

# THE 3<sup>RD</sup> NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS CONFERENCE – UGANDA

THEME: TRACKING PROGRESS OF THE RIGHT TO LAND IN UGANDA 2016-2021 AND IMPLICATIONS TO NATIONAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION.

## SESSION 3: Land and Women's Economic Empowerment.



## **INCREASING WOMEN'S ACCESS AND OWNERSHIP TO LAND AS AN ASPECT TO ADDRESSING WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.**

Women's economic empowerment is a prerequisite of sustainable development, inclusive growth, and the achievement of the UN Agenda 2030 at international level and Uganda's Vision 2040

- Land is one of the most productive and key assets for Economic Empowerment of women and yet
- Only 7% of registered land is owned by women in Uganda
- Majority of women don't have equal rights to own or inherit land in many societies across the country

### **BUT**

- Land is key for access to credit as collateral security from formal financial institutions
- Enhance women's participation in decision making both at household level and community
- Facilitates women's ability to participate and contribute to commercial agriculture production (agro-business)
- Ownership of land makes women more visible, give them bolder voice and boosts their confidence

## WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES WOMEN FACE TO BECOME ECONOMICALLY EMPOWERED?

- ✓ Patriarchal nature of society that tends to favour male over females in almost all aspects of society (Politically, Economically and Socially) resulting into unequal power relations
- ✓ Limited access to productive resources such as land, capital, market
- ✓ Limited knowledge and skills due to high illiteracy levels among women compared to men
- ✓ High poverty levels among women
- ✓ Unpaid care work of women which limits their participation in other key activities
- ✓ Low levels of income among women
- ✓ High levels of unemployment
- ✓ Limited access and adoption to appropriate technologies
- ✓ Limited access to affordable credit to facilitate women's business growth

## WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF THE IMPACT OF WOMEN'S UNPAID CARE WORK ON THEIR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT?

- ❑ Women bear disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work.
- ❑ Women tend to spend around 2.5 times more time on unpaid care and domestic work than men.
- ❑ **Unpaid care work is essential to the functioning of the economy, but often goes uncounted and unrecognized.** It is estimated that if women's unpaid work were assigned a monetary value, it would constitute between 10 per cent and 39 per cent of GDP of any country.

The unpaid care work of women contributes to;

- ❑ Limited women's participation in productive activities
- ❑ Contributes to low levels of incomes for women
- ❑ Hinders women's exposure in live changing aspects which are key for women's economic empowerment
- ❑ Contributes to high unemployment levels of women

## WHAT INITIATIVES OR BEST PRACTICE HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED BY GOVERNMENT TO UPLIFT THE WEE AGENDA IN UGANDA?

- ❖ Creation of Women Economic Empowerment affirmative Action Programme(s) such UWEP which is the first of its nature in the country
- ❖ Gender responsive legal and policy regime that recognises the need to integrate women in political, socio-economic spheres (Gender and Equity Compliance Certificate)
- ❖ Availability of structures to support WEE such as Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Equal opportunities Commission, School of Women and Gender Studies at Makerere University,
- ❖ Availability of Women Specific oriented Civil Society Organisations eg UWOPA, UWONET, FOWODE, UWEAL etc.
- ❖ Affirmative action initiatives in education, political participation and now economic empowerment.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS OR STRATEGIES TO UP LIFTING WEE IN UGANDA?

- Strengthen Women Affirmative action Economic Empowerment Programmes such as UWEP through increased funding
- Strengthen male involvement in women economic empowerment initiatives
- Enhance implementation of existing laws and policies that are geared towards WEE
- Strengthen coordination and collaboration among WEE actors through creation and strengthening existing Women Economic Empowerment Forums
- Promote increased women's participation of women in labour market
- Recognise women's unpaid care work (**When more women work, economies grow**)
- Enhance research and documentation on the area of WEE
- Changing property and inheritance laws “**may be the most critical step in ensuring women's full and participation in local economies**”
- Achieving women's economic empowerment will need sound public policies, a comprehensive approach and long-time commitment from government and all actors.

