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HANDLE UGANDA

YEAR 2019

# GBV MID-TERM REPORT //2019

PROJECT: PROMOTING  
COMPREHENSIVE PREVENTION AND  
RESPONSE TO GENDER BASED  
VIOLENCE IN COMMUNITIES OF  
NWOYA DISTRICT IN NORTHERN  
UGANDA







# PROJECT BACKGROUND

Handle Uganda under the auspices of Omoana Switzerland, joined Ugandan government and other development partners in the implementation of a three year intervention “Promoting Comprehensive Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence in Communities”. The first phase of the activities was conducted in Koch Goma Sub County. In the second phase, HANDLE is now implementing GBV activities in Alero Sub County, Nwoya district.

As learning point and with the involvement of the Role Model Men (RMM) the project activities brought men as agent of change, equal partners to women and also men as victims that also require mentorship and support. Using the RMM has been instrumental in behaviour and attitude change in the highly patriarchy society that positioned men with unquestionable authority that created unbalanced power relationship between men and women, boys and girls. As part of the broader agenda on the overall goal for the Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence in Communities, HANDLE integrated activities implementation with a scalable model for prevention and response beyond the potential negative impacts that are directly linked to ability to engage men as change agents, institutional and individual attitude and behaviors change toward women (nonviolent homes) and making men become more supportive of their wives in the household work, VSLA activities and women’s empowerment.



# OUTPUT 1

## 1.1.1 SUPPORT 20 NEW WOMEN VSLA SOLIDARITY GROUPS WITH IMPROVED SEEDS/FARM INPUTS TO PROMOTE LIVELIHOODS DIVERSIFICATION

To support the continued economic empowerment of women, the program established 15 VSLA women’s groups in Alero and Koch Goma Sub Counties up to date. The groups were trained on VSLA principles and methodology that made them to begin saving money amongst themselves. In addition, the 15 women VSLA solidarity groups established have been supported with improved seeds and farming skills to boost their livelihoods choices and diversification. The aim of this intervention is to allow members of the VSLA group attain positive and sustainable outcomes on livelihoods through strategic diversification of productive activities, which can be empowering for women in securing their economic independence and stability.

Sub County	# VSLA groups supported	Project target
Koch Goma	6	8
Alero	9	8
Purongo (Year 3)	0	8
<b>Total</b>	15	24 (62.5%)



### 1.1.2 TRAIN 4 WOMEN GROUPS (120 WOMEN) WHO WILL BE ENGAGED IN THE MICRO ENTERPRISE PROJECT ON "SELECTION, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT"

One of the strategies for HANDLE to combat gender-based violence is to enhanced economic empowerment of women. To date, 15 VSLA groups of 376 members were trained on how to establish and engage in micro enterprise project. To avoid emergency of conflict among the group members, not only the 4 groups of 120 participants were trained since it would lead to conflict amongst the groups.

### 1.1.3 PROVIDE FINANCIAL LITERACY TO WOMEN VSLA GROUPS

VSLA is a key channel for achieving women's empowerment, and creates access to social, physical and financial capital. In order to achieve this, HANDLE Uganda conducted financial literacy training to 6 women VSLA groups consisting of 170 members. The training helped to improve the financial discipline of the groups. With this training, all the groups trained now have systematic procedure by which the records of an association are created, captured and maintained. The records group register, collection allocation of welfare/social fund ledger, managing saving, loan disbursement and utilization and returned with 10% interest and the management of the group cash book.



in photo: A women's VSLA group during their weekly meeting.

#### 1.1.4 PROMOTE LINKAGES OF WOMEN VSLA GROUPS TO BANKING INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE SECTORS FOR MARKET

HANDLE supported women VSLA groups in their process of gaining financial independent and discipline. With the financial literacy training, the group gained basic understanding of banking, savings, and the importance of good credit. Basing on the above, 6 women groups were linked to Koch Goma SACCO where they are now able to access loans to improve on their businesses..

#### 1.1.5 ADVOCATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATIONS BY THE WOMEN GROUPS TO EFFECT CHANGE AND LIVELIHOODS

Up to date, 2,020 seedlings were distributed to the VSLA group members to be planted as part of the climate change adaptation to improve climate. The distribution of the seedling was at 3 fronts; (1) the climate change component to support handling eco-system management and restoration, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Basing on the vulnerability and poverty level, the sub county witnessed devastating effect of the massive tree cutting for charcoal burning, digging along the stream and the quarry work along the stream and the types of farming where trees are cut off from the garden to give space for crops to grow well.

