

CENTER FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Summary

2011 began with a cloud of uncertainty due to political and economic instability that was later followed by calm. This did not veer us away from our vision but rather inspired us to work harder to ensure that our programs create the much needed impact-prevent violence against women in Uganda.

CEDOVIP's programs made significant progress in mobilizing communities to prevent violence against women, supporting the local councils, police and the health care sector to strengthen their response to cases of violence against women, through direct implementation of programs in Kampala and technical support to civil society partners and the local government structures in Busoga. CEDOVIP continued to be recognized as a leading organization in preventing violence against women in Uganda. Our partnership with Raising Voices continued to thrive as we collaborated on the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SASA! in Kampala.

The media campaign and policy advocacy kept the public's and policy makers attention on preventing violence against women and we sustained the demands to have the Domestic Violence Act implemented.

In addition, the new partnership under the Government of Uganda Irish Aid Joint Program to address Gender Based Violence in Busoga Sub-Region enabled CEDOVIP to use SASA! Approach to prevent violence against women within the local government structures further scaling up the approach to non-NGO practitioners.

January to December 2011 was a productive time for CEDOVIP programming. CEDOVIP focused on widening the scope of work and consolidating efforts for prevention and response to violence against women in Uganda.

CEDOVIP expresses sincere appreciation to all organizations, individuals mainly the community activists, community development officers, policy makers, colleagues from the media, community development officers, government institutions, the Domestic Violence Act coalition, PEP Coalition and donors who believed and supported the work of promoting women's rights and safety through preventing violence against women. ***To donors: American Jewish World Service, Foundation for Open Society Institute, Elton John AIDS Foundation, Raising Voices, Irish Aid, UK Department for International Development and Fund for Global Human Rights***, we thank you for the support to our programs!.

CENTER FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Program one: SASA! Mobilizing communities to prevent violence against women and HIV in Kampala District.

The work engages community members, local institutions and policy makers in Rubaga and Makindye Divisions to rethink their use of power – particularly in intimate relationships to foster more equitable and safe relationships. This is the year 3 of CEDOVIP’s SASA! Work in Makindye and Rubaga Divisions. CEDOVIP used the following strategies:

i)-**local activism** that works with every day men and women to mobilize community members at the grassroots to prevent VAW. CEDOVIP works with a team of 64 community activists (CAs) and 70 members of the drama troupes (half men and half women) who spearhead efforts to prevent violence against women: Key activities included:

-Intensive trainings with the 64 community activists ; we conducted two SASA! Training workshops with 64 community activists, and 70 members of the drama troupes. CEDOVIP further conducted 20 bi-monthly trainings for the CAs. The trainings aimed to build practical skills for CAs to implement the support phase and transition to the action phase activities. The trainings enabled the community activists to break the pattern of chronic awareness raising and to inspire individuals to gain the skills they need to act on their new awareness about VAW, HIV/AIDS and power. CAs conducted activities that encouraged individuals to reach out to friends, relatives, neighbors and families and encouraged them to practice being different. Men reaching out to men and women reaching out to women encouraging them to try new ways of creating equality in relationships, as a way of practicing balancing power between men and women and non violence. The collective actions of the individuals greatly influence norm change something that is key to effective community mobilization.

-Onsite monitoring support for the 64 community activists and the 70 members of the drama troupes: a team of 4 experienced program staff supported at least 570 CAs activities to strengthen their skills to engage and inspire communities to join hands to support people experiencing violence, those trying to balance power in their relationships and those speaking out against VAW. Staff ensured that CAs focused the discussions to the objectives of the phase. Staff observed and documented the process using the activity assessment report and outcome tracking tool and discussed the recommendations with the CAs. Any emerging issues were used to inform implementation of the program. Onsite monitoring created opportunity for staff to interact with the CAs and community members on a very regular basis. This ensured quality implementation of the program and strengthened relationships with CAs and mutual understanding of the specific needs of each CAs. CAs were in turn greatly inspired to create the much needed activism. It is important to note that relationship building with activists is very essential in community mobilization.

-Community activists outreach activities through 400 participatory community theatre, 20 sporting events, 450 community conversations, 100 door to door, 300 quick chats, and 300 poster discussions, 20 public events, 100 SASA! Film shows, and 270 soap opera discussions, CAs reached out to women in the market places, neighbor hoods, water collection points, women’s groups and prayer places, and men (outreach to men’s drinking joints, garages, carpentries and market places). The heated debates focused on creating fairness, respect, safety, and healthy relationships between men and women. 80,000 community members were reached (32,000 women, 22,000 youths and 26,000 men). Many community members were inspired to make individual and collective action to create change. Some of the men remarked that: *“The strength and development of a home depends on how a woman is treated, if she is*

respected and given a chance to participate in family decision that home shines but if she is sidelined you see a miserable home . Men should treat women fairly to have decent and happy homes”(A man from Nakulabye)

Am an old man, I support happy, safer relationships, I have chosen to participate in this campaign because I want the next generations to have no cases of violence on agataliiko nfuufu (local television news) but only stories about peaceful families” (An old man from Kitebi)

-Disbursement of the community action fund: This is an emergency fund given to women/girls survivors of violence who are in dire need to escape to safety or to report their cases to the police and courts of Law. 118 women benefitted, the cases ranged from abandonment by partner, failure to provide for the family, pregnancy related complications due to negligence and physical violence. Some of the women used the funds to travel to their rural homes where it was safe, about 8 women used the fund to start up small income generating activities such as vending food stuffs and charcoal. Staff shared information about options for the women’s safety, need to engage in income generating activities to cope with the high cost of living and referral points for further support. 25 women were referred to other agencies for legal and psycho socio help. About 10 women called back to inform CEDOVIP that they were safe and expressed their gratitude to the support.

