terms of reference (TOR), the main purpose of the evaluation was:

- i. To analyze the impacts, results, sustainability, relevance and efficiency of the project on preventing domestic violence in the target area. This would involve looking at the project strategies and activities, and the extent of achievement of the project results, purpose and goal and the impacts generated by the project- both expected and unexpected.
- ii. Based on the findings, identify and suggest lessons and give concrete recommendations that will form the basis for a possible continuation of the project, in relation to all of the above mentioned aspects of the project implementation.

1.4 Objectives

The main objective was to carry out an evaluation of the project ‘Prevention of Domestic Violence in Kyankwanzi (formerly Kiboga) and Wakiso districts’. Specifically, the evaluation focused on:

- i) Analyzing the impacts, results, sustainability, relevance and efficiency of the project.
- ii) assessing the project strategies and activities and the level of achievement of the project results, purpose and goal and the impacts generated by the project (expected and/or unexpected) and;
- iii) Suggesting concrete recommendations for possible continuation of the project

1.5 Scope

The evaluation was carried out in the two project areas of Mulagi Sub County and Wakiso TC. It covered a total of 12 villages (7 villages in Mulagi Sub County and 5 villages in Wakiso TC) out of the 31 villages covered by the project. This represented 40% coverage of the project area. The focus was on analyzing impacts, results, sustainability, relevance and efficiency of the DV project.

1.6 Evaluation questions

The evaluation was guided by the following main questions;

- i) How relevant was the project to the development needs of the target communities?
- ii) What training and knowledge were given to and acquired by members in the target community?
- iii) What is the level of community awareness about domestic violence?
- iv) What changes have occurred in the lives of the beneficiaries and the community?
- v) How efficient have the project resources put to use?
- vi) How can the gains made by the project be improved and sustained?

1.7 Methodology

This evaluation employed a multiplicity of data collection methods to suit the diversity of target respondents. A semi-structured interview guide with a participatory component was designed in line with the TOR. This tool was used to collect data from Community Activists,

households affected by domestic violence and community members, local and religious leaders in the two project areas of Mulagi Sub County in Kyankwanzi district and Wakiso TC in Wakiso district.

Two teams composed of a senior researcher and two research assistants simultaneously conducted the interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in each of the two project areas. The villages in which the interviews and FGDs were conducted were randomly selected. In Mulagi sub county 8 villages were selected out of the 20 villages while in Wakiso TC, 5 villages were selected out of 10 villages that are covered by the project. All the respondents (local leaders, community activists, religious leaders) were purposively selected. In each of the villages selected, the chairman LCI and the secretary for women were interviewed; two community activists were chosen taking into consideration age and gender, while religious leaders were considered at the Sub County and town council levels. For households affected by DV, snowball sampling was used. In addition, the evaluators conducted in-depth interviews with ISF country representative, UMWA Board members and UMWA staff, who included, Executive Director, DV Project Coordinator, Assistant Project Coordinator, DV project accountant and MAMA FM Radio presenters. Interviews were also conducted with members of partner organizations such as CIMEL, CEDOVIP, CECE and World Vision.

The evaluators also conducted a review of project documents which included among others training manuals, Domestic Violence Act (2010), project proposal, baseline surveys, annual monitoring reports, *The Other Voice*, the documentary on DV, field reports, international and national policy documents on Gender Based Violence and other secondary online literature relevant to women and gender issues. These documents provided the background and context to the project as well as the legal and institutional framework regarding the issue of DV in Uganda.

A workshop to validate and disseminate the evaluation findings was held as part of the evaluation process. Representatives of the DV project beneficiaries participated in the workshop. These included: District technical staff of both Kyankwanzi and Wakiso Districts, representatives of the political leadership in Kyakwanzi Sub County and Wakiso TC, religious leaders, sub county level councilors, community leaders and representatives of the trained community activists. Other participants included ISF Country Coordinator and her assistant, representatives of ISF partner organizations: COFCAWE, IRDI; UMWA staff and board members. Over 130 participants attended the workshop. Issues and input made during the discussion have been incorporated into the report.

1.8 Limitations

The limitations faced in the two project areas were similar and different given the context of these areas. The very nature of DV posed the first limitation: DV is amorphous, fluid, intrinsic and intangible. Some types such as sexual and to some extent emotional violence are highly secretive in manifestation and occurrence. This is worsened by the rigid cultural and traditional beliefs and practices attached to family and intimate relationship issues. To collect reliable data on this phenomenon was to some extent a challenging task.

The other limitation, especially in Mulagi was the carving of Kyankwanzi district from Kiboga district. When the project started in 2009, Kiboga was still one district. The district officials trained belonged to Kiboga district. In 2010, Kyankwanzi was created and this led to separation/sharing of physical and human resources between the two districts. Some trained staff at district level were transferred to the far off Kyankwanzi district headquarters while others remained in Kiboga. This state of affairs was worsened by the fact that Mulagi Sub County is nearer to Kiboga district headquarters than it is to Kyankwanzi District headquarters. This became a story of the *“bat – whether it is a mammal or a bird”*. We were therefore not able to find district officials who were trained by the DV project and consistent with the project activities.

In Wakiso TC, it was difficult to mobilize community leaders and members for interviews and FGDs. This was due to the fact that being an urban setting, people are highly mobile and impersonal. Their main concern seemed to be daily survival rather volunteering to participate in community activities. This was further complicated by the uncertainty surrounding the legality of LC I structures.

Structure of the report

The following report is organized into four sections. Section One. The Introduction elaborates on the terms of Reference, the purpose, objectives and methods of the evaluation.

Section Two presents the context of the evaluation with specific reference to the policy and legal framework of DV in Uganda, its prevalence and linkage to development issues. This section further gives a brief description of the key demographic features of Kyankwanzi and Wakiso Districts. Section

Three presents the findings on relevance, DV project implementation process, impact, sustainability and efficiency.

Section Four, the final section summarizes the study findings, gives lessons learnt and the recommendations for possible continuation of the DV project.

CONTEXT OF DV IN UGANDA

2.1 Legal and policy framework

At policy and legislation levels, Uganda has shown considerable commitment in the protection of women from all forms of mistreatment and harassment. At an international level, Uganda is a signatory to a number of international and regional conventions and treaties that promote women rights and protect them against any form of discrimination and mistreatment and generally promote their wellbeing. For example, Uganda is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), (1981), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1987), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990), the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (1986)¹, the 2000 Millennium Declaration that spelt out the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)². In addition, Uganda is party to several international human rights instruments that advance the rights and principles with regard to the equality, security, liberty, integrity and dignity of women and the protection of women from physical, sexual and psychological violence³.

At the national level, Uganda has drafted, passed and put in place a series of progressive laws, policies and other political measures aimed at improving the status and welfare of women at all levels and in all sectors of society. The most outstanding legislation that guarantees the protection of women is the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) which 'provides for equality between women and men and for affirmative action'. Chapter IV of the Constitution is devoted to the protection of fundamental and other human rights and freedoms and there are specific provisions that relate to gender. Chapter XV of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy states that: "the state shall recognize the significant role that women play in society." Article 21 (2) of the Constitution of Uganda states that: "a person shall not be discriminated against on the ground of sex..." Article 32 (1) states that: "... the state shall take affirmative action in favour of groups marginalized on the basis of gender, ... or any other reason created by history, tradition or custom, for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist against them."⁴

¹ See <http://www.cewigo.org/reports/policybriefInsidefinal.pdf>

Making UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the Goma Declaration a Reality for Women and Girls in Uganda: Policy Briefs, 2010

² MDG3 specifically states: Promote gender equality and empower women

³ See <http://www.cewigo.org/reports/policybriefInsidefinal.pdf>

⁴ See Madanda, Ngolobe and Zavuga Amuriat, (2009) Uganda: Violence against Women and Information and Communication Technologies, available on

http://www.genderit.org/sites/default/upload/uganda_APC_WNSP_MDG3_VAW_ICT_ctryrpt_2.pdf

The clearest article that specifically addresses the challenge of DV is Article 33 (1-5) which states that: Women shall be accorded full and equal dignity of the person with men; the state shall provide the facilities and opportunities necessary to enhance the welfare of women to enable them to realize their full potential and advancement; the state shall protect women and their rights, taking into account their unique status and natural maternal functions in society; women shall have the right to equal treatment with men and that right shall include equal opportunities in political, economic and social activities; ... women shall have the right to affirmative action for the purpose of redressing the imbalances created by history, tradition or custom; laws, cultures, customs or traditions which are against the dignity, welfare or interest of women or which undermine their status, are prohibited.

There are other structures and measures put in place by the state to generally protect law and order such as police and specifically to address the historical gender imbalances through affirmative action. It is now a requirement of all state programmes to mainstream gender in their activities. This implies that gender and by extension women issues are a key priority of the Ugandan Government. The National Development Plan 2010/11-2014/15 proposes strategies to address gender-related constraints to development and suggests how to mainstream gender into policies, plans, and programmes. In addition, the Uganda Local Government Act 1997 provides for one third of the seats on each local council to be reserved for women. This form of political affirmative action has increased the visibility of women in public life and decision-making organs.

To operationalise the constitutional stipulations, the Domestic Violence Act was ratified in 2010 to further criminalize DV in Uganda. The act provides a comprehensive definition of domestic violence that includes physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, psychological, and economic violence as well as harassment. It provides for the protection and relief of victims of domestic violence, and spells out the punishment of perpetrators of domestic violence. The Act further provides for the procedure and guidelines to be followed by the court in relation to the protection and compensation of victims of domestic violence; and empowers the family and children court to handle cases of domestic violence and other related matters.

However, the existence of a seemingly robust legal and policy framework, has not translated into a decrease in the occurrence of DV in the country. These policies have largely remained on paper, a situation that has been attributed to the ‘waning political will that is evidenced by limited attention and little funding allocated by government for peace building and conflict prevention programmes and specific interventions that protect the rights and physical security of women and girls.’⁵ Indeed the resources-human and financial wherewithal- needed to translate the policy and legal regime into reality remains the stiffest hurdle in combating the

⁵ CEWIGO

problem of DV in the country. This bad situation is worsened by the continued prevalence of traditional beliefs and practices such as early marriage, widow inheritance, forceful property appropriation from widows and orphans, bride price as well as ignorance about the manifestations of DV among many community members.

2.2 Perception and prevalence of DV in Uganda

The latest statistics released by UDHS (2011) show a slight decline in the number of women who believe that wife beating is justified for some specific reasons from seven in ten women (68 per cent) in 2006 to six in ten women (58 percent) in 2011. The specific reasons given include; burning the food, engaging in argument with a man, going out without informing the man, neglecting the children and refusing to have sexual intercourse. The survey further shows that acceptance of wife beating varies by women's age and is highest among the youngest age group (62 percent) and lowest among women age 30-34 (53 percent). Rural women are much more accepting of wife beating (61 percent) than urban women (46 percent). Acceptance of wife beating is most prevalent among women with low levels of education and those living in poor households.

