

Report On Violation Of Reproductive Rights Of Vulnerable Women And Girls In Their Diversities In The Districts Of Busia, Tororo, Mbale, Butaleja And Soroti - 2023



2023



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Afya na Haki
Harnessing Africa's Potential

LiRA
Litigating
Reproductive Justice in Africa



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Foreword from the Executive Director.



Women with a Mission (WMM) is an indigenous non-profit organisation formed with the aim of responding to the Gender inequalities, Sexual Gender Based Violence, Sexual and Reproductive Health needs, Human Rights Violations and Health related abuses against Marginalised groups.

WMM has 5 programmatic areas namely: enhanced access to justice, research, documentation and advocacy, community and stakeholders' capacity enhancement, institutional capacity strengthening and strategic partnerships.

Over the past year 2023, WMM has implemented activities in line with her mandate namely championing human rights for all women and girls specifically sex workers and other marginalised groups under the project "Promoting Access to Reproductive Justice among Vulnerable Women and Girls in their diversities in Eastern Uganda".

Uganda's Civil Society and independent media sectors suffer from legal and extralegal harassment and state violence with the state increasingly intensifying her stranglehold on power through increased repression and suppression of human rights. Civil and political rights like freedom of association, expression and assembly are indeed the first victims everywhere. Increasingly, organizations working on sensitive issues including abortion rights, Gender and Sexual Minorities rights are being targeted.

At a more basic level, vulnerable women and girls especially Gender and sexual Minorities are increasingly becoming targets as they are regarded as scapegoats for the country's ills and defects. Politicians are increasingly fuelling hatred against Gender and Sexual Minorities and Abortion rights activists, arrests are on the increase and denial of Reproductive Justice is on the rise. Alas! All these are duly documented including in WMM's own archives.

The general population however has been easily misled to think Abortion and Gender and Sexual Minorities Rights activists are the problem and usually follow the fray. Law making and law enforcement officers as well as organs meant to protect human rights are also not left out. This makes the environment more hostile for Abortion and Gender and Sexual Minorities Rights activists and other marginalized groups and their organizations to operate.

This was further made worse and tighter on 9th March 2023, when the Hon. Asuman Basalirwa, a member of parliament introduced the 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Bill in Parliament. The bill is a revised and more egregious version of the 2014 Anti-Homosexuality Act. The bill which has since been assented to and passed into law, is gross violation of multiple fundamental rights such as the rights to freedom of expression and association, privacy, equality and non-discrimination among others. One of the most extreme features of this law is that it criminalizes people simply for being who they are as well as further infringing on their rights as highlighted above. The continued criminalization and crackdowns on human rights organizations in Uganda has had far reaching impacts, impediment and slowing down on organizational work in regards to rapid legal response to ensure vulnerable women and girls access Reproductive Justice. It is against these that WMM is implementing the project "Promoting Access to Reproductive Justice among Vulnerable Women and Girls in their diversities in Eastern Uganda".

This report highlights some of the Violations of Reproductive Rights as reported to WMM legal aid clinic and community structures, WMM interventions and emerging issues.

Yours sincerely,

Betty Balisalamu
Executive Director - WMM

List of Acronyms

AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
AHA	Anti Homosexuality Act
AHAKI	Afya na Haki
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All forms of Decriminalisation
Against	Women
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
Development	
FSW	Female sex worker
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
ICPD	International; Conference on population and Dec
LCI	Local Council 1
LGBQ	Lesbian Gay, Bi-sexual Transgender and queer
LIRA	Litigating Reproductive Rights in Africa
NGO	Non Government Organisation
OC	Officer in Charge
PEP	Post Exposure prophylaxis
PrEP	pre Exposure Prophylaxis
SA	Safe Abortion
SRHR	Sexual reproductive Health and Rights
WHO	World Health Organisation

Introduction to Reproductive Justice in Africa

Reproductive Justice is the complete physical, mental, spiritual, political, social, and economic well-being of women and girls, based on the full achievement and protection of women's human rights.

Litigation on the other hand refers to the process of taking legal action on an issue.

Litigating reproductive justice on the continent is fraught with difficulty with restrictive legal regimes, political hurdles and hostile social attitudes which would forestall the implementation of any court decisions; the absence of indigenous jurisprudence and failures by judges and lawyers as well as the preference by stakeholders to rely on non-adversarial means to realize progress on what is a hot-button political and socio-cultural issue. Excluding criminal prosecutions and undecided litigation that are a preserve of the state and which rarely if ever are based on human rights, there are only four decided constitutional or civil cases in the six LIRA Programme focus countries.

Reproductive Justice entails:

Freedom from government interference on the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights

Government obligations to create 'conditions of social justice' and flourishing of human life.

The examination of inter-sectional structural barriers which affect women's right to SRHR such as structural economic, violence, inequality, and racism.

Recognition that choices pertaining to SRHR are largely influenced by unequal power relations often enforced by the state, and reinforced within families, communities, institutions and the community at large.

Combining gains realized through progressive legislation, judicial and social movement activism, as well as academic scholarship.

Recognizes that socio-economic factors heavily influence "voluntary consent" in sexual relations.

Reproductive justice also recognizes that 'choice is connected to possession of resources, thus creating a hierarchy among women based on who among women is capable of making legitimate choices'.

Informed consent for all women regardless of status, is seen as crucial to operationalisation SRHR.

The expansiveness of social determinants that affect adolescent SRHR.

Reproductive Health care is crucial for all persons regardless of reproductive age or not (15 -49 years of age) including minors and elderly persons.

The need for a re-examination of topics and issues that have historically belaboured marginalised races and communities such as: Population control, forced fertilisation, criminalisation of reproduction through criminalisation of mothers suffering from addiction. Consequently, mothers suffering addiction are more likely to suffer criminal penalties there by isolating them from their children.

