Raising Awareness on Special Needs Education

Students, Teachers, Parent Teachers Associations and the School management of Kyabugimbí Central Primary School were sensitized on the rights of Girls with disabilities to remain in school, non-discrimination, accessible and conducive environment, love by the peers and teachers among others, after the school became a center for Special Needs Education.

The Vice Chairperson of Bushenyi Women with Disabilities Union (cover photo) urged Teachers equipped in Special Needs Education to love the work they chose to do for students with disabilities and treat them accordingly.

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Inclusion in Livelihood Programs

Girls and Women with Disabilities are finally receiving their share of the national cake through inclusion in local Government Programs; benefits that were heretofore denied them. In Lobule Sub-county; Women with Disabilities were seen picking bursaries of improved mangoes and cassava sticks. The Chief guest and District Officer announced that the sub-county had received UGX 2 million from the Special Grant to benefit the sub-county groups of Girls and Women with Disabilities as motivation towards their inclusion in other Local Government Livelihood programs. Elsewhere in Midia sub-county, Koboko district, 3 Girls and Women with Disabilities collected two goats each from the District Discretionary Equalization Fund and were set for financial freedom. Inclusion in the Local Government Livelihood programs empowers them economically and helps reduce on the cases of Gender Based Violence against Girls and Women with Disabilities.

VSLAs For Women and Girls with Disabilities

The tremendous work of Paralegals towards the mobilization, organization and formation of groups for Women and Girls with Disabilities to benefit from Village and Savings Loan Associations was exhibited in Patiko Sub-county, Gulu, when Women with Disabilities turned up in large numbers to their Village Savings and Loan Association meetings. With 30 members in total, the groups were started as a result of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights training carried out in the four sub-counties of Gulu district. The formation of groups within Women with Disabilities has enabled them to borrow funds from their VSLAs to either startup their own businesses or boost already existing ones.
Men! Stop Gender Based Violence Against Girls & Women with Disabilities

Mawa Rashid took on the role of caretaker for his disabled sister Kawa (not real name) when their mother left them at a young age and father passed away. Leading a child headed home has not been easy for him. His sister Kawa, a girl with multiple disabilities was raped and the case would have gone unreported had he not attended the sensitization sessions on GBV cases and channels of redress for this situation.

The perpetrator was arrested for a period of six months which was unsatisfactory for Mawa, given that the Police never notified him about the court hearing so they could properly defend Kawa’s case.

His sister’s ordeal led him to share her story where he appealed to fellow men to stop sexual assault against Girls and Women with Disabilities. He encouraged community members to report such cases and called on society to take a stand and care for Girls and Women with Disabilities because of their vulnerability.

Enabling the Disabled Woman Attain University Education

NUWODU, along with well-wishers from partner Disabled People’s Organization did when they took part in Makerere University Business School’s first annual run. The event kicked off with a warm up for participants and saw both the able-bodied and disabled persons taking off in the 5km race where NUWODU’s intern Daphine Uwizera and Program Assistant Molly Ongoza emerged second runners-up.

The run was attended by the state Minister for Education and Sports who thanked Makerere University Business School for taking the initiative to fundraise for the education of disabled Women as it gave them the opportunity to go back to school. In his speech; he admitted that it was the government’s policy to support Persons with Disabilities but the run was an initiative that should be taken on by all universities because disability is everyone’s problem.
Empower Rural Women & Girls

Girls and Women with Disabilities in the district of Buyende gathered to celebrate International Women’s Day through dance, song and drama in honor of the theme, ‘Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls: Opportunities and Challenges.’ The district held celebration was a move to encourage not only their participation in a day that recognizes their contribution to the world as mothers and caretakers but also to encourage their inclusion in Local Government Programs for their empowerment both economically and individually.

Avoid Neglecting Girls with Disabilities

Appreciating Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Trainings

Women and Girls with Disabilities in the two sub-counties of Patiko and Awach in Gulu district appreciated the need to have their Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights met by service providers and health workers during the series of trainings held in the different sub-counties. The trainings opened their eyes to the realization that they were doing a disservice to themselves by not taking advantage of the health services available due to fear, negative attitudes and language from the health workers among others, yet they had a right to them like any other women. They vowed to make good use of the acquired knowledge and promised to access the services whenever possible.
Attitudes of Service Providers and Parents were changed when Children with Disabilities from Paipir Primary School in Pader district acted a drama on the parental neglect of Girls with Disabilities out of their preference for boys with disabilities during the international celebration for the Day of the African Child. This message was to raise awareness on the need for parents to enroll Girls with Disabilities in school. The day was capped off with a speech from the LCV Chairperson of Pader district who thanked NUWODU for the support lent to Children with Disabilities in presenting their play, partners CARITAS, WORUDET, Action Aid Uganda, Light the Lamp, Lutheran World Federation and the Local Government for their attendance to the cheerful occasion.

In Remembrance Of

Over the past year, NUWODU and the disability fraternity at large lost three instrumental people – former NUWODU Chairperson for the Personnel Committee Ms. Barbara Nandutu, Lira District Disabled Women’s Association Chairperson Ms. Florence Adong and the Executive Director of Epilepsy Support Association of Uganda Mr. Mugarura Augustine. These have been very close to NUWODU as staff and partners and we would therefore like to take a moment of silence and pray for their departed souls. May God forgive them all their sins as humans and may their souls rest in peace. Ameen.

Training of Trainers: Gender Based Violence

Our program officer joined fellow activists in strengthening their facilitation, mentoring and coaching skills as leaders in the fight against Gender Based Violence when she attended a training for trainers on Gender Based Violence Emergency Preparedness and Response. The hands-on training provided by the trainers and practical sessions to put to use the skills learned were new tools acquired to exercise during the implementation of program activities towards the mitigation of Gender Based Violence against Girls and Women with Disabilities.