Another study done in 2006 by the Uganda Law Reform Commission yielded similar data, indicating that 66 percent of both men and women respondents had experienced domestic violence (CEDOVIP 2007). In its 2006 survey, the United States (US) Department of State showed that 70 percent of women had been physically or sexually abused (US 11 Mar. 2008, Sec. 5). This survey also found that 60 percent of men and 70 percent of women in Uganda condone wife beating. This attitude reflects statistics published by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in its 2008 report, which indicates that 77 percent of women aged 15 to 49 years feel that spousal violence is justified for a variety of reasons, such as if the woman burns food or refuses sexual relations. A report published by Uganda Bureau of Statistics in 2007 revealed that 68 percent of ever-married women aged 15 to 49 years had experienced some form of violence inflicted by their spouse or intimate partner

Regarding property ownership and decision making the survey shows a slightly improving scenario. About four in ten women own a house and/or land, mostly jointly with their husband. Only 38 percent of currently married women participate in all three decisions pertaining to their own health care, major household purchases, and visits to their family or relatives. This decision making improves with the level of education and income as more than half of currently married employed women (53 percent) who earn cash mainly make independent decisions about how to spend their earnings.

The survey conducted by UMWA in 2005 to establish why women in Kiboga (now Kyankwanzi) district were not participating and benefiting from government programmes and

policies, 60% of the women respondents reported that they were experiencing DV being perpetuated by their husbands who regard them as subordinates , disrespected and treated them like property. Seventy percent (70%) of the men confirmed regarding their women as property...hence beating wife or raping her is not taken as a crime and women for fear of ridicule by the community suffer silently in their marriages.

2.3 The link between DV and development

According to CEDOVIP (2007) DV is a major hindrance to economic development of a country because it limits both women's and men's abilities to fully participate equally in developmental initiatives. The household, in economic analysis, determines much of what becomes in the public economic arena. Decisions and activities within the household therefore largely influence the outer economic world. If violence is occurring in households then, it impoverishes individuals, their families and communities. Violence occurring in households further lowers the overall educational attainment, mobility and innovative potential of victims. In other words, development is the final output of stable and healthier relations between women and men within their families. A community assessment by UMWA (2007) in Nabaale, Mukono District, established that domestic violence has adverse effects on women, men, children and the community. The women end up losing their lives, committing suicide, become physically disabled, moving from one marriage to another and exposed to the risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS. They also get fed up of men (ISF 2009). The reality however is that many families in Uganda are affected by domestic violence and this has diverse impacts on our country's development.

2.4 A description of the DV project areas

2.4.1 Demographic features

Wakiso TC is one of the four town councils found in Wakiso district. The 2002 Population and Housing Census puts the population of Wakiso district at 907,988 people with a growth rate of 4.1%. According to The Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) 2002/2003; 16% of the total population of Wakiso are children of less than 4 years of age, 15% are of 5-9 years, 15% are between 10-14 years, and 8% above the age group 45 years. The elderly (65 years and above) constitute approximately 2 % of the district population. Fifty-eight (58%) of the population that never attained education are females. The average household size is 4.2.

Located in the central region of Uganda; Wakiso is a peri-urban district with a highly cosmopolitan population. Its location near Kampala, the capital city of Uganda and other major towns in the region make it share and experience most of the urban and peri-urban challenges related to urban unemployment, poor housing and living conditions, extreme

poverty among rural-urban migrants, poor food security, high crime rate, alcoholism and prostitution. All these challenges have a direct bearing on the occurrence and prevalence of DV in this community. The rural areas of the district largely live an agrarian life of subsistence farming of crops such as bananas, maize, cassava and sweet potatoes. The urban sections of the population including the Wakiso TC are engaged in medium and small-scale business as well as civil service jobs and postings. Like many other parts of the country, socio economic imbalances between the men and women are evident in Wakiso district, with women being characteristically voiceless and powerless in the public and household domain. Majority of the women have no control over productive resources such as land and capital, a situation which renders them dependent on their husbands and therefore more vulnerable to domestic abuse.

Wakiso Town Council has 5 parishes / wards and 14 villages with a population of 14,600 people. It has a total of 38 schools out of which 26 are primary schools and 12 secondary schools, 1 health unit and 1 technical institution.

Kyankwanzi district is situated in the central region of Uganda, about 130 kilometers from Kampala by road. The district was carved out of Kiboga district in 2010. The district is made up of one constituency, Kiboga West, seven sub counties of Mulagi, Watuba, Butemba, Kyankwanzi, Nsambya, Gayaza and Ntweeta, and two town councils of Butemba TC and Ntweeta TC. According to Uganda Communication Commission (UCC, 2011) Kyankwanzi district has a total population of 139,300 people of which 71,900 (51.6%) are males and 67,400 (48.4%) females spread across 30,206 households⁶. The average number of household size is 4.6.

Kyankwanzi district relies on farming as the main source of income and the major source of employment. Agriculture constitutes 80% of the total labour force and the rest does livestock farming, especially cattle keeping. The areas which are predominantly agricultural based are Bukomera, Gayaza, Mulagi, Ntweeta, Nsambya and Watuba sub-counties, with food crops like cassava, maize, bananas and horticulture as the major crops. Vanilla growing, bee keeping and fish farms are among the cash activities. Kyankwanzi and some parts of Nsambya sub-counties are known for cattle keeping. Some commercial activities take place in the two town councils and other small trading centers. However, all the economic activities take place on subsistence level due to lack of skills and capital to open up large or intensive farming and commercial activities.

Mulagi Sub County has population of 10, 949 people, 4 parishes and 29 villages. It has 9 primary and 3 secondary schools and 1 health unit.

⁶ Source: <http://www.ucc.co.ug/rcdf/district/KYANKWANZIDISTRICT.pdf>

2.4.2 Socio-cultural factors in project area

Kyankwanzi and Wakiso districts are inhabited by a cosmopolitan population with a complex mix of tribes of Baganda, Banyankore, Banyoro, Banyarwanda and Luo speaking people although the original composition remains the Baganda and Luganda is the most spoken language.

In both districts, cultural socialization and traditional practices have been a major factor in the relegation of women to an inferior position, which makes them vulnerable to abuse. In a study of implications of bride price on domestic violence and reproductive health in Wakiso district, Uganda, it was reported that the cultural practice of bride price for example gives men ultimate power over women, and they regard women as their property because they paid for them. Women are, therefore, not regarded counterparts of male, but as subordinates who must obey their husbands (Kaye 2005). Culture also dictates the nature of work done in home by women and men. Women are noted to be involved in both reproductive and productive work, while the men participate mainly in productive work with minimal participation in reproductive work. This has been exacerbated by religious beliefs which preach purity of marriage thus keeping women hostage in abusive relationships for fear of behaving contrary to religion.

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

3.1 Introduction

This section of the report presents and discusses findings of the evaluation in relation to the:

- a) Relevance of the project vis-à-vis the development needs of the target beneficiaries;
- b) Project implementation process
- c) Impact and outcomes/results (both expected and unexpected)
- d) Sustainability of the gains made and
- e) Efficiency of the achievements in relation to the project purpose

3.2 Project relevance

The discussion under this subsection focuses on whether DV was a real development need that necessitated intervention. It presents findings on the magnitude and severity of DV, how it was identified and appreciated as a community need and how it affected the lives of different categories of people in the community. In this evaluation, project relevance refers to the extent to which a given project intervention not only meets, but is also consistent with the needs, interests and aspirations of the target beneficiaries.

3.2.1 Magnitude and severity of DV in the project areas

The DV project was implemented because it is in line with ISF and UMWA's philosophy, guiding principles and values which are summed up in their concern for the improvement of the lives of the marginalized sections of society, especially women and children (*See sub sections 1.1 and 1.2*). Through its different programmes, UMWA noted that violence against women and children continues to undermine family stability, female productivity and national development; and is major contributory factor to serious social problems like the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Discussions with key informants revealed that UMWA's choice of Mulagi Sub County and Wakiso TC as project areas was influenced by the realization that DV was widely practised and socially acceptable, with some women associating physical violence to be a sign of love. The above observation was corroborated by the statistics (2009) where Wakiso was rated among the leading districts with high rates of DV prevalence in the country. In addition to the high prevalence of DV in Kyankwanzi, other considerations for its choice rotated on its remoteness and inaccessibility to information and other development opportunities.

During the interviews and FGDs, all respondents were in agreement that DV was a huge problem not only in the project areas but also in the neighboring communities. It was further revealed that prior to the project some battered women would report the offending husbands to police who would be arrested, a situation that fueled cases of divorce and separation in

many families. In one of the FGDs, a female participant community member highlighted the magnitude of the DV problem thus;

'Men were beating us all the time and selling our harvests such as beans without our consent which increased DV in homes. Most of us did not know our rights and other people's rights. This led to abuse of other people's rights and misinterpreting our own rights.'

A community activist from one of the villages in Wakiso TC reported that;

"Domestic violence was rampant in Wakiso district. For instance, in a week, say in every 10 homes, there would used to be about three-four of them reporting cases of domestic violence"

3.2.2 Process of indentifying DV as a community problem

UMWA used a community analysis and a baseline study to identify DV as a community need. To enable the community appreciate the root cause of DV, participatory learning techniques were used. Community members who participated in these workshops realized that DV was a big problem in the area and agreed that the immediate challenge to be addressed was DV being acceptable in the community (UMWA 2009). Whereas some respondents during the FGDs complained that they were not involved in the initial stages of identifying DV as a community problem, they generally agreed that when UMWA started sensitizing and talking about DV, they appreciated its ripple effect at household and community levels. The use of psycho-social and participatory training tools and methodologies such as role plays, skits, storytelling, drama, case studies, visual aids...greatly helped to demystify all the myths and misconceptions associated with DV. Slowly and progressively, community members started to see DV as a dehumanizing practice that kept many families in conditions of poor health and poverty that required immediate action.

However during FGDs with community members in Wakiso TC, some of the participants sounded upset about the process that excluded them when DV was being identified as a community problem. For example, one of the FGD participants in Wakiso TC complained:

"We have never heard of UMWA, we only heard of Mama FM, if you are here to talk about DV, its cause is none other than poverty. It is our first time to hear about UMWA and even the one who gathered us here told us that you are coming from mama radio, so if you have come to teach us about DV, just begin!"

Another, participant sounded more sarcastic when he added that:

“You see when we are here, for them they go and decide for us. We have said that we don’t know anything about UMWA. So first introduce UMWA to us before you start asking anything. Sir, begin to teach us or to train us.”