There is also cultural shunning of teen mothers, access to assisted reproductive technology ART which are often inaccessible to women from marginalised communities.

Re-examining issues such as right to parent children in safe and healthy conditions, incarcerated people's loss of reproductive rights, rapid termination of parent rights of people deemed unfit to have children, access to non-medical birthing options, coerced obstetrics, resistance to expanding

WWM is therefore implementing the project aimed at Promoting Access to Reproductive Justice among Vulnerable Women and Girls in their diversities in Eastern Uganda through **Providing Legal Rapid Response to Vulnerable Women and Girls in their diversities in Eastern Uganda** to ensure advancing reproductive justice which include **equal access to safe abortion, affordable contraceptives, and comprehensive sex education, as well as freedom from sexual violence.**

WWM is guided by internationally recognised principles and laws and policies to ensure that the rights of marginalised groups of women are addressed systematically across all of their areas of work.

Legal frame work on reproductive justice in Uganda

The right to sexual and reproductive health is a cornerstone of development. Conceptualized at record-breaking International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, reaffirmed and further amplified at the Beijing Fourth World Conference of Women in 1995 and important precedents exist underlying the right to sexual and reproductive health. The right has also been included in the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and acknowledged by numerous treaty bodies, including the CEDAW Committee, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR).

Within this international legal framework, a number of associated rights are applicable to the attainment of sexual and reproductive health. These include the right to life and survival; autonomy and confidentiality; information and education; equality and non-discrimination, and privacy, amongst others. According to the WHO, "every country in the world is now party to at least one human rights treaty that addresses health related rights. This includes the right to health as well as other rights that relate to conditions necessary for health". Furthermore, in the years following the ICPD and Beijing conferences, new reproductive health policies have been enacted and implemented in almost all countries.

Also, Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol also **promotes and protects women's health and reproductive rights.** It says that: 1. State parties shall ensure that the right to health of women, including sexual and reproductive health is respected and promoted.

The Ugandan Constitution, in Article 22, item 2 also states: "No person has the right to terminate the life of an unborn child except as may be authorised by law." Abortion is thus restricted in Uganda unless it is done in good faith with reasonable care and skill to save a woman's life or preserve the physical or mental health of the woman.

The Penal Code of 1950 states in Section 141, "Attempts to procure abortion":

Any person who, with intent to procure the miscarriage of a woman whether she is or is not with child, unlawfully administers to her or causes her to take any poison or other noxious thing, or uses any force of any kind, or uses any other means, commits a felony and is liable to imprisonment for fourteen years.

Section 142 deems an attempt to procure an unlawful abortion is punishable by imprisonment of seven years, and Section 143 states that anyone who aids a woman in performing an unlawful abortion can be imprisoned up to three years.

Nonetheless, Section 224 of the Code provides that a person is not criminally responsible for performing in good faith and with reasonable care and skill a surgical operation upon an unborn child for the preservation of the mother's life. In addition, Section 205 of the Code provides that no person shall be guilty of the offence of causing by wilful act a child to die before it has an independent existence from its mother if the act was carried out in good faith for the purpose of preserving the mother's life.

Abortion rights and anti-abortion movements exist in Uganda. As a Christian majority country, much of the discourse on abortion is shaped by strong conservative religious forces, which argue that abortion is akin to murder and which influence anti-abortion policies.

There has been an increase in calls for the liberalization of Uganda's abortion laws. Abortion rights discourse often centers around human rights arguments, specifically that a pregnant woman has a choice either to keep or not to keep the pregnancy and bodily autonomy. Medical arguments also support this, saying that liberalized abortion laws and expanded access to safe abortions have led to improved women's health and reduced maternal mortality in Uganda.

Human Rights Violations Highlighted in this report

In the period under review vulnerable women and girls have had a reproductive injustices and rights abused for example:

Violation of the right to dignity

Freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

Violation of the Sexual and Reproductive rights of Women.

Violation of the right to life.

Violation of the right to Equality and freedom from non-discrimination

Violation of the rights of Minorities contrary to Article 36 of the 1995 Constitution.

METHODOLOGY

This report provides an overview of magnitude and the reported cases of Violation Reproductive Rights for vulnerable women and girls in the Districts of Busia, Tororo, Mbale, Butaleja and Soroti that were reported to and handled by the WWM legal aid clinic in the year 2023.

The report employs both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection to collect and analyse the data shared in this report. Quantitative data was obtained from a review of case files to ascertain the number of cases handled and the cases in which the particular incidents of abuse reported herein occurred.

This data was then subjected to a further in-depth qualitative analysis to ascertain the circumstances under which the incidents occurred and the issues emerging from them.

Please further note that this report contains only cases that were reported to WWM through their Legal Aid Clinic, SRHR Change Agents and Community Paralegals, Village Health Teams (VHTs) in the 5 districts of Eastern Uganda. It is worth noting that there may indeed be areas where cases are not reported at all, thus limiting the data available for this report WWM also recognises that some cases could have been reported to other legal aid service providers.

This report therefore presents an accurate picture of the situation for Vulnerable Women and Girls in the reproductive age as reported to WWM, but may not necessarily be representative of the situation for all Vulnerable Women and Girls the reproductive age in the Eastern region districts here in.

Number of Reproductive Rights Violations Cases and led by WWM.

A total of 203 cases involving vulnerable and marginalised Women and Girls were handled in 2023. The number may look small but given the level of violations in the districts of our operations and the clandestine nature in which the organisation and service providers operate, this is commendable. The table below shows some of the cases reported to WWM, police references and action taken by WWM. Please note that these are a sample of the cases that many vulnerable and marginalised women and girls some of whom are minors with cases reported that have reported to WWM.