-SASA! Study: CEDOVIP’s work is the site of (SASA! study) an extensive first of its kind impact assessment of community mobilization to prevent VAW done in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Raising Voices. CEDOVIP played a key role in supporting to develop and review the tools to ensure that translations of the study tools for the endline that comes in 2012.

CEDOVIP closely worked with Raising Voices to rigorously monitor implementation of the activities and used the monitoring findings to strengthen community activists skills to ensure that the objectives of the support phase are met, as well as re-strategizing on emerging issues, and tracking of the impact of the activities using the impact tracking tool.

CEDOVIP closely worked with Raising Voices to conduct the final Rapid Assessment Survey to assess knowledge, attitude, skills and behaviors in intervention and control communities before moving into the Action phase of SASA! The assessment revealed statistically significant positive shifts in attitudes amongst men and women in intervention communities about acceptability of violence, with an increase in men and women who believe that violence is not acceptable and that it has grave consequences on women, children, families and the community and disclosure of violence. Both men and women in the intervention communities shifted consistently more in their knowledge and attitudes than community members in the control communities.

ii) Institutional strengthening: works with institutions such as the police and health sector to influence positive change to protect women’s rights and prevention of VAW. CEDOVIP works with the Police and Health Institutions to strengthen their response to violence against women. The work involves building capacity of staff of the institutions to handle VAW cases through regular knowledge and skills building trainings and onsite support as well as influencing institutional policy changes.

Specific activities with the police institution included: 3 steering committee meetings with 15 leaders of the Uganda Police Force, 6 knowledge and skills building trainings with 60 police officers from child and family protection units, community liaison officers and criminal investigation department from 5 police stations, 3 trainings for 35 officers from the Community affairs department and the barracks leadership to create activism to prevent VAW, 25 monitoring onsite support visits to 40 officers of the child and

family protection units at the five police stations, 3 meetings with the senior police leadership (Deputy Inspector General of Police, the Commissioner for Human Resource Management, Commissioner in charge of training, the head of Child and Family Protection unit) and the person in charge for the development of the comprehensive Police GBV training module. CEDOVIP also supported 6 police officers to pretest the responsibility guidelines- an alternative to traditional mediation to handle 30 cases of domestic violence and printed 3000 copies and distribution of the revised Police Domestic Violence Handbook.

The Uganda Police Force leadership was inspired to launch the Week of Activism against VAW in the barracks as a police initiative led by the police community affairs department. The week of activism is conducted every one week on a monthly basis. The effort increased awareness and sensitivity to VAW within Nsambya the largest police barracks in Uganda with an estimated population of over 40,000). In addition, the Religious Leaders in Nsambya Barracks actively engaged the congregations during prayer meetings on VAW leading to increased activism and breaking of silence on VAW.

The trained team of police officers played a key role in supporting women who reported cases VAW to police stations. The police leadership ensured that CEDOVIP closely worked with their consultant to develop the Police GBV module for the police training curriculum. CEDOVIP influenced the content of the training to aim at increasing police officers knowledge and addressing negative attitudes on VAW issues as well as strengthening officers skills to prioritize victim safety, avoid victim blame to pave way for the perpetrators to be held accountable to their actions.

-Work with the health sector:

CEDOVIP's intervention sought to create an enabling environment for the reduction of violence against women by ensuring that policies are implemented appropriately by building capacity and mentoring staff of the health units to use the same resources to do their work better as opposed to directly providing services to clients. We noticed positive change in practice at the service points to the benefit of the service seekers. This was possible because of building strong relationships with the stakeholders and making them define small actions for each of them, the collective small actions then create the big change that makes significant improvement in the lives of many women, children and men.

-work with 3 government health center III (Kiruddu, Kawaala and Kitebi) in Makindye and Rubaga.

Key activities included the following: Meeting with 12 officials from Kampala City Council Authority, two steering committee meetings with 12 leaders of the health units, 6 comprehensive trainings with 156 healthcare providers, 24 on site mentoring for staff of the 3 health units, and display of communication materials at the health units

The leaders of the health units collectively devised means of addressing their staff's ethical conduct regarding client centered services. As a result many of their staff strengthened service delivery, they now handle VAW cases with utmost respect and confidentiality. Kawaala and Kiruddu and Kitebi health facilities nominated committees to handle PEP for survivors of rape. The committee comprises of the In-charges, pharmacists, receptionists, midwives and clinicians. The PEP committees ensured that there were no PEP drug stock out and encouraged healthcare providers to refer the survivors for further support. Furthermore the members of the teenage and youth centers played a key role in supporting clients who were put on PEP treatment to complete the dose and to return for check up. All the three health units now formally use the MoH PEP documentation forms to record PEP cases.

-Creating a strong referral network for PEP uptake for survivors of rape in line with government PEP policy in selected health units in Makindye & Rubaga divisions

Key activities included 4 reflection meetings with the team of 150 health care workers developed a referral procedure and network, 6 collaboration meetings between police, health care providers, local leaders and community activists at the community level fostered networking among 300 community stakeholders, 3 trainings with 28 members of youth and teenage centers from Rubaga and Makindye Division.