Despite the above sentiments, the majority of community members in the two project areas reported that although, they were initially ignorant about DV problem, after being trained and sensitized by UMWA, they realized that it was a serious problem that needed to be addressed regardless of the degree of people’s participation in its identification.

3.2.3 Acceptability and appropriateness of the DV project

Some male respondents in both Mulagi sub-county and Wakiso TC revealed that when the project was in its initial stages, they were a bit skeptical and suspicious about its intentions and interests. They said that they associated the project with what they called ‘the usual talk of women empowerment’ which has been spearheaded by government institutions and some women organizations. This version of empowerment has in many instances been blamed for the rampant increase in DV cases because it has been misunderstood by both men and women to imply equality (*omwenkanonkano*). However, as community members attended more of UMWA’s trainings, this perception gradually changed as UMWA emphasized responsibility (*obuvunanzibwa mu maka*). This was a common expression during discussions with community members:

“Nali sagalira ddala kuwulira bigambo ebikwatagana ne gender... okutuusa UMWA bweyatunyonyola...netukkakana emitima” (I used to be disgusted by the whole talk about gender, until UMWA clarified the concept...this settled our minds)

Gradually, men began to appreciate the significance of living in harmony with their spouses and children by making joint decisions, allowing some freedom to women to own some resources, helping their wives.... The male trainers from UMWA (who come from the same traditional background as community members) also contributed to the change in attitude. According to the respondents, the training messages were not promoting or emphasizing the superiority of any gender, but rather, they were balanced and focused on mutual respect of each person’s human rights, the benefits of a stable family, as a foundation of a strong community. In Mulagi Sub County, the evaluators were told some stories of (and even met) some men who, testified to have been changed by the appropriate and friendly messages about DV in particular and gender issues in general. Some of the key issues and beliefs that the trainings either clarified and/or challenged included:

- i) DV is caused by both men and women

- ii) DV is not only about physical violence but includes economic, emotional and sexual violence
- iii) DV is not a private or secret issue because it affects everybody in society in different ways
- iv) DV is a crime according to the laws of Uganda
- v) *Omusaja asajalaata (this is a belief that promotes male chauvinism and manliness; implying that a man is allowed to prove his worth as a man: have many women, produce children as he wishes)*

Therefore, the project was acceptable because of its approach and content which were educative, appealing and friendly rather than the earlier ‘confrontational’ messages on women equality.

3.2.4 How DV affected community development

The evaluation was interested in finding out whether DV was perceived as a development issue in the two project areas. During interviews and FGDs, respondents were able to explain the link between DV and community development. For example, a community activist from Wakiso TC emphasized the relationship between family stability and community peace, security and development when he observed that:

“Because a family is the source of everything, in case things are not moving on well in the family, even the community will be affected, because it is the family that makes up a village. Therefore, DV was a problem because it was destroying many households. There were many cases related to DV that were arising amongst community members which was a big block to development because stability in the home is the foundation of development in society.”

In addition, both male and female respondents reported that DV was affecting development in their community in various interrelated ways:

- i) It interfered with economic activities, especially when farming activities were abandoned.
- ii) DV caused poverty because a lot of money and time was/is spent on treating DV victims, spending on arresting the perpetrator, being witnesses in courts of law,
- iii) Children dropped out of school and ended up in early marriages, sex work, drug abuse, exploitative housework...
- iv) There is massive destruction of household property and items when physical DV happen
- v) It increases unfaithfulness among the married people, increasing their vulnerability to STDs such as HIV/AIDS

This evaluation found out that as a result of reduced cases of DV, families and communities were beginning to engage in some encouraging development activities to improve their lives.

In both Mulagi Sub County and Wakiso TC, there were reported cases of more women working together in groups; women controlling part of the income from the season's harvest; families making joint decisions on a number of issues; couples re-uniting after several years of separation. This has enabled both men and women to fully participate in development activities leading to improvements in their homes and community.

3.2.5 Categories of persons most affected by DV

Respondents were asked what categories of people were most affected by DV in their communities. What emerged was that DV affects everybody in the community, although with varying levels of severity. Women and children were reported to be most affected. Women suffer from all forms of DV including physical, emotional, economic and sexual violence. During FGDs it was reported that Children become victims of unstable relationships, get psychologically and emotionally tortured, support one of their parents which leads to more problems of disaffection and isolation, drop out of school and are not adequately fed and medicated. In particular children staying with step mothers were said to suffer more than others. One of the FGD participants in Wakiso TC explained how women, children and the entire community are affected by DV:

“When there is domestic violence in the family, women suffer a lot, they don't fit in the society; they are beaten, starved and are always on the road carrying luggage and children moving back and forth between their parents' home and their marital home...when the offending husband is arrested, the wife is threatened by the in-laws... and the same wife has to take food to the arrested husband in prison.”

“For children, they lack food, they are beaten by their mothers because of the misunderstandings with the husband because women tend to transfer the anger to children...some children get married when they are still young, they go and start working as house girls and others end up on the streets. Some girls are raped by their step fathers after their mother divorcing their biological.”

However, the evaluation also found out that contrary to popular belief that men are the perpetrators and women victims of DV, the reverse was found to be true especially in Wakiso TC where the authorities and community members concurred that men largely suffer DV related to economic and sexual which results into emotional violence. It was reported that in many situations women put a lot of pressure on men asking for money because it is their right to be looked after by their husbands, even the man has no reliable source of income. They suffer verbal abuse, demeaning insults and disrespect from both the wife and children. When they are abandoned by the wives, they take on roles such as looking after young children and cooking, which they have not been used to performing. There were cases where men reported

to have been physically battered by their spouses in collaboration with children, while others were burnt with hot water.

3.3 The project implementation process

This subsection discusses findings on the implementation process of the project. It specifically looks at the processes involved in the selection and training of the key project implementers such as UMWA staff, community activists and local leaders, how acquired knowledge was being applied, the supervisory structures as well as methods and tools used in the mobilization of the communities and other target stakeholders in order to realize the project purpose and goal.

3.3.1 Selection of project areas and beneficiaries

A consultant was hired by UMWA to conduct a baseline study to establish the prevalence of DV in the target areas. The survey report was submitted in July 2009 and showed that DV was a serious problem that was hindering development efforts in the two districts. The findings were disseminated at district and Sub County / town council level to lobby for the support of the political, traditional and religious leaders. The project implementation tools were developed and pre-tested in four villages selected, in each of the project areas. In consultation with community leaders, twenty and eleven villages were selected to participate in the project in Mulagi Sub County and Wakiso TC respectively. This process helped to build a strong foundation for the project as it created momentum for its acceptability and became a key entry point for the project.

Table1: Showing the process of selecting project beneficiaries and their roles

Category of Beneficiaries	Process of selection	Role to play
Community Activists (Adults)	Criteria set by UMWA and agreed by community leaders	Sensitize the community about DV
Out-of-school peer educators	Criteria set by UMWA and agreed by community leaders	Sensitize youth about DV so that they disapprove it
Members who participated in Community Dialogue	Local leaders and contact persons	Participate in the selection of activists and peer educators
District Leaders	Consideration of the office occupied	Provide support to the project and play advocacy role
Sub County Leaders	Consideration of the office occupied	Provide support to the project and play advocacy role
Community Members to be sensitized by Community Activists	Selected by community activists according to convenience	Participate in meetings and other events organized by community activists on DV
Community Members	Selected by Out of a School	Participate in meetings and

sensitized by Out of school Peer Educators	Peer Educators according to convenience	other events organized by community activists on DV
UMWA staff	Recruited by UMWA according to the Recruitment Policy	Provide overall coordination and managerial expertise in the implementation of the project
UMWA volunteers	Recruited by UMWA according to the Recruitment Policy	Support UMWA staff in the implementation of the project
The Other Voice staff	Recruited by UMWA according to the Recruitment Policy	Produce copies of TOV, as an advocacy tool
CEDOVIP Resource Persons	Hired by UMWA due to their experience	To train UMWA staff in gender issues and DV

Source: Evaluators' compilation from different project documents

3.3.2 Selection of community activists

In the two project areas, the selection of the community activists was done in consultation with local council structures following the laid down procedure. The selection was based on the following criteria:

- Aged between 18-30 years for out-of-school peer educators, and the adults 30-55 for adult community activists
- Should resident in the area and known by the residents and having strong community contacts
- Willing to volunteer time to do project work
- Ability to read and write
- Possessing a good character, non violent and articulate
- Committed to promoting women's rights and end to domestic violence
- Ability to influence others

In each village four community activists were selected. These were two youth (1 female and 1 male) and two adults (1 male and 1 female). In addition, Out of School Peer Educators were (1female and 1male) were selected. All community activists in Mulagi Sub County reported that they were contacted by their respective LCI chairmen. In Wakiso TC, where the LCI structures are almost defunct, the selection met some challenges. The selected community activists were those who were already working with other NGOs in the area and/or were already in some leadership positions. One female community activist said:

"I was already working with LCI as the information officer so, I was tasked since it was easy for me to continue spreading information about domestic violence. Other procedural considerations included; being an adult, my level of

education which was fairly high (S.4), having been a leader selected by the local community members.”

Key issues and gaps in the selection process of project beneficiaries

It can be observed that the selection process of the project beneficiaries and project areas was done in a consultative and participatory manner. The involvement of key stakeholders right from the inception of the project helped UMWA to establish a strong relationship and bond with the selected beneficiaries. This generated a conducive environment of trust, good will and commitment in the prevention of DV. During one of the interviews with a community leader, he compared UMWA with a caring parent and said: *“UMWA eri nga omuzadde azaala omwana namulabilira” (UMWA is like a good parent who nurtures a child until maturity)*

We studied from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and we were given breakfast and lunch for 5 days but, I was there for only 3 days. The time was inadequate because we did not study everything about DV”

However, the evaluation revealed some gaps in the process of selecting project beneficiaries. These were related to be the criteria set, and the socio-economic and political environment in which the project operated:

- i) Those selected at community level expected to receive monetary gains and other rewards, such as bursaries, income projects;
- ii) The criteria set for the selection of the community activists and out-of-school peer educators was not easy to meet especially in Wakiso TC, where people are mobile and therefore more difficult to mobilize;
- iii) There were reported cases where community activists were mobilized basing on their personal relationship with the contact persons and local leaders;
- iv) Given, the pervasiveness of DV, it was difficult to get community activists and leaders who were not in one way or the other victims or perpetrators of DV. During the data collection process, members of an FGD rhetorically asked: *why don't you go to this person's home who brought you here, because that is where DV cases are rampant?* This was a challenge because such an activist would have no moral authority to sensitize others. However, some activists who were previously affected by DV reported that working with the project helped them to overcome the DV problem.
- v) Some of the target population to be selected proved difficult and elusive to mobilize and consistently participate in the project. These were the traditional healers/herbalists and some leaders at different levels.