#### 1.2.1 SUPPORT WOMEN GROUPS ON INTERNATIONAL DAYS (INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, 16 DAYS OF GENDER ACTIVISM, HUMAN RIGHTS DAY)

HANDLE Uganda has supported 15 women VSLA groups on 5 different international days celebration up to date; these includes; 2 international women's days (2018/2019), 2 days of African Child (2018/2019), one 16 Days of Gender Activism, and Human rights day celebrations.

The international days celebrated acted as an advocacy forum where women in their voices were able to voice out issues that affect them and which requires immediately attention. During the 16 days of gender activism, HANDLE through the GBV project supported women for lobbying concerning gender issues and responsiveness. In all, HANDLE Uganda supported women groups to develop 2 position papers which were presented during the commemoration of the international women day and during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism for lobbying concerning gender issues and responsiveness. Women groups were also facilitated with transport and feeding during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism week and other international days.



### 1.2.3 CONDUCT RADIO TALK SHOWS AND RADIO SPOT MESSAGES TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO ECONOMIC SUPPORT

5 radio talk shows and 2 spot messages developed and aired up to date on two different local radio stations in Gulu. The 5 talk shows and the spot messages were conducted on Radio Rupiny and Radio Pacis respectively in Gulu since Nwoya District does not have a radio stations as yet. The panelists during the radio talk shows included; Nwoya District woman councilor, Nwoya District Community development officer, District Gender officer, LC 3 Chairman Koch Coma Sub County, and staffs of HANDLE Uganda (Case manager, program coordinator, and the project officer).







## OUTPUT 2

### 2.1.1 CONDUCT 12 AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS TARGETING 300 MEN WITH MEN AND BOYS ON HOW TO COMBAT NEGATIVE MASCULINITIES AND GENDER STEREOTYPES

To create a common understanding among the communities, local leaders on key concepts, forms and other issues related to SGBV, 6 awareness campaigns have been conducted targeting men and boys as agent of change in creating behavior and attitude change towards women agency. This activity was conducted with men and boys as a move to combat negative masculinities and gender stereotypes. It also aimed at Community sensitization, awareness and mobilization for positive gender relations. Basing on the awareness creation, the communities are now able to report the GBV cases with clear referrals pathways.

Sub County	Men	Boys	Total
Alero	53	45	98
Koch Goma	98	133	231
Purongo (Year 3)	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>329 (109.7%)</b>

**2.1.2 CONDUCT MALE ENGAGED SEMINAR BY THE RMM TARGETING 100 MEN**

One male engaged seminar has been conducted up to date where by 72 men where reached through the seminar. To support the development of positive attitudes and behavior among men to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment a one day couple seminar was organized. The seminar brought in a total of 72 men to allow them gain confidence first in themselves and secondly to practice new aspects of masculinity identity, practicing non-violence and possess more supportive behavior towards their wives. Finally they were helped on best approaches to demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the benefits of gender equality and women empowerment.

**2.1.3 ESTABLISH 24 ROLE MODEL VSLA GROUPS IN NWOYA (8 PER YEAR)**

15 Role Model VSLA Groups have been established in Koch Goma and Alero Sub Counties by HANDLE to date. The VSLA groups were all trained on VSLA management and now engaged in the VSLA activities.

Sub County	# VSLA groups established	Project target
Koch Goma	6	8
Alero	9	8
Purongo	0	8
<b>Total</b>	15	24 <b>(62.5%)</b>



in photo: RMM Group Icamo ma Itiyo.





**2.2.1 ESTABLISH 30 RMM AND TRAIN ON JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION**

Recognizing that engaging men for gender equality does not rob women of agency or ownership of their equity and empowerment agenda, for the last 1 year, HANDLE implemented a male engaged initiative that sought to target men through a three pronged approach, that has proved successful in emphasizing the instrumental role that men play in challenging the institutionalized nature of patriarchy. To date, HANDLE established 60 RMM in Alero and Koch Goma sub counties in Nwoya District and trained them on the Journey of transformation.

Sub County	# VSLA groups supported	Project target
Koch Goma	30	30
Alero	30	30
Purongo	0 (Year 3)	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>90 (66%)</b>

The program has been able to open up dialogue to explore ways of engaging men as activists in confronting institutionalized settings, challenging sexual and gender based violence and policies that reinforce inequalities. To date, the project has been working with Role Model Men (RMM) who are practicing positive masculinity as a means of influencing change within the 600 households as well as reaching out to other men. This approach too has proved promising as these role models were able to change a few men in their communities.