Figure: 1: A Sample of Cases of Reproductive Rights Violations

Case	Police reference	Brief facts	Action taken
Defilement	No case filled at police	A 15year old girl in Bugema in Mbale District was defiled by a relative. Family members chose to settle this case. However, WWM referred the victim for SA.	WWM staff offered the necessary advice to the victim was referred for SA and family planning. WWM advised the parents that this is a capital case and its not for them to settle the matter.
GBV after enrolling on FP	GBV after enrolling on FP	Our client a 21-year-old in Busolve in Butalejja District stated that sometime in March this year she was advised by doctors to stop giving birth as her life was at risk because her uterus had become weak. She thus enrolled on Family Planning without the consent of her husband because she knew her husband would never have agreed to it though she needed to save her life. Her husband later got to know and he was furious and started beating her for enrolling on FP and even brought another woman who could bear him children. one	WWM organized a mediation through the LCI chairperson about the matter and it was resolved amicably as the husband paid medical bills and the 2 reconciled.
GBV after enrolling on FP	No case filled at police	Our client a resident of Isiiro cell in Butalejja District states that she had three children in her previous marriage before getting married to her recent husband and that's 13 years ago. She decided to join Family Planning because the recent husband is not economically stable to look after a big family. Her husband got disappointed when he learnt that she was under Family Planning, he got furious and started beating her	We carried out a mediation and the parties reconciled. We referred and linked her to a nearby public medical facility for Post abortion care and family planning.
GBV leading to abortion	No case reported to police	District states that she had gotten into relation with a man and all was going well. When she became pregnant, the man started assaulting her and she got a miscarriage	WWM wanted to conduct a mediation but unfortunately the man had absconded to another unknown place

Case	Police reference	Brief facts	Action taken
Defilement	SD/REF/05/07/12/2023	Our client a 16 year from Namatala in Kiduda Cell Mbale District alleges that on 23rd October 2022, she was defiled and she became pregnant. The offender immediately disappeared after realizing that the victim was pregnant	Matter reported at Doko Police Post, unfortunately, the police could not arrest the suspect because he is still at large. The victim was referred for Safe Abortion Services.
Defilement	CRB/515/2023.	Our client a 10 year old and a resident of Oskuru in Tororo District was defiled by a man she identified as her Step father around the month of December.	<p>Matter reported to Malaba Central Police Station (CPS), Suspect arrested and detained however released on bond pending investigations.</p> <p>WWM wrote a letter to OC CID, Malaba CPS requesting him to transfer the case file to Tororo which was acted on however the suspect jumped the police bond. The suspect is still at large.</p>
Defilement	No case filled at police	Our client a resident of Isiiri cell in Butalejja District states that she had three children in her previous marriage before getting married to her recent husband and that's 13 years ago. She decided to join Family Planning because the recent husband is not economically stable to look after a big family. Her husband got disappointed when he learnt that she was under Family Planning, he got furious and started beating her	We carried out a mediation and the parties reconciled.
Gender Based Violence	CRB45/3/020,	A 17year old on 5th October 2022 at around 2pm in Madibira "A" Busia District was assaulted by her nephew and as a result, her uterus was damaged thus unable to have children.	<p>Matter reported to Police, suspect arrested, tried in court and sentenced accordingly. However, the victim's father complains that the sentence only was not enough without her being compensated. We advised to lodge a civil suit against the offender. Though the victim refused to take on further legal aid.</p>

Case	Police reference	Brief facts	Action taken
Rape	SD/10/24/12/2022	A Chinese National 27year old, a resident of Doko in Mbale City alleges that on 11th November 2022 she was raped by her boss a Chinese National at Sino lindustrial Park in Mbale District. A complaint was lodged in at Maluku Police station under SD/10/24/12/2022 however, the suspect fled the country back to China.	WWM took the victim to Mbale General Clinic for examination and we are following up to ensure the survivor gets justice. We contacted Interpol, we were notified that they are hunting for him until he is arrested
Assault	Complaint not lodged in at police	A female sex worker operating around Bugema aged 20 years on 16th. February 2023 at around 5pm was assaulted by a fellow FSW for a client and as a result, she started feeling pain in the abdomen and later got a miscarriage.	WWM referred for PAC. The victim did not report the matter to police because the offender had fled to Kampala.
Child to Child Sex	Complaint not lodged in at police	A 15year old and a resident Musoto. Mbale District claims to have had sex by the LC1 chairperson's son who is also below 18 years and all this happened during the month of August- 2023. This resulted into a pregnancy.	WWM referred the survivor to the hospital and enrolled her on antenatal care. WWM further advised the victim's mother to report the matter to Police but she informed us that she was not interested
Defilement	CRB/09/22/02/2023	An 8-year-old was on 21st Feb 2023 while at her parents' house at Bunapogo in Mbale District defiled a neighbor.	Matter was reported to Mbale CPS but the offender fled unknown destination and is still at large. The young girl was referred to a health facility for Post Exposure Prophylaxis - PEP and emergency pills to prevent pregnancy.
Assault	Complaint not lodged in at police	A female Sex Worker operating around at Center Restaurant in Mbale City. She alleges that on the 24th. February. 2023 at around 9pm, she was assaulted by her client who kicked her in the stomach and she lost a 2 months pregnancy.	WWM advised her to lodge a complaint at police but she was not interested. WWM however referred her for Post Abortion Care at Namata hospital

