



COALITION FOR ACTION ON 1325 (CoACT)

Annual Report 2020

Promoting a Peaceful World where Women realise their potential





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A Word From The Executive Director



“.....

This year, with new members and new partners on board, our membership has continued to grow. If you are not a member and you are reading this letter, then you are part of our community; a community of people who work, ...”

Dear Friends and Partners,

We are pleased to share with you our annual report for the year 2020.

This year marks the 6th year since Coalition for Action on 1325 was established. The year marked the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), the 5th anniversary of UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security, and the 5th anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals. The implementation of these instruments and normative frameworks has been slow due to of lack of political will from governments and multilateral institutions, and then, the COVID-19 pandemic struck. The pandemic has impacted our work requiring us to adapt to the new reality, use of digital platforms to respond to new challenges and threats to women’s rights and sustainable peace.

We are proud for journey that we started. As we look to the future, we continue to be committed to advance the gender equality and women empowerment agenda. We are the only registered alliance of women’s organizations in Uganda coordinating civil society efforts to

implement, monitor and report on the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in Uganda. We promote and protect the rights of every human and especially women and girls.

This year, with new members and new partners on board, our membership has continued to grow. If you are not a member and you are reading this letter, then you are part of our community; a community of people who work, volunteer through, make plans and appreciate the need for women’s participation in decision making at all levels.

Our work in 2020 focused on supporting women and girls in peacebuilding, in mediation, in peace negotiation, in peace education, and amplifying their voice and agency, increasing their capacity to sit at the decision making table and take leadership in shaping peace processes and the policy agenda, in building and sustaining peace and in spearheading development.

We look forward to hearing your suggestions, new ideas, your hopes and dreams for the year 2021 that looks more tight and intense especially for women and girls.

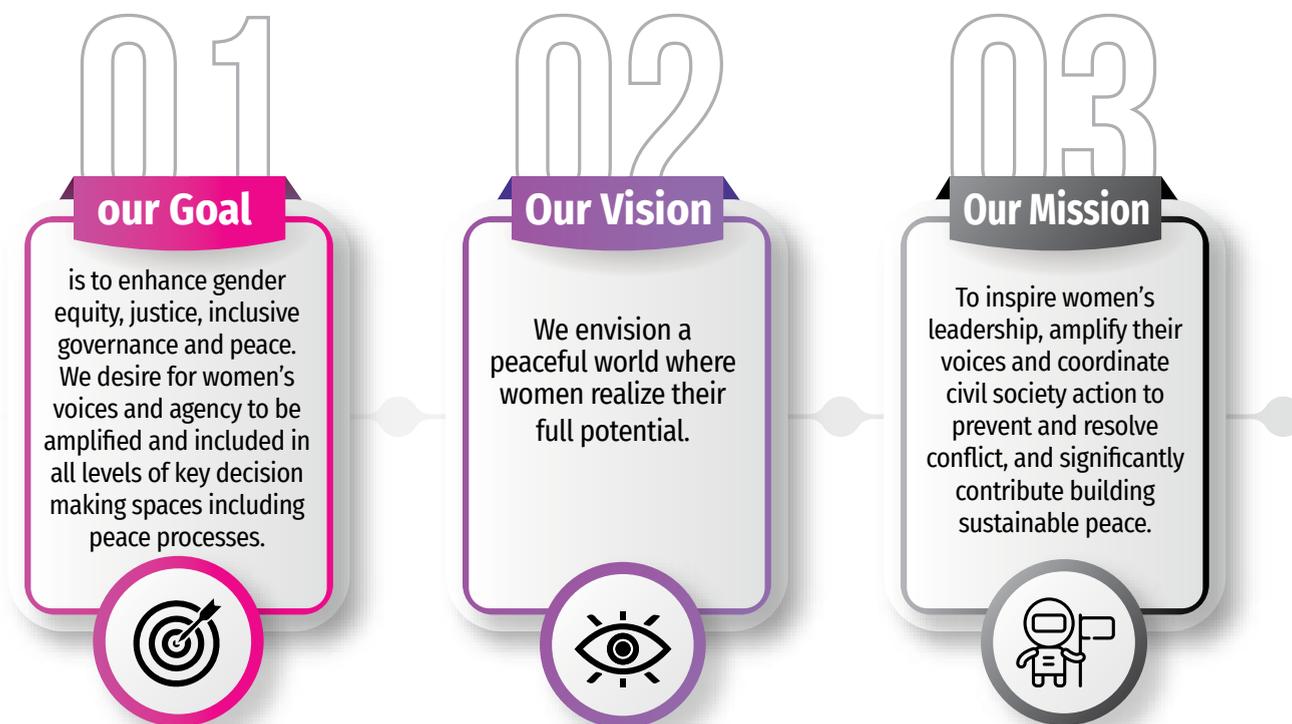
Executive Director

CoACT's Vision and Mission

The Coalition for Action on 1325 (CoACT) is an NGO established in Uganda. We bring together women-led organizations to promote gender equality and women empowerment. Our members implement programmes that increase women's capacity to effectively participate in politics and governance, conflict prevention and resolution processes; lead advocacy to address violence against women and girls; provide psychosocial support to women affected by conflict and GBV, increase women's economic empowerment; and, mentor young women to

participate in governance and peacebuilding.

CoACT implements programmes in 12 districts of Uganda utilizing existing structures that include Local Government structures, Religious and cultural networks and Community Based Organizations (CBOs). We utilize strategies that are inclusive, evidence based programming and participation of stakeholders in design of programmes and local level policies for improved women's peace and human security.



