

**GULU DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTION PLAN
TO ADDRESS
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

**LOCALIZING THE UGANDA ACTION PLAN
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS
1325 & 1820 AND THE GOMA DECLARATION**

English

Facilitated by

Centre for Women in Governance (CEWIGO)

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Gulu District Local Government Action Plan to address Gender Based Violence is part of the Localization process on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 & 1820 Goma Declaration. The Local Action Plan was developed as a tool and road map to strengthen women's participation and involvement in the leadership and promotion of peace and security within the context of eradicating gender based violence and ending impunity. The development of the action plan was a process that involved discussions, profound commitment, and experience sharing with relevant stakeholders and required a cooperative multi-sectoral approach that resulted in procedures agreed upon by all stakeholders. The stakeholders involved in the process were drawn from Gulu District Gender Based Violence Working Group, the Local Action Plan Task Force and relevant government departments.

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Thank you for your tremendous contribution.

Dorothy. M. Ajwang
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER- GULU

FOREWORD

Gulu District Local Government is committed to the implementation of the United Nation Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, 1820 and Goma Declaration, instruments ratified by our country Uganda. The district has developed this tool as a mechanism to address GBV, strengthening participation of women in peace and security initiatives as a means to promote peace in the district.

The action plan is meant to address specific gender issues within Gulu district. It is supposed to implement national, regional, global policy and legal frameworks to which Uganda is a party under decentralisation.

The indicators of the action plan have several factors including; availability of funds, information and gender disaggregated data as well as coordination and harmonisation among different stakeholders for effective implementation. The action plan will serve as a guide to all actors implementing action on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and GD in Gulu District for the period 2016/2017- 2020/2021. It is a multi sectoral framework to a holistic approach in addressing GBV prevention and response by all stakeholders.

The action plan is a roadmap for stakeholders and duty bearers to identify specific actions in their areas of mandate and take pre requisite measures within the spirit and context of the action plan. It is also a tool to tap potential opportunities to address sexual and gender base violence on women and girls committed with impunity.

I therefore reaffirm Gulu district Local Government's commitment to eliminate sexual and GBV, increase women's participation in all aspects of peace, security and gender equality. I finally urge all stakeholders and duty bearers to identify activities within the action plan to help in this course.



MARTIN OJARA MAPENDUZI
CHAIRPERSON GULU DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNEMENT

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ABBREVIATIONS:

AAI-U	Action Aid International-Uganda
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CDO	Community development Officers
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEWIGO	Centre for Women in Governance
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAP	District Action Plan
DCDO	District Community Development Officer
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GRRH	Gulu Regional Referral Hospital
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IJM	International Justice Mission
MoGLSD	Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisation
LAP	Local Action Plan
UN	United Nations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Gulu District Local Action Plan to address Gender Based Violence is derived from the indicators of the Uganda Action Plan on implementing the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 & 1820 and the Goma Declaration. The Gulu District Local Action Plan aims at creating a conducive environment in the district which is GBV free. The action plan outlines the district objectives, with strategies and quantifiable activities.

Chapter gives a background to the action plan, the scope of direction as being a strategic framework for guiding, planning and implementation of GBV prevention and response activities.

Chapter two presents an over view of Gulu district and the background to the development of the district local action plan (LAP) to address gender equality, women's participation and GBV. This is followed by the methodology used in this process. It also articulates the different forms and causes of GBV in the district. Lastly points out the major incidences of GBV reported in the district. Physical violence being the most reported, followed by sexual violence, economic violence and harmful traditional usually few cases are reported, majority are identified from health centres and schools.

The third chapter presents a contextual analysis of GBV in Gulu district and shows why GBV against women and girls is violence against women is a human rights violation. The chapter defines gender based violence as an

umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will, and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females. It explains GBV as a global pandemic that is inflicted upon men , women and children as presented in the 2015 NGBVBD with women and girls being the most at risk. It high lights the mechanism the district has put in place to enhance elimination of GBV. The chapter represent the legal and policy framework that provides for the protection of women and girls against GBV.

Lastly interventions by various actors and challenges experienced at implementation and community level. At community level they include poverty, bad cultural beliefs (unequal access & ownership over resources, power imbalances) and practices, ignorance of the legal provisions & procedures, and illiteracy. While at implementation level the district has inadequate funding for GBV prevention programmes at the district, political interference in handling GBV cases especially at lower local governments, inadequate capacity of staff directly responsible for addressing GBV at all levels, mismanagement of GBV cases, delay in prosecution of GBV cases in court leading to loss of interest in follow up by survivors, lack of specialised court in handling sexual gender based violence cases and poor record keeping and documentation.

Chapter 4 has the district local action plan with its priority areas, objective and actions

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background to the development of the Local Action Plan

1.1 The process of developing the Local Action Plan

The development of Gulu's 5-year Local Action Plan (LAP) to address Gender Based Violence is linked to the Uganda Action Plan on implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and the Goma Declaration. The process followed a Memorandum of understanding between Gulu District Local Government and CEWIGO in December 2015. Participatory approach was used as a means to develop the Local Action Plan.

Key Heads of departments and sections, political leaders, religious leaders, cultural institutions and civil society Organisations (CSO) were called for a 2 days sensitisation meeting on the (UNSCR) 1325 & 1820 and the Goma Declaration as a basis for coming up with the Local Action Plan on (UNSRC) 1325 & 1820 and the Goma Declaration.