Case	Police reference	Brief facts	Action taken
Defilement	SD 26/22/10/2022	A 12year old was on 21st. October. 2022 at around 5am in Tororo District defiled by her step father. She informed her mother who reached out to our Community Paralegal and they proceeded to Malaba Police Station and lodged a complaint under SD 26/22/10/2022. Unfortunately, the offender fled away from the crime scene to Kenya where he is staying up to date.	WWM took the victim to Mbale General Clinic for examination and we are following up to ensure the survivor gets justice. We contacted Interpol, we were notified that they are hunting for him until he is arrested
Rape	No complaint was lodged at police.	A 37-year-old woman claimed that on the 28th.02.2023 at around 9pm while at valley guest house around Namakwekwe in Mbale city where she had booked a room expecting a client. They negotiated and he agreed to pay her 10,000/= for her services. However, during the act, the man pierced the condom which our client noticed and pushed him off. The customer started beating her and also forced her into sexual intercourse. He did it several times until she became unconscious.	The client contacted the community para-legal who took the survivor to Namakwekwe Health Centre IV where she was attended to until she recovered. She was given PEP and emergency pills. WWM advised our client to lodge a complaint at Police but she declined to do so on the basis she did not properly recognize the offender.
Defilement	SD/REF/05/09/10/22	A 12year old in Kengere, Soroti City at about 3pm on 11th October 2022 was defiled by neighbour after her mother sent her to collect water from a tap. She was also threatened by the perpetrator to kill her if she said anything.	WWM offered legal advice although the parents were promised money and were not interested in following up the case at police which had been lodged under SD/REF/05/09/10/22. The suspect is at large.
Forced Family Planning	Complaint not lodged in at police	A 17year old and a resident of Greenland Guest House in Tororo alleges that during her Primary Seven Vacation around the month of February 2023, she was sick and her mother took her to the hospital. She was given an injection and after some time she realized that the doctor and her mother had enrolled her on family planning without her consent. She is not happy with her mother.	WWM offered counseling and also offered psychosocial support.

Case	Police reference	Brief facts	Action taken
Defilement	SD 08/05/23	A 16 year old and a resident of Mukuju alleges that on the 3rd. March 2023, she was defiled by her Auntie's boyfriend when the Auntie had left them home for a workshop in Tororo.	The matter was reported to Mukuju police station under SD 08/05/23. We drafted a letter to the OC CID, Tororo CPS on the 7th. 03.2023 seeking him to forward the case file to the State Attorney since there was some sort of delay despite the offender being arrested. Unfortunately, the auntie preferred to settle the matter instead of taking legal action
Rape	CRB/41/2023.	A 24 year old was on 3rd Jan 2022 while following "Kadodi" (imbalu celebrations) in Bukisukye cell at around 9:00pm gang raped by two unknown men.	The matter was reported to Mbale CPS under CRB/41/2023. WWM referred the client for PEP and emergency pills to prevent a pregnancy but since the suspects were not known to the victim, parents of the victim decided to give up on the case.
Rape	SD23/22/2/2023	Our client a 29-year-old in Nkoma, Mbale District stated that on 15th January 2023, she was raped by her boss when they went to Kampala to purchase saloon items but she had kept quiet since she was interested in keeping her job. She says that the man promised her a fully stocked salon shop.	WWM reported the case to Nkoma police post under SD23/22/2/2023. The victim preferred to settle the matter out of the legal justice system. A mediation was conducted at Nkoma police station and the client dropped the charges.
Rape	SD/10/22/02/23	A FSW was at her usual work place around Namatala Mbale District on the 1st. 02. 2023 at around 8pm, she was approached by a client whom they agreed with to take her at his home for her services at a cost of 10000/=. While at the man's home, our client asked for money before sexual intercourse which the man didn't agree with but instead forced her into sex (raped) and after he forced her out of the house by beating her up causing serious injuries.	WWM has since filed a complaint at Police under SD/10/22/02/23 but later preferred to be compensated than to take legal action. WWM also referred the victim for GBV screening and managed, PEP and emergency pills.

Case	Police reference	Brief facts	Action taken
Medical Negligence	No complaint lodged	Our client a 16-year-old got involved into a sexual relationship with an anonymous man who later denied the pregnancy, she carried the child to full-term without any support. However at the time of giving birth she was referred from Buduba health centre III to BUSOLWE hospital because of early rapture of the membrane. Unfortunately, during the caesarian birth, there was negligence exercised by the midwife and there was a tear with puss after a few weeks of delivery	WWM followed up on the client who had under gone a C-Section, only to find when the wound was open and had to be cleaned and dressed immediately because she could get Sepsis and Tetanus. On 9/3/2023, our client was referred to Mbale to see a gynaecologist. On 17/3/2023, WWM wrote a letter to Busolwe hospital administration seeking an explanation about the negligence of the Doctor who worked on our client and 22/3/2023. A mediation was held with the Hospital administration where where the Hospital Administration sought for forgiveness.
Forced Anal Sex	Complaint not lodged in at police station..	Our client, a 24 year old in Mbale District is married to a drug user. The boyfriend forced her to have sex with her through the anus and as a result, she got complications around her annal organ. The boyfriend also burnt her with oil after she had resisted to have anal sex.	She reported the matter to the WWM Paralegal who referred her for medical treatment. WWM further mediated the matter between the partners and the perpetrated agreed to pay for medical treatment.
Rape	SD/10/22/02/23	Our client a Female Sex Worker was on the 11th. 03. 2023 at around 11pm raped by one of her clients who forced her into sexual intercourse	The matter was reported to WWM and the client was referred for SA. We advised her to lodge a complaint at Police but she declined to do so because the offender was a truck driver who couldn't easily be traced
Medical negligence causing death of a pregnant woman	No complaint lodged in at police	Our client, a 30-year-old in Nakaloke, Mbale District died together with her unborn child during child birth due to lack of appropriate medical attention from the health centre.	WWM engaged the husband of the deceased to file a suit for medical negligence against the health facility but he was not willing to sue or lodge complaints against the health centre. His only wish was for her wife to Rest in Peace

