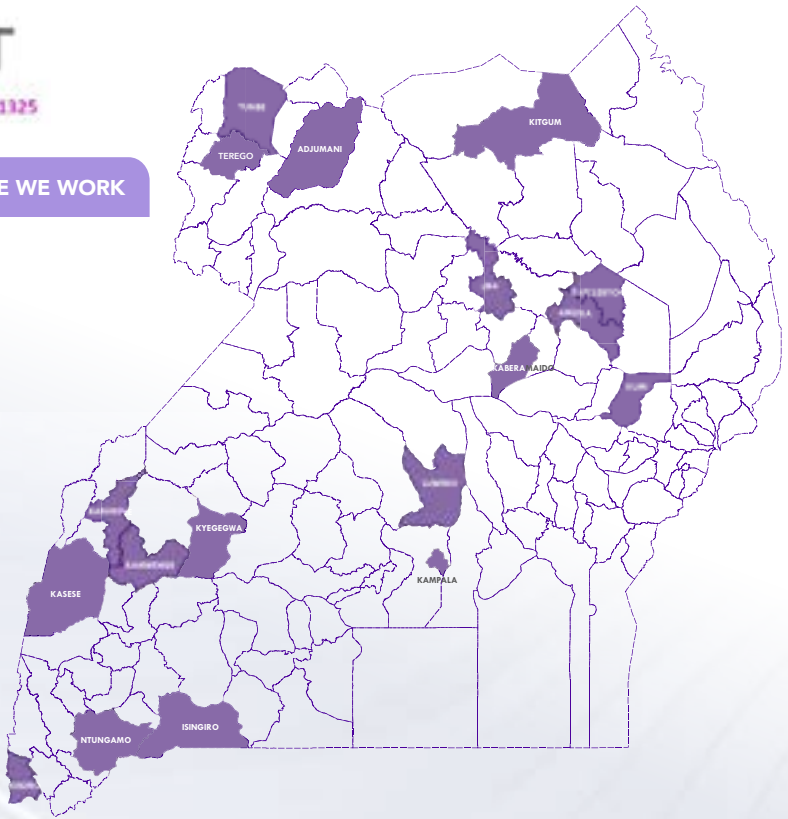


## DISTRICTS WHERE WE WORK

1. Adjumani,
2. Amuria,
3. Isingiro
4. Kaberamaido,
5. Kabarole,
6. Kampala,
7. Kamwenge,
8. Kapelebyong,
9. Kasese,
10. Kisoro,
11. Kitgum,
12. Kumi,
13. Kyegegwa,
14. Lira,
15. Luwero
16. Ntungamo
17. Terego,
18. Yumbe



## About Coalition for Action on 1325 (CoACT)

CoACT is an alliance of women's peacebuilding organizations working in Uganda to promote gender equality and women empowerment, with a specific focus on effective implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda (WPS) that is founded in UN Security Council Resolution 1325, of October 2000, and the Youth Peace and Security agenda (YPS) founded in the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 of 2015. We partner with the Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development to ensure the design and implementation of Uganda's National Action Plan on WPS is inclusive and effective. We enhance the

capacity of district Local Governments to adopt Local Action Plans (LAPs) to address local issues that undermine the peace and human security of women, children, and communities.

COACT played a key role in the design of Uganda's Third National Action Plan (NAP III) on WPS (2021-2025). We have facilitated processes in 9 districts of Uganda to localize and institutionalize the NAP III through the design and implementation of WPS Local Action Plans tailored to address community level issues that undermine peace and human security.



### OUR VISION

We envision a peaceful world where women realize their full potential, and our mission is to inspire women's leadership, amplify their voices and coordinate civil society action to prevent and resolve conflict, and significantly contribute to building sustainable peace.

## OUR PROGRAMMES



### Localizing the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security:

The purpose of this program is to increase the capacity of institutions, organisations and to implement the WPS agenda. CoACT is a member of the National Steering Committee and Technical committee for NAPIII that spearheads implementation, monitoring and reporting progress of NAPIII. CoACT plans to scale up the Localization programme to 15 more districts in the next 4 years.