During the sensitization meetings, a task force of 20 participants were selected to draft the Local Action Plan (LAP). The Task force was trained for 2 days to develop the LAP. The process involved several discussions, consultations and meetings by the taskforce to develop the draft document. The draft LAP was validated by key stakeholders at a Town Hall meeting in Gulu district. The draft was improved and edited for translation and finally produced.

1.2 Prior processes

In 2013 Gulu district Local Government visited Dokolo the first district in Uganda to come up with an action plan based on implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 & 1820 and the Goma Declaration with support from Care International in Uganda. The aim of the visit was for Gulu district to come up with an Action Plan and a GBV Ordinance to strengthen GBV prevention and response programmes at the district. A consultation meeting was conducted and members agreed to first come up with an ordinance to address the overwhelming incidences of GBV reported at various service points in the post conflict era. Late last year, the district received communication from the Attorney General that the ordinance was compliant with the national laws of Uganda, ready for publication, dissemination and enforcement.

Alcohol is one of the contributing factors to GBV in the district. After the approval of the GBV Ordinance 2014, religious and traditional leaders petitioned the district to come up with an Ordinance to control and reduce Alcohol consumption which is escalating cases of GBV within the district. In 2015 the district developed this ordinance with support from CSOs and religious leaders and was approved by council in January 2016. The Ordinance was submitted to attorney General's Office through Ministry of Local Government.

The district saw the need to come up with an action plan to ensure that the above ordinances are disseminated and enforced. Secondly to ensure that prevention and response activities are strengthened to eradicate GBV at the district. In 2014 the district approached CEWIGO for funds to enable it come up with an action plan. In December 2015 CEWIGO informed Gulu district that they will be in position to support Gulu District Local Government to develop an action plan hence the signing of the MOU in January 2016 and the commencement of the process.

The consultations with stakeholders informed the meetings that the most common forms of GBV in Gulu district is physical violence which totalled to 1,478 of reported cases in 2015, followed by bad cultural practices (forced and child marriages) at 840 sexual violence at 937, economic violence at 669, psychological violence at 261 as per data in the NGBVDB in 2015. Defilement cases are higher than most sexual violence cases in the district.

Most defilement cases reported at various service points are children from ages 0-14. Few parents report cases of GBV of children ages 15-17 years because many prefer to marry them off or accept to get economic gains out of them. Gender based violence being a human right violation has promoted stereotyping of gender roles in society which affects human dignity and in the long run undermines development.

The action plan is important for coordination of GBV interventions, proper planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

1.3 Scope of Direction

The Local Action Plan (LAP) is a strategic framework for guiding, planning and implementation of GBV response and prevention activities by all GBV and child protection actors in the district to reduce occurrences of GBV at the district. This LAP aims to increase interventions by the district and its partners in response and prevention of GBV, reduce GBV by at least 10% and effectively provide a holistic case management care to survivors of GBV.

1.4 District Vision:

“A district with quality life, sustainable and holistic development”

1.5 District Mission:

A violence free district with quality services through a coordinated holistic approach to a sustainable GBV prevention and response.

1.6 District Goal:

To serve the community through a coordinated service delivery system focused on local and national priorities that contribute to promoting quality of life.

1.7 Strategy:

The plan shall adopt Public, Private and People partnership (PPPP) in the delivery of services to the affected population.

CHAPTER TWO: OVER VIEW OF GULU DISTRICT

2.0: Overview

Gulu district is located in northern Uganda between longitude 30-32 degrees east; alatitude 02-4 degrees north. It is bordered by Amuru and Nwoya district in the west and southwest respectively, Lamwo district in the north east, Pader district in the east, Lira district in the south east and Oyam district in the south

The total land area of Gulu District is 3,428.42 sq km (1.44% of the Uganda land size). 96.9 sq km (0.8%) is open waters. The District headquarters is 332 km by road from Kampala and through the Great North Road gives access to the Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo.

2.1: Topography, soil, Hydrology, climate and Vegetation

Topography:

The relief of Gulu consists of complex low landscape with relatively uniform topography marked by few sharp contrasts like Oroko and Ajulu hills to the north, Ayamo, Awere and Omoro hills in the east (Omor County). Generally, the altitude ranges between 1000 -1200 meters above sea level.

Soils:

According to Langlands (1974) classifications, the soil of Gulu consists of ferruginous soil with a high percentage of sandy soils and therefore susceptible to erosion. Due to its sandy nature, the soil has low

water retention capacity and high rate of water infiltration. The soils are usually deep with little differentiation into clearly defined zones and possess fine granular structure, others moulded into large, weak coherent clods that are very porous. Gulu district is endowed with vast fertile soils like in Orapwoyo in Odek and Adak in Lalogi and this has resulted to very high crop yield.

Hydrology:

The up and down wrapping of underground rocks accompanied by faulting, shearing and jointing has influenced the drainage pattern in the district to form a dendrite drainage pattern. Here many rivers and streams are held responsible for the formation of this drainage pattern. The major ones are those flowing into the Nile, which include rivers: Aswa, Unyama, and Tochi.

Climate:

The type of climate experienced in Gulu consists of dry and wet seasons. The average total rainfall received is 1,500 mm per annum with the monthly average rainfall varying between 1.4 mm in January and 230 mm in August. Normally the wet season extends from April to November with the highest peaks during May, August and October, while the dry season begins in November and extends up to March. The average maximum temperature is 50 degrees centigrade and the minimum being 18 degrees centigrade. Relative humidity is high during the wet season and low in the dry season.