Case	Police reference	Brief facts	Action taken
GBV	No complaint lodged in at police	Our client, a resident of Aguba in Mbale city was severely beaten by her husband which caused her to lose her 5 months old pregnancy.	<p>WWM advised her to go for Post Abortion Care at Namatala Health Centre.</p> <p>WWW mediation was conducted between the couple and the perpetrated vowed not to beat her again, compensate the woman and pay medical bills.</p>
GBV	No complaint lodged in at police	Our client, a resident of Dundo Cell in Butalejja District alleges that she got a miscarriage as a result of being beaten by her husband because she had refused to have sex with him since he was always sleeping around with other women and she was not sure of his HIV status.	Matter has since been reported to local authorities and a mediation conducted successfully. WWM also referred the victim for Post Abortion Care.
Forced Anal Sex	No complaint lodged in at the police station	Our client , aged 32 and a resident of Kisenyi – Busia District claims that on the 9th.04. 2023, got an Ethiopian client with whom they agreed to have sexual intercourse at a cost of 200 USD for her services. However, on reaching the lodge, the offender told her that he preferred sex from the anus which our client refused and as a result the offender assaulted her. He went ahead and raped her.	WWM advised the client to report the matter to police with the help of our community Peer which she declined. We further referred for GBV screening and Management, PEP and Emergency Pills.
Rape	No case lodged in at the police station.	Our client a female Sex Worker operating around Freedom Bar Kisongoni alleges that she got a client who was a truck driver and during the intercourse, the man removed the condom and raped her. As a result, she became pregnant. She desires to abort because she cannot bear a child whose father is unknown to her.	WWM advised her to report the matter to police but she declined because she does not remember the offender. We further advised her to go for a safe abortion.

Case	Police reference	Brief facts	Action taken
Rape	No complaint lodged in at police	Our client a 20-year-old in Busolwe Town Council, Butalejja District states that on 31st. March .2023 as she was going back from work in the hours of the night, she found three men around Butalejja Primary School who chased her until she got tired and over powered and raped her.	WWM advised her to report the matter at Police but she refused to so explaining that she did not properly recognize the offenders. WWM further referred her for SA Services since she had tested positive for pregnancy.
GBV	No complaint lodged in at police	Our client, a 21-year-old in Malukhu -Mbale District states that on 20th. April 2023 at around 5pm she was beaten by her husband when she informed him that she was pregnant and she lost the baby. The husband beat her up, she started bleeding and ongoing to hospital she realized she had gotten a miscarriage of her 2months pregnancy.	The client was advised to lodge a complaint at police but refused to do so on the basis that she was still staying at the mans' place and that could breed more violence. We further referred her for Post Abortion Care from Namatala Health Center.
GBV	No complaint lodged in at the police station	Our client aged 28year old and a resident of Musoto- Mbale District states that on 25th May 2023, she had a miscarriage after she was beaten by her husband (GBV leading to abortion) who later chased her away from their home accusing her for being impregnated by another man.	The client said she was not comfortable reporting her husband to police. We referred her to a Public Health Facility for Post Abortion Care Services and GBV screening and management.
Rape	No case lodged in at the police station.	Our client , a FSW aged 27 years residing around Kiduda- Mbale District states that on the 16th. 03. 2023. She got a client who took her to a lodge of his choice. After which two men followed us shortly and her client said that they were his friends who wanted to talk to him briefly and leave. However, his friends never left and they all gang raped her and she was not even paid. A month later, she realized she was pregnant and decided to visit a local herbalist who gave her medicine to terminate the pregnancy though this led to over breeding and left her with a lot of pain.	WWM referred her to a health for Post Abortion Care. Services WWM also advised her to lodge a complaint at Police but she declined to do so for fear of being arrested due to the nature of her work.

Case	Police reference	Brief facts	Action taken
Forced family planning	No complaint lodged in at police	Our client a female Sex Worker aged 20 years old states that on 26th February 2023 while at Greenland bar hotspot in Tororo District, she heard an announcement about family planning services from a moving vehicle. She went ahead to follow the direction to the hospital where she requested for 3 years implant. However, she later found out that medics had inserted instead of the one for 6years contrary to what she had sought for.	We offered counselling and psychosocial support
GBV	No complaint lodged in at police	Our client, a resident of Mutumba, Kachonga in Butalejja District, she alleges that she was beaten by her husband and got a miscarriage when her pregnancy was just 2 months old. The cause of their fight was her refusal to have sex with him since she had stomach pains that day.	WWM advised the client advised to report the matter to police but she refused to do so because to her this would cause more wrangles with her husband yet they are still staying together. WWM also referred her to a health Facility for Post Abortion Care.
GBV	No complaint lodged in at the police station	Our client, 34 years old and a resident of Aguba in Mbale District was beaten by her husband after she had requested for money to look after her 5 months pregnancy. He beat her up and which caused her to miscarry	WWM aadvised her to report the matter to police but she declined to do so for undisclosed reasons however a mediation was conducted the couple reconciled and the man paid the medical bills. WWM further referred her to Namatala Health Centre for Post Abortion Care.
GBV	No case lodged in at the police station.	Our client, a FSW aged 27 years and a resident of Kiduda- Mbale District states that she had gotten into a marital relation with a man When she became pregnant, the man started assaulting her and causing her to miscarry	We referred her to a nearby public medical facility for Post abortion care and also to enrol on family planning. She was not willing to lodge a complaint against the man.