The collaboration meetings enabled various teams to learn about the nature of support/services found at each referral point. The health care providers informed all stakeholders about the new initiative- PEP service provision is in the maternity section so as to allow for a 24 hour service and encouraged early referrals. The leaders of the health units are working hard to create a flow chart to guide both the clients and the healthcare providers in accessing and providing PEP.

- Increasing uptake of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for rape survivors by raising community awareness of PEP availability and criteria in Makindye & Rubaga divisions

Key activities included: Printing and distributing over 10,000 posters that were displayed at health units, police stations, and public places , 6 Public events at the community level that reached out to over 5000 community members, 100 Health chats at the health units on clinical days reached out to atleast 3000 community members, 2 trainings with 30 staff of the Criminal Investigation Department, 2 trainings with 20 police health care providers, dialogue with 200 police officers on lecture days and parades and, dialogue with 12 police surgeons from Kampala.

The activities led to an increase in the number of cases referred to the health units. At least 200 cases were referred and 151 cases were given PEP because some of the clients came much later than the 72 hour time limit. The health care workers reported that follow up on the clients did not have any sero-conversion for those who were given PEP treatment.

The three health units gave PEP treatment to total of 196 survivors of rape.

CEDOVIP staff Development: CEDOVIP in collaboration with Raising Voices conducted several processes that included 2 workshops for staff to deepen understanding of the SASA! Support and action phase, at least 4 sessions to strengthen staff's feminist analysis of VAW and strengthening their values and beliefs in human rights as well as collective reflections on emerging issues in the field of VAW prevention, practical sessions to strengthen skills to support community activities and use of the M&E feedback to strengthen implementation of the programs. The sessions enabled staff to take lead in implementing programs that enabled CEDOVIP to make significant progress in preventing VAW in Uganda.

iii) **communication materials strategy:** The fun and creative communication materials exposed community members to continuous thought-provoking and appealing focused on benefits of non-violence in relationships, balancing power between men and women, negotiation of condom use and safe sex and dared everyone to prevent VAW everyday in their own way. Community members often hanged materials in strategic places such as doors of their retail shops, walls of their living rooms, and walls in busy/market places, cars and boda bodas (motorbike).

CEDOVIP printed and distributed 60,000 posters, 20,000 card games and comic strips, 2000 SASA! films and 3000 soap operas, 6000 SASA! Cards, 6000 –t-shirts, 10,000 community conversations, 8000 support

info sheets, 30 banners, 4000 stickers, 10,000 PEP posters, 20 community murals and 100 ludo boards. The materials were distributed to the community activists, the police, healthcare workers, civil society, religious leaders, community members and policy makers.

Communication materials were used by all of CEDOVIP programs in Kampala, Busoga region and with partners under the national prevention of violence against women program.

Over 150,000 community members were reached across the country.

iv) **Local Leader Advocacy:** aims to build skills within key local leaders to effectively prevent VAW and respond to women experiencing violence in their communities. CEDOVIP directly works with a team of Local leaders who include: 64 local council members, 36 Ssengas (traditional marriage counselors) because they are often the first layer of response for women and children experiencing violence in the community. Specific activities included:

-8 Trainings for Local council members: 64 local councilors (half women and men) deepened knowledge and skills on the meaning and aims of the SASA! Support and Action phase. The local leaders committed to take personal actions to promote respect and fairness in their own relationships and non violence in their communities, increased collaboration with the community activists and ensured that they spoke strongly against VAW and ensured that at least 100 perpetrators were held accountable to their actions. The local leaders learnt about their role in implementing the domestic violence act and mentored at least 100 members of the council to get skilled on responding to VAW.

-8 trainings for the 36 sengas: Three monthly trainings for 36 Ssengas from Rubaga and Makindye divisions strengthened skills to support women who are experiencing violence and to support men to define small actions that enable balancing of power between men and women. Ssengas strengthened skills to approach survivors of violence and talk to men who used violence and helped them to think about the consequences of the violence to their physical health, income and emotions and the benefits of non violence. Sengas supported at least 200 couples, among which 80 women report that they are able to make decisions and negotiate for safe sex in their relationships and their husbands are supportive. Ssengas formed friends associations e.g national Ssengas and Kojjas association in Makindye, Agali awamu Women's group in Salama, Friends Association in Kasubi and Mothers union in Nakulabye, Kasubi and Makindye where they meet twice every month to talk about VAW issues and supporting families to prevent VAW.

-Monitory support visits to local leaders: Staff conducted 200 on site support visits to mentor leaders to strengthen skills to handle cases of VAW and foster collaboration between the local leaders and other activists and followed up on the leaders commitments. The leaders increased support to women experiencing violence and played a key role in holding those using violence accountable to their actions. Many leaders influenced the community members to break the tolerance to VAW. One leader remarked that:

"In my community people are aware that the LCs are intolerant to violence. The engagement with CEDOVIP has helped to reduce acceptance of violence in our communities, and eventually reduced the levels of violence in our communities." female Chairperson Kabawo zone

-One meeting with the Mayor and 40 Councilors of Rubaga Division: CEDOVIP updated the newly elected councilors on CEDOVIP's work in the Division and raised concern about the rampant rape cases

in the division. The mayor ensured that the gender committee networks with the police to address the challenges.

