

headquarters. Conducting budget analysis of approved plans and budgets and airing the results on radio talk shows.

3.2 Training 1,080 women and local government leaders in gender responsiveness audit tool management. This will lead to undertaking 36 quarterly participatory plan and budget tracking (PPPBTs); that will feed into 36 bi-annual information sharing meetings; and 36 advocacy and lobby meetings of local government officials.

3.3 Producing 500 T-shirts and caps.

▶ Expected outcomes

As a process of change, the project envisages that all women and government leaders will know their rights and roles and at least 60% will practice such roles. Besides, more women (50%) will participate in local government planning and budgeting processes. All LLGs reached out to are also expected to adopt and use accepted financial and social accountability practices. Likewise, a smooth alliance between women council executives, women councillors and local government officials will be in place. Finally, community ownership of and contribution to LLG projects will also increase. Meanwhile all these are envisaged to yield a 25% increase in LLG budget allocation and disbursement for service sectors. Equally, 5% of LLGs budgets will be allocated and disbursed for women's affirmative actions.

▶ The target group

The primary beneficiaries of this project are WCEs, WCs, and Parish Development Committees. These leaders will benefit directly by receiving technical skills to enable them to champion women's causes in LLG planning/budgeting processes. But, these people will work for the benefits of the entire women population in the 6 project LLGs to access better and equitable government services. LLGs will instead gain trust and respect from the women populace as well as better scores in their national minimum performance assessment. Finally, the tertiary beneficiaries - AFARD the implementing agency and EC the funding agencies - will gain in public relations from the various visibility activities and expertise building.

▶ Management

The project will be implemented in line with the management structure of AFARD. The Board of Directors will oversee the policy making and monitoring role, and technical team will play the managerial roles. The day-to-day management will be coordinated by the Programme Director in liaison with the Community Development Manager and Finance and Administration Manager. Meanwhile two Project Officers and two Office Administrators will be employed. A satellite office will be established in Yumbe district.

Besides, AFARD will also work closely with District Women Councils and Women Councillors, District NGO Forums and Community Development Officers of the project sub counties.

▶ Budget

For the 34 months period, the project will cost €372,427 as is summarized in the table below. Of this sum total, AFARD will contribute 10% (€37,242) and the Contracting Authority 90% (€335,185).

Budget estimates

Human Resources	€ 63,047
Equipment and supplies	€ 69,880
Local office	€ 59,754
Other costs, services	€ 138,808
Sub-total direct eligible costs of the Action	€ 331,489
Contingency reserve (maximum 5%)	€ 16,574
Total direct eligible costs of the Action	€ 348,064
Administrative costs (maximum 7%)	€ 24,364
Total eligible costs	€ 372,427

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Engendering Decentralised Poverty Resources Management Project in Nebbi and Yumbe Districts



▶ Introduction

This 34-months project, worth €372,427 is co-funded by the Delegation of European Commission in Uganda (90%) and AFARD (10%). It will be implemented in 6 Lower Local Governments (LLGs) in Nebbi (Pakwach, Panyimur, Akworo, Nyaravur, and Jangokoro) and Yumbe (Drajini) districts. This project seeks to promote an inclusive and empowered society through building the capacity of local communities for social accountability and poverty resource monitoring and the capacities of local governments for downward accountability. It will strive to make decentralization work for women by strengthening an active engagement of women as a constituency with local government officials.

▶ Justification

In Uganda, both the 1995 Constitution and the 1997 Local Governments Act (now amended) stipulates that decentralized development should respect human rights generally and the rights of marginalized groups like women in particular. As such, decentralization policy was adopted and resources and resource management have been largely decentralized to local governments. Equally, a 1/3 political quota for women councillors (WCs) has been established in all LLGs structures and Women Council structures (with Women Council Executives – WCEs) set-up running from national to village levels. Participatory decentralized planning was also adopted as a policy and was hoped would bring all LLG actors (women and men alike) to work in unison for a local area responsive poverty reduction.

To the contrary women have remained an excluded category from benefiting from government poverty reduction-driven services hence, their livelihoods and quality of lives have hardly improved. Why? **Because of the low participation of women in LLGs planning and budgeting processes.** The underlying causes of this limited participation are:

- ▶ WCs and WCEs as women leaders lack the knowledge of their rights and roles and responsibilities.
- ▶ WCs and WCEs lacked the knowledge and skills to engage local government officials.

- ▶ Limited mobilization of grassroots women to participate in planning processes by LLG officials.
- ▶ Inadequate knowledge about and the negative attitudes towards accountability by LLG officials.

The consequences of the above are that: Local governments' plans and budgets are not engendered and pro-poor responsive and government institutions are not accountable to the public. As such, women are denied access to government services for enhancing their quality of life. They are also denied the basis from which to demand for services and hold leaders accountable. To this end, many women have lost trust in LLGs as many think anything in government is meant for 'government servants' but not to those the servants should serve.

▶ Linkage with previous AFARD works

For the last six years AFARD has been actively engaged in promoting women's rights in Nebbi district. It is from such endeavours that we have found a melting point for co-governance, gender budgeting, and participatory poverty resource monitoring. This project build on the lessons so far learnt with political capability building of grassroots women, technical backstopping, and participatory evaluations. From an empowering approach, it is prudent that women know their rights and the value of their votes. Only then will they end the practice for being taken as 'mute voters'. In this way, they will also compel local government leaders to recognise that they too have a right to decide on what services they need and equally to monitor government services and inform policy makers of the derived benefits.

▶ Project Focus

The broad objective of this project is, **“local governments in West Nile districts of Nebbi and Yumbe provide gender sensitive and equitable services to their communities”**. The specific objectives and activities therein are:

Objective 1:

Women and government leaders have increased knowledge and skills to champion women's needs in local government decision-making processes.

- 1.1 Assessing the level of participation on grassroots women's in LLG planning and budgeting processes.
- 1.2 Assessing the capacity of women leaders for effective civic engagement in local government policy processes.
- 1.3 Developing 7 capacity building training manuals and training 12 trainers in using the manuals.
- 1.4 Training 240 women and government leaders each in the 6 Sub-Counties on Human and Women's rights, and their roles and responsibilities as well as political capability building skills.
- 1.5 Conducting 36 training follow-ups.

Objective 2:

Effective participation of women in local government planning and budgeting management increased.

- 2.1 Holding 6 community awareness creation workshops on women's rights and roles and 24 budget literacy seminars.
- 2.2 Mobilizing women to participate in annual planning and budgeting processes by 24 drama shows; IEC (7,500 posters & 30,000 leaflets); and 15 hours of radio talk shows.
- 2.3 Supporting 18 Sub County Forums, 72 Parish Women Forums and 72 meetings with LLG sectoral committees.
- 2.4 Holding 6 inter-district exchange visits.

Objective 3:

Local governments are transparent and accountable to their constituencies in general and to women in particular

- 3.1 Developing and disseminating 1800 popular versions booklets of approved plans. Constructing 12 bulletin boards at every LLG