### 2.2.2 SUPPORT 30 RMM WITH BICYCLES

In order to facilitate RMM activities within Koch Goma and Alero sub counties and linking with the broader male engaged network to ensure easy movement and sustainability of their work, the 60 RMM have been supported with bicycles. The RMM are now able to reach all the direct 10 households allocated to each one of them, make follow up and carry out referrals and support to victims within their community.

### 2.2.3 QUARTERLY REVIEW AND REFLECTION MEETINGS WITH RMM TO INFLUENCE BEHAVIOURS AND ATTITUDES TO TAKE ACTIONS

5 quarterly review meetings with RMM conducted up to date, this helped to influence behaviors and attitudes to allow them take actions. Up to date, the project conducted 5 reflection and review meetings. The participants for this reflection meetings were the 60 RMM established, the CDO, members of staff from HANDLE. The aim was to review activities of RMM on quarterly basis and assess the challenges and lessons learnt. On the other hand, the meetings built the capacity of the role model men in stages of male involvement on personal change, role model for family and friends, speaking out in the community, and advocating for social change.

The reflection meeting gave the RMM a better mechanism to support 10 households in terms of mentorship, coaching for attitude and behavior change. It also taught RMM the change process that includes; training, attitude change, conflict with the old behavior, confrontation and mentoring to create new levels of ownership and behavior change.



#### 2.2.4 CONDUCT QUARTERLY RADIO TALK SHOWS AND 12 RADIO SPOT MESSAGES WITH RMM TO PROMOTE MALE ENGAGED INITIATIVES AND EMPOWER MEN FOR GENDER EQUALITY

4 quarterly radio talk shows and 2 spot messages developed and relayed on two radio stations in Gulu. Key issues discussed were related to Gender and power relationship between men and women and testimonies by Role Model Men. Radio spots messages were also developed and relayed on key topics of sharing gender roles, decision making in the household, widows property and positive masculinity.

#### 2.2.5 CONDUCT ANNUAL COUPLE SEMINARS WITH 30 RMM AND THEIR SPOUSES (60 TOTAL)

HANDLE conducted one annual couple seminar with 30 RMM and their spouses (60 in totals). This was conducted to further support the RMM and their families as they are the ambassadors of peace in the the community they lived. The RMM are working under difficult condition that require a peaceful mind that begin right from their families before they go out to support others.

#### 2.2.6 BUILD CAPACITY OF RMM ON DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING

2 capacities building trainings of RMM on documentation and reporting conducted. During the reflection meetings with the RMM, one of the challenges noticed and recommended for immediate attention was documentation and reporting cases of GBV. As a result, the RMM were trained on documentation and reporting. They were also trained on how to collect data for GBV incident report using Ministry of Gender reporting form. The data collected by the RMM are captured within the national GBV data base and HANDLE archive.

#### 2.2.7 CONDUCT REFRESHER TRAINING FOR RMM ON JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION AND GENDER TRANSFORMATIONS

As a measure towards continuous capacity strengthening of the RMM, one day refresher training was conducted. The refresher training was based on the challenges that the RMM were facing as they conducted their activities at community level. One of the challenges was on sexual and reproductive health rights and men attitudes toward health seeking, psychosocial support to the GBV survivors at community level. This training was therefore done in partnership with VIVO who are experts in counseling. They therefore helped to further improve on the program's work to promote the development of positive changes in household, gender relations between men and women. The learning from this training is being adapted to the context of Northern Uganda to improve programming on engaging men as partners to women.



# OUTPUT 3

## 3.1.1 STRENGTHEN COORDINATION MEETING AT DISTRICT/SUB-COUNTY LEVELS ON SGBV

13 coordination meetings held up to date at district/sub county levels on SGBV in Nwoya District. During the period between January/2018-June/2019, HANDLE supported 10 GBV coordination and sectoral meetings for partners implementing GBV activities in Koch Goma and Alero Sub Counties financially and through participation and also taking lead. This helped in experience sharing and addressing common issues that affect GBV implementation in Nwoya District. The meetings brought in implementing partners like VIVO, Action Aid, GWED-G and ZOA including the sub county leadership such as CDO, Sub County chief, chairperson LC III and the Police Child and Family Protection Unit. Mobilization and the support given by HANDLE helped to strengthen the coordination meetings at the district and the sub counties of Koch Goma and Alero In Nwoya District.