Vegetation:

The vegetation of Gulu as classified by Langland (1974) consists of intermediate savannah grassland. This type of vegetation is that found between the moist and the dry savannah. The vegetation type is characterized by open canopy of trees of 10-12 meters high and underlying grasses of 80 centimeters high. The trees are fire resistant and are therefore able to regenerate themselves after being burnt with fire. The common tree species here include; Acacia, Focus Natalensis, contyetum, Banasus, Aethicpum (Fanpalm) while the common grasses include; imperate cylindice, Hypemaria Rufa, Digitria scalarum. There are also some herths like Bidens Pilosa, Ageralum Coinzolds, Amarathus species and Latana Camara.

However, man's activities have tended to interfere with the natural vegetation of the place and this has led to the development of secondary vegetation. The common tree and grass species here include Eucalyptus, Jacaranda, Cupressus, Theruvaian, Pienes, Hibscus, Bougain Vilae and Flamboyant

2.2: Demographic Characteristics of Gulu District

The population of Gulu District as of 2014 is 443,733 people, compared to 298,527 in 2002. The population density as of 2002 was 86 persons/sq km, compared to 129 persons/sq km in 2014. (Table 1.3.2 presents the population distribution by administrative units).

Table1: Showing the Population distribution by counties and sub-counties/divisions by sex in Gulu District

County	S u b - County	Population as of Census 2014		
		Male	Female	Total
ASWA	Awach	9,274	10,228	19,502
	Bungatira	15,924	17,024	32,948
	Paicho	12,586	12,586	24,306
	Palaro	6,735	6,775	13,510
	Patiko	9,014	9,526	18,540
	Unyama	8,345	8,664	17,009
	Sub-Total	61,878	64,803	125,815
MUNICIPALITY	Bar-dege	17,397	17,619	35,016
	Laroo	16,079	16,331	32,410
	Layibi	17,977	18,468	36,445
	Pece	22,579	25,826	48,405
	Sub-Total	74,032	78,244	152,276
OMORO	Bobi	15,152	16,104	31,256
	Koro	14,154	15,223	29,377
	Lakwana	9,445	10,022	19,467
	Lalogi	14,735	15,382	30,117
	Odek	15,765	16,453	32,218
	Ongako	11,315	11,892	23,207
	Sub-Total	80,566	85,076	165,642
Gulu District Total		215,610	228,123	443,733

Source: census 2014 Gulu District Planning Unit & UBOS

As seen in Table 1.3.2, Omoro County has the largest population (165,642) compared to Aswa (125,815) and Gulu Municipality (152,276).

2.3 Administrative Structures of Gulu District

Administratively, Gulu District is composed of 16 Lower Local Governments (12 Sub-counties and 4 Divisions). Other administrative units include 2 counties and 1 Municipality. There are of 70 Parishes (54 parishes in the rural sub-counties and 16 wards in the divisions) and 294 villages as shown in the table below

Table 2: showing the Administrative Units and land areas in Gulu District

County	LLG	Size(KM²)
ASWA	Awach	249.32
	Bungatira	186.51
	Paicho	454.69
	Unyama	140.15
	Palaro	515.84
	Patiko	268.64
GMC	Gulu MC	55.11
OMORO	Bobi	230.90
	Koro	214.31
	Lakwana	156.15
	Lalogi,	336.97
	Odek	419.57
	Ongako,	200.26
TOTAL		3428.42

CHAPTER THREE: CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

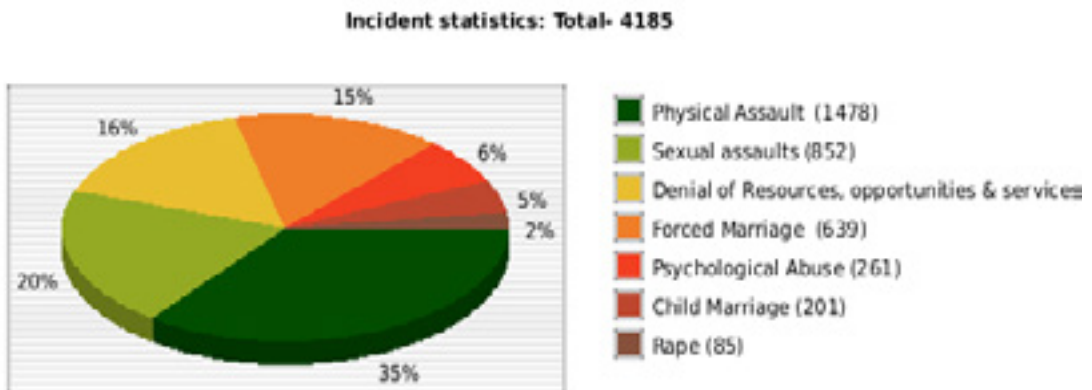
Introduction

While several legal instruments and policies have been enacted with intent to make Uganda violence free, women and girls continue to statistically make the majority of victims of gender based violence in Gulu district. Gender-based violence (GBV) is a life threatening, health and human rights issue that can have devastating impact on women and children in particular as well as families and communities. A report on the final evaluation of GBV (2014) mentions Uganda as one of the countries in Africa where Gender Based violence is high. The Uganda Demographic health Survey (UDHS) results of 2011 reveals that 56% of women (or about 1 in every 2 women and/or girls) in Uganda have ever experienced physical violence at some point since the age of 15 years; 28% of women aged 15-47 have ever suffered sexual violence; 16% have endured violence during pregnancy; and approximately 24% had their sexual encounter was a forced one (UDHS, 2011).