- vi) Whereas the UMWA board of directors' supervisory/ advisory role was spelt out at project design, it was evident during the evaluation that they have not been very active in the supervision of the project. This seemed to stem from the fact that most Board members 'work outside Kampala and their level of passion is different' and 'therefore do not attend UMWA meetings regularly and consistently'⁷. This subsequently denied the project the crucial role of oversight, supplementary advocacy and lobbying; and general guidance on policy issues.

Although the performance of the target beneficiaries in the project was generally impressive, these gaps could have had a negative impact on the overall performance of the project.

3.3.3 Training

To establish the nature of the knowledge imparted among different stakeholders, the evaluation focused on who was trained, how, where and what they were trained in and the materials used during the training. It also looked at how the acquired knowledge and skills during training were used in the implementation of the project. In addition, the evaluation was interested in identifying the gaps experienced in training and how they could be addressed for a possible continuation of the project.

In order to achieve the project purpose, UMWA undertook to train different categories of target groups who were to participate in the implementation of the project. The aim was to equip them with various skills and knowledge on the prevention of DV. These included the following:

- i) UMWA staff, including project staff,
- ii) Community activists/ out-of-school peer educators
- iii) Professional staff at district and sub county level
- iv) Policy makers (local council leaders, religious leaders, Buganda government leaders)

Training venues and duration

The community activists and other project beneficiaries were trained by UMWA project staff. The trainings of community activists were conducted in community and public places such as schools and church halls which respondents said were within the reach of the many of them. This was made more convenient by UMWA's practice of providing trainees with transport refund, food and refreshment during the training sessions. All district and sub county/town

⁷ Comment by one of the UMWA Board members during interview with the evaluation team

council level leaders were trained in their respective areas of operation. The trainings were conducted between 8.00am to 4.00pm. Community level respondents also reported that, the training venues were always changed with an aim of conveniently reaching different participants in their communities. Respondents also reported contradicting information regarding the number of training sessions they attended.

Looking at the content covered and the number of people who attended these trainings, it is apparent that the time was not enough for participants to learn properly and be able to interpret, internalize and carefully analyze the acquired information. Given the fact that participatory training methods were predominantly used, adequate time was needed to practice, demonstrate and apply these methods. The training content also looks overloaded to be taught in ten days, given the participants level of education, age and capacity to internalize issues related to challenging long held traditional beliefs and practices. It is important to note that congested timetables and rushed ‘pumping’ of knowledge work against the whole spirit and intention of participatory training methods. There was need to arrange training content in a way that allowed adequate time for the participants to digest what they were learning.

Training of project implementers

UMWA staff

The core project staff received rigorous training in psycho-social methodologies from MUST facilitators. This training was relevant and in line with the nature of the problem, the project was going to address. It was also conducted in time sufficient enough to cover the content. The content of the training was also appropriate since it covered such topics as Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools and skills of community facilitation, understanding the social and cultural values and underlying issues of communities, community sensitization and mobilization, sustainability of community-based projects. One of the staff who attended this training reported that:

“In addition to acquiring PRA skills, I came back a changed person with a new attitude with regard to the way I used to perceive the community people. I came to understand that they are humans with lots of potential, responsibilities and problems... therefore there’s need to appreciate their situation in order to work with for their own improvement.”

Furthermore, UMWA staff also received capacity building training on DV, gender and human rights by CEDOVIP, a renowned organization in dealing with DV in Uganda. The interviewed trained staff revealed that the trainings equipped them with adequate knowledge which gave them the confidence and the necessary skills to train other project beneficiaries. Some of the

useful skills, knowledge and attitudes acquired from the trainings that improved their performance on work could be outlined thus:

- a) Making proper financial accountability
- b) Improving internal controls of finances
- c) Record keeping and time management skills
- d) Effective communication, facilitation and training skills
- e) Understanding the difference between gender and sex
- f) Respecting different peoples human rights
- g) DV affects both men and women
- h) Knowledge and skills of using PRA tools
- i) The root cause of DV is the appropriation and exercise unequal power between men and women.

Community Activists and Out-of-School peer educators

This category was considered to be the focal persons in the implementation of the project in the two communities. They were trained in their communities using participatory training techniques. During interviews, community activists were knowledgeable about the training content and where they were trained and recalled some of the names of UMWA staff who conducted the training.

During interviews, community activists observed that the training equipped them with knowledge and skills regarding DV: its causes, types, effects and impact on household and community development. Training also equipped them with knowledge about human rights, gender issues and communication skills. As such, many community activists explained that they had become more knowledgeable and confident in not only dealing with DV but also in their day-to-day interaction with other community members.

A community activist, in Wakiso TC said:

“What we were taught was important. It made us become better informed about DV and right now we are known to be better informed of DV issues by the community members; we are now confident; we speak at LC meetings because we are informed.”

Another community activist in Mulagi Sub County made the following observations;

‘I can now understand the acts that can hurt other people like my children and avoid them including those that are not seen such as bringing a man in the house when my children are seeing and others, I learnt to discuss disagreement with my family’

'I have helped my son to resolve family conflicts with his wife, those were related to economic i.e. my son would use the money without informing the wife and drinking alcohol '

'I think many people are united now especially those that were trained and this has controlled drinking of too much alcohol and people are hard working now days'

Challenges

The biggest challenge of relying on community activists was their high rate of drop out. The Out-of-School peer educators had the highest number dropping out for different reasons.

Although community activists have undeniably played a pivotal role in the sensitization of the community about DV, the above tables show a worrying trend that needs to be addressed. Whereas, no single reason can be attributed to this trend, this evaluation found out that the reasons are both within and beyond the capacity of the project to address. The reasons⁸ given included among others:

- i) Fatigue of voluntarism; working for nothing yet by the end of the day, one has to feed and meet other personal and household obligations;
- ii) Many of the girls got married and left the villages;
- iii) Getting other responsibilities that occupy them;
- iv) Internal movement in search of jobs, land and other economic opportunities;
- v) General loss of interest; and
- vi) Inadequate support supervision and monitoring.

For the second phase of the project, the above factors need to be carefully looked into with a view to finding a convenient solution, say by coming up with innovative ways of motivating and retaining community activists. Discussions with CEDOVIP, pointed to a need for a continued intimate relationship with community activists from the centre given the work they do as community activists. As noted earlier, DV is a complex phenomenon that is difficult to address. It requires a continuous process of reflection not only among those affected but equally so those who are to participate in its prevention. Continuous training of community activists in psycho social participatory approaches will go a long way in equipping them with the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary in the fight against DV. The second phase should also put more emphasis on providing support supervision to community activists. But also clearly mapping out the amount of time they are supposed to put in as community activists.

⁸ These reasons were collected from informal discussions with different community beneficiaries

Policy makers and professional staff

This was a very complex category of community beneficiaries. Given the different role they played in influencing and planning for society, they were an appropriate target by the project. Their socio-economic and civic-political influence in society plays a decisive role in the success or failure of any project. They are also key in the sustainability of the project. They were equipped with knowledge and skills in DV, human rights, and gender. In addition they were to be sensitized about their various roles in the prevention of DV such as formulating enabling bye-laws against DV, protection of DV victims, the consequence of DV on their work in society, among others. This training also enabled the policy makers to be informed about the severity of DV and how it was silently hindering development efforts in their areas. Convinced of its magnitude, policy makers at different levels pledged their total support and commitment in the fight against DV.

What was missed out in the content and during training is knowledge and skills in mainstreaming DV in their various areas of specialization.

Training manuals and other sensitization materials/tools

A handbook on DV

A comprehensive and well written manual, *A Handbook for Community Activists to Prevent Domestic Violence*, was developed and used in the training. It was also translated in Luganda, a local language predominantly spoken and widely used and understood by almost all community members in the two project areas. Its content is adequately and simply presented in a manner that make it easy to understand. As a community training manual, the handbook ‘speaks’ to its intended users with learning objectives, relevant exercises, guiding questions and good formatting. More importantly, the handbook explains a number of team building tactics and relevant plays and skits to be played out during training sessions.

The main gap identified is that the manual lacks attractive illustrations and animations that are recommended in participatory community training tools. It could also be summarized and made less bulky to suit the educational levels of the community activists. In its current ‘bulky’ form, it is also costly to distribute to all the 240 trained community activists. The cover picture could also be of a ‘local person’ to make the manual more relevant and contextual. The manual should be printed in more durable and user-friendly form from its current spiral. For the second phase, the aforesaid gaps in the training manual should be considered.

The Other Voice (TOV)

This is an 8-page advocacy and lobbying tool which started in 1998 to largely cover the often ‘uncovered’ women issues in relation to national development needs. The publication of TOV which had been suspended in 2005 due to lack of funding, resumed in 2010 and by the end of the project had published nine (9) editions producing 40,000 copies per edition⁹. A scan through the editions published during the project period, shows that TOV played a key role in documenting and highlighting what the DV project was doing in Mulagi Sub County and Wakiso TC. In addition, the other ISF partners like COFCAWE and IRDI, have been given a platform within this publication to share what they do with the public. TOV also covered key national issues such as the April 2011 Walk-to-Work protests from the women’s perspective. TOV was therefore a strong advocacy tool for women concerns in Uganda.

The biggest challenge with TOV is that it is published in English language only, which is not commonly used and understood by the majority of the project beneficiaries. Its coverage is only limited to those who read the Sunday Vision newspaper, in which it is inserted. There is need to consider publishing this paper in the local language and send at least a copy to each of the villages participating in the project. In addition to inserting it in the Sunday Vision, more copies should be made available to district officials through the district information office.

Mama Radio FM 101.7

Radio Mama FM was reported to be the flagship voice of DV and gender and development issues in Uganda. The evaluation found out that its role in the sensitization of community beneficiaries was done at two levels;

- **Community programming**

As a community based radio, Mama FM broadcasts programmes that focus on addressing community problems and challenges of development. During interviews with radio presenters, it was revealed that there are two types of programmes that are aired on Mama FM- DV specific programmes and general programmes that focus on entertainment and information dissemination. DV specific programmes like ‘*Katukyogereko*’ and ‘*Tusabale*’ are run on the radio in the morning and evening from Monday to Friday. During this programme the presenter said:

“I host people, play on air what is happening in the project areas, host partners in development such as COFCAWE.... The content delivered is in a way that, people call in with their testimonies and experiences on domestic violence, I can introduce

⁹ For details see ISF/UMWA project plan (2009)

a topic like what is domestic violence and then people call in to discuss about it. Sometimes we did Live broadcasting from the project areas as well as coordinating the people to the different radio presenters.”