Results as a result of CoACT Intervention

Localization Programme;

- Political leaders are increasingly engaging communities on issues that undermine women participation. For example, the district chairperson of Kaberamaido now uses his position to promote women participation and advocate for elimination of violence against women and girls
- Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Yumbe has confirmed that he is taking more interest of community-based services to ensure women's issues have more funds.
- In Kasese district, the information officer is championing a campaign across departments and sub counties to address issues that undermine peace and human security.
- The DPC of Amuria has established a special desk to provide real time response to the issues of women and girls reported by communities.
- Peace ambassadors from Yumbe have formed a savings group as a means of mobilizing more girls and increase their economic empowerment to reduce on their vulnerability.
- Peace ambassadors are keeping their eyes on the ground regarding interventions in the LAP implementation targeting increasing youth participation in leadership and decision making.
- A journalist trained in Amuria has changed the way he reports GBV cases by interviewing affected women and including their views and feelings in his reporting.
- 40 women CSO leaders trained in the localization process supported district local governments in the development of LAPs, and continue to cascade the localization strategy at sub-county and at community levels.
- Rwenzori Consortium for Civic Competence (RWECCO) for the first time integrated WPS into their programming and are advocating for safe spaces for women and girls within the Rwenzori sub region.
- KIWEPI has trained 21 peace ambassadors (all female) who monitor and report human rights violations in their communities. In addition, KIWEPI advocated for the passing of the Standard Operating Procedures for GBV and the GBV ordinance that were approved by the district council in March 2021.
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Youth Action for Peace programme

- As a result of engaging youth in the electoral processes and equipping them with knowledge and skills in observing and monitoring of elections for early warning and early response through establishing the first youth observatory center in uganda, there was peaceful 2021 general elections especially in Ntungamo and Kasese districts which were hot spots for election related violence basing on the 2016 general elections report. Voting in Nyakyeru Sub County in Ntungamo district, voting was halted and postponed as a result of voter

malpractice. This was achieved as a result of early reporting by the youth observers and response by the electoral commission in Ntungamo district.

- Formation of 3 youth led Community Based Organizations that have been registered at the district level (2 young women led and 1 led by a male youth) in Kasese, Ntungamo and Kabarole districts respectively to implement peacebuilding initiatives including mobilizing other youth to participate and engage in leadership, decision making and democratic processes. This was as a result of knowledge and skills gained during the boot camp. These continue to mobilize youth and cascade peacebuilding work to the local and community level.
- 25 youth have gained different skills in leadership, effective communication, conflict prevention and resolution, gender and advocacy, two youth female candidates participated and won in the 2021 elections as youth councilors and will represent fellow youth at the district level.
- Youth peacebuilders are being recognized and their role in mobilizing and sharing information on peacebuilding in the district by the district leadership. This has increased on the space for youth to advocate, influence and benefit from some of the government programmes like youth livelihood programme especially in Ntungamo district
- More youth have gained confidence, self-esteem and appreciation of their role in the promotion of peacebuilding within their districts. This has increased on the number of youths willing and showing interest in the programme, organized activities as seen and observed on their social media accounts.



“Since I started participating in this program, I started thinking differently and I feel gained something new in my life and I have started setting up goals which I believe I will achieve”

Sedruack a youth peacebuilder from Kampala shared.

Women and leadership

- Women rights groups at the community level have started advocating and speaking out against all forms of violence against women on radios, community gatherings and within their one circles.
- Three (3) resolutions have been adopted by local leaders as a means of accounting to their communities. These resolutions were developed and adopted as a means of ending VAWG in communities. The local resolutions included male involved in garden work to reduce on the hours of drinking, supporting girls that have become pregnant during lockdown by taking them back to school, and use of family planning to limit child birth.
- Reporting of cases and conflicts has increased as a result of increased awareness. This is demonstrated by the number of women and women groups involved in reporting, resolving conflicts at the district and community level.
- The Kumi District Health Officer (DHO) pledged to deploy a midwife at the only clinic found in Tsai Sub County to help the pregnant mothers deliver safely as the district re-organizes itself to construct a Health Centre III.

Our Strategic approach



Innovative and thought leadership

Innovation and learning have become critical to finding solutions to issues that affect communities, particularly women and girls. In 2020, we continued to build on the work done in previous years to engage District Leaders to customise and institutionalise the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda. We developed the *Localization Handbook*, a step by step guide to guide the Localization of the implementation of WPS agenda in Uganda.

► Capacity building workshops in pictures

- 1. Amuria district
- 2. Yumbe district
- 3. Kasese district
- 4. Kaberamaido district
- 5. Luwero district
- 6. Kitgum district



3



4



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Building and sustaining the women, peace and security movement in Uganda

We continue to increase the numbers of women-led organisations that implement interventions that contribute to building sustainable peace in Uganda. It is our mandate to ensure such organisations have deep understanding and appreciation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on women, peace and security, and the full range of resolutions that make up the women, peace and security agenda. In 2020, we increased our membership by another 12 organisations, something we are proud of. Working with our members and partners we continue to build an evidence data base, create awareness, and mobilize all effort to challenge all forms of discrimination against women, and build and sustain women’s resilience. We value and continue to deepen our partnership with the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), the Women Waging Peace network (WWP) and the Women Mediators across the Commonwealth (WMC) and look to partner with more global and regional women’s networks as we break new ground.



► Some CoACT members participated in the capacity building workshop on GEWE and EVAWG.