Program two: National prevention of violence against women: SASA! National Roll Out

CEDOVIP's SASA! Roll¹ out is twofold: worked in partnership with Raising Voices to provide technical assistance to eight national partners within Uganda; and in partnership with Irish Aid, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development provided technical assistance to 42 community development officers from 8 districts in Busoga region to integrate violence against women prevention into the local government work. Our technical assistance, provided training/technical support to the national partners and supported Raising Voices to conduct trainings for the SASA! Regional partners and partners in Mongolia. The work brought new insights for us to reflect on and develop further what it takes to strengthen capacity of partners in civil society and local government structures to adopt SASA! Ideas for their violence against women prevention work.

Key activities:

i. Intensive TA to national Partners:

SASA! Roll out year two enabled both the CSOs and the local government partners to transition into the Awareness phase of SASA! The structured technical assistance to CSO and local government SASA! Partners was tailored to their specific contexts. The technical assistance is comprised of the following components:

- **SASA! Training Workshops and Learning Center (LC) Visits:** In collaboration with Raising Voices, we conducted two SASA! Training workshops with 16 regional participants, and 23 national participants, and six Learning Center visits for 82 colleagues. CEDOVIP further conducted one training workshop with 42 community development officers and one learning center for 32 community development officers from the local governments in the Busoga region.

Trainings and LC visits aimed to build practical skills for partners to implement Awareness phase activities, build relationships with CAs and effectively use the SASA! monitoring and evaluation tools.

- **TA Visits:** CEDOVIP conducted eight onsite TA visits to national partners and 8 onsite TA visits to the 8 districts in Buoga subregion. TA visits provided the valuable opportunity to build relations with colleagues and mutual understanding of the context-specific needs of each partner and the local governments in Busoga to identify recommendations for moving forward. Staff documented findings and recommendations from each visit and discussed them with partners.

-under the GoU-Irish Aid Joint Program (JP), CEDOVIP collaborated and coordinated with the partners and found it necessary to unify language, and get even with each others' approach. Raising Voices staff enabled the JP partners to unify language as partners in regard to use of different GBV terminologies. **"violence prevention; safe homes, safe communities"** was the agreed to slogan. The space enabled the joint partners to increase knowledge on the process of individual and social change and how to create the change the JP needs to see in the region.

¹ National partners include American Refugee Council (ARC), CESVI, Lira Women & Children Development Initiative Transit Shelter (LIWRCD), Oxfam, Soroti Catholic Diocese, Uganda Muslim Supreme Council (UMSC), Uganda National Health Users/Consumers' Organization (UHNCO), and the Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV (UGANET) and under the Government of Uganda Irish Aid Joint programme to address Gender Based Violence in Busoga Sub-Region works with 8 local governments that include: Bugiri, Buyende, Kamuli, Kaliro, Namutumba, Mayuge, Jinja, and Iganga districts

CEDOVIP's mapping exercise in Busoga helped us to familiarize with the 8 districts and the 32 sub counties. The trainings for the 42 community development officers enabled them to create a team of 192 community activists (half men and half women) to spearhead the community mobilization efforts to prevent VAW in the Busoga Subregion.

- **Ongoing Email and telephone Communication:** on a monthly basis, staff held phone calls with a structured agenda with the CSO partners and the CDOs and took notes. The regular communication with partners increased collaboration and more space for addressing challenges.

- **Tracking Progress and Monitoring Results:** CEDOVIP staff documented the learning, action points, observations, and the way forward from the various TA processes using TA tracking tools, LC and TA trip reports, and email communication. The process enabled us to track the partners progress on key issues. We noted significant improvements in SASA! programming amongst partners:

- Partner staff, CDOs and CAs demonstrated strong community mobilization skills. They engaged community members using the various activities appropriate to the SASA! phase. It is interesting to note that the Partners strengthened their analysis of violence against women and its links with HIV; many can ably explain why men's use of power over women is the root cause of VAW, the link between VAW and HIV, the consequences of VAW as well as benefits of preventing VAW to various stakeholders.

- Partners reported personal benefits of SASA! In their own lives, many partners shifted their attitudes and changed the way they use their power with their colleagues and family members. This shift in staff attitudes and behaviors is essential to transforming social norms; the process of change begins with us before taking it to others.

- **partner's activities:** CEDOVIP supported the partner CSOs and CDOs teams to draw GBV prevention districts action plans. The team of CDOs had their district and subcounty action plans and budgets approved by the district councils. CEDOVIP disbursed seed support to 3 CSO partners and 8 districts under the GoU-JP.

On average the CDOs and CAs implemented 1540 community activities that reaching out to over 20,800 community members. While the 8 partner CSOs reached out to over 15,000 community members. This increased community members' knowledge on violence against women and many community members are keen to learn more and develop skills to prevent VAW.