These exclusive programmes help to keep the listenership abreast with the goings-on in the community and help to set the pulse about DV. It makes DV a real and relevant issue in the community. Some of the recorded programmes the evaluation team listened to were talking about the responsibility of everyone in the prevention of DV. Others were about stories of DV affected persons. The presenter called upon his listeners to always intervene in DV cases instead of waiting for death.

- **Live Communication Programs (Outside Broadcast)**

Live community programs were organized and conducted in the local communities of the project area on a monthly basis. A participatory approach is usually employed during the programs; whereby the radio presenters introduce the topic of discussion, followed by a discussion on the topics, experience sharing, question and answer and music intervals to air out their views on the subject matter. Prior to the programs, the contact persons in the two target sub-counties of Wakiso TC and Mulagi Sub County were informed about the topics of discussion and date to enable them identify the beneficiaries to host as well as sourcing for preliminary information on the subject matter. Participants including men, women, youth and children talk live on air about DV experienced in their communities. Male and female leaders also participate in the activity. The studio lines were opened for the listening audience to participate/call. These live broadcasts helped in the sharing of information about experiences of different community members.

Apart from the two exclusively done programs on DV, each slot/presenter does a program on DV meaning that slots like ‘Women Speak Out’, ‘Child Talk’, ‘Teenage Talk’, ‘Mama Boda Boda’ etc. each produce a programme. In addition, spot messages (60 seconds) and DJ Mentions were done on DV. The biggest challenge facing Mama FM’s potential role of educating the community is the weak transmitter which does not cover Mulagi Sub County and other rural parts of Buganda. The radio also faces stiff competition for listenership with over 100 FM radio stations that largely and sometimes, exclusively focus on entertainment rather than development issues. In addition, majority of the radio presenters are volunteers – this in a way can affect their motivation and sustainability.

Other Advocacy activities implemented by the DV Project

Over the project period, several other advocacy activities on prevention of domestic violence have been implemented through community dialogues, participation in 16 days of activism

against GBV, the International Women’s Day and the International AIDS Day. Community dialogues were organized and conducted at Sub County level/Town Council level, and facilitated by the Community Activists and Out of School Peer Educators. The major aim was to intensify activities to create awareness among the project communities on DV prevention especially during the 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV) and the International Women’s Day. During the community dialogue for Activists and Peer Educators, the theme was on “*the role of children in preventing domestic violence*”; whereas 16 Days and women’s day were based on the international theme.

Specific strategies used during the “16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV)” included the following:

- Development of ICT materials like Short Message Service (SMS) and Toll free telephone line,
- Developing and hoisting banners in strategic places,
- T/shirts and caps were printed and distributed to the Community Activists, Out of School Peer Educators, leaders and community members in project areas,
- Development and distribution of Mama FM 101.7 stickers to Community Activists, Out of School Peer Educators, leaders and community members

Community dialogues is an effective advocacy tool as it draws on a cross section of participants into the activity irrespective of the education level as well as giving an opportunity to all participants to share their views on DV. Due to the cultural practices, some of the women and children could not air their views in the presence of men and adults respectively.

While use of SMS is becoming a popular information sharing media, it was restrictive to: only those people, who have mobile phones, could read and write thus leaving out a big percentage of in the project areas. T/shirts and caps served a dual purpose: publicity for UMWA/ISF, sensitization on DV; at the same time an incentive to the participants especially the community activists, Out of School Peer Educators, leaders and community members in project areas.

Training methodology

The DV project was implemented in a participatory manner which was, in line with the project goal and purpose. Interviews with both community members and community activists revealed that both participatory and non-participatory learning methods were used during training. Although trainings were conducted in classroom environments, participatory learning methods that encourage experience sharing such as group formation, discussion, role plays, drama, skits and personal testimonies were used. These methods were supplemented by

the traditional methods of lectures, chalk and talk, note-taking, blackboard and charts were adopted. This response from a community activist in Wakiso TC sums up the way trainings were conducted;

“During training, we were given pamphlets and also we made notes on the themes taught. We were trained on how to work as teams using the team working approach. Another method used was the Music, Dance and Drama style of presentations in line with the themes. Newspapers, especially, the photographs they contained, were used to show the intensity of the problem.”

3.4 Project Impact

In this evaluation, project impact refers to the extent to which a given project intervention is able to achieve the intended objectives. The discussion under this sub-section focuses on the level of community awareness towards DV, change in the number of reported DV cases and whether the number of bye-law initiatives in the project areas has increased. It further presents findings on the beliefs and attitudes challenged and changed, the current gender relations and division of labour and the un-intended project outcomes which are both positive and negative and the social, political factors or economic factors which have contributed to the impact of the project.

3.4.1 Community awareness about DV

One of UMWA’S DV project result areas was the increased knowledge on domestic violence among men and women of Wakiso TC and Mulagi Sub-County by 2011. This result according to the project plan was to be measured by the % of men and women who know how to define DV and at least 3 of its types in each community increasing by 2011.

The evaluation found that; community members, community leaders and trained activists that participated in the interviews and FGDS both in Mulagi and Wakiso were able to define DV. The definitions slightly varied from one respondent to the other but all pointing to the general meaning of DV. Further still most of the respondents were able to explain how DV manifests. Among the definitions provided include:

‘This is the disagreement of family members such as father, mother and children, which may lead to fighting or not talking to each other’

‘The disagreement between men and women that leads to conflict in the family’

‘The disagreement between family members for example, about the sharing of earnings which may lead to violation of some member’s human rights’

‘Disagreement between a man, woman and children that may lead to violence in the home such as fighting between a man and a woman’

'This is the situation whereby one family member doesn't give respect and listen to other members and make personal decisions that affects others which lead to conflict and disagreement'

'Those are the bad acts that may be seen/visual or unseen that involves forced sex or denial and fighting due to disagreement between family members'

'The disagreement of family members on certain issues which may lead to violation of some member's human rights'

'Failure to agree upon a certain situation like when a husband does not allow the wife to work; adultery which causes one of the partners to be suspicious and refuse sexual advances'

'DV can be lack of respect for one another. DV comes up as a result of lack of cooperation, respect for one another and sex denial.'

The above definitions show the extent of knowledge the community has acquired about DV as a result of the training and sensitization campaign carried out in the two project areas. During FGDs and interviews with local leaders, it was revealed that although other actors like government agencies had talked about DV, it was not passionately emphasized the way UMWA handled it through participatory training and sensitization.

3.4.2 Identifying the different types of DV

The evaluators further tried to establish whether by the end of the DV intervention, there was a change in the ability of people in the project areas to identify the different types of DV. This is because it was one of the indicators of success for the increased knowledge on DV among men and women of Wakiso TC and Mulagi sub-county.

Prior to DV intervention in Wakiso TC and Mulagi sub-county, it was found during the baseline survey (UMWA 2009) that, majority of people including leaders at local and district levels could not give even one type of DV.

The evaluation found that, most of the respondents including leaders were able to identify either three or four types of DV. The method of their explanation varied with many of the respondents not directly mentioning the academically known types of DV but else providing examples of these forms.

Among the types of DV which respondents pointed at during interviews and FGDs include:

- The sexual like forcing a woman or man for sex

- Physical like beating,
- Economical- like refusing a woman to work,
- Psychological and emotional – like abandoning ones family to go and live with a mistress,

Further, nearly all respondents from Mulagi sub-county and Wakiso TC were able to highlight the most common forms of DV in their communities. For both, there was agreement that, in particular the economical type of DV was common in their communities followed by other types such as physical and sexual. The respondents when asked about the main reason for the increased level of awareness on issues regarding DV, they attributed it to their active involvement in the work of UMWA through the community activists in the project areas of Mulagi sub-county and Wakiso TC.

However, as with any other initiative, there were some knowledge discrepancies realized in some areas of Wakiso TC on the ability to define DV and its types. For example, during the male FGD in one of the villages in Wakiso TC, the participants could not give a concrete definition of domestic violence as the case in Mulagi sub-county. For example when they were asked about what DV meant to them, they said: DV is poverty and another respondent said, it meant unfaithfulness. Similarly, some could refer to government laws and ‘when partners do not work’ as the types of DV. Further analyses of the above responses indicate that some community members define DV by its fuelling factors. In addition, some of the participants in the FGDs were members of the community that were not yet reached by the project.

3.4.3 Causes of domestic violence from beneficiaries’ perspective

In an attempt to test the project target group’s knowledge further towards DV, the evaluators tried to find out the main causes of DV from the beneficiaries’ perspective. They were able to mention factors such as alcohol, adultery, unfairness in the sharing of the family earnings, ignorance about human rights, working women not respecting their husbands, shifting from the traditional values e.g. women are no longer kneeling before men and lack of proper guidance before marriage, too much love for sex by men as one of the community leaders mentioned during an interview that, sometimes she gets couples with complaints of ‘*anfudde mwanyina munju*’ which implies an element of sexual denial from one of the partners

Other causes pointed out by men of Wakiso TC during an FGD include, increased access to computers, mobile phones and the media which they said have destroyed their children and wives.

The OC Mulagi police post however said that, the failure to provide basic needs mostly by men marrying other women and assaulting women are the key factors behind the increased rates of domestic violence in Mulagi sub-county.

The above responses point to a knowledge gap where the structural causes of domestic violence have not yet been internalized. The community still looked at the symptoms and manifestations (fuelling factors) and not the root causes of DV. This gap is a reflection of the deep rooted cultural beliefs and attitudes that requires repeated exposure using a combination of participatory training and sensitization techniques to deeply and critically internalize the whole discussion about gender relations and DV. This process was clearly explained by one key informant from a partner organization like this:

'Do not call people to come to you but find them where they are you need to be tactical? Instead of teaching; initiate a friendly conversation say: "we want to talk about happiness in the home ..." other than saying "what is DV". Break the concepts down to manageable topics and use a reflective process drawing from the family's/community's realities. I normally get perturbed when people come and say stop DV because how can they stop it" we need to relate it to every day realities. ... People need to unlearn and learn new ideas and values.... There is also a need to learn skills on how to speak to a person with DV.'

3.4.4 Gender relations and division of labour

Before the UMWA project was implemented, it was found during the baseline survey that, there was a big gap in the way men and women were interacting and performing their roles. For example during the baseline survey, respondents were asked to give their opinion about how a wife should behave towards her husband and how a husband should behave towards his wife, which in some cases lead to DV. Respondent mentioned roles such as talking politely to a man, keeping quite when abused, kneeling when talking to a man, providing warm water for bathing, not to talk back or fight back the husband, not to deny them sex whenever they want among others. The man's role on the other hand was said to be that of "breadwinner".

During this evaluation there is some emerging evidence pointing to positive change in as far as gender relations are concerned. For example, during women's FGD in Mulagi Sub-county, one respondent reported that:

"Men have started accepting their wives to go to work even in far away places like in Kiboga, which was not there some years ago. Men used not to allow their wives to work but now days, they even give them capital to start small businesses".