The 20 year old war and the displacement of community in camps left the people of Gulu with post traumatic disorder, the post conflict period is characterised by increased gender based violence in the community committed with impunity and land related conflict due to the long displacement period. In 2015 Gulu district registered over 1,478 cases of physical violence, 852 cases of defilement, 840 cases of child marriages and forced marriages, 261 cases of psychological violence and 85 cases of rape in the National Gender violence Data Base (NGBVDB). Of the 852 cases of defilement majority are ages 14 and below.

GBV reported cases from January – December 2015

Diagram 1



Incident Type	Number of Victims
Child Marriage	201
Denial of Resources, opportunities & services	669
Forced Marriage	639
Physical Assault	1478
Psychological Abuse	261
Rape	85
Sexual assaults	852
Total	4185

Diagram 2

GBV- Gender Graph Reports

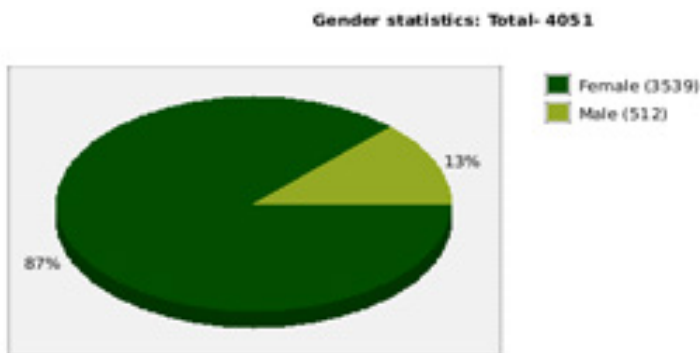
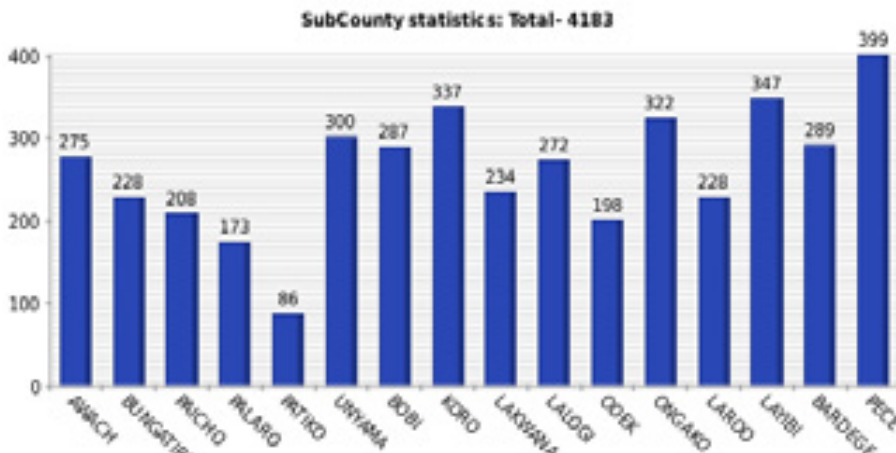


Diagram 3

GBV- Sub county Graph Report



The above has resulted into chronic pain, physical injuries leading to disability or even death, drug and alcohol abuse, psychological trauma, post-traumatic stress, fear, anxiety and depression. Female and child survivors of physical and sexual abuse are at risk of getting unwanted pregnancies, STIs, suicide, gynaecological disorders including fistula and other adverse pregnancy outcomes (WHO, 2005)

Gender-based Violence is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will, and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females. Acts of GBV violate a number of universal human rights protected by international instruments and conventions. The term "gender-based violence" is often used interchangeably with the term "violence against women." The term "gender-based violence" highlights the gender dimension of these types of acts. It is important to note, however, that men and boys may also be victims of gender-based violence, especially sexual violence (IASC, 2005)

In addressing GBV, there is need to strengthen existing referral mechanism in place such as the police, the lower local government (LCI to LC III), CBOs, health centres II, III and IV, JLOs institutions, the GBV/child protection working group, staff of CSD and CDOs to enable each and every one of them play their roles effectively.

In providing solutions against GBV, the district came up with the Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) in 2014 to provide a clear systems, roles and responsibilities for each individual, groups, agency and organisation involved in prevention and response to GBV. In addition, the district approved the Acholi Gender Cultural Principle developed by KKA in 2013 as a guiding tool of the Acholis to prevent discrimination and violence against women and girls.

The district has a strong GBV/child protection working group that meets every first Wednesday of the month to discuss pertain GBV and child protection issues to facilitate advocacy and referrals at all levels.

The district also has a district GBV shelter that provides safety, security and protection of girls and women in need of the listed services. Lastly the district has approved two Ordinances to enforce elimination of GBV at the district.

3.2 Legal Framework

Uganda has several national gender responsive laws and policies in place and is party to regional and international legal policy frame works that recognise that all human beings have guaranteed Human Rights and that the vulnerable groups should be protected from all forms of violence and discrimination. Below are some of these instruments.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, 2000

UNSCR 1325 calls for the protection of women from GBV, increasing women's participation in peace building and conflict resolution and mainstreaming of gender concerns in the UN peace mechanisms and efforts.