Case	Police reference	Brief facts	Action taken
GBV	No complaint lodged in at police.	Our client, 26-year-old in Kiduda Namatala in Mbale District was beaten by her husband who suspected her to be in a love affair with a boda boda man only identified as "Dipo" and as a result, she got a miscarriage due to over bleeding and was rushed to Namatala Health Center IV.	With the help of our community peer where she was successfully attended to. Our legal team successfully conducted a mediation between the offender and the victim and the parties reconciled
Defilement and child marriage	No complain filled at police	A 16year old on 13th Oct 2022 was defiled by her 19year old boyfriend in Budumba Village in Butalejja District. On realizing that she was pregnant, parents from both sides called for a meeting and agreed on the bride price. After the bride price was paid, our client was handed over to her husband as a couple.	WWM staff talked to our client but she was not ready to lodge a complaint at police as bride price had already been given to her parents. WWM staff gave legal advice to our client that defilement and child marriages are prohibited by the law
Defilement and child marriage	No case filled at police	Our client 15 years of age was impregnated by her Boyfriend who was 18years by then from Budumba in Butalejja District. Her parents decided that she should begin staying with her Mother in law and this is where she stays ever since giving birth.	WWM referred the survivor to the hospital and enrolled her on antenatal care. WWM further advised the victim's mother to report the matter to Police but she informed us that she was not interested
Defilement	CRB/ 07/23/09/2023	An 8year old was defiled by her step father around the month of September 2023, who further threatened to kill her if she reported him to her mother. Due to stigma she used to keep quiet until her brother aged 6 years reported her to the mother revealing what always happens while she is away. When the mother learnt about it, she reported the matter to Malaba police station under CRB/ 07/23/09/2023.	WWM supported the survivor to have the suspect arrested and detained at Tororo police. WWM also wrote to the OC CID Malaba requesting him to transfer the file to Tororo which she complied with.
Defilement and child marriage	No case filled at police	A 14 year old was defiled by a man and later she got pregnant. The two families held meetings and agreed on bride price which the boy's family paid and the girl was handed over to the boy as a couple. This resulted into child marriage and such cases are never reported.	WWM gave legal advice to our client that defilement child marriage is prohibited in Uganda and shared the legal implications

Case	Police reference	Brief facts	Action taken
Forced family planning	SD24/01/05/203	A 16year old left home on 2nd. 01. 2023 at 3pm to follow the "kadodi" dance (imbalu celebrations) which started from Namabasa and was heading to Kolonyi. As some people returned back home due to late hours, our client continued with the kadodi where she was raped by two anonymous men on the road at 8pm	WWM facilitated the client medical check ups and also lodged a complaint for a rape case at Northern Division Police Station under SD24/01/05/203. Our client successfully had SAC and the Doctor inserted family planning in plant for five years.
Defilement	CRB/362/2023	Our client, a 13year old and a resident of Namatala in Mbale City was on 7th September. 2023 defiled. She states that the suspect who is a boda-boda rider used to bring food at their home sent by the parents and on that particular day, he told her to take meat inside the house and he followed her up, immediately he got hold of her, covered her mouth and defiled her.	The matter was reported to Mbale Central police under CRB/362/2023 and the file was sanctioned to high court under HCS no. 73/2023 pending plea taking
Defilement and child marriage	No case filled at police	A 14-year old was defiled by a man and later she got pregnant. The two families held meetings and agreed on bride price which the boy's family paid and the girl was handed over to the boy as a couple. This resulted into child marriage and such cases are never reported.	WWM gave legal advice to our client that defilement child marriage is prohibited in Uganda and shared the legal implications
Defilement	No case filled at police	Our client aged 16 years was defiled around Feb, 2023 in Kataki village in Malaba - Tororo District. The father of the victim and other family members of the suspect sat and agreed that the suspect takes care of the pregnancy. Our client was threatened by the parents of the suspect that if she reports to police after delivery, she will never be given any assistance.	WWM advised the Parents of the victim to report the matter at police but we were informed that they were not interested in doing so.

Human Rights Violations in the Year Under Review.

During this period, Two Hundred and One (203) cases of Reproductive Injustices against Vulnerable Women and Girls were received and followed up. Out of 203 cases, 85 were realised from Mbale, 37 from Tororo, 35 from Busia, 32 from Butaleja and 14 from Soroti. Please see the table below.

Table 1:
Cases of violation of Women's Reproductive Rights summary.

NATURE OF CASES	NUMBERS
Intimate Partner Violence/ Domestic Violence and assault cases leading to Abortion	88
Rape and Gang Rape of LBQ Women, Transgender Men, FSWs by their clients and other young women.	49
Defilement of AGYW who opted for unsafe abortions (6 of the defilement cases were perpetrated by family members)	31
Forced Abortions	13
FProcuring Abortion	7
Forced Family Planning	3
Maternal Deaths	3
Promoting Homosexuality	2
Threatened Maternal Death Due to Unsafe Abortions	2
Forced Anal Sexual Intercourse	2
Obstetric Violence during child birth	1
Negligence of Health Workers While Conducting a Caesarian Section to AGYW	1
Medical Negligence of Health Worker leading to Miscarriage of a Woman	1
Sub- Total	203

A closer look at the cases Received

Eighty-Eight (88) of the cases registered reported Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Domestic Violence and Assault against vulnerable women and girls leading to Abortion. These were perpetrated by Intimate Partners, Relatives and Sex Workers' Clients. It has also been noted that Violence against vulnerable women and girls has been a risk factor for unwanted pregnancies and abortion and in most IPV /Domestic Violence cases, women were abused by their partners leading to miscarriages/ Abortions. The IPV Cases that were reported to police, the parties decided to settle matters out of court with the perpetrators accepting to foot the medical bill for the survivor. These were also referred for Post Abortion Care (PAC) Services.

Settling out of court however in our analysis denied the survivor the opportunity to see justice and the perpetrator may feel they can always abuse the survivor and settle out of court.