Further, in another FGD with community members, a female responded reported that:

“There is a big improvement, like for me I used to have too much disagreement with my husband but since we were talked to by the activists, most people say that I bewitched my husband. This is because we work and plan together”.

The evaluation team also found out from the different interviews and FGDs conducted that, these days men are more sensitized about women’s rights which have improved the relationship between men and women in the families and in the community since they can now plan and work together as a family, give women freedom to participate in decision making, hence increasing the coordination within the family.

In Wakiso TC, the evaluation team visited a household and found the husband engaged in what is traditionally ‘women work’ of splitting firewood and washing cooking utensils. Meanwhile the wife was relaxing on the verandah listening to the radio. During an interview with this gentleman, he explained that since attending UMWA trainings on DV and interacting with community activists, he has changed his attitude towards his wife and therefore is willing to assist her in some of the domestic chores. He further explained that helping his wife keeps her fresh and young and that this keeps their relationship growing stronger.

In Mulagi Sub County, the evaluation team came across several situations where women and men were working together on their gardens. Men were also seen carrying their wives on bicycles going to different destinations such as markets.

However, despite the stated change, analyzing the daily activity calendars drawn by spouses at household level in both project areas do not indicate a big change in the division of labor between men and women. In other words, men and women in the communities of Wakiso TC and Mulagi sub-county still perform their traditional roles except for a few isolated cases. This means, more sensitization and awareness raising on gender roles is needed so as to demystify the underlying beliefs with in society that allocate roles based on gender, which sometimes result into DV and violating the rights of spouses.

3.4.5 Level of reporting DV cases to service points

The UMWA/ISF DV intervention was interested in seeing the number of reported cases of DV in existing service points such as LCI, police and health centres and clinics increasing. Before the UMWA/ISF intervention, respondents reported that, few cases were reported to the community service delivery points such as police stations and this was attributed to people’s lack of awareness of DV as a crime.

The evaluation however found that, after the DV intervention, the number of cases reported at the existing service points even became fewer than before. The reduction according to the respondents was attributed to the DV intervention as one of the community activists said during an interview that:

“Before these people came, were many cases of DV reported at the sub-county and Police yet some could even have been resolved at the village level. There was a lot of separation/divorce in the families as men used to disrespect women so much taking them as property, yet men only needed awareness about women’s rights”.

A community member from one of the villages in Wakiso TC added that:

“Now before we report to police, we first consult the Community Activists (Abasomesa ba Mama Fm- Teachers from Mama FM); if he or she cannot handle the case then we refer to the LC. For example, my daughter was raped and one of the community activists advised me to go to police and I am still waiting for court proceedings”.

The above was further confirmed by a community activist who said during an interview that:

“Many community members seem to have confidence in us more than in the police, that is why we find ourselves mediating between aggrieved couples since we do not request money from victims as the case with police and people are so much used to us because we stay together in the same community”

The Police officer of Mulagi sub-county also reported during an interview that:

‘Since the UMWA intervention started, there are currently few reported cases related to DV than before. This could be attributed to the UMWA intervention of using CAs and local structures. ...on average only two cases are reported in a month which was not the case before the UMWA intervention’

The same was reported by *“The Other Voice”* July 2012) that:

“Soon the police in Wakiso and Kyankwanzi districts will become redundant, at least those officers dealing with cases related to domestic violence! Local community members who have been trained in human rights and have a passion in preventing domestic violence, now referred to as Community Activists seem to have replaced police.”

The above situation implies that, while the project set out to increase the number of cases reported at the different existing service delivery points, especially the police, instead it has just reduced. The decrease in the number of DV related cases reported to various service points could be attributed to several reasons:

- a) Community activists ‘expanded’ their original mandate of “raising awareness and referring cases of DV among the community members to include ‘mediation and

counseling of DV cases’ hence reducing the number of reported cases at existing service delivery points. This trend was also confirmed by interviewed UMWA staff who reported that even them (staff) spend a lot of time ‘fighting’ and mediating DV cases when they go to the field to do project monitoring and offer support supervision. Community members with DV cases wait for them by the roadside to report to them for assistance/intervening. The evaluation team found households in the project areas which had been visited by UMWA staff, at the invitation of local leaders and community activists, to intervene in a ‘difficult’¹⁰ DV case. Although, this is a positive trend, it has implications as far as the project mandate is concerned, and raises questions whether the staff and community activists have the requisite capacity and time to undertake counseling and mediation of DV wrangles.

- b) The police in the two project areas reported that they were adopting a national strategy of community policing, which emphasizes the involvement of the communities in finding solutions to local problems. The police also reported that in addition to community policing, when they receive minor¹¹ cases of DV, they refer them back to village structures and community activists for mediation and counseling.
- c) Due to sensitization and training, aggravated cases of physical DV, which often ended up at police, have reduced. The DV cases related to sexual, emotional and economic violence were reported to community activists, local councils, community elders and religious leaders. Furthermore, interviews with local leaders revealed that they were aware and often referred DV cases that were beyond their area of jurisdiction to higher authorities. Local council leaders referred cases to police and probation offices at the district while religious leaders referred cases to the higher structures in their respective denominations. This was confirmed by the decreasing number of DV cases reported to Mulagi police post as shown in table 6 below.

The mobility maps drawn with community members during FGDs in both project areas further confirmed that the community members were now aware of the various service delivery points within and outside the community where to report cases of DV.

¹⁰ A DV case is declared ‘difficult’ if both the community activists and local leaders have failed to address it. They therefore turn to UMWA staff who are considered to be more experienced and respected in dealing with DV cases.

¹¹ Minor cases of DV were given as those involving emotional economic and sexual violence, where there is no concrete evidence to incriminate the perpetrator.

3.4.6 Community concerns about DV

Accepting DV as a crime by community members

During the FGDs and interviews conducted with community leaders and other community members in the two project areas, it was clear that men /women/male/youth/female youth in Mulagi sub-county and Wakiso TC communities who recognise DV as a crime and violation of human rights. This is because; nearly all respondents condemned DV as a bad act and reported that DV perpetrators are despised. The UMWA 2011 Annual Report found that, by 2011 50% of men and 55% of women in Mulagi sub county recognised DV as a crime and violation of human rights. In addition, both the 2010 and 2011 annual UMWA reports found that 60% of men and 55% of women in Wakiso TC recognised DV as a crime and violation of human rights.

In one of the key informant interviews, it was reported that:

The fact that many people now know DV as a crime, and they report even their dear ones to the LCs and sometimes to the police, perpetrators being brought to book, truly shows their disapproval”

Another key informant also explained that:

Before the project started or during community analysis, Women took domestic DV to be normal and they were not so much aware of their rights. But after the projects’ intervention, they became aware of their rights for example the right to live, right to be free from torture in their homes, right to health and all that. As a result, the moment they sense some kind of denial may be of food, they are in position to tell that someone is practicing DV against them.

In an FGD with men in Wakiso TC, one of the respondents stated that:

Before this UMWA project came, we thought that domestic violence was very right according to the socialization in the communities. But as we got sensitized on gender and human rights, we started to understand that if we for example don’t provide food at home or if we barter them it is something that is really wrong.

A local leader in Mulagi added that:

“Due to the information that we got through the project, we are no longer sending away DV victims like before but instead we make sure that we attend to them and offer them the necessary service. As local leaders we have become role models due to the fact that we are the law enforcers and DV is a crime, we first work on ourselves as leaders so that the community can learn from us”

This is quite different with what happened before the intervention where the baseline survey (UMWA 2009) reported only 30% and 41 % of men and women in Wakiso as well as 30% and 53% men and women in Mulagi recognized DV as a crime. Therefore these results show that the DV project was able to advance towards its purpose.

How the project dealt with DV attitudes and biases

The UMWA baseline survey (2009) indicated that, people held different attitudes and biases towards DV which needed to be challenged and changed. These included among others: DV not being a crime, a private issue... Therefore, UMWA's intervention aimed at changing such attitudes so that the target communities could disapprove DV.

It was found during FDGs with community members that many people had started changing attitudes towards DV. For example, one of the community members from Mulagi said:

'The UMWA project has controlled men's ignorance about women's rights and breaking most of the negative attitudes and biases towards women, through training community members both men and women hence reducing the incidences of physical DV.'

Another key informant confessed that:

'People have tried to change their attitudes towards domestic violence after the training, some women used to think that being beaten by their husbands is a sign of love.'

More interesting the evaluation found that, before the project, even some local leaders perceived DV as a private matter that did not require to be taken outside the home. One of the local leaders in Wakiso TC during an interview confessed that:

'Before the project interventions, we would tell the DV victims to go back to their homes and settle their issues because we knew DV was a private issue/case which need to be settled within the family. But later through sensitization on gender and human rights as well as DV and other issues related to bye- laws, we came to realize that people who report to us really have serious cases and their rights are violated and therefore need help.'

Despite some observed change in attitudes towards DV, in the two project areas, the change is quite slow because DV is intertwined within the cultural practice and changing such highly entrenched attitudes and practices is a gradual process that requires the intensive and continuous interventions. The evaluation noted cases that whose attitudes and practices have not yet changed. For example, one of the male respondents in Wakiso TC, accused government for making women uncontrollable when he said:

“DV cannot be dealt away with because of this government that has caused women to be on top of men.”

It was stated further during an FGD that:

‘There is still much that has to be done on attitude change because culture that is in built within the minds of the people is still a hindrance even to the community activists themselves most especially the men.’

Overall there is an emerging positive trend in change in attitudes and practices towards DV. Many respondents interviewed at the sub county and district levels including organizations like CEDOVIP proposed several strategies that should be focused on to consolidate the gains but also to reach those that are still practicing DV. Major among them was targeting men through the use of the gender based human rights approach. Strategic measures that can be used to reach out to men could include among others; the use of religious institutions, strengthening the Mama FM transmission capacity to reach a bigger audience, collaborating with institutions where men go for meetings and the use of Music, Dance and Drama.

3.4.7 Unintended outcomes from UMWA/ISF Intervention

Although UMWA/ ISF DV intervention had its intended outcomes, in the course of the project some un-intended outcomes both positive and negative arose.

Positive unintended outcomes (see sub section 3.5.4)

One of the key informants reported that:

As a result of different project activities, people have learnt to start up income generating activities in order to prevent economic violence. Also others have started forming drama groups to educate people about DV as well as making money through their skits.

It was also revealed during interviews that, some community activists have extended the services outside the projects areas of operation and even to other organizations for example, they provide support to victims outside the project area of operation and those that they help are the ones who inform others.

Further, Mama FM radio presenters reported that, they find themselves getting involved into the issues of mediation and counseling DV victims, yet that was not their mandate but

“because people bring their cases to us and we cannot send them away since they have hope in us.” This was also pointed out by the project coordinator who said that, the project in addition to creating awareness, the staff spend a lot of time counseling DV victims, mediating and fighting DV.