Mobilising and providing resources

CoACT provides both the technical and financial capacity to her members to implement programmes that advance gender equality and women empowerment. In partnership with Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), we provided small grants to grassroots women-led CBOs in addition to tools and motorcycles to enhance their work and mobility to address issues that undermine women's peace and human security.



Global Strategic Partnerships

CoACT hosts the first Africa Regional Innovative Peace Fund (IPF) Partners Training in Kampala



We are always honoured and privileged to partner with the outstanding women-led peacebuilding organizations at national, regional and global levels to advance the Women, Peace and Security and Youth Peace and Security agendas. These organizations have continued to strengthen our capacity in peacebuilding work and provide spaces and opportunities for us to learn, share our experiences in addition to mobilizing resources to support our work in Uganda. In February 2020, CoACT in partnership with the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) through their Innovative Peace Fund (IPF) organized a regional workshop of 22

individuals representing 12 African partner organizations receiving the Innovative Peace Fund support. The partners were from Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia and Uganda. The workshop focused on refining partners' program development, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) processes, and documentation through multi-media skills to better capture the impact on their work in communities. After the 3 -day long training, we had a night out at Ndeere Cultural Centre to relax our minds and learn about Uganda's different cultures in just one collection centre.

Thank you ICAN!



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Creating Community Level Platforms for Women to Engage their Leaders on Issues of Concern

CoACT continued to provide platforms for women to speak out on issues that undermine their peace and human security. Through community barazas, citizens present their concerns to their leaders and receive feedback. Actions and recommendations on how such concerns should be resolved are drawn and reviewed in the following baraza. This has improved the quality of service delivery in the programme districts.

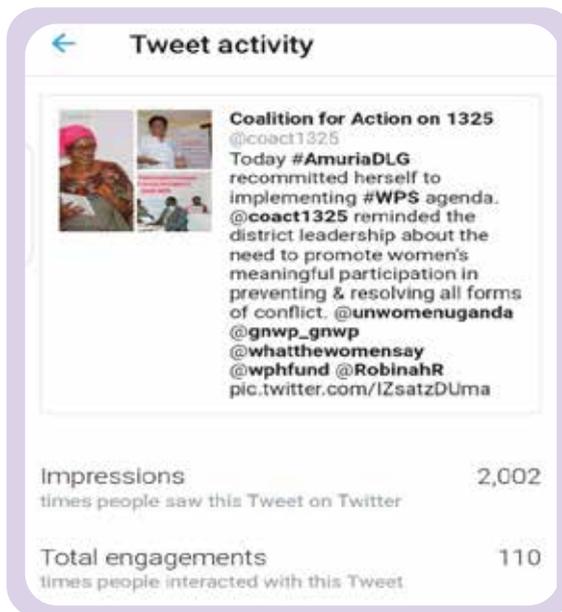
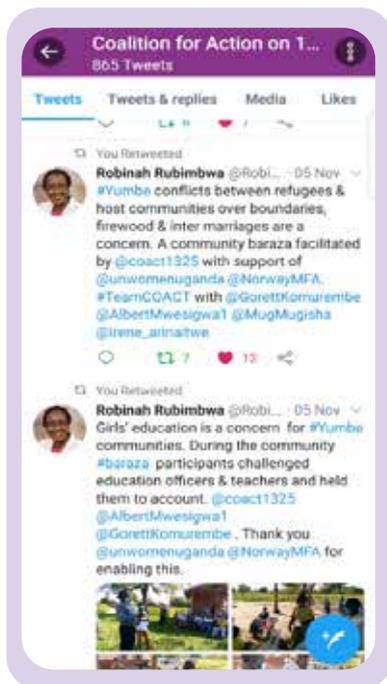


Using Radio to reach out to communities with information on WPS and YPS agendas.

In the year under review, we used radio as a tool for mobilizing, educating and informing communities on WPS and YPS issues. The programmes encouraged dialogue among community members and created a platform for local voices to be heard on issues that affect them. Nine hundred and eighty (980) radio spots messages were broadcast on eight radio stations. This was complemented by quarterly radio talk shows on WPS and YPS. The radio programme reached 597,563 people (315,935 males and 281,628 female) with information on how to address root causes of conflicts at community level and to promote women's participation in decision making, conflict prevention and resolution.



Our Social Media Engagements



She Builds Peace Campaign launched in Uganda

We are proud to be part of global advocacy campaigns for women’s rights and women peace and security. In March 2020 and shortly before Uganda went into the first Lockdown as a measure to counter the spread of COVID 19, CoACT launched the *She Builds Peace* campaign in Uganda in partnership with the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) and members of the Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL).

The *She Builds Peace* is a global collaborative campaign and call to action to support women peacebuilders to **SOAR**, by ensuring their **Safety** and protection, fulfilling **Obligations** to make peace and security inclusive, and **Appreciating** and **Resourcing** the critical work women peacebuilders do to build a future in which all can flourish. The event explored the importance of recognising, appreciating and listening to women peacebuilders; how women are affected by war and conflict; and what women do when they face conflict and insecurity. We were proud to host as the chief Guest, Ms Claire Hawkins, the UN Women Uganda Women, Peace and Security Specialist. In her remarks

The launch was attended by government, embassies (including the Embassies of Norway and Sweden), UN Women, security sector, civil society, academia, and the media.