# Women Economic Empowerment (An Over view)

- CARE's work of increasing women's financial autonomy and inclusion began nearly 30 years ago through harnessing the power of Village Savings and Loans Associations (SGs), aimed at improving women's resilience and economic well-being.
- CARE has supported over 12.5 million members (80% women) 112. .5 million members (80% women)
- Focus on the 5 WEE Collectives elements (Pulling savings & Sharing risks, participatory learning, critical consciousness, Access to markets)



## Sustainable

88% of groups operate for 5 years or more<sup>1</sup>



## Cost Effective

\$9-22 per member to form a group on average<sup>2</sup>



## Viral

VSLAs replicate at rates of up to 3:1<sup>3</sup>



## High Impact

\$400-650M annual savings<sup>4</sup>



## Targeted

8 of 10 VSLA members live below \$2/day, 6 of 10 live below \$1/day<sup>5</sup>

# WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES WOMEN FACE TO BECOME ECONOMICALLY EMPOWERED?



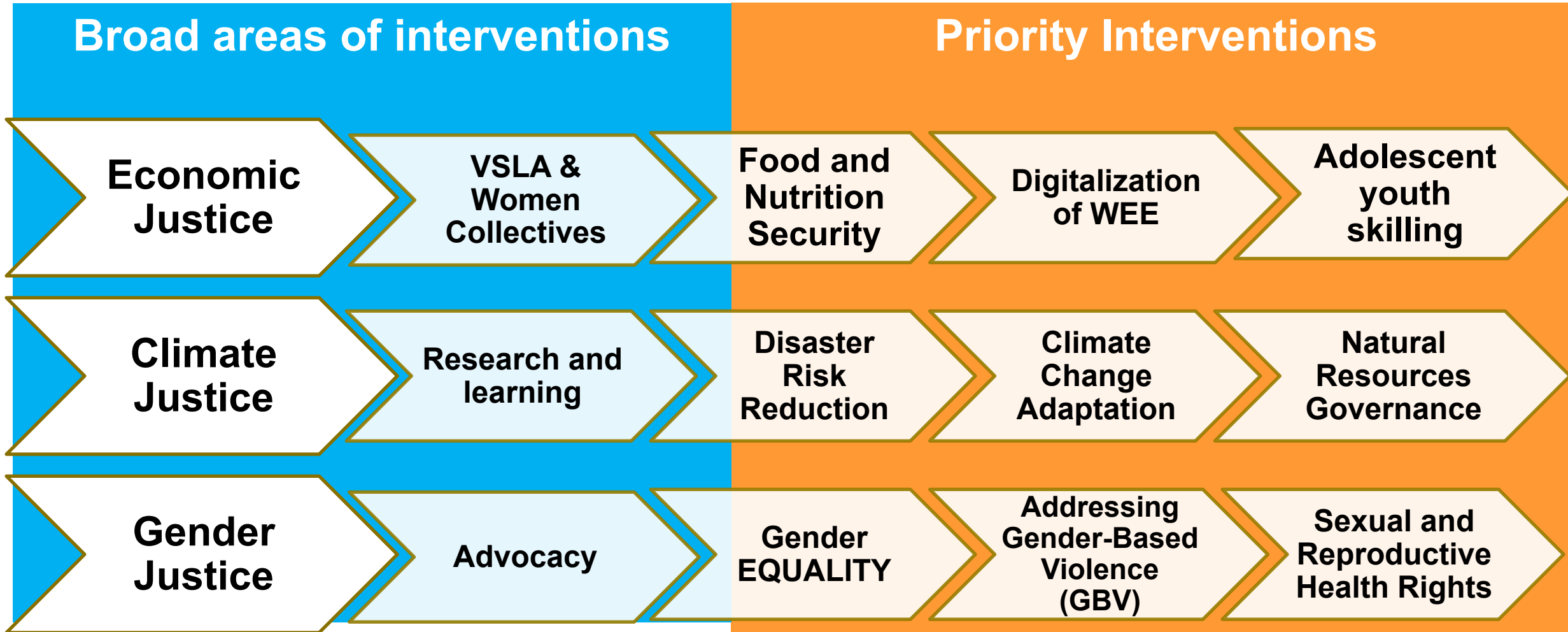
- ❑ Discriminatory legal and political structures
- ❑ Entrenched social norms
- ❑ Exclusionary market systems
- ❑ The COVID-19 pandemic
- ❑ Increased risks from climate change



## WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF THE IMPACT OF WOMEN'S UNPAID CARE WORK ON THEIR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT?

- Globally, the economic contribution of unpaid care work – overwhelmingly done by women - has been estimated at USD 11 trillion
- Women still do more than double the number of hours of unpaid care work (daily about four hours) than men
- The COVID-19 crisis with policy measures such as lockdowns, social distancing, and the closure of national borders
- Increased marginalization of Women
- Lack of assets for effective production
- Increased domestic violence due to dependence

# WHAT INITIATIVES OR BEST PRACTICE HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED BY CSOS TO UPLIFT THE WEE AGENDA IN UGANDA?



## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS OR STRATEGIES TO UP LIFTING WEE IN UGANDA?