During an in-depth interview in Wakiso TC, it was reported that:

“Community activists in Wakiso have formed an association aimed at strengthening their work and improving their livelihood. They do income generating activities for example, making liquid soap and energy saving stoves.”

“Community members look at the project people as their saviors, the project people also act as mediators apart from information giving. (They play the role of the police) because people report to them.”

Negative unintended outcomes

The evaluation found out that although significant impact has been achieved in the realm of awareness creation and attitude change towards DV in the two project areas, there were a number of issues and cases that remained unresolved in the struggle against DV. These were:

- a) Although physical violence was reported to be reducing, other forms of DV have not gone down proportionately. Other forms of DV especially emotional violence manifested through husbands deserting their homes and abandoning their families are still common in the two areas. According to one of the local leaders in Mulagi sub county;

“There have been cases where husbands abandoned the wives and wives are really suffering”

In Mulagi, we documented three cases of emotional related DV which are appended to this report

- b) In Wakiso TC, community activists reported that some men consider the DV project as a threat to their marriages. They think that the project is going to make their wives bigheaded and disobedient. They compared and related UMWA project to the NRM government’s crusade that promoted women equality and empowerment in the late 1980s¹². For instance, when one woman was being interviewed for this evaluation, her husband abruptly appeared and the wife (on seeing the husband) immediately abandoned the interview, rushed away and disappeared. The husband then told the research assistant thus: *“God created men to rule and govern all other creatures on earth.”*

¹² When the government’s women equality campaign started in the late 1980s, it was met with a lot of resistance from a highly patriarchal society at the time. Both men and women misunderstood the equality campaign to mean promoting superiority of women against men.

- c) There were reports in Wakiso TC that local leaders were looking at UMWA as an opponent or a threat because they used to charge court fee commonly known as *empabi* in the range of 10,000UgX on those who reported DV cases. These cases have reduced and the sensitization has also opened up more avenues where DV cases are reported. Also, some local politicians used the project as a campaign platform claiming that they were the ones who brought it to the community.

Overcoming and addressing these unintended negative results will require a combination of strategies that should include more sensitization through community training and radio messages and the use of religious leaders. The information disseminated should continue to challenge the patriarchal beliefs and practices that are still prevalent in the community. Despite the high drop out rates, community activists are still the best option in the fight to prevent DV. What is needed is to formally recognise and appreciate their role by motivating them, signing contracts with them detailing their job description and working hours and providing more training in social counseling skills. These efforts should further be supplemented by advocating and lobbying government officials and structures for resources and strategies to implement the Domestic Violence Act.

3.5 Sustainability of the DV project

This section of the report presents findings regarding the extent to which sustainability mechanisms have been built at all levels of the project including UMWA as an organization and within the existing local government, community structures and networks with other NGOs.

3.5.1 Strengthened local structures to understand and address DV

To understand the sustainability of any project, one can look at a number of community based initiatives that have emerged or are emerging within the project areas directly or indirectly influenced by the activities of the project. In both Mulagi SC and Wakiso TC, the evaluation identified scattered but promising efforts at individual and community level to address the problem of DV.

Local councils

Local council structures at village level were reported to be the first and most important points for reporting and dealing with DV cases. In each of the project villages (twenty (20) local councils (villages) in Mulagi SC and eleven (11) in Wakiso TC), UMWA identified and trained the chairman LCI and/or his representative and the secretary for women, popularly known as *Nabakyala*. All together, the project sensitized and trained over 60 LCI

representatives. These were to act as one of the community service delivery points- where community members (women/men/children) would report cases of DV.

During interviews and FGDs, local council officers were found to be highly involved in dealing (mediation, counseling and referrals) with DV cases much to the relief of the victims. DV victims and households reported that the first places that they run to are the LC I chairmen and Secretaries for women. This information was confirmed by community activists who reported working closely with LCs in their sensitization and prevention of DV. Here, they receive a number of services which include providing shelter, counseling and mediation with the offending party, who in most cases is a man. It is at this level where the victims are either advised on the next step depending on the magnitude of the DV case. During interviews, both secretary for women and chairmen LCI explained different situations in which they have intervened to settle DV cases. Assisted by community activists, the local leaders have been instrumental in helping to resolve cases related to DV. They reported that they handle these cases with utmost confidentiality and no longer use open courts for arbitration. *“Tubimira” (we keep these matters [of DV] as top secrets amongst us)*, said one of the local leaders in Wakiso TC.

Some of the hindering forces to the performance of LCI structures to sustain the DV project within their areas were attributed to factors inherent in their existence/establishment and those that are project management related. For the former, the LC1 legal mandate ended in 2002, which means that those that are currently working are not legally recognized, which at times undermines their authority when cases of DV are reported to them. Below was a common outcry as far as LCI legality was concerned:

‘Given that LCs meetings were curtailed, we have done nothing to curb DV as a community. There is no platform for discussion of ways forward. We summon people to come for meetings but, they do not come because the courts of law nullified the our legality’

Secondly, because LCI Chairpersons are in most villages the first point of reference for development programmes, they are very busy and may not devote sufficient time to DV cases. This was evident during the evaluation team interactions with them during the data collection process.

The project management related factors were reported to include: inadequate training to effectively handle DV cases and support supervision by DV project staff.

Religious institutions

Whereas traditionally, religion preaches submissiveness thereby consciously or unconsciously perpetuating women’s subordination to men, the DV project has used the religious institutions

in the project areas as sites in the prevention of DV. Like with local council leaders, religious leaders from the different denominations within Mulagi SC and Wakiso TC were sensitized to act as service points in the sensitization about DV. During FGDs with the religious leaders, each religious leader representative explained the different structures that are in place to address the household/family issues of their faithful. In the Catholic Church, there are a number of both formal and informal structures and activities which institutionally are supposed to ensure the holiness of marriages. These include *ensirika z'abafumbo* (married couples' retreats), *sabafumbo* (the head of the married), and the charismatic renewal movements that strongly believe in the power of prayer in solving human problems. In the Seventh Day Adventists, there are weekly meetings of the married people which focus on prayer for the stability of families. They also use these meetings to counsel couples with marital problems. Among the Muslim community, the Imam of the mosque has a committee of eminent people who help solving DV cases. When the committee fails, the case is referred to Muslim headquarters at either Kibuli or Old Kampala.

The religious leaders felt that the DV project has not utilized them to the maximum to address the ever increasing cases of DV in the community. To them:

'... if we had begun earlier we would be far. There is nothing that can soften some ones heart like religion, men respect the counsel we give. So we request that work with us more closely, give us good well written literature about DV to share with our people...The other thing check on us regularly to see how work is moving and help us where we fail.'

The above statement from an FGD with religious leaders summarizes quite well the gaps and what needs to be done to strengthen and sustain the religious institutions in the community to address issues of DV.

3.5.2 Trained community activists

The concept of community activists is seen as central to the sustainability of the DV project by the project staff, community leaders, community members and technical professions in the project areas. The community activists are seen as the linchpin for the sustainability, success and increased awareness about DV in the project areas. Tooled with knowledge of DV, community activists are supposed to sensitize and equip the community with information about the problem of DV. With a commendable level of commitment, the community activists have played a key role in the implementation of the project in the communities. Among other roles, the activists have, on volunteer basis, played the following roles in the prevention of DV.

- i) Sensitization of the community on DV
- ii) Mediation in DV cases

- iii) Worked with local structures to give counsel to the victims of DV
- iv) Referred and advised victims of DV to relevant authorities for further help

As a result, the activists are some of the people community members trust with information regarding DV. Because they live in the communities, they are easily recognizable and acceptable to the communities which they serve. They also know all the information about families affected by DV. The majority of the community activists interviewed revealed that they had intervened in domestic violence case. As extracts from some of the FGDs indicate:

“At times, especially for cases which take the legal shape you become a witness.”

“There are situations when we become part of the chain of cases. You become a follower up of the cases to see how the households are progressing out of the disputes which caused DV”.

“Due to our work as community activists, the cases of domestic violence reported to courts of law have reduced since by virtue of our existence, some cases are referred back to us by police. Also, we are now serving as shields to the cases which would otherwise have been reported to police or courts of law right away. Basically, the community expects us to reconcile couples. For instance, “there was a time when we found a family that had sought the police to solve their case. But incidentally, the police handed them to us since they had known why we exist. So, we met and resolved their issues.”

Whereas, the community activists are doing a commendable job and is a sustainable strategy, the evaluation identified several challenges that seem to threaten its performance and sustainability. These included the following:

- i) High dropout rate among the trained activists especially in Wakiso TC (see table 3)
- ii) Wavering commitment by some community activists evidenced in regular absenteeism during scheduled project activities,
- iii) High expectations among Community activists – they joined in anticipation of material gains, which they are complaining is not forthcoming;
- iv) Responsibility overload by most of the community activities – the evaluation team established that the majority of the activists were in addition local councilors and holding position of responsibility in other community development programmes;
- v) Inadequate support to the CAs – other than the manual, the CAs reported that they do not receive facilitation and tools – like posters, pens, books etc to perform their work. Some complained that the project staff rarely visit their villages.

3.5.3 Strengthening other community service delivery points in the project areas

The police structures that have been targeted by the project were the OC-CID, Child and Family Protection Officers and OC-Community Liaison office. In all the project areas, the above were trained and helped to appreciate the manner in which to handle cases of DV. The evaluation has established that the police posts of Mulagi and Wakiso act as referral places for aggravated DV cases such as inhuman beating of women and children, physical harm (broken limbs, bruises, death threats, strangling). The chairmen LCI and secretaries for women reported that when they get these aggravated cases, which are beyond their jurisdiction, they send the victims to police.

However, these structures need more strengthening as far as skills and attitudes are concerned but also in terms of facilities and equipment to use in their work. For example in one of the Child and Family Protection Offices in the project area, the staff were sharing a very small office with other departments, they do not have chairs for clients, this leads to compromised confidentiality. They did not have facilities like a protected room – to house DV victims before they are referred, basins, mattresses and blankets live alone other sanitary requirements like soap and sanitary towels.

The health structures, the evaluation established were the most neglected service delivery points in the project. There is need to equip the health workers with knowledge and skills on how to handle cases of DV when they receive them and how to link up with other service points like the police and the LCs.