Our Response to COVID 19

The measures that the Government had to put in place to counter the rapid spread of the virus have had tremendous effects on women, men, girls and boys. CoACT recognises that women, men, boys and girls are not affected the same way by the pandemics and crises. The women and girls bear the brunt during crises including the pandemics. In partnership with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and Austria Development Agency, CoACT responded to the unique needs of women from Kamwokya, a Kampala City suburb. We provided food, sanitary kits, sanitizers, face masks, hand washing facilities to enable the women prevent and respond to COVID-19.







▶ The women of Kamwokya in Kampala were excited by this intervention.

What We Achieved in 2020. This should be a centre spread in the middle of the booklet.

Key Results from 2020



1. The districts of Amuria, Kaberamaido, Kasese, Luwero, Kitgum and Yumbe started implementing the Localisation strategy for NAP implementation. They developed Local Action Plans (LAOPs) as accountability frameworks to address local level issues that undermine the peace and human security of women and girls.
2. Provided community accountability platforms through barazas (dialogues) in 20 sub-counties enabling local women and men directly engage their district leaders on hindrances to peace, security and development. District leaders made commitments to address the issues agreed and documented during each dialogue.
3. Established a network of 27 young women peace ambassadors in 5 target districts. The peace ambassadors were equipped with knowledge and skills in leadership, gender and advocacy, conflict prevention and conflict resolution.
4. Held consultative meetings with 90 youth from Kasese, Kabarole and Ntungamo to establish barriers to youth participation in electoral processes
5. Trained and mentored 30 young women and young men to effectively participate in electoral processes
6. Established 3 youth-led community Based Organizations in Kasese, Kabarole and Ntungamo to mobilize the youth and champion peacebuilding initiatives
7. Trained 40 women-led CSOs and CBOs in various on localization, GEWE and EVAWG
8. Developed and published a CBO training handbook on GEWE and EVAWG

Localizing the **Women, Peace and Security** Agenda

Despite the COVID 19 pandemic, expanded the Localisation programme to reach 6 more districts of Amuria, Kaberamaido, Kasese, Kitgum, Luwero, and Yumbe district local governments developed Local Action Plans as accountability frameworks for institutionalisation of the women peace and security agenda. We facilitated a series of capacity building workshops with district political and technical leaders, security agencies, cultural and religious leaders, teachers, business leaders, civil society groups, women leaders, the youth and media to deepen the understanding and appreciation of the women, peace and security. In each district, we had a local partner who mobilised the district officials and other stakeholders to participate in the capacity building workshops.

Each district local government constituted a task force to draft the 5 year Local Action Plans. In all this we worked closely with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the national institution accountable for implementation of gender equality commitments.





► Each district constituted a Task Force to draft the Local Action Plan. Amuria (Top left) Yumbe (top right), (Kitgum (middle left) and Luwero (middle right) Kaberamaido (bottom left) and Kasese (bottom right).

Through this process 91 district local government leaders (51 male 40 female) including political leaders, technical leaders, religious and cultural leaders, security agencies, journalists, CBO leaders, acquired knowledge of the women, peace and security agenda and now apply the intentions of Resolution 1325 to address local issues that undermine peace and human security at community level. In Kasese district, the information officer is championing a WPS campaign across departments and sub counties. As a result of his participation in capacity building workshops on WPS, the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Yumbe admits to have taken more interest in the work of the community- based services department to ensure women’s issues are allocated more funds from the local government revenue.



▶ Rhodah Akello (middle) leads Amuria team to develop a work plan for 2021

“.....

The process of leading the development of the LAP has enriched my knowledge and understanding of women empowerment and peacebuilding. I never appreciated my work as a DCDO that much but now I see my responsibility of coordinating all other stakeholders to make sure that the LAP is fully implemented, monitored and results tracked and reported. I now feel I have the knowledge and skills to do that.”

Akello Rhoda,
DCDO Amuria District.



Communities demand accountability from Local Leaders accountable

In 2020 we introduced the use of **Community Barazas** (dialogues) to provide a platform for citizens, especially women, to speak out on issues that undermine their peace and human security at family and community levels. The barazas also became an opportunity for District Authorities to give information to citizens on government programmes they could take advantage of such as the Youth Fund and the Women Empowerment Fund. In addition the district leaders were able to gather information on conflict issues in the communities. At the end of each community baraza, a set of recommendations were made for follow action by the district authorities. The barazas have proved worth the investment. They are a face-to-face interaction between leaders and citizens making it possible for many women and young people who would never get a chance to speak to a Chief Administrative Officer, or a District Police Commander to do so. Equally it provides an opportunity for leaders to listen to the usually marginalised voices and get the opportunity to address their concerns. We were able to hold one baraza each quarter in nine districts of Amuria, Kaberamaido, Kamwenge, Kasese, Kitgum, Kumi, Kyegegwa and Yumbe.

Each community baraza is attended by, among others, the Resident District Commissioner, the District Local Council Chairperson, Chief Administrative Officer, the host sub-county chief, the District Community Development Officer, the sub county based Community Development Officer, the District Police Commander and the local police, women-led CBOs and CSOs, teachers, women mediators, young peace ambassadors and community members.

In one community baraza held at Abarillela sub-county headquarters in Amuria district, women questioned the leaders why the *Mama Kits* were supplied by Government were being sold in public health facilities. As a result of this engagement, the District leaders were able to know that some health officials were selling the Kits that are supposed to be given free to all pregnant mothers. They thus called on the communities to report officials who engaged in such practice to the police. And the Health Department.



A woman and a man speak out in a community baraza in Ocheru Subcounty, Kaberamaido district.