Venue	Categories of Participants				Total
	Adult		Children		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Koch Goma Centre	84	53	34	23	194
Amar	132	35	46	26	239
Kal A	84	77	41	19	221
Agonga	99	67	21	27	214
Alero sub county head quarter	86	78	41	61	266
Atoocoon village	31	29	11	26	97
<b>Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>1231</b>

In Table: Number of participants during community policing events.



### 3.1.2 SUPPORT COMMUNITY POLICING

6 police-communities policing were conducted up to date. This activity was facilitated by the police officers from Koch Goma and Alero police posts with the aim of making the general public aware of their rights and responsibilities as citizens of Uganda. The activities were also to help community understand how to channel GBV cases, procedures for prosecutions, identification of criminal cases and the role of police and HANDLE in the prevention and legal response to cases of gender based violence within the communities. The community policing promoted partnership-based, collaborative effort between the police and the community to more effectively and efficiently identify, prevent and solve problems of crime, the fear of crime, issues of physical safety and security, social disorder, and neighbourhood decay in order to improve everyone's quality of life. The activities created informal and formal social protection and safety mechanism to respond and prevent GBV.

### 3.1.3 SUPPORT REFERRALS OF 300 SURVIVORS OF SGBV (100/YEAR) FOR MEDICAL AND LEGAL REDRESS FROM NWOYA DISTRICT

120 referrals of SGBV survivors were supported for medical and legal redress up to date. All the cases which are criminal in nature are referred to the police for the legal redress are captured within the national GBV data base and HANDLE archive.

<i>Type of SGBV</i>	<i>Referrals</i>
Defilement	96
Rape	2
Torture	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>120 (40%)</b>

### 3.1.4 HOUSEHOLD DIALOGUES CONDUCTED WITH RMM REACHING 300 HOUSEHOLDS THROUGH COACHING AND MENTORSHIP TO SUPPORT FAMILIES AND REDUCE GBV AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL

A total of 535 household dialogues have been conducted by RMM through coaching and mentorship to support families and reduce on GBV at household levels. This statistic is both for Koch Goma and Alero Sub Counties in Nwoya District.

<i>Sub County</i>	<i>Number of household dialogues</i>
Koch Goma	300
Alero	235
Purongo	Year 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>535 (59.4%)</b>

### 3.1.5 SUPPORT DUTY BEARERS TO CONDUCT AWARENESS RAISING ON DANGERS OF SGBV

5 Meetings organized to support the duty bearers to conduct awareness rising on the dangers of SGBV. One strategy for project implementation is participatory approach of engaging relevant stakeholders especially technical district and sub county team and beneficiaries to make the program more holistic and inclusive of all actors. HANDLE strengthened the capacity of the project stakeholders and GBV working group in Nwoya District, HANDLE organized five meetings with the project stakeholders during the period who included; police, sub-county authorities, RMM and district stake holders for effective collaboration for a joint effort in addressing the challenges of SGBV in the sub counties and the District.

### 3.2.1 CONDUCT PROJECT INCEPTION MEETING WITH 40 PARTICIPANTS FROM NWOYA DISTRICT INCLUDING DUTY BEARERS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

2 inception meetings were held in Nwoya District head quarter and Alero Sub County in Nwoya District to introduce the project to the stake holders both at the sub county and the district head quarter. The meetings drew the attention of the District Community Development Officer (DCDO), Chairperson LCV, and District councilors (male and female), Operational Commander (OC) Nwoya Police station, , Secretary Community Service, Senior Community Development Officer (SCDO), Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and the Senior Probation and Social Welfare Officer and Focal Person GBV. At the sub County the participants were Assistant Inspector of police Koch Goma, Chairperson LCIII Koch Goma, Councilors (Male and Female) the sub county chief. The meeting strengthened the link between HANDLE GBV project and the district and sub county leadership on their roles in the implementation of the project. They were also made to understand Project thematic focus, Strategies for the project implementation and the role of the various stakeholders in GBV response and prevention services.

### 3.2.2 SENSITIZE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PUPILS REGARDING GENDER EQUALITY

4 sensitization sessions conducted in primary and secondary schools in Koch Goma and Alero Sub counties, Nwoya District to date regarding gender equality.

Location	Category of Participants		Total
	Children		
	Male	Female	
Coo Rom Primary School	194	124	318
Koch Goma Central P/S	72	66	138
Koch Goma Sec Kinene P/S	102	80	182
	199	198	397
<b>Total</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>1035</b>

### 3.2.3 CONDUCT 30 SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGNS (10/YEAR) AND AWARENESS WITH RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY INCLUDING WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

HANDLE conducted 12 sensitization campaigns and awareness with religious and cultural institutions to promote gender equality including women's land rights. During the implementation period, cultural leaders were targeted as a means to change social and cultural norms that hinder women empowerment and gender equality and to date an enabling environment for continued

engagement of men as agent of change has been created. There is a growing commitment from these categories of men to address social-cultural factors impeding women empowerment.