Further analysis also showed us that many assault cases were perpetrated against Female Sex Workers by their clients over failure to negotiate condom with the client in need of Live carnal embrace or unprotected sex. Other assault cases were a result of failure to pay for the services by the clients.

Worryingly, many of the FSWs share these cases verbatim but, refuse to report the cases to police because their work is criminalized and may be arrested in the due course instead. Also many of the perpetrators are truck drivers who cannot be easily traced or their identities remembered. In instances where the FSWs could actually remember the perpetrator, they feared retribution just in case the perpetrator found out that it was FSW Y that reported them. This continuously denies the FSWs justice.

However, the FSWs in these cases and many others were given legal advice and referred for Post Abortion Care Services (PAC).

Forty-Nine (49) Rape Cases and Gang Rape Cases against LBQ Women, Transgender Women and FSWs and Young Women leading to Abortion were reported. The Rape cases reported against LBQ Woman were three (3) and four (4) against Transgender Men and Twenty-seven (27) against FSWs and Fourteen (14) against young women also raped during the "Imbalu" celebration leading to Abortion and one (1) rape by a Chinese employer against a fellow staff. As earlier noted, because of the criminalization of sex work and same sex relations as per the Penal Code Act Cap120 and the recently passed Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023, many of these cases are unfortunately not reported to police and even when they report, police is usually less interested in following up the cases which makes many of our clients fail to see justice served. WWM however always referred these clients for Post Abortion Care (PAC) Services.

It is also sad that after the enactment of the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023, members of the community went on a rampage and gang raped LBQ Women and Transgender Women because of their sexual orientation.

Thirty-one (31) Defilement Cases against Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) were reported.

As earlier noted, these were perpetrated by persons the Adolescent and young girls knew - their relatives. Unfortunately, out of the 31 cases, 21 are not willing to pursue legal remedies and opted to handle these matters out of court amongst families.

With the other Nine (9) cases, the suspects have been arrested and on remand as the cases are still ongoing in court awaiting formal court processes in criminal matters. WWM with other partners are following up on this matter to ensure that justice is dispensed. In all these cases, About 19 AGYWs attempted to conduct unsafe abortions and were referred for Post Abortion Care (PAC) Services.

There are a number of defilement and child marriage cases in Butaleja and Busia compared to other districts with many going unreported because some LC1 chairmen mediate and settle most of the cases with the survivors' parents and the perpetrators. For those that we manage to report to police, some parents abandon the cases after receiving money and bride price in exchange. This has turned the vice into a business venture.

Seven (7) cases of Procuring of Abortions were registered. These led to Eleven (11) women and Two (2) health workers charged with procuring abortion. The complaints were lodged by the spouses and the mothers of the girls. However, these charges were dropped against all women and police bond given. Against the health worker, charges were dropped after realisation that they had actually offered Post Abortion Care Services. Unfortunately, charges were brought against the health facility for operating without a valid license which WWM handled and had the case dismissed for want of prosecution.

Thirteen (13) forced Abortion were registered. These had Adolescent Girls were "drugged" with Abortion Pills by their boyfriends during carnal embrace, without their consent.

Three (3) forced Family Planning provision to FSWs. These cases were registered in Tororo district. In one (1) case, the woman had requested for a family planning method for three (3) years instead she was given for 5 years and the other (2) was inserted the vaginal rings instead of the injection for three (3) months. This was against their will but, the health worker "felt" that given their work as female sex workers, these were more appropriate FP methods. WWM responded by engaging the FSWs and Health worker and other family planning methods were used as consented to by the clients.

Three (3) maternal Deaths were registered in the period under review. It is purported that two of these were due to negligence of health workers and the other one was a young woman who had procured an unsafe abortion but ended up being an incomplete abortion. She was rushed to Masafu Hospital, Busia for Post Abortion Care Services, unfortunately, it was too late and she passed on. Unfortunately, the families of the deceased wished that WWM does not take legal actions as they wanted their daughters to rest in peace.

Two (2) cases were registered for promoting Homosexuality. In one case, members from Advocates for Sustainable Health and Wealth in Africa (ASHWA) were conducting an outreach session on SRHR among the LBQT Women, they were arrested and charged with promoting homosexuality and the other Transgender persons were arrested while crossing the Busia Uganda Boarder to Kenya with health consumables including lubricants. WWM helped obtain for the two clients and now the case has been dropped by police.

Three cases of maternal mortality were registered this season. Furthermore Two (2) cases were registered for threatened Maternal Death of young Women due to unsafe abortions. These were however referred to health facilities for Post Abortion Care Services and we managed to save these souls from death.

Two (2) cases were registered for forced Anal Sex. These involved spouses forcing their partners to have anal sex. The partners refused to these demands which caused tension in the household, relationship and violence. they refuse this causes tension in the home leading to IPV. WWM has handled that matter through mediation sessions among the couples.

One (1) case of Medical Negligence was filed against a midwife. The scenario involved a pregnant woman had gone to health facility for antenatal service but, a midwife prescribed drugs that led to a miscarriage. The WWM legal team has just received this case and are yet to discuss the necessary actions to be taken.

The Voices of the women speak out.

In our bid to amplify the voices of the women in the featured districts, we reached out to vulnerable women for their views on Violation of Reproductive Justice. They shared the following:

"At the Health facilities, we were not getting treatment for STIs etc. One time a health worker called me out by my job and I was afraid to go get the medication". a FSW in Mbale.

*"The police always have sex with us for free and arrest us after. But if you refuse, they can make you move with them on the patrol cars the whole night saying **Mimi nayenda kufaanya weewe kidogo. Weewe omekataliya viitu vyaako. Aya tufaanye Patrol**". (I wanted to sleep with you small time but you have refused. OK, let us do patrol with you), A FSW in Mbale.*

"My name is Sarah (Not real names) few years ago I interacted with Betty from WWM, she came to talk to us about the law and life on the street as a sex worker. She reached out to me a number of times and also reached out to others of my colleagues".