In a baraza in Amuria district, the women wanted to know why there never any medicines in the health centres. The Resident District Commissioner and the District Health Officer agreed on joint monitoring of delivery and supply of medicines together with the Local Council (LC I) Chairperson of the area.

The RDC established a committee led by the Sub County chief, chairperson LC III and local council leaders to oversee and enforce loitering of school going children in the trading centres, follow up with students who do not want to attend school. This was as a result of increased early pregnancy in the sub county as a result of many young girls and boys spending most of the time in the trading centres during the community baraza in Kobulubulu sub county in Kaberamaido district.



Growing the Next Generation of Women Peacebuilders.

CoACT's work of building the capacity of young people for peace and security leadership remains critical as our country continues to experience different forms of violence and conflicts. Our work is designed to foster transformative leadership by equipping young women with the knowledge, tools, capacity to effectively participate in decision making and conflict resolution in their communities and the country at large. During 2020, we facilitated our 1st cohort of 27 young women. The training improved the young women's self-esteem and confidence following the well thought out sessions on gender, leadership, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and mediation. The young peacebuilders have established a network of young peace ambassadors in Amuria, Kabarole, Kaberamaido, Kasese, Kitgum, Ntungamo, Sheema and Yumbe, districts.

The Peace ambassadors from Yumbe have formed a savings group to increase their economic empowerment and reduce their vulnerability.

The Peace ambassadors from Kaberamaido district established a youth-led CBO that mobilizes young women and educates them on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and importance of staying and completing school.

The peace ambassadors from Sheema district are mobilising youth to effectively participate in leadership





▶ Training of Women Mediators and establishment of Peace Committees in Kasese District



▶ Training of Kasese District Community level peace committees





Increasing Youth Participation in decision making enables new Solutions

In 2020, we took a deliberate effort to consult the young men and young women to establish the barriers to youth participation in decision making, conflict prevention and resolution, how election violence impacts their lives, the low participation of female youth in election processes and issues that drive the male youth into violence extremism. The youth proposed local solutions/strategies that they (youth) believe would help increase their participation.

Findings:

Barriers for Female Youth	General barriers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feelings of inferiority among young women. The low self-esteem limits their participation • Lack of information and exposure <p><i>"You are born from a local village, study from a nearby school, one is tempted to think that leadership is for a certain class or group of people" one participant observed.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low levels of education- Majority of young women do not have minimum qualifications and therefore cannot compete for leadership positions. • Cultural beliefs, norms and practices that glorify men as better leaders and decision makers. • Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, since the space is male dominated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of information including available positions for youth in the local government structure or youth structures. • Commercialization of politics; the nomination fees, financing campaigns, among others. • Negative Perception on the potential of youth to participate in decision making and peacebuilding.





Voices from youth

When a female youth comes out to contest in leadership, she is called all sorts of names. " She is looking for men. She wants men to see her. She is on a mission

For us Youth we are told that we are the leaders of tomorrow and therefore we should wait. Elders tell us, you are young. How can you compete with your elders?

Some of the strategies they recommended include:

- Awareness raising on the role of youth in peace and conflict transformation programmes that can help youth to be engaged constructively and come out of poverty
- Training and mentorship of youth in leadership and peacebuilding
- Affirmative action for youth- to increase positions for youth at all levels since they are the majority
- Male involvement especially in advocating for equal participation of women and men in leadership and decision making
- Review existing laws to increase women representation from a third to 50/50
- Establish youth associations and youth centers at the local level to increase access to information.





➤ *Groups of male youth and female youth separately discussed and identified hindrances to their participation in governance.*

The Leadership Boot Camp for Young women and young men

In 2020, CoACT expanded her programmes to reach Kasese, Ntungamo, Kabarole and Kampala and organised a leadership boot camp for 30 youth (20 female, 10 male). The youth were trained in leadership skills, human rights, democracy and active citizenship, peace and conflict transformation including the women, peace and security agenda and the youth, peace and security agenda.

During the boot camp, one youth from Kabarole district had this to say.

“

I am grateful to CoACT and her partners for giving me the opportunity to be part of this leadership boot camp. I feel empowered, I have confidence. I will go home and mobilise other young people. For the first time I made a presentation in front of many people. I feel energized. My self- esteem has been raised.



Training in elections observation



- The young women and men were trained in election observation and monitoring and deployed to the districts of Ntungamo, Kasese, Kabarole and Kampala to monitor and observe elections.

Formation of Youth-led Peacebuilding initiatives at local level

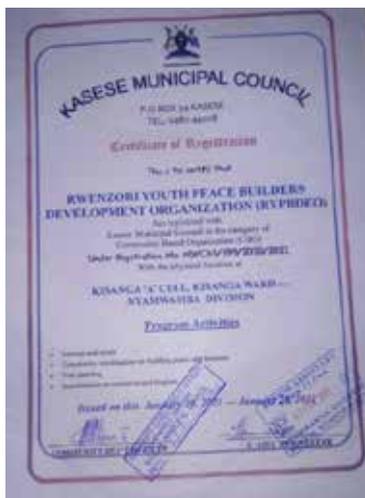
We are excited that from our training and mentoring of young people, 4 youth-led peacebuilding initiatives were born. The CBOs are Peacebuilders coalition in Ntungamo district, Youth Unveil Uganda in Kabarole district, Rwenzori Youth Peacebuilders Development Organization in Kasese and Kampala peacebuilders. The three CBOs have since joined CoACT as members and are actively championing the implementation of the Youth Peace and Security agenda in their respective districts.