The United Nations Security Council 1820, 2008

The UNSCR 1820 was adopted to fill gaps in UNSCR 1325. It realizes that sexual violence can significantly exacerbate the situation of armed conflict and impede restoration of international peace and security.

The Goma Declaration, 2008

The Goma declaration of the states of the Great Lakes Region recognizes that sexual violence is a threat to regional peace and security, a major propagator of HIV/AIDS and thus a threat to economic development

The universal Declaration of Human Right 1948

The UDHR forms the basis of Uganda's constitution. The declaration considers the various categories of rights such as civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights in a holistic nature. The declaration in Article 1 recognizes that all human being are born free and equal in dignity and rights and article 25 (2) that motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) 1966

The covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Right was adopted by UN General Assembly on Dec 16, 1966 and entered into force on Jan 3rd 1976. The concept of Human dignity is the foundation for civil and political and economic, social and cultural rights. These rights can neither be given nor taken away. Human dignity is denied when civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights are not guaranteed. The two common elements mediate both sets of rights –security and equality. Article 2(1) of the covenant deals with the obligation of states parties under the covenant. Article 3 provides for the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of rights set forth in the covenant

The Covenant on the Right of a Child (CRC)

The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW) 1979

The main objective of this convention is to protect women and girls from all forms of discrimination. Article 1 defines discrimination against women as any distinction, exclusion or restrictions made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing, nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women irrespective of their marital status on the basis of equality of man and women of human rights and

fundamental freedom in the political, economic, cultural, civil or any other forms. Article 2 to 16 call on state parties (government) to put in place policies and legislative measures prohibiting all forms of discriminations against women for the removal of economic, social and cultural impediments.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) 1966

Article 1 deal with the question of self-determination. Article 2 deal with the obligation of state parties to undertake necessary steps to respect and ensure to all individuals the enjoyment of rights recognized in the covenant. The rights should be ensured to all individuals without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status. Article 3 deals with the obligation of ensuring the equal rights of men and women. Article 4 deals with derogation principles. Article 5 deals with the obligation not to misrepresent any of the articles of the covenant in such a manner to undermine the rights and freedoms recognized in the covenant. While Articles 6-27 deals with specific rights like life, torture, slavery, arbitrary arrest, freedom of movement

The Protocol to the African Charter on the Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa 2003

The Maputo Protocol addresses the rights of women and girls in general. Article 2(1) states that states parties shall combat all forms of discrimination

against women through appropriate legislative institutional and other measures including integrating a gender perspective in their policy decisions, legislation, development plans, programmes and activities

African Charter on Human and People's Rights

The charter reaffirming the pledge they solemnly made in Article 2 of said charter to eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa, to coordinate and intensify their cooperation and efforts to achieve a better life for the people of Africa and to promote international cooperation having due regard to the charter of the United Nations and Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Taking into consideration the virtues of their historical tradition and the values of African civilization which should inspire and characterize their reflection on the concept of Human and people's Rights.

The Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, 2004

Heads of states of government of the African union meeting in Addis-Ababa reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of gender equality as enshrined in Article 4(1) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union. The major challenges and obstacles to gender equality faced by girls and women to address according to the declaration include the high incidences of HIV/AIDs, conflict, poverty, harmful traditional practices, violence against women, women's exclusion from politics and decision

making and literacy and limited access to girls education.

The Kampala Declaration of Heads of States and Governments of the great Lakes Region on Sexual and Gender Based Violence, 2011

The ICGLR 4th ordinary summit of the Heads of state and Government and a Special Session on Sexual Gender Based Violence in the region was held in Kampala, Uganda December 2011 to provide assistance to victims of SGBV.

The 1995 constitution as amended

The 1995 constitution of the Republic of Uganda is the supreme law of the land that provides for the fundamental human Rights for all its citizens. Specifically, chapter four is dedicated for protection and promotion of fundamental and other human rights and freedoms with a number of specific Articles that spell out women's rights

The land Act 2007 as amended

The land (amendment) Bill 2007 tries to address one of the current biggest land problems which are evictions and this has attracted public attention where some critics view it as a government scheme to steal peoples land while government insists that the intension of the Bill is to protect helpless lawful, bona fide and customary occupants of land who face incessant evictions every day.

Domestic Violence Act 2010

According to the Act, domestic violence constitutes any act or omission of a

perpetrator which harms, endangers the health, safety or general wellbeing of the victim. Domestic violence takes different forms which includes physical, economic, emotional and sexual abuse. This form of violence also encompasses harassment, coercion and threats

The Equal Opportunities Act

The Act is in line with Article 32(3) and(4) of the constitution of Uganda to eliminate discrimination and inequalities against individuals or groups on the group of sex, gender, age, colors, race, ethnic, origin, tribe, birth, creed, health status, disability, social and economic standing or political opinion. According to the Act equal opportunities means having the same treatment or consideration in the enjoyment of rights and freedoms, attainment of access to social services, education, employment, and physical environment or participation in social, cultural and political activities regardless of sex, age, race and other differences.