"As of now, WWM has helped us on issues of access to justice when our rights are violated and SRHR services access for example a colleague of mine tried an unsafe abortion after a gang rape and it did not work out. Counsel Monique (WWM staff) reached out to us, we were able to take her to hospital from where she received PAC. WWM has also given us assistance in terms of legal assistance by connecting us with police to report persons that violate our rights as one added.

"WWM has also referred us to facilities where we can access family planning, PAC, PEP, PreP, HCT, condom distribution and ART services".

Our Intervention

WWM has provided different remedies to our clients including giving legal advice, reconciliation, accessing medical treatment, court bail, police bond and release without charge among others. All the remedies were aimed at achieving the best interests of the client and they get Reproductive Justice and their rights restored.

Remedy	Number Of Cases
Legal Advice Given	203
Referred for Family Planning Services	123
Referred for Safe Abortion and Post Abortion Services	113
Referral for PEP and Emergency Contraceptives	24
Psycho-social Support Given	21
Bond	2
Legal Representation	11
Child Support Given	3
Lodged complaints at police	140
Bail Granted	2

The table below shows the different services and numbers of persons supported in the year under review.

Emerging Issues.

Most cases of abuse especially defilement are perpetuated by persons close to the survivor and these cases are either not reported to our structures. Even when they are, follow up is hard as the perpetrator and survivor's families usually agree to settle out of court which denies the survivor justice. WWM is sensitising the community on these abuses and also following up on such cases to ensure justice is served.

Failure by police to prosecute offenders due to missing files. This not only frustrates the survivor but also inhibits WWM legal counsels from executing their mandate without clear documentation and information. WWM has however written letters to Officers in Charge of the Particular Police Stations for example in Tororo and Soroti Central Police Station demanding that our clients' files be traced and be forwarded to the State Attorney for perusal and these have actually been traced, an investigating officer allocated a particular file and also forwarded to State Attorney for perusal and further actions to be taken.

Our clients especially the female sex workers are usually raped and assaulted by their clients, unfortunately they may not ably identify these because of most of these are truck drivers who are on transit and are not from within the area. Also even if they can identify them, many fear retribution from them. This makes it difficult to prosecute the offenders. There is need to work with organisations in the Socio-ecological model that may enable the Vulnerable women get justice. For example, WWM is liaising with Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union (ATGWU a NGO that works with truckers in Eastern Uganda) to see how we could trace some criminal track drivers and have them face the law.

There is an opportunity in the increase in the use of Self-Managed Medical Abortion (SMMA) drugs – misoprostol and mifepristone which has enabled safer self-management and self-use, centring autonomy, privacy and confidentiality, while also contributing to the reduction of abortion-related morbidity and mortality. SMMA has increasingly been included as an element of sexual and reproductive health interventions and is gaining greater consideration within notions of self-care. But, there is need for additional research on self-managed abortion in general. And health workers need be prepared to manage the rare complications of medication-induced abortion as well as the potentially life-threatening complications of unsafe abortion methods.

Following the enactment of the AHA, some partners and key stakeholders may not comfortably associate with WWM after indictment by government for recruiting youth into homosexuality. We have however take it upon ourselves to reach out to our partners and stakeholders to share with them about our mandate which is provision of legal rapid response in case of reproductive injustices among vulnerable women and girls. A robust campaign to win back hearts and minds of the community and partners is needed by WWM in this case. Breakfast meetings can beheld to re-assure partners of our mandate.

Due to the stigma associated with the work WWM does and the FSWs and other marginalised women, many clients fear following up on cases reported to police. This definitely stifles prosecution of the offenders.

Also many clients fail to go for medication after abuse which puts their lives at risk of HIV, STI new infections and other medical complications.

The impact of negative male gender norms on offences such as defilement, forced sex, rape and GBV is hindering access to justice for the survivors. Many of these offences are taken as “expected” from the men and the women have to bear the burden. No wonder in many cases, the families of the offender or even the survivor settle for mediation and settlement outside court. WWM is sensitising the communities on the negative male gender norms and gender equity.

The lack of access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Information/ education and services is still a pressing need for young people especially adolescent girls and young women especially those in the rural areas and the urban poor communities in Butaleja District.

There has been increasing number of sexual violence e.g., rape and defilement against women and girls leading to unwanted pregnancies which are ending up in Unsafe Abortions. These are in need of access for Post Abortion Care (PAC) services whom we refer to different health service points like Namatala Health Centre IV and Malukhu Health Centre III in Mbale, Busia Health Centre IV in Busia and Tororo Main Hospital.

The illegal nature of sex work increases stigma and the marginalization of sex workers, leaving them at higher risk of experiencing Gender Based Violence (GBV). Female sex workers (FSWs) are an often-marginalized population further contributing to the unequal power differentials between clients and FSWs that influence the occurrence of GBV.

Female sex workers are disproportionately affected by Gender-based violence (GBV), yet little is known about the violence they face. Sex Workers experience of GBV mainly by their clients, brothel owners and other controllers, law enforcement officials and intimate partners. The illegality of sex work in Uganda further inhibits sex workers ability to report GBV and negotiate safe sex with clients. GBV risk increased with increasing frequency of client demands for unprotected sex, length of time engaged in sex work, being offered more money for condom-less sex having had a condom slip or break and difficulty suggesting condoms with non-paying partners

In Butalejja and Busia districts there are many teenage mothers. This is evident at the number of young girls that enroll for antenatal at health centres. At these health centers it is not surprising to find a 16-year-old girl with three children. Actually