Three of the four certificates the formed Youth led CBOs

Ntungamo



Kasese

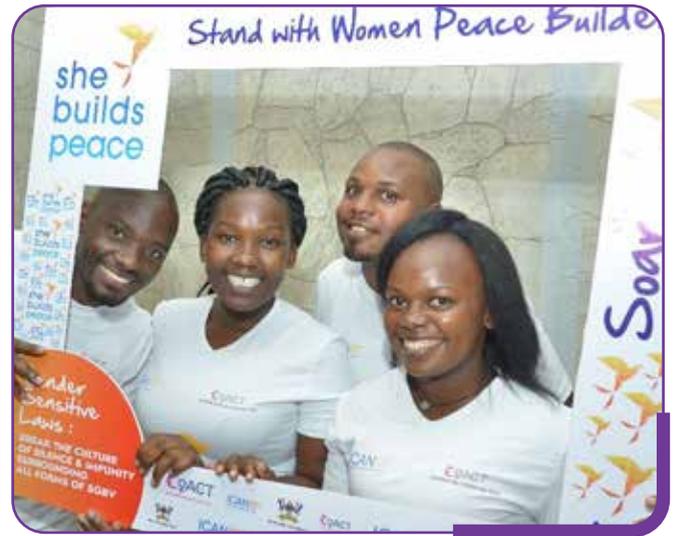


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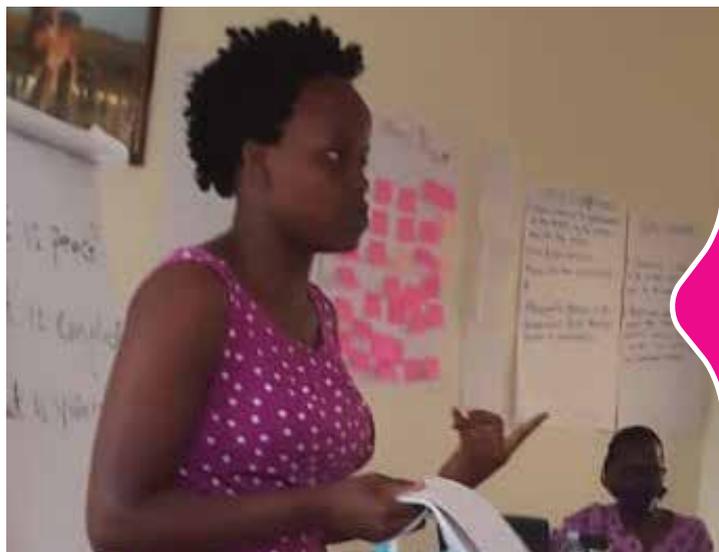


Engaging in Global Advocacy and Training

As member of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL), we are proud to be part of the She Builds Campaign



►► **Impact story by Ms. Charity Ninsiima Phionah
(Student of Law at Makerere University.)**



Previously, I never cared about social issues-violation of human rights, gender inequality, and politics. In political discussions, I distanced myself. I also knew little about peacebuilding and actually nothing about Women Peace and Security Agenda (WPS) and Youth Peace and Security Agenda (YPS). I also never cared about basics like having a National ID and voting. However, the leadership boot camp training we had (myself and colleagues) in Mbarara in September 2020 opened my eyes. On a personal level, the sessions challenged me to think big about my potential to cause change in my community especially in participating in electoral processes, leadership, promoting gender equality and peacebuilding.

►► **Shadrack Enzama Demah had this to say**



The project found me in my third year at Makerere University. I was trying to manage life as an independent young man who had grown up in the ghettos of Kampala (Kasubi). My life has changed and am looking forward to empowering more youth in my community with knowledge to participate in peace building initiatives. I have also met friends with whom I share ideas on daily basis on social media and experiences about peacebuilding and conflict prevention while using peaceful means. I feel forever challenged and I am aiming the best not only for myself but my country. I grew up when I never cared about conflict issues around me and politics as well. Before this project, it is like I was living in my own life without friends until I joined this program that presented me with an opportunity to participate in several programs. It is like God has given me a platform that I can attach to my identity and live beyond the life of a ghetto youth.



*Email from Enzama Sedruack Demah Acaali to
Ms. Robinah Rubimbwa, Executive Director, CoACT*

Hello Ms Robinah.

I hope this mail finds you in good health.

I wanted you to know that I am personally very thankful for being in your company and the entire COACT family. Reflecting on the achievements, I am totally moved by the kind of mentorship you have given us and vision of the life I dream whenever I listen to you speak.

All of us have been close to staff of COACT especially Mugisha Obed and Bruce since the evening of the women-to-women talk and the men-to-men talk during the Boot camp. The talk has shaped me and I want you to know what it means to me to have true male mentors that I had lacked all my life.

Although yesterday we had the opportunity to share our experiences and how the project has impacted us in the group, I personally deem it necessary to thank you in person. I have sat at and shared the same table with national dignitaries because of CoACT. The time I have spent with COACT staff has made me confident. I feel well oriented with where I want to go in the future after my school. I just completed my university course but I already feel empowered enough to take a step that can transform this country. The truth is that I get emotional and I wanted to send to you this quickly because I love what you are engaging us in. If membership to COACT would be a lifetime guarantee trust me I would subscribe automatically.

One of my greatest gifts is speaking several local languages from Lugbara, Madi, Luo, Runyankole, Luganda, Rutooro and Kiswahili to English. I have always believed that one day I would find a platform to make use of that ability and several times I really think COACT is one of a kind. I hereby pledge my talent for the good of our youth programme at COACT. I am forever grateful that I met such reliable elder of your kind who is not only very intelligent but speaks out for the young people because most elders / adults in Uganda tend to discriminate against the youth since power is slowly shifting to us.

