

# THE PATHWAY TO ECONOMIC JUSTICE TO WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS



*Raising up For  
Economic Rights &  
Justice for  
Women & Girls in Uganda*

**African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)** is a grant making fund that supports local, national and regional women's organizations working towards the empowerment of African women and the promotion and realization of their rights. By amplifying and celebrating African women's voices and achievements, AWDF supports efforts that combat harmful stereotypes and promote African women as active agents of change.

**Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children's Welfare (UCOBAC)** is a non-partisan, non-Government Organization in Uganda whose mission is to promote the rights and welfare of women and children using community-based Initiatives.

Founded in 1990, UCOBAC envisions empowered communities free of poverty and able to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

## UCOBAC Program areas

UCOBAC operates within four major program areas including; (i) Orphans and other Vulnerable Children, (ii) Health, (iii) Governance and Human Rights, (iii) Food Security, Livelihoods and Community Resilience. All these programs are supported by institutional capacity building and communications, advocacy and networking departments which are cross-cutting.





**Project overall Objective:**

Promote women's economic rights and justice through strengthening women's land rights.

**Project specific objectives:**

- Undertake evidence-based research on status of women's access, ownership, and control over land and resources.
- Build capacity of rural and grassroots' women to safeguard their land rights.
- Build partnerships with stakeholders to engage on women's land rights.
- Undertake targeted advocacy work to influence effective policy and practices to advance women's land rights.

**Regional Implementing Partners:**





This initiative is being implemented by a coalition of five organizations across four countries namely; Ntengwe Community Development - (Zimbabwe), UCOBAC – (Uganda), International Women's Communication Center – (Nigeria), Shibuye Community Health Workers ( Kenya) and Survivors in Action (Zimbabwe). All are members of the Huairou Commission, a global movement of grassroots women's organizations and networks.

**Background: Why Women's Land rights?:**

- Women's land rights are particularly crucial as their secure access, ownership and control over land and other natural resources is a basis for sustainable livelihoods , food security and it is critical in accelerating poverty eradication.
- Women in Uganda are the primary users of land providing 80 percent of the agricultural labor force in the country and producing 80 percent of food crops in Uganda (FAO, 2010; UNDP, 2012). Yet many don't own the land they till and toil on.
- Uganda's land laws do not expressly discriminate between men and women regarding the right to own land and property, however, there is a great disparity between what is provided for in laws/policies and the actual practice.
- Implementation of statutory land laws remains a challenge.
- There are also gaps and inconsistencies in some land laws that make it difficult for women to fully exercise their land rights.
- Women are also generally unable to own or inherit land due to restrictive cultures and social norms.
- Women are also not economically endowed to purchase land rights in the market.
- Lack of awareness and failure to localize regional and global frameworks and guidelines that offer principles required to deliver on gender equality, women's empowerment and just economic development accelerates marginalization of women and their inability to fully exercise their land and property rights. ( eg- The African Union (AU) framework and guidelines on land policy, The Kilimanjaro Initiative and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
- Lack of consistent national or global data on the full scope of women's land rights or access to land to enable them monitor and enforce their rights.



## Project Activities and Outcomes

Component	Activities	Outcomes
Evidence Based Research	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake a baseline research on women's economic &amp; land rights.</li> <li>2. Undertake a Gender Evaluation Criteria on a land tool, policy or practice.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Women are aware of their labor and economic rights and organize in formal and informal economies.</li> <li>2. The public and policy/decision makers recognize women's economic and political contributions and rights.</li> <li>3. Stakeholders (policy makers, civil society, donors, etc) become more aware of women's challenges and support strategies around operating space for women's rights organizations and defenders</li> <li>4. Women from diverse groups participate in policy and decision making processes at all levels.</li> <li>5. Duty bearers strengthen, enact and implement laws and policies regarding women's political and rights and participation.</li> <li>6. Duty-bearers strengthen, enact and implement policies and laws to protect women's economic rights.</li> </ol>
Capacity Building	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Build capacity of grassroots women in action research and data collection.</li> <li>4. Training grassroots women leaders in monitoring SDG and land indicators.</li> <li>5. Training grassroots women on land rights as provided in National land laws and policies.</li> <li>6. Training grassroots women leaders in advocacy and lobbying.</li> <li>7. Training of traditional and local leaders in gender justice on land for enhanced women's land rights</li> </ol>	
Partnership building and advocacy.	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Stakeholders mapping at local and national level.</li> <li>9. Hold strategic stakeholder advocacy meetings</li> <li>10. Production and dissemination of advocacy and IEC materials.</li> <li>11. Local to local dialogues at local levels.</li> <li>12. Establish Community Practitioners Platforms at national level.</li> <li>13. Hold peer learning exchange</li> <li>14. Linking with existing local, national, regional and global initiatives which are promoting women's land rights;</li> </ol>	
Locally led initiatives and innovations	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Strengthen existing community driven initiatives to promote women's land rights.</li> </ol>	