- Strengthening women's aspirations and awareness of rights
- Strengthening women's knowledge, skills and capability
- Encouraging and supporting women's collectives and movements
- Male Engagement
- Supporting space for women's voice and leadership
- Promoting positive norms and practices
- Advocating for and influencing market policies, institutions and systems which enable women's economic justice
- Advocating for and influencing Government laws, policies, institutions and systems which enable women's economic justice
- Effective coordination mechanism – Collaboration and networking

## WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES WOMEN FACE TO BECOME ECONOMICALLY EMPOWERED?

- ✓ Lack of capital
- ✓ Lack of entrepreneurial skills
- ✓ Too much domestic commitment
- ✓ Lack of exposure
- ✓ Discriminative cultures that limit women access to means of production like land
- ✓ Low self esteem
- ✓ High illiteracy rates among women.
- ✓ Inaccessibility to loans because women lack security .

## **DISCUSS THE CURRENT NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND EXISTING POLICIES ON LAND IN RELATION TO WEE**

- The 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda vests land in the citizens of Uganda; to be owned under customary, freehold, Mailo and leasehold tenure systems (Art. 237) Article 237(9) gives a right to the lawful or bonafide occupants of Mailo land, freehold or leasehold land to enjoy security of occupancy on the land, who in most cases are women and children.
- Article 21 forbids discrimination based on gender and accords equal rights for men and women.
- Article 26 (1) provides for the right of every person to own property.
- Article 33 guarantees women equal rights with men; provides special help/protection for mothers and women because of previous historical discrimination against women and prohibits any customary laws, traditions, or customs that discriminate against women.
- 1998 Land Act, (Section 4(1) (e) recognises Customary tenure, its usage and ownership however Section 27 declares any decision which denies women access to ownership, occupation or use of any land or imposes conditions which violate the Constitutional rights of women, null and void in respect to land held under customary tenure.
- Section 6 provides that Communities, families, or individuals may apply for a certificate of formal customary ownership.

## **DISCUSS THE CURRENT NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND EXISTING POLICIES ON LAND IN RELATION TO WEE**

The right of legally married women to have access to and live on family land is protected under **Section 38A of the 2004 Amendment to the Land Act**

It further defines what constitutes family land to include not just land on which the family ordinarily resides, but also land on which is located the ordinary residence of the family and from which the family derives sustenance, land which the family agrees shall be treated as family land and land which is treated as family land according to the norms, culture, customs, traditions or religion of the family.

In a bid to curtail land sales by male/ heads of households, the Land (Amendment) Act of 2004 under **Section 39** required mandatory consent by spouses to transactions involving matrimonial land (where the family ordinarily resides and derives sustenance.

The Local Council Courts Act provides for the role of LC in adjudicating matters related to Customary land disputes.

## **INCREASING WOMEN'S ACCESS AND OWNERSHIP TO LAND AS AN ASPECT TO ADDRESSING WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.**

Land is very instrumental in women economic empowerment in Uganda with 77% of the population being women involved in subsistence agriculture.

- ✓ **Supporting women to register their interests in land** and formation of Communal Land Associations where land is held communally/ family/a group of persons.
- ✓ Support advocacy towards Increment in financing of the land sector for implementation of the NLP
- ✓ Capacity development of land sector actors such as Local Councils, District Land Boards as these are every instrumental in supporting women with land cases.
- ✓ Capacity building in terms of Education at all levels
- ✓ Women access to finance to enable women do what they want without necessarily demanding land as the major collateral for them to access loans from financial institutions.

## WHAT INITIATIVES OR BEST PRACTICE HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED BY GOVERNMENT AND CSOS TO UPLIFT THE WEE AGENDA IN UGANDA?

- ✓ Improving Women's access to Education at all levels for example introduction of 1.5 additional points for girls joining university.
- ✓ Through the ministry of gender, labour and social development, the government introduced UWEP, a programme designed to benefit women.
- ✓ Different CSOs have designed programmes that build the capacities of girls and women at grassroots level in entrepreneurial projects such as tailoring, farming among others.
- ✓ Some organisations support women with seed capital for their income generating activities.
- ✓ Some organisations take women for exchange visits where they get to learn from others areas and groups doing similar income generating activities.
- ✓ Appointing Women in positions of influence for example , Vice President , Prime Minister, Speaker of Parliament and many others and these will represent well the needs of women and motivate others.



## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS OR STRATEGIES TO UP LIFTING WEE IN UGANDA?

- ✓ Establishment of the Women funds that target all women at all levels
- ✓ Increase Scholarship opportunities for women at all levels .
- ✓ Skilling women and girls at all levels.
- ✓ Provide conducive markets for Women products.
- ✓ In all these listed above our sisters ,mothers , daughters with disabilities will be taken as priority number one.

I say this for God and my Country.

Amen

**THANK YOU**