Penal Code Act Cap 120

Article 129(1) of chapter 120 of the Act provides that any person, who performs a sexual act with another person who is below the age of 18 years commit a felony known as defilement and is on conviction, liable to life imprisonment. It also provides for the offence of aggravated defilement which makes one on conviction by high court liable to death. Aggravated defilement according to the Act is where the victim of the defilement is below 14 years, the offender is infected with HIV, the

offender is a parent or guardian or a person in authority, where the victim is disabled or the offender is a serial offender

The Children Act 1997

The Act provides for care, protection and maintenance of children for local authority support for children; to establish a family and children court; to make provision for children charged with offences and for other connected purposes. Article 10 (1a) provides that it is the general duty of every local government council from the village to the district level to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within its area.

Labour Disputes Arbitration and settlement Act 2006

This Act to revise the law relating to industrial relations, to repeal and replace the trade disputes (Arbitration and settlement) Act cap 224 and to provide for related matters

Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2009

This Act is to provide for the prohibition of trafficking in persons, creation of offences, prosecution and punishment of the offenders, prevention of the vice of trafficking in persons, protection of victim of trafficking in person; and for other related matters.

Succession Act Cap 162

This Act or by any other law for the time being in force, the provisions in this act shall constitute the law

of Uganda applicable to all cases of intestate or testamentary succession. This Act look at the following domicile, consanguinity, intestacy, distribution of an intestate's property, effect of marriage and marriage settlement on property, wills and codicils, void Bequests etc

The Uganda Gender Policy, 2007

The revised gender policy aims at guiding all levels of planning, resource mobilization and implementation of development programs with a gender perspective. The emphasis on gender is based on the recognition that gender is a development is a development concept useful in identifying and understanding the social roles and relations of women and men of all ages, and how these impact on development. According to the policy, all institutions in Uganda are obliged to mainstream gender in their programs.

3.2 Interventions by the district and partners

TASO: Provide post violence care including PEP, HIV Aids testing and counseling and post abortion care.

ASSIST: Provide quality assurance in health service delivery through the Ministry of health and Ministry of Gender Labour & social development.

WORLD EDUCATION

BANTWANA:

The organization looks at Economic strengthening of Adolescents ages 15

to 17 years engaged in health hazardous work or child labour.

IJM: International Justice Mission (IJM) to eliminate property grabbing in Uganda.

GUWODU: Advocate for girls and women with disabilities with emphasis on equal rights and economic empowerment.

RHU: Advocates for sexual reproductive and health rights of women and girls.

CEWIGO: is a non-governmental organization committed to the promotion of effective and equal participation of women in politics and decision making.

GWED& G: A women's rights organisation established to undertake social and economic interventions

AAI-U: An international organization, working with over 15 million people in 45 countries for a world free from poverty and injustice.

Care International:

KKA: Handles cultural preservation, peace building and reconciliation, community empowerment and inclusive governance.

Care International in Uganda: Aims at creating a GBV free society where women and children are treated with dignity and respect by reducing social tolerance for GBV.

FIDA: Provide for gender equality and access to justice for women and girl in relations to GBV and land rights

Thrive Gulu: provide trauma healing services for community of Layibi division, VSLA and adult literacy programme

ACORD: works and focuses in four thematic areas namely, Livelihoods; Food Security and Economic Development, Peace Building; Civil and Political Participation; Human Rights and Gender and Women Empowerment; HIV/AIDS, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights.

Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law society: 'Ensure Indigent, Vulnerable and Marginalized Persons Access Justice' Through Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism such as; Counseling, legal advice, mediation, negotiations, reconciliations and arbitration and Legal representation in Courts of Law.

SOS: strengthen capacities of families to provide care for children in schools, improve education performance of children and provide access to quality health care service for children and women in reproductive age.

UWAP: Their interventions are in three thematic area, GBV and sexual reproductive health of women, child protection and human rights and women recovering from armed conflict.

Every Child Ministry: They provide education, psycho social support to orphans and vulnerable children and their guardians.

CRR: Provides prevention, legal and psychosocial support to survivors of GBV including war victims.

Watoto Living Hope: They strengthen care and provide economic support to women living with HIV/AIDs and their children.

ACTV: the provide treatment, legal and psychosocial support to tortured and unlawfully detent victims

Straight Talk Foundation: Provide adolescent friendly services such as counseling, testing for HIV/AIDs and STIs, recreation services for the youth

Hope for humans: Provides treatment, psychosocial support and economic empowerment women experiencing violence, special attention to withdrawal of girls from prostitution.

JRP: Promotes forums for advocacy and document of concerns of war victims and offers psychosocial and economic support to formally abducted women.

Hope for Humanity: provide psychosocial support, treatment, care and education for children with nodding syndrome and their families

World Vision: Provide capacity building for community structure preventing and responding to child protection concerns in the community and provide economical support to vulnerable households.

HURIFU: provide legal redress to cases violation of all human rights and empowers community with knowledge of their rights.

3.4: Challenges in addressing GBV

Much as the district has tried to put some measures in place to address GBV as discussed above, the district still faces a number of challenges including the following:

1. Inadequate funding for GBV programmes at the district.
2. Political interference in handling GBV cases especially at lower local governments.
3. Inadequate capacity of staff directly responsible for addressing GBV at all levels.
4. Mismanagement of GBV cases.
5. Delay in prosecution of GBV cases in court leading to loss of interest in follow up by survivors.
6. Lack of specialised court in handling sexual gender based violence cases.
7. Poor record keeping and documentation.