*COACT has one agenda, and it is sustainable peace that enables development.*

### Programme Outputs



### Increased capacity of District Local Governments to effectively implement the NAP III:

The programme guarantees enabling the implementation of Uganda's NAP III on WPS being rooted in addressing the peace and human security needs of women and girls in local communities. To do this effectively and in a more sustainable manner, COACT targets District Local Authorities as well as multisectoral leaders that include district and sub county councillors, public service technical workers, teachers, religious and cultural leaders, security sector leaders, women and youth leaders. Through a series of capacity building workshops on transformative leadership, human rights, gender and gender equality and equity, inclusive governance, as well as the WPS agenda, and Uganda's Third NAP on WPS, the local leaders are able to identify local issues that undermine the peace and the human security of women and girls at family level, community level and the work place, the values, customs and traditions and other systemic issues that drive conflict, and gender inequality. They explore the consequences of conflict and the different forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls. They then develop Local Action Plans (LAPs) to address the identified issues. Each district involved in the Localisation programme develops a five-year Local Action Plan that becomes the framework for interventions that promote gender equality and address conflicts. So far, Arua City, Amuria, Gulu City, Kaberamaido, Kasese, Kitgum, Kyegegwa, Luwero and Yumbe have developed Local Action Plans to implement the NAP III. Localisation is a bottom-up approach to policy making that brings together a multi sectoral representation of stakeholders that put the LAP together. During the evaluation of the NAP in 2016, it was found that districts involved in this programme were far ahead on NAP indicators structures GEWE and VAWG prevention and response.



### Capacity of religious and cultural leaders, women led-CSOs and CBOs to address issues that undermine the peace and human security of women and girls built and sustained.

With targeted training workshops and continuous engagement, cultural and religious leaders increasingly appreciate human rights, gender equality and the stress, pain, marginalization and long-term trauma and poverty that women and girls are condemned to because of the social cultural values and norms that discriminate against women and girls. They also understand and appreciate the role they play on in promoting and increasing GEWE and addressing VAWG.

## Public demand for accountability on WPS implementation including increased protection of women and girls enhanced.

Through community barazas and dialogues that COACT organizes at community level, local men, women and youth find platforms through which they can directly engage district and sub county leaders, and present to them issues of concern that undermine peace and human security. During such dialogues and barazas, strategies and actions to address identified issues are agreed on, and any follow baraza or dialogue will include a report of what has been achieved. COACT combines community barazas and dialogues with radio programmes that increase awareness and public debate of such issues.

## Women's Leadership for Peace and Security

### Programme Outputs



### Enhanced competencies of grassroots women to prevent and peacefully resolve conflicts.

Since 2019 we have trained 160 women and established 5 local women mediator networks in Kasese, Kumi, Kaberamaido, Kamwenge and Amuria districts. These local women mediators mediate community level conflicts including land issues, family conflicts, political conflicts, as well as spearheading campaigns to promote girls' education and supporting teenage mothers.

### The technical and institutional capacity of grassroots women led CBOs to advance progress on GEWE and ending VAWG enhanced.

In each district where COACT works, we identify a local women led CBO or group, invest resources over time in their training and tooling, until they become human rights and gender equality champions, developing position papers and petitioning district leaders to address VAWG and increase gender equality programming. It is such CBOs that led campaigns for COVID 19 vaccination uptake and handwashing. They have gained multiple competencies including using radio for advocacy.

### Gender sensitive community structures for conflict early warning and early response established and functional.

COACT supports local authorities to identify men and women of good standing as members of peace committees at district and sub county levels. Working with the Conflict Early Warning Early Response Unit (CEWERU) in the ministry of Internal Affairs, we train the peace committees using the IGAD model for gender sensitive conflict early warning, early response and reporting. Such peace committees help in conflict prevention and peaceful gender sensitive conflict resolution, ensuring that the women mediators we train are selected on these peace committees.

## Youth Action for Peace (YAP)

### Programme Outputs

### Increased capacity of young women and young men to effectively influence the implementation the WPS and YPS agendas.

Each year COACT organises a five-day leadership bootcamp in which the youth are that aims to help raining bootcamps and supporting the trained youth to establish Youth led peacebuilding organisations and associations. So far 6 such district CBOs have been registered (Ntungamo, Kabarole, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa, Kasese, Kampala, and another 3 should be registered in Kaberamaido and Amuria and Kumi by end of this year. The created CBOs focus on different issues that are relevant to their communities.

COACT has created a Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) coalition that so far has 168 young women and young men Peace Ambassadors. The youth led CBOs that have been established under this programme are engaged in different peacebuilding initiatives. Youth Unveil Uganda and from Kabarole and Kasese focus on climate interventions as well as countering violent extremism. The youth in Kampala focus on livelihoods to prevent youth from joining extremist groups. Ntungamo's Peacebuilders Coalition focus on creating awareness raising on democracy, human rights, gender equality, and engage district leaders to make local governance more inclusive. The Kamwenge Youth Actors Network in Kamwenge and the Youth Peacebuilders Advocates in Kyegegwa focus on increasing social cohesion, promoting peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities, and addressing teenage pregnancies. The Young Women Action for Peace in Kumi, Youth Peace Network in Kaberamaido and the Amuria Youth Advocates for Peace in Amuria focus their interventions around addressing GBV, strengthening teenage pregnancy prevention and response, and increasing women economic empowerment. All these youth led associations formed engage district and sub county leaders regularly to make sure the concerns of young people are integrated in development programmes. The vision of COACT regarding this programme is to establish a YPS group in at least 50% of the districts in Uganda.