Sub County	Number of Sensitizations	Category of Participants		Total
		Male	Female	
Koch Goma	4	410	448	858
Alero	8	364	400	764
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 (40%)</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>1622</b>





### 3.2.4 STRENGTHENED DISTRICT LOCAL COUNCIL TO PROMOTE GENDER SENSITIVE POLICY

HANDLE held 4 meetings with the district local council to promote gender sensitive policy. The district meetings facilitated by HANDLE was to discuss the impact and way forward of gender policy in schools in Nwoya District. The District secretary for community service was also supported to carry out the assessment on gender policy and women empowerment to inform the council on the impact of the national gender policy in the District.

### 3.2.5 CARRYING OUT 14 DIALOGUES WITH CULTURAL LEADERS TO PROMOTE WOMEN LAND RIGHTS

HANDLE conducted 8 dialogues with cultural leaders. The dialogues translated into an action point in addressing issues of power imbalance at household and community level. It also strengthened the leaders’ reflection on cultural and social norms and begun to realize how these can affect especially the women and girls enjoyment of their human rights. Finally the cultural and religious leaders were able to identify the social- cultural norms that promote women’s vulnerability and act as barriers for gender equality within, hence women empowerment programming were put as priority areas for their action as cultural leaders.

Following this reflection and dialogue four (4) priority areas were addressed; these includes land & property ownership for the widows, sexual violence against minors, and physical violence among couples and lastly psychological violence among couples.

Number of Dialogues	Attendance	
	Male	Female
8 (57.1%)	679	668
<b>Total</b>	<b>1347</b>	

### 3.2.5 MEDIATING 30 LAND DISPUTES (MIN. 10/YEAR) THROUGH ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISM

Up to date, a total of 53 cases of land disputes were mediated through Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism by HANDLE. During the mediation, HANDLE only facilitated the process. The mediation team includes the sub county leadership and the cultural and religious leaders. Other land conflict resolution we managed by the RMM basing on their capacities.

Activity	Sub County	
	Koch Goma	Alero
Land Mediation	21	32
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>53 (176%)</b>	

### 3.2.7 SUPPORT ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ACTIVITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL DAYS (WOMEN'S DAY, 16 DAYS OF GENDER ACTIVISM, HUMAN RIGHTS DAY)

During this reporting period, support were given to 5 events; (1) celebration of the international women days, (2) the days of African child and (3) 16th days of gender activism which kicked off from 25 November to reflect on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December ended with Human Rights Day. The support given include; 1 radio talk shows to advocate for gender equality in term of access to land and other productive resources, production of the visibility material that in themselves brought out messages that advocated for working in partnership in reducing the incidences of GBV at Grassroots level. The visibilities includes; T-shirts, banners, flyers and paper caps worn by the women groups during marching



In photo: Women's groups preparing for International Women's Day celebrations.





### 3.2.8 SUPPORT DUTY BEARERS TO MEET ABOUT GENDER EQUALITY AND LINKAGES

1 stakeholders meeting was organized as a forum that brings together all relevant individuals to add values towards comprehensive support to GBV programming in Nwoya district. The meeting drew a total of 68 participants of 24 female and 44 male. They includes the political leaders (local council I to V), the Community Development Officer, Sub County Chiefs, Women representative cultural and religious leaders, role model men, members from the police and the health department and representative from 6 VSLA groups.

Through the meeting HANDLE created effective coordination and linkages among all departmental heads for the promotion of comprehensive prevention and response to GBV. As a way forward, they managed to identify key challenges, relevance stakeholders and the road map for GBV referrals drawn.

Venue	Category of Participants	
	Female	Male
Goma Villa Nova	24	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	

IEC Materials Developed	Quantity
T-shirts (VSLA, RMM, Stakeholder, International Days)	650
Pull-up Banners	2
Tear Drops	2
Booklets on GBV, Training Manuals	248
Banner for Community Engagement	3
Field Office Sign Post	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>906</b>

### 3.2.9 PROCURE IEC MATERIALS (PULL-UP BANNERS, T-SHIRTS, FLYERS) TO PROMOTE PROJECT VISIBILITY

A total of 906 IEC materials for visibility during the project activities were developed up to date for the implementation of the GBV project by HANDLE.