Program three: National Advocacy for the prevention of violence against women

CEDOVIP works to create supportive environments for women's rights and safety by encouraging change in attitudes, behaviours, policy and practice through: *i)* Media campaign about VAW, power, rights and justice for women, and *ii)* Policy Advocacy to influence policy and legal framework to prevent and respond to VAW. Particularly coordination of the Domestic Violence Act and HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Coalitions.

i. CEDOVIP's Media Campaign

CEDOVIP continued to provoke public dialogue around power, violence against women, women's rights and need to implement the domestic violence act and challenged everyone to prevent violence against women everyday in their own way through various activities that included the following:

-Journalists training workshops: CEDOVIP conducted two half day trainings for 42 journalists from 11 print and electronic media stations. The workshop strengthened the journalists' knowledge on the content of the Domestic Violence Act and post exposure prophylaxis for survivors of rape. Participants understood the magnitude of sexual violence (rape/defilement) in Uganda, the PEP policy and the 'DO' and DON'Ts for PEP accessibility and the next steps key things that need to be done to implement the Domestic violence Act 2010. As a result the journalists used the info to air 10 reports on radio and TV stations and atleast 3 news paper articles to call upon Ministry of Health to pay attention to survivors of sexual violence to access PEP and the government to support the justice law and order sector to implement the domestic violence act.

-Radio talk shows: in collaboration with other partners such as the team of journalists and other civil society CEDOVIP was offered space for at least 10 radio talk shows on popular FM stations to raise the public's awareness of the content of the Domestic Violence Act, the benefits of implementing the Act, demanded that government issues the Domestic Violence Act regulations and announces the commencement date of the Act. CEDOVIP also increased the public's knowledge on PEP for survivors of rape, the dos and donts and the need for ministry of health to review and strengthen the current PEP policy to ensure that all survivors of rape regardless of who their are, access PEP and other post rape care services free of care from government health units as an emergency response. At least 60 mostly men callers from various parts of the country engaged in the discourse.

-two press conferences: CEDOVIP conducted two press conferences with over 50 media colleagues from various media houses to condemn the rampant cases of domestic violence and sexual violence and called upon government to issue the Domestic Violence Act regulations and announce commencement of the Act, and Ministry of health to train health care workers on clinical management of rape and provision of PEP for survivors of rape. Secondly CEDOVIP launched the 16 days of activism campaign against VAW. The various reports by the media colleagues in atleast 8 prime news hours and 2 articles in the main dailies, CEDOVIP maintained the pressure on government to take actions to ensure that several processes are completed to enable implementation of the Act and provision of PEP to survivors of rape.

-16 days of activism campaign against violence women: In 2011 the national theme was *"From Peace in a home to Peace in the Nation; Prevent violence against women"* and the regional theme was *"Every One; Every Day; Every Way; Prevent violence against women; Your Way!"* CEDOVIP adopted the regional theme because it directly spoke to everyday people at the grassroots to take small or large actions within their means to prevent VAW their way. CEDOVIP printed and distributed at least 30,000 posters, 6000 stickers, 6000 t-shirts, one press conference and conducted a variety of community activities that included: 4 demonstration marches and public events, 50 community drama shows, 40 sporting events such as bicycle races, football and ludo games that enabled community members to make collective commitments to prevent VAW and HIV in Makindye and Rubaga Divisions in Kampala and 32 sub counties of 8 districts namely Bugiri, Buyende, Iganga, Kamuli, Kaliro, Namutumba, Mayuge, and Jinja in the Busoga region.

At least 20,000 community members were reached through the 16 days of activism campaign

ii. Policy advocacy

CEDOVIP continued to influence policy and legal framework to prevent and respond to VAW by coordination of the Domestic Violence Act and HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Coalitions, as well as closely collaborating with the women's movement in Uganda to promote women's right to safety and dignity. Key activities included the following:

-One day workshop with Domestic Violence ACT (DVA) COALITION

CEDOVIP in collaboration with Raising Voices held a 1 day reflective workshop for 25 members of DVA Coalition to harmonize understanding of values necessary for GBV prevention and feminist principles through the “Get Moving process”. The specific objectives were; to understand the Get moving process on VAW, to connect with our own experiences of power, to become committed to the idea of building a GBV prevention movement in Uganda. Participants included colleagues from the women’s organizations, religious institutions and sexual minorities. Participants deepened their understanding of discrimination, injustice and VAW and they recognized the need to promote respect, fairness, justice, safety and equal opportunities for all regardless of race, religion, class or sexual orientation. One participant remarked that *“Women are not yet moved, they might occupy political positions, educated but face discrimination in all spheres, we truly must work for social justice”*

As a result the group worked hard as one to demand that government implements laws in a justice way and promotes the safety and dignity of a person regardless of their class or sexual orientation.

- Translation of the Domestic Violence Act into 8 local languages: CEDOVIP influenced members of the coalition to taken on the translation of the Act into local languages as a key step to ensure that the law is widely disseminated. On behalf of the coalition, CEDOVIP pooled resources with Action Aid Uganda and Oxfam GB and funded the Uganda Law Reform Commission and Institute of Languages that successfully translated the Domestic Violence Act into 8 local² languages. CEDOVIP ensured that ministry of gender, labour and development was aware of the processes. The translated versions will be launched and widely disseminated by various partners across the country.

-Engagement with Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD)

CEDOVIP held 4 meetings with the Commissioner for Gender and women affairs and the Gender Principal Officer to follow up on progress of drafting of the DVA regulations. As a result the drafting of the DVA regulations was finalized and the copy used many of the DVA coalition’s recommendations. MGLSD gazzeted the regulations and had them printed by the Government printer and issued in September 2011. The commencement date for the implementation of the DVA was declared as 30th of April 2011. CEDOVIP is committed to follow up with the MGLSD to obtain a copy of the regulations and share with the coalition and other stakeholders to deepen their understanding of the content and application.