May God grant you more energy and the years madam. I can only imagine the best version of myself if I keep listening to you.

Thank you for being a blessing to us.

*Enzama Sedruack Demah Acaali.
CoACT Youth Peacebuilder, Kampala.*

Advancing Women's Leadership for Peace and Security at the Local level

In partnership with the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) CoACT trained 40 women-led CBOs and CSOs from 12 districts of Kasese, Kabarole, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa, Ntungamo, Kampala, Luwero, Yumbe, Kitgum, Amuria, Kabaremaido and Kumi. The women were trained on the localization strategy, leadership and governance, human rights, advocacy, conflict prevention and transformation, organization development and management, financial management and reporting. The women also gained new knowledge on ending violence and against women and girls and promoting gender equality. Some of the women trained participated in the development of Local Action Plans (LAPs) to implement the National Action plan on women, peace and security.



At CoACT, we believe in inclusive and participatory processes and learning from others. In 2020 we formed a taskforce of five women leaders to develop a training handbook for grassroots women led CBOs on Gender Equality and Violence against Women and Girls prevention and response.

“.....

I did not know that I could be useful in this meeting. All the years I have spent working with NGOs, I have never been involved in developing training materials. Many times, I am called for TOTs when the development of materials to use have been finalised. Other NGOs should adopt this methodology of CoACT because then it makes training easier.

Erina Kahunde from Rwenzori consortium for Civic Competence



Impact story as a result of a Community Baraza



▶ Veronica Kobusingye from Kateete Women's Group, Hapuuyo Sub County sharing her story

The transformation of Veronica Kobusinge, Chairperson Kateete Women's Group- speaking during training of women CBOs after participating in a community baraza (dialogue) on gender equality and EVAWG. *"I cannot call it respect but it was fear, I used to believe that women had no say in marriage and I suffered from violence for the last 25 years. In November 2020, I participated in the community Baraza organized by RIDE- AFRICA and COACT at Hapuuyo sub county grounds. I found a platform to speak against VAWG and to directly engage with our district leaders.*

Veronica had suffered silently for years. She would labour to grow produce but after harvest her husband would sell everything and

take the money to his mother who kept it for him because he told her the money would not be safe at his home. . *"After my participation in the Baraza, I gained the courage to tell my husband that I was not happy about his behaviour. He still intimidates me but I now tell him whenever I feel my rights are violated".*

In December 2020, Veronica harvested 20 bags of maize. I had warned my husband earlier that if he sold the produce and took the money to his mother, I would never go back to the garden. After selling the maize, he brought all the money and I kept it myself. We now use the money in a transparent manner. To me, that is a very great achievement".

In addition, Ms. Kobusinge used to

warn her daughters that if any of them got pregnant while still in school, she would kill them. During the community baraza parents resolved to support their children and be friends with them to enable them open up to us especially when they face challenges. This spoke to me. When I got home after the dialogue, I sat my 2 daughters down, talked to them like a mother without threatening them, and encouraged them to confide in me whenever they faced a challenge. I am now close to my children. Those words that were common in my mouth "I will kill you, I will chase you away, etc are no more and there is peace and respect in my home. I am certain that this will improve on their academic performance when schools reopen. Thank you CoACT and RIDE Africa.

Community level women mediators and peacebuilders

To promote women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution, CoACT in partnership with Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Unit (CEWERU), and the Women Mediators across the Commonwealth (WMC) trained 24 women from Kasese district in mediation skills in readiness for their election on local peace committees. Working with CEWERU and following the Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) guidelines in establishing peace committees, we established and trained 3 peace committees from the three sub counties of Karambi, Kilembe and Kitswamba in Kasese. A total of 43 members of peace committees were equipped with knowledge and skills on conflict prevention and conflict resolution. Thirteen (13) women out of 24 trained women were successfully elected on the peace committees and are at the forefront of mediating conflicts related to land, domestic violence and child neglect.



Volunteering Opportunity '@ CoACT: Jonath Natuhamyia



Working with CoACT has presented me with an opportunity to grow as an individual socially, economically, mentally and psychologically. I joined CoACT in January 2020 as a Programme Volunteer, totally green. I want to thank CoACT for accepting me. I had sat home for 2 years attending to a small retail shop for my husband. I would wake up in the morning, go to the shop, attend to customers and that was it. The world had closed for me. I would not even check my email or apply for jobs. I was just there.

However, as God usually has his plans, I made it to CoACT. As green as I was, I started volunteering supporting all programmes including administration. This exposed me to learning different skills from taking staff minutes, writing concept papers, activity reports, drafting proposals, receiving telephone calls, attending to visitors, among others. This means that I have had an opportunity to work with all members of staff that have mentored and inspired me to become a human rights activist.

I have received numerous trainings that have added value to my career growth. Most importantly I participated in the youth leadership boot camp that CoACT held in Mbarara in September 2020. As the session on youth as nation builders went on, I asked myself, why I didn't have a National ID. To be honest, I could not get a reasonable answer. After the boot camp, I went to the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA)



▶ *Jonath Natuhamya on radio Ankole calling upon youth to desist from violence during elections.*

“

I could not believe that I would also appear on a radio talk show. This was my wow moment!! In addition, my passion for girls and women’s rights has more than doubled.”

to follow up my National ID. I have since got my ID, and I can now participate in electoral processes not only as a Voter but also as an election observer. The program has inspired me to be more proactive and put my skills to a test. I have learnt to network and as a result, together with my colleagues, we have formed a Community Based Organisation- Peacebuilders Coalition to advance youth participation in peacebuilding. This initiative is already expanding my horizons, for example, we (I and my colleagues) were recently invited by Women’s Situations Room for a training in preventing Election related Violence. I was able to meet new people and learnt new skills. I feel energized and motivated to work harder and contribute to a peaceful society.