3.5 Challenges at community level

- Bad cultural beliefs and practices.
- Poverty
- Ignorance of the legal provisions and procedures
- Illiteracy

CHAPTER FOUR: THE DISTRICT LOCAL ACTION PLAN

4.1 **Goal:** To eliminate GBV prevalence in Gulu district by 2021

4.2 Specific objectives

1. To increase the number of reported cases of GBV from 3% to 50%
2. To reduce the number of GBV cases from Gulu by 40% by 2021.
3. To build the capacity of institutions to effectively and efficiently prevent and respond to GBV by 2021.
4. To increase the level of financing to all sectors and institutions mainstreaming GBV in Gulu by 5%



Discussing the provisions of the Action Plan

Priority area 1: **Eliminate all forms of GBV in Gulu district**

Objective: 1: **To build community and institutional capacity in prevention and response to GBV in Gulu district**

Strategy	Activities	Results	Indicator	Assumption / Budget
Capacity building of key stakeholders in prevention and response to GBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Training of key leaders, on response and prevention of GBV (cultural leaders, local government staff, religious, police, elected leaders, women leaders, male role models, male action groups, women advocacy groups, Farmers groups sub county coalitions) - Translate IEC materials into the local language including the Braille materials. - Train the community and the leaders in sign language -Train STPC and DTPC on GBV responsive planning and budgeting. - Mentor sub counties staff and elected leaders on GBV responsive planning and budgeting. -Monitor and supervise implementation of GBV activities mainstreamed in the district and sub county plan. -Retooling of GBV service providers with office equipment (GFPO, police, health etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strengthened referral pathway. -Skilled personnel trained to respond and prevent GBV. -Key stakeholder knowledgeable on GBV prevention and response - Asset inventory improved -GBV action plan integrated the district plan and sub counties Plan. - Plans and budget of the district and sub counties are gender responsive. -New elected leaders/technical personnel and sub counties sensitized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of skilled personnel trained - Number of GBV Action Plans developed Number of task forces created Number of reports discussed and followed up on -Number of institutions trained. -Number of equipment purchased -Number of GBV plans developed -Number of elected leaders'/ technical staff sensitized. -No of sensitization workshops/meetings held - No of gender sensitive plans developed. - No of sub counties implementing the gender sensitive plan. - No of equipment procured and functional. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Funds availability -Targeted audience appreciate and take the issues Availability of skilled personal -availability time. - willingness of participant <p>Budget UGX 277,860,000/=</p>

<p>Advocacy campaigns on GBV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Radio talks shows -Development of Spots messages - Develop IEC materials -Dialogue with key stakeholders - Mentorship programme of girls on importance of education -Regular meeting with GBV stakeholders. - International events (women’s day, 16 days of activism, the day of African Child, youth day , International day for PWDs, World Aids Day) -Song, dance and drama - Local artist - Continued sensitization of community on the positive cultural values and mentor men and women in marriage - Promote of the roles of neri (uncles) Wayo (aunties) and elders in stabilizing families -Continued sensitization of communities to revive the Wang oo informal learning flat form as an important traditional avenue for socialization. - Integration of GBV issues in work plans 	<p>-Community members aware of GBV prevention and response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strengthened network among GBV working group Increased reporting of GBV cases. -Reduction of SGBV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No of radio talk shows conducted - Number of meetings held. -Number of cases reported - Number of call- in during talk shows. - Number of radios tuned in during the talk shows -No of Stable marriages and happy families. -No of retention of children in school - Reduction in co habitation of couples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coverage is sufficient - Availability of funds - Stakeholders support - Wide media coverage <p>Budget UGX 422,060,000 /=</p>
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Strategy	Activities	Results	Indicator	Assumption / Budget
Documentation of GBV issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Collection of data of GBV status cases already in court -Collection of GBV data from service points(police Health, Fit Persons, LCs) -Data management (compilation, analyses, dissemination) -Data dissemination meetings. - Conduct research and surveys - Documentaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Updated status of GBV cases at the district -evidence based planning and budgeting for gbv. - collected data , compiled stored and analyzed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of cases successfully handled at all service points. - Number of cases pending in court - No of cases documented - No of dissemination meetings held. - No of surveys and research documented. - No of documentaries covered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Availability of funds -Willingness of institutions to avail data. -availability of skilled personals on data management respondents. -willingness to submit information/ data by community and institutions <p>Budget UGX 142,856,000/=</p>

Strategy	Activities	Results	Indicator	Assumption / Budget
<p>Strengthen Coordination and networking of stakeholders handling GBV related issues in Gulu district</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hold GBV monthly coordination meetings at district level and quarterly at sub county level Hold midterm review of GBV action plan - Monitor and evaluate GBV response and prevention activities at the sub counties - conduct updates of GBV service providers at the district annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Improved and quality service delivery and implementation of GBV plans at the district and sub counties. -Gaps and emerging issues identified for future planning -Strengthened referral pathways at district and sub counties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of coordination meetings held -Number of reports on gaps and emerging issues identified - Number of follow up visits conducted. - Number of action points implemented - reports on good practice and lessons learnt documented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Availability of funds - commitments of GBV services providers -Availability of time <p>Budget UGX 54,050,000</p>

Priority 2: Legal and Policy frame work

Objective 2: To improve performances of different actors involved in prevention and response to GBV in Gulu District