## Programme Outputs

### Increased numbers of youth with capacity to meaningfully participate in governance and electoral processes.

Through targeted training in democracy, governance and the role of the youth in promoting democracy, COACT ensures that the target youth are grounded in the knowledge of human rights, gender equality, active citizenship, and the role youth can play to make Uganda a more democratic and peaceful country. We directly train ten youth from each target district (6 young women and four young men) and encourage and support them to establish a youth led CBO in their district. From then on, we engage them as youth led CBOs that do a broad range of peace building work. In 2016, COACT designed and implemented the first ever Youth Elections Observatory in the world, as a mechanism to prevent election related violence before, during and after elections. We set up a youth led and managed Rapid Response Call Center in Kampalapa. We also established a Toll freeline telephone line No. 0800111417 that we sustain to date. The Elections Observatory was accredited by the Electoral Commission. We trained 40 youth in elections observation and monitoring and got each of them also accredited by the Electoral Commission as Election Observers. We deployed the young people to six district – Kampala, Kasese, Ntungamo, Kyegegwa, and Kabarole and ten of them were deployed at the Call Centre. At the same time, we had a desk for the Electoral Commission, one for the Uganda Police and one for analysts in the Call Centre. Those deployed to the districts would make calls to the Centre if they detected the early signs of situations that if not addressed would turn violent. The young people in the call center would receive the calls and forward them to the analysts. The analysts would determine whether it was the Police or Electoral Commission to provide real time response and pass on the information to the appropriate desk. The police in the call center would immediately call the District Police Commander responsible for the district where then early warning came from who would in turn provide real time response. If the analyst passed on the early warning signal to the Electoral Commission desk, they in turn would call the respective district elections registrar, who similarly would provide real time response.

COACT intends to implement the youth elections observatory again for the next general elections, to prevent violence before, during and after elections. During a breakfast meeting we held to present the elections observation report, the Deputy Inspector General of Police who attended as Chief Guest noted that if it had not been for the Youth Elections Observatory, Kasese and Ntungamo districts would have been up in flames.



## Gender Responsive Humanitarian Response

Uganda, as of June 2023, hosts about 1.6 million refugees largely from South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Over 75 % of the refugees are women and children. The Gender Responsive Humanitarian Response programme aims to provide protection rapid response to women asylum seekers, and safe spaces and development support to women refugees.



The Programme has two strategic interventions, namely:

### **1) Increasing protection of women and girls affected by natural and human made disasters -**

Beginning with the supply of dignity kits and food packs to vulnerable women during the COVID 19 lockdown, and women affected by floods in Kasese district, COACT continues to offer support to vulnerable women and girls affected by natural and human made disasters. In March 2021, CoACT established a safe space for women and girls and trained a team of 25 local volunteers from the host community who, on a daily basis, raise awareness of human rights, GBV and the referral pathway, the benefits of relocation to a refugee settlement, as well as providing dignity kits to women and girls fleeing the crisis in DRC. They also provide psycho-social support. Over 1,000 women and girls have benefitted from this intervention. Some of the volunteers work in host communities raising awareness on GBV and referral pathways, providing psychosocial support and promote peaceful co-existence. In 2023 COACT expanded this intervention to Oruchinga and Nakivale Refugee Settlements with the addition of offering multipurpose cash transfers to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls.

### **2) Increasing the capacity of refugee women and girls for leadership, peacebuilding, and economic empowerment.**

The intervention is achieved through targeted training and skilling of women refugees, establishment of women's peace tables, and providing cash grants to organized groups of women refugees to engage in income generating activities that increase their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability. This intervention targets refugee women and girls in Nyakabande Refugee Transit Centre, Oruchinga and Nakivale Refugee Settlements in Isingiro, Kyaka II in Kyegegwa, Rwamwanja in Kamwenge, Bidibidi in Yumbe, Adjumani and Terego refugee settlements. We have sustained a toll-free line (0800111417) as an early conflict warning and response mechanism to all forms of conflicts, including climate change early warning indicators.

### **Institutional Development and Organizational Strengthening**

The purpose of this program is to ensure a sustainable, efficient, and effective organization that fulfills her mandate and contributes to human security, freedom from violence and oppression in Uganda, the region and globally. This is achieved through three strategic interventions, namely:

- 1) Recruitment, development, and retention of competent staff
- 2) A robust monitoring and evaluation system
- 3) Prudent financial management processes that meet international standards
- 4) Effective resource mobilisation

### **Our Funding Partners over the years**

- 1) UN Women
- 2) Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund
- 3) Africa Women's Development Fund
- 4) Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
- 5) International Civil Society Action Network
- 6) Austria Development Cooperation and Norwegian Embassy – as back donors