I could not believe that I would also appear on a radio talk show. This was my wow moment!! In addition, my passion for girls and women’s rights has more than doubled. The programmes that CoACT is implementing all aim to amplify women’s voice. So imagine I have been made that voice to speak on behalf of the vulnerable people including women and girls. The person who never used to speak is now speaking and raising voice and agency for women and girls for peace and security. Thank you CoACT!

As the saying goes, “When you educate a woman, you have educated the whole nation” is very true. I am not seated with the knowledge and skills that I have acquired since I joined CoACT. But I am reaching out to other girls. I started a girls club in Ntungamo district where we meet once in 3 months and discuss issues that affect us and report to each other what we have done. We talk about human rights, girls’ education, violence against women and economic empowerment of women and girls.

Thank you CoACT for giving me an opportunity to work with you. You inspire me every day. You have contributed so much to a person I have become today.

I cannot thank you enough!

Financial Statements for 2020

Coalition for Action on 1325 Uganda

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020.

	Note(s)	2020 Ugx	2019 Ugx
Revenue	3	1,440,208,701	355,152,384
Other Income	4	9,567,902	17,880,000
Gross income		1,449,776,603	373,032,384
Less capital expenditure		-	(104,105,500)
Expenses			
Administration Expense	5	(72,331,427)	(29,083,474)
Program Expense	6	(986,100,668)	(287,886,310)
Total expenses		1,058,432,095	316,969,784
Surplus/(Deficit)		391,344,508	(48,042,900)

The notes set out on pages 18 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Coalition for Action on 1325 Uganda

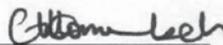
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

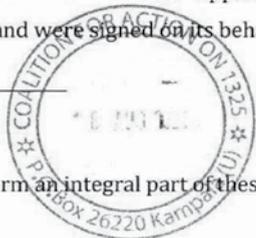
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Note(s)	2020 Ugx	2019 Ugx
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment		-	93,879,399
			93,879,399
Current Assets			
Other Current Asset	7	1,309,432	5,167,432
Cash and Cash Equivalents	8	401,892,032	276,759
		403,201,464	5,444,191
Total Assets		403,201,464	99,323,590
Accumulated Fund Balances & Liabilities			
Equity			
Accumulated Fund Balance		(11,212,809)	130,709,490
Surplus/(Deficit)		391,344,508	(48,042,900)
		380,131,699	82,666,590
Current Liabilities			
Other Current liability	9	23,069,765	16,657,000
		23,069,765	16,657,000
Total Liabilities		23,069,765	16,657,000
Total Equity and Liabilities		403,201,464	99,323,590

The financial statements on pages 14 to 27 were approved by the Board of Directors on 18 August 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

Director: 

Director: 



The notes set out on pages 18 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Our Supporters



Our Board of Directors

1. Professor Josephine Ahikire
2. Dr. Hellen Nambalirwa
3. Dr. Johnson Nkuuhe
4. Hon Rita Atukwasa (MP)
5. Joseph Muhumuza
6. Cecilia Engole
7. Robinah Rubimbwa



CoACT Members

1. CARE for African Initiatives
2. CARE International in Uganda
3. Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE)
4. Centre for Media Literacy and Community Development
5. Church of Uganda Teso Dioceses Planning and Development Office (COU-TEDDO)
6. Concern for the Girl Child
7. Foundation for Women Living with HIV/AIDs (FOWLA)
8. Heart for Girls Initiative Uganda
9. Hemtong Foundation Uganda
10. Human Rights and Democracy Link Africa (RIDE-AFRICA)
11. Isingiro Women Development Association.
12. John Paul II Justice Peace Centre
13. Action for Life Improvement (KALI)
14. Kitgum Women Peace Activists (KIWEPI)
15. Women's Initiatives for Peace (WOPI) - Lira
16. Luwero Women Development Association (LUWODA)
17. Peace and Conflict Studies Centre, Makerere University
18. Peace Builders Coalition- Ntungamo
19. Women's Regional Network (WRN)
20. Rwenzori Consortium for Civic Competence (RWECCO)
21. Rwenzori Youth Peace Builders Development Organization
22. Teso Karamoja Women Initiative for Peace (TEKWIP)
23. Teso Women Peace Activists (TEWPA)
24. Transforming Conflicts for Development (TRACODE)
25. Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC)
26. Visionary Lady Foundation
27. Women and Girl Child Development Association (WEGCDA)
28. Women and Rural Development Network (WORUDET)
29. Women International Peace Centre (WIPC)
30. Women Peace Initiatives Uganda (WOPI)
31. Youth Unveil Uganda



CoACT Team



Robinah Rubimbwa
Executive Director



Gorret Komurembe
Director of Programs



Albert Mwesigwa
Program Coordinator



Chrishear Ampuriire
Finance and Administration
Officer



Irene Arinaitwe
Program Officer



Jonath Natuhamya
Program Assistant



Bruce Rwabajunju
Logistics Assistant



Jocelyn Asiimwe
Administration Assistant



Hadijah Kyamu Miti
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Coalition for Action on 1325

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