Strategies	Activities	Results	Indicator	Assumption / Budget
Capacity building of GBV actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train legal staff/ institution on response and prevention of GBV. (Police, judiciary, LC I courts, prosecutors and lawyers, fit persons) Training of GBV service providers on GBV prevention and response -Train leaders and community members on land laws -Hold quarterly DCC meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strengthened capacities of law enforcement officers -Improvement coordination and case management of GBV -Action points generated and implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of trainings held -Number of meetings held. -Number of cases handled and concluded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Availability of funds -The JLOs sector has appreciated the concerns trained on. <p>Budget UGX 225,780,000/=</p>
Enactment of by-laws and Enforcement of existing ordinances and policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of IEC materials -Enactment of bylaws at sub county -Enforcement of existing laws and ordinances -Dissemination of existing laws and ordinances -Enforcement of the SOP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Enacted of bylaws and ordinances -Enacted by- laws disseminated -Increased awareness of the ordinance and by laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of by laws enacted -Number of people sensitized on the enacted by laws and ordinances -Number of dissemination meetings session held. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Availability of funds -Political will of the district <p>Budget UGX 401,280,000/=</p>

Priority areas 3: Improve access to medical, psychosocial and protection services for GBV survivors.
Objective: To increase access to holistic, appropriate health, psychosocial and protection services for GBV survivors and their family

Strategies	Activities	Results	Indicators	Assumption / Budget
Capacity building of medical staffs in GBV response and clinical management of rape and management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Train health workers and social workers on GBV prevention responses. -Train health workers in the management of rape, management and filling of police form 3s and 24A - sourcing out of experts in medical and social services in relation to SGBV -Training of key stakeholders in sign language -Training of VHT's on referral pathways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health staff managing and filling of police forms and testifying in courts as expert witness -Trained medical staff in providing quality services to GBV survivors -Timely service delivery by trained health and social service providers - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No of health staff and social workers trained -No of cases of SGBV handled -Increased No and quality of police form 3As,3 and 24 managed and filled at health centers II, III and IV's -No of health workers testifying in courts as expert witness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Availability of funds -The health and psychosocial support has appreciated the concerns training. Judicial process will be timely GBV referral pathway be strengthened Budget UGX 80,000,000

<p>Strengthen access to Services</p>	<p>-Mobilization and sensitization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provide GBV shelter, health centers IV, IIIs and II with PEP kits, drugs, on a regular bases - provision of GBV focal point person at all health center three -provide psychosocial support to survivors of SGBV - provide quality services at the GBV shelter according to set standards in the National Shelter Guidelines. -Monitor accessibility of services within the GBV referral pathway based on set standards. -Regular meetings and follow up of case management. -Establishment of GBV shelters at health centers. 	<p>-Availability of services at the referral pathway in health center II, III and IVs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coordinated GBV services provided at the shelter - survivors are provided with psychosocial support services according to the National Guidelines for Psychosocial support to GBV survivors 	<p>-Number of health centers II, III and IVs with regular supply of PEP Kits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No of GBV survivors accessing services -No of focal point persons identified and appointed -increased accessibility to services within the referral pathway 	<p>-Availability of funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Health services have will to provide services <p>Budget UGX</p> <p>80,000,000</p>
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<p>Safety and security of GBV survivors in Gulu District.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide modest temporarily accommodation for GBV survivors. - Provide first aid to GBV survivors - Provide psychosocial support to the survivors of GBV. - Hold community dialogue with key stake holders - Conduct mobile legal aid clinic in different sub counties in Gulu district. - Referrals and follow up of cases to different stakeholders - Economic empowerment of GBV survivors. - Hold Quarterly review meetings by task force members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - .Relieve and healing of psychological distress of survivors - Minimize risk to exposure to reoccurrence of violence. - Awareness raising. - Activists of change. - Attitude and behavior change. - Strengthened capacities of stakeholders to mobilize resources and advocate to eliminate GBV. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of GBV survivors accommodated. - Number of community dialogues held. - Number of Community members supporting GBV survivors in the community. - Number of community driven initiatives in place to address GBV eg Bye laws, ordinances - Number of victims/ GBV survivors supported by IGAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability of funds - Stakeholders support - Qualified staff <p>UGX91,090,000/=</p>
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Priority areas 4: Women in leadership and decision making
Objective: To increase women's participation in leadership, peace building and decision making

Strategies	Activities	Results	Indicators	Assumption / Budget
<p>Mediation and reconciliation</p> <p>Sensitization of leaders on the importance of gender equality</p> <p>Lobbying</p> <p>Networking</p>	<p>- Dialogue with political, cultural and religious leaders on the importance of women's participation in leadership, peace building and decision making.</p> <p>- Support DRPT and cultural institutions in prevention and response to conflicts in the community</p>	<p>- Increased number of women actively involved in leadership and peace building processes.</p> <p>- Increased participation of women in peace building and decision making</p> <p>- Strengthened capacity of DRPT and cultural leaders to prevent and respond to conflicts.</p>	<p>- No of dialogues conducted</p> <p>- No of institutions involved</p> <p>- Increase in % of women in various leadership and decision making positions at district and community levels.</p> <p>- Number of DRPT and cultural leaders trained.</p>	<p>- Availability of funds</p> <p>- Political will of the district leaders</p> <p>- Reception of community towards women's involvement in decision making and peace building</p> <p>Budget 168,120,000</p>