-Engagements with Parliament

- **Uganda Women Parliament Association (UWOPA):** CEDOVIP met with the new members of UWOPA to strengthen working relations and to flag out priority areas for advocacy. CEDOVIP informed UWOPA that the DVA regulations where finalized and lobbied UWOPA to include VAW onto UWOPA’s Legislative agenda for the next five years. UWOPA committed to work with CEDOVIP in the development of the next 5 years UWOPA legislative agenda. CEDOVIP interested UWOPA to take up HIVPEP advocacy issues for survivors of sexual violence and UWOPA committed to taking up HIVPEP issues urgently in the next legislative agenda.
- **Legal Affairs Parliamentary:** CEDOVIP is part of the advocacy coalition for the enactment of the Marriage and Divorce Bill (MDB). The coalition presented a defense and reasons for the enactment of the MDB and lobbied the Legal Parliamentary committee to forward the MDB to the floor of Parliament for the second reading. As a result before the closure of the 8th Parliament the MDB was presented to the floor of parliament, unfortunately it was not given priority for discussion as members of parliament called for further consultations due to the

² DVA was translated into 8 local languages that include: Luganda, Acholi, Alur, Akaramajon, Lukonzo, Iteso, Runyankore-Rukiga and Rutoro-Runyoro.

contentious' provisions such as polygamy, property rights for women in cohabitating relationships, divorce, bride price etc.

-Advocacy to promote for Survivors of rape/defilement

CEDOVIP's specific activities included: three meetings with 15 members of the PEP Coalition, two meetings with the executive of the Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA), one breakfast meeting with 18 members of parliament, one meeting with 12 members of the Parliamentary Committee on HIV and two meetings with 18 Officials from MoH AIDS Control program.

CEDOVIP coordinated PEP coalition activities by ensuring that the results of the PEP service provision assessment of the Health units and the coalition's recommendations was widely shared with key people within the MoH, parliament and civil society are aware of the current challenges in PEP provision. The spaces enabled MoH to make commitments towards dissemination of the PEP policy and to ensure that PEP kits for survivors of rape are available at government run health units. The members of parliament committed to ensure that funding towards PEP services should be provided for in the approved national budgets. The members of parliament also committed to follow through with the Uganda AIDS commission and the MoH to ensure that PEP for survivors of rape is promoted and prioritized.

-National networking through participation in various fora/ events

CEDOVIP staff actively participated in the following meetings/ workshops:

- Participated in the Women Movement Peaceful Demonstration march organised by UWONET to call upon the government of Uganda to protect women from abuse
- Validation of a report on Description of women perceptions on Medical Male Circumcision for HIV prevention organised by Health Rights Action Group.
- Participated in the Uganda Journalist Association (UJA) to mark the World Press Freedom Day
- Participated in the FGM stakeholders meeting that led to the formation of the FGM coalition
- Facilitated capacity building workshops organised by UGNAET to train Paralegals about the DVA
- Participate in a meeting organised by NGO forum about Government accountability
- CEDOVIP participated in the Women's thematic group meetings organised by HURINET
- Participated in Ministry of Internal Affairs CEDAW review workshop
- Participated in activities of the human rights coalition
- Participated in meetings by UNFPA and Irish Aid to inform the initiation of shelters for survivors of GBV
- Participated in the advocacy that led to the revision of the Police Form 3, that makes it easier for one to get the much needed evidence after physical or sexual assault for pursuing court cases

All the advocacy efforts ensured that attention was paid to VAW issues at the national level, and CEDOVIP ensured that different government sectors were enabled to integrate VAW issues as a human rights, public health and development issue.

Results for program one: SASA! Mobilizing communities to prevent VAW and HIV In Kampala District

- i. Over 80,000 community members were engaged and many recognized VAW as an injustice and were inspired to join their power with others to prevent VAW. This greatly reduced community members blaming women for VAW and bringing HIV infection and increased community members sensitivity to support women experiencing VAW
- ii. Many community members in Rubaga and Makindye divisions made significant shifts in attitudes towards women and were more supportive to men balancing power with women, less

tolerant to VAW because many believed that relationships between men and women should be equitable

- iii. Many people condemned and spoke out against VAW. Over 50 landlords, 90 local leaders 20 video hall owners in Rubaga and Makindye divisions joined activism to prevent VAW and directly supported over 50 women survivors of VAW who were abandoned by their husbands. The landlords and video hall owners supported women to seek help from local leaders and police, and they provided contactsdetails of the perpetrators. In addition, in some neighborhoods (Mutundwe, Nakulabye, Kasubi, Kibuye, Salama and Makindye parishes) community members played a watchdog role and demanded that the police and local leaders hold 30 perpetrators of violence accountable to their actions.
- iv. Many community members and local leaders reported positive change in the way men within their neighborhoods treated their wives-they were more respectful, jointly made decisions and recognized that women have a right to work/earn an income. The model men were inspired by SASA! ideas of mutual respect, trust, fairness, love and safety in relationships and they committed to work towards promoting these non violent values in their relationships
- v. Over 100 men sought support from the community activists and referred their peers to community activists and local leaders to seek alternative ways to improve their relationships. Many are trying their best to improve their relationships at all costs
- vi. CEDOVIP enabled many religious leaders and community members to recognize the fundamental tenets of religion as a conduit to promote respect, fairness, non violence and peaceful co-existence between men and women through regular use of holy quotes to that effect. The Imam of Mutundwe mosque worked with the CAs and staff to ensure that over 700 men were directly reached through the prayer meetings
- vii. Activism to prevent violence is slowly becoming a norm of everyday life for several people. Many land lords engaged, talked to their tenants about non use of VAW and emphasized that they will not tolerate use of any form of violence during their tenancy agreement. The landlords introduced the CAs to their tenants and encouraged them to work together
- viii. The continuous exposure to VAW prevention ideas increased community members' activism and understanding of the benefits of non violence and every ones' responsibility to prevent VAW. As a result, many local leaders made public stands against VAW thus influencing community members to promote non violent relationships in their neighborhoods
- ix. The Uganda Police Force leadership ensured that their consultant closely worked with CEDOVIP to develop the Police GBV module for the police curriculum. We are hopeful that the final curriculum will have topics aimed at increasing police officers knowledge on VAW issues, addressing negative attitudes as well as strengthening officers skills to prioritize victim safety, avoid victim blame and ensure perpetrators to be held accountable to their actions