3.5.4 Emerging interventions and innovations to address DV

Community and local council initiatives in Mulagi Sub County

The evaluation found out that leaders and communities in Mulagi were devising a series of measures to minimize, address and where possible eradicate the occurrence of DV. The most outstanding ones include the following:

- a) In Kalagi LCI, the village passed the following bye-laws:
 - Bars not to open before 2.00pm and close by 10.00pm. In the community leaders' assessment, overdrinking especially among men was found to be one of the fuelling factors for DV.
 - Children under the age of 18 years are not allowed in video halls; and
 - All children and wife are supposed to consent to any decision by the man involving sale of land and making a will

In the same village, victims of DV are no longer charged court fees of UGX.10, 000/- when they report to the chairman. Instead, he said “after this project, I now pay more

attention to DV cases, sometimes invest my own money where necessary, counsel, act as witnesses when called upon, refer victims to police”. The same chairman has bought about 15 plastic chairs where visitors including DV victims sit and also constructed an office, a round half-bricked, grass-thatched hut, where meetings and DV case hearings are conducted.

- b) In Kinoni LCI bye-laws have been made to deal with families that neglect children’s education, and compel all residents to participate in community development activities, and if one tortures another person he/she is supposed to be forwarded to higher authorities like police. The chairman, who is also the president of all chairmen in Mulagi Sub County, elected a committee of five eminent persons at the village who help in the handling and settling cases related to family issues.

The secretary for women in this village arranges community meetings for women, every Sunday at 4pm where pertinent women issues are discussed. Women share experiences and get counseling from elder women.

- c) In the villages of Luwawu and Kiyuni, women have formed groups that are engaged in different income generating activities. These groups have already received a cash injection of UGX 200000/- from the area woman MP. Also, in Kiyuni a local drama group has been formed to educate the community about DV and other development issues.
- d) In Mulagi LCI, the secretary for women told us of how on two different occasions, she provided shelter to a woman and child who run to her at night. According to her, the woman and child were being chased by raging husband and step-father respectively threatening to kill them. She kept these victims at home until the following day when these two men were called and counseled.

Community and local council initiatives in Wakiso TC

To sustain the CA work within the community and engage in other development activities, in Wakiso TC, community activists have formed an association called Wakiso TC Community Activists Association (WTCCA). The association started in 2010 and is registered with the district. Its main aim is “to improve the quality of life of families affected by domestic violence” and its specific objectives among others include:

- i) Provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience on matters of domestic violence and how it can be eradicated in our communities;
- ii) To disseminate IEC materials on the ills caused by Domestic violence among our communities;
- iii) To establish a counseling Centre for families affected by DV;
- iv) Promoting unity, exchanging ideas on DV, networking and finally,
- v) Improve income level of members and community members by initiating IGAs.

By the time of the evaluation, the association had registered some achievements: providing counseling services, training members on how to make liquid soap and charcoal/energy saving stoves. However, the association's membership remains low and only five (5) activists had completed registration as members after paying UGX 30000. Other challenges include lack of office premises, inadequate transport facilitation, limited skills in counseling and mistrust and misunderstanding among members who think that some of the founder members were being paid a salary by UMWA.

3.5.5 Institutional sustainability

Institutional sustainability according to the project proposal was to be measured by the capacity of UMWA strengthened to manage development programmes. Sustainability measures that have been implemented include staff training in relevant areas (see section 3.3.3 and table 2), implementing the project in a participatory manner (strengthening local structures: *refer to 3.5.1, 2 and 3 above*) to enable local ownership of the project, and strengthening Mama FM radio and TOV as advocacy tools. Building networks and partnerships with other organizations within and outside the project areas has been another attempt at sustainability. UMWA has worked with a number of both government and non-government actors.

a) Government structures

Government and local council institutions in both Kyankwanzi and Wakiso districts were involved in the DV project right from its start. Both political and professional leaders at the sub county/town council and district levels received training on DV by UMWA. They also participated in the identification of the villages where the DV project was to be implemented. Police efforts in the two areas have been particularly complemented by UMWA sensitization in implementing the community policing approach. One security officer revealed this when he said:

“We are now relieved because of UMWA’s sensitization efforts that have reduced on the occurrence of DV in the community.”

b) Other partnerships/Networks

UMWA has also partnered with a number of humanitarian and profit organizations to implement the DV project. These include among others: Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP), Raising Voices, National Community of Women Living HIV/AIDS in Uganda (NACWOLA), and Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET).

It has partnered with CIMEL to offer scholarships for ten out-of-school peer educators in vocational skills. The arrangement with CIMEL is that UMWA offers advertising services to CIMEL in exchange for the training of students. CECE offers free meeting/workshop space

including all the amenities like chairs, toilet facilities and water to the UMWA DV project in Wakiso TC whenever they are approached. The partnership with CEDOVIP is in the area of training and training material development in the areas of GBV, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS.

One of the major weaknesses of the existing UMWA partnerships is that they are not formalized. UMWA has not signed any MoU with any of the above partners which puts either party at a disadvantage. This was expressed by all the three partners listed above during interviews with them. One officers of one of the partner organization explained her concerns when she explained:

‘We were supposed to do training with them but were not able because our programmes would not connect when we are free they are not and when they are free we are not...Let us have a simple M.O.U. mutually binding such that there are senior staff assigned and it should be prioritized and planned for’

Another one brought his fears when he explained to the evaluators:

‘‘Currently we give them a free venue for trainings and meetings. This may happen as long as I am the coordinator in the organization. But tomorrow things may change and am no longer here. You can never know what method of work comes with. But if terms of engagement are explicitly written down then things become much easier’’

3.6 Effectiveness and Efficiency of DV project

In analyzing the effectiveness and efficiency, we are interested in the ability of UMWA to create awareness and consequently, prevent DV among the target population of Wakiso TC and Mulagi Sub County. The key factors influencing UMWA’s effectiveness are closely and intricately related to its wealth of experience in the arena of women empowerment, the experience and dedication of its staff, level and management of available resources-human, physical and financial; organizational structures and reporting systems as well as accountability and optimization of finances and information systems. In varying degrees, these factors are pivotal in determining the extent to which UMWA’s intervention to prevent DV among the poor communities can be judged to be effective and efficient or not.

Whereas UMWA has made significant strides in dealing with the problem of DV, its effectiveness is coming against a number hindering factors which are both internal and external. Internally, there are challenges of inadequate staff remuneration which is incommensurate with the current high cost of living. This is likely to affect the commitment and enthusiasm of the staff working on the project. There is also a challenge of a weak Mama FM signal which does not cover Mulagi Sub County and other rural parts of Buganda. As the flagship and mouthpiece of DV, the radio also faces stiff competition for listenership with

over 50 FM radio stations that largely and sometimes, exclusively focus on entertainment rather than community education

UMWA relies on volunteer staff *'because of the operational costs... we do not have enough money to employ permanent workers.'* Given this fact, the few permanent staff are sometimes overwhelmed by work which ultimately affects their output and timely submission of assignments. The following responses illustrate this point better:

"ISF introduced a policy of time sheets where each staff member has to fill a time sheet, all activities you have done, to me I fill that I work for eight hours yet in those hours I have to do both UMWA work and ISF supported project work."

"ISF need detailed reports with all the percentages, they base on every bit of the activity and so we don't have adequate time to compile and analyze all that given the work load." UMWA Staff

Some of the external factors that have potential to negatively affect the project's effectiveness include the prevalence of traditional beliefs rooted in the patriarchal and religious customs that variously continue to perpetuate gender discrimination and allot different privileges to men and women. This situation is worsened by the secret nature of DV. There is also a challenge of internal and external migrations of trained community educators within and outside the community. The migrations are largely attributed to three factors; search for employment opportunities, fatigue of volunteerism and marriage, especially girl peer educators. The extent to which community activists can be trusted with confidential information coupled with the very secret nature of DV have complicated the situation as explained by one of the youth community activist in Wakiso TC:

'Confidentiality on those who are affected by DV in many cases women do not want to tell me something and they find it somewhere else instead they rather keep it to them selves other than exposing their issues to the whole society. Men also don't want to be revealed to their wives that they reported cases to the CAs. What we do you go and talk to the person but not revealing that you were told about the matter. For example there is a case where the woman told me that her husband was not buying source at home or if he would do so he would give strict regulations that a quarter is for the rest of the members and the other kilogram to be consumed by him alone. What I did was to go to their drinking place they told me to buy for them a drink which I did. After that we started conversing I brought in that issue generally but not specific to him.'

For a project that targets to deal with and change centuries-old socio-cultural attitudes, it is not easy to determine how efficient it has been in achieving its goals. Looking at the overall gains both in the target community and among the project implementers, UMWA, it can be deduced that the project has been cost-effective and efficient.

At the community level, there is evidence that DV is highly recognized as human rights abuse which affects everybody in the community. The communities are reasonably alert about DV, extent of its disapproval is equally impressive and people know where to go when they experience DV. The trainings conducted in the project areas did give the trainees adequate preliminary information which they use to sensitize about DV. For example, all the community level respondents (local leaders, community activists and households affected by DV) are aware of and recognize the different types of DV as well as its consequences on society and general development. There is an emerging spirit of solidarity among the community activists as witnessed in the WTCCA, Wakiso TC, and spirit of cooperation among the community activists in Mulagi Sub County.

In both Mulagi and Wakiso TC, the officers in charge of the police stations confirm that there is a dramatic decrease in the number of DV cases reported; dropping from an average of 6-8 cases to 2-3 cases a week. They further report that most of the cases are about family neglect and not violent fights and attacks. This trend is attributed to the sensitization campaign and training carried out by UMWA that has turned DV into a shameful issue to those who practice it as a local leader observes:

'Men now feel ashamed to be associated with or even accused of wife battering'

This observation is further corroborated by this analysis:

"Before the project's intervention, men believed that DV was very right according to the socialization in the communities. But as they got sensitized on gender and human rights, they started to understand that if they are for example not providing food at home, or if they are battering their wives, it is something that is really wrong. So in their own way they learnt that this socialization that is not giving opportunity to the two people who are in a relationship was kind of negative to the development of the family and the entire community. So they came to realize that on every issue, there needs to be communication between the two parties and participatory decision making to avoid domestic violence." DV project staff

Another community professional staff pointed out that:

"Measuring efficiency of disapproval is not easy but what I can say is that there has been a change in people's attitudes towards domestic violence because if they see someone practicing domestic violence at home like beating a spouse, they can report. Another thing is that not all people have been reached because the project cannot reach each and every body in the community. All aspects that contribute to domestic violence have not been tackled therefore attitudes in all aspects have not changed at the same level.

UMWA has been effective in achieving its goal of increased awareness even if in the initial stages of planning the indicators were quantitative. However it has been found out that the project can easily achieve qualitative results such as improved life and status....There is need to strengthen the community delivery service points. Activists need further training on their roles. Another Project staff pointed out.

At the project level, interviews with senior managers and project staff revealed a great level of satisfaction with the project output, reporting and accountability structures, managerial competency and the general performance of the project vis-à-vis its goal of “communities disapproving domestic violence by end of June 2012”.

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