- x. The pretest of the responsibility meetings with selected police officers registered significant successes as an alternative to traditional mediation for cases of domestic violence. Noted was positive progress in holding perpetrators of domestic violence accountable to their actions while ensuring that the victim's needs are met. More actors will be involved to ascertain the validity of the responsibility meetings
- xi. CEDOVIP advocacy efforts to strengthen the medico-legal linkages for survivors of VAW paid off when the Director of Public Prosecution's office revised the PF3 and PF24 (the police forms for medical examination). The police, health sector and the judiciary acknowledged that the revised forms are stronger because of their specificity to collect the much needed evidence to pursue justice for survivors of rape and defilement
- xii. CEDOVIP supported and inspired the Uganda Police Force leadership to launch the Week of Activism against VAW in the barracks as a police initiative led by the police community affairs department. The effort increased awareness and sensitivity to VAW within Nsambya police barracks. In addition, the Religious Leaders in Nsambya Barracks actively engaged the congregations during prayer meetings on VAW leading to increased activism and breaking of silence on VAW. This is important for the police officers to break their tolerance to VAW and it will enhance their response to the cases reported at the police stations
- xiii. Many Sengas strengthened work with community action groups, who recognized that VAW affects everyone in the community ie the catholic women's guild group of Mutundwe committed to support women experiencing domestic violence, this group of 100 women sits once every week to peer review each other's efforts to prevent VAW in their neighborhoods.
- xiv. Most Ssengas feel proud to be SASA! activists, many testified positive changes in their everyday lives and relationships as a result of being involved in SASA!. This way they influenced many couples that sought their support to base their relationships on mutual respect, trust, equity and love. This is an important aspect of empowering community members to take lead in advocating for women's rights and safety at the grassroots level

Challenges for program One SASA! Kampala:

- i. The campaigns for presidential and parliamentary campaigns took shape at the grassroots. Many of the politicians wanted to use the SASA! forums to promote their political ambitions. In addition, at least 15 CAs dropped off because they stood for political offices at the local council level. CEDOVIP had to post pone program implementation for almost 4 months due to the pre and post election circumstances that made it difficult to engage community members without being partisan
- ii. The communities in the SASA! sites are highly transient; this is risky if some community members relocate to the SASA! study control areas thus contaminating the SASA! study. In addition, because there are always new people in the areas of intervention, implementation of the awareness raising phase was prolonged, which delayed implementation of the support phase of SASA! Approach
- iii. The post election walk to work campaign against results of the presidential elections and the high fuel and commodity prices often led to violent clashes between the security forces and the community members. The police banned conducting activities that collected more than 5 people at the same time. For over 3 months it was not possible to effectively mobilize community members for VAW prevention.

- iv. Many community activists and local leaders felt disappointed that the Domestic Violence Act was not yet functional despite the many cases of violence and they blamed the delay on government's attention to political issues
- v. Engagement with Uganda Police Force was limited because most of the key officers were involved in urgent national security matters following the burning of the royal tombs and the presidential and parliamentary political campaigns at the grassroots. This affected progress on processes such as work on the Police module, Police handbook, responsibility meetings and implementation of the Week of Activism

Results for program two: National Prevention of Violence against women

- i. The partners made significant progress towards strengthening their work on VAW prevention using the SASA! approach. Many of the partners staff, CDOs and CAs increased knowledge on use of the tool kit, the link between VAW and HIV, consequences of men's use of power against women and the community's silence about it and the benefits of non violence. The partners retained a team of 378 CAs who spearheaded efforts to prevent VAW in communities in Busoga region, Lira, Soroti, Bundibujjo, Palissa and Agago. In addition, many partners mainstreamed SASA! Ideas into their work, drew action plans and implemented
- ii. Intensive community engagement and debate about VAW, types of VAW and its link to HIV in communities of Agago, Lira, Gulu, Bundibujjo Palisa, Kasubi, Soroti and Kamuli reached out to over 60,000 community members. Many community members recognized that VAW is unjust and took up the VAW prevention discussions into forums such as prayer meetings, village council meetings, men's leisure places and at the market places. In some communities community members and some local leaders formed community action groups. In Palisa the team of 30 clan leaders supported 8 women in Kararak village to reclaim their property and land that was grabbed by their husbands. There is now growing collaboration among CAs, local leaders and some community members to help women experiencing violence to speak out.
- iii. Built relationships with the district leadership in Busoga region who recognized that this is a government program and they have a key role to play in making it a success. The team is at the forefront of implementing the program. The DCDOs and CDOs annual action plans to prevent gender based violence were approved as main government work. The work is integrated into the community based services departments of each district and sub-counties
- iv. A team of 40 CDOs and 192 CAs has basic skills to mobilize their communities to prevent violence against women using SASA ideas.
- v. Many community members resonated with the SASA! Ideas of creating safe homes and relationships and as such local leaders and CAs encouraged community members to break the silence against VAW. Many community members started to talk about VAW and to seek help from CAs, LCs and CDOs in Busoga region. At least 100 cases were referred to the police.
- vi. Colourful communication materials were translated to the local language, printed, distributed and used by community activists as tools to initiate dialogues to diffuse VAW prevention ideas. The materials are often displayed in open places to enable community members have continued exposure to VAW prevention ideas and continued to define small actions they can do to prevent VAW
- vii. Inter-religious council Uganda (IRCU) aligned their work to that of the JP and CEDOVIP played a key role in fostering collaboration with stakeholders in Busoga. A close working relationship was built with IRCU and CEDOVIP supported their staff strengthen knowledge and skills for GBV prevention using the SASA! Model, this is important in unifying our stand in pursuing the objectives of the program.

- viii. The SASA! Team (CDOs and CAs) took leadership to organize and conduct 16 days of activism campaign activities within the communities of their respective sub-counties. Many community members learnt that it is every ones responsibility to prevent VAW everyday and those collective small actions can lead to big change and as such made public commitments to prevent VAW their way.

challenges for program two:

- i. The presidential and parliamentary election campaigns made it difficult for the partners to implement the work. They were delayed for over 4 months and this slowed down on the activities and commencement of the work under the GoU-Irish Aid JP in Busoga region
- ii. The partners were faced with high staff turn over, that meant that a lot of time was spent in orienting and build skills of the new staff on SASA! Approach. This slowed down program implementation in several communities
- iii. Some staff, CDOs and CAs of the partners were still struggling with framing discussions about VAW using the power language and hence slowing down the awareness raising activities as few activities are done by some CAs that are not yet confident in articulating VAW issues.
- iv. The bureaucracies with the local government structures in Buoga region delayed approval of the CDOs GBV budgets, disbursement of funds for activities, reporting back and accounting for the funds received. All this slowed down program implementation because activities were not done as scheduled
- v. many partners were used to conducting one off activities and not continuous community mobilization. It was difficult for some of the partners to orient their work to the structure of SASA! Meaning that some partners conducted one off events yet these are not effective in influencing a change in attitudes

Successes for program three: National Advocacy for the prevention of VAW

- i. pooled resources with Action Aid Uganda and Oxfam GB and funded the Uganda Law Reform Commission and Institute of Languages that successfully translated the Domestic Violence Act into 8 local languages
- ii. Influenced the MoH to issue a PEP circular mandating all government run health units to provide free post exposure prophylaxis to survivors of rape.
- iii. Influenced Uganda Women Parliamentary Association to include advocacy for budget allocation for the Domestic Violence Act, Review of the PEP policy and advocacy for provision of free PEP services for survivors of rape to be prioritized in their 5 year strategic plan as women members of parliament
- iv. Ministry of Gender used many of the ideas shared by CEDOVIP to draft the DVA regulations that were issued at the end of 2011. CEDOVIP ideas provided for victim safety and perpetrator accountability. we are hopeful that the if the regulations are followed, then the law will greatly protect survivors from abuse
- v. CEDOVIP's media campaign ensured that attention was paid to VAW issues by both the public and government institutions. Many key stakeholders spoke against VAW and committed to demanding that government allocates funds to implement the DVA.

Challenges

- i. The pre-and post presidential election riots and challenges made it impossible to meaningfully engage policy makers to make decision on policy issues regarding implementing of the DVA and PEP policy. The hard economic times saw shortfalls in the national budget and therefore

government did not commit any funds for implementation of these laws. So they still remain unimplemented and yet violence against women is very rampant

- ii. 2011 was a year full of homophobia as promoted by the advocates of the anti homosexuality bill and the government cracked down hard on human rights organizations and threatened to close all NGOs '*suspected*' to be against the Anti Gay Bill. This caused a lot of fear, suspicion and fragmentation in the advocacy for human rights. Some of the very homophobic policy makers declined to engage with civil society. It was very hard to break through to advocate for human rights issues

- iii. The cost for working with the ULRC and IoL to translate the Domestic Violence Act into local languages was overwhelming expensive and slow. This delayed the launching of the translated Act to create the much needed awareness about the provisions in the Act

Conclusion.

Despite the challenges in 2011, CEDOVIP played a key role in preventing VAW in Uganda; we mentored colleagues from civil society, police officers, health, local government, local councils, and community activists who took lead to prevent/address VAW every day in their own way. CEDOVIP influenced several processes at the national level to prioritize VAW prevention. We are committed to bring innovation and use our expertise to strengthen VAW prevention efforts in Uganda given the credibility we have built in this area. We shall prioritize addressing the challenges of 2011 but still remain focused on ensuring that we foster a process of change to create an environment that promotes and protects women's rights especially the right to safety and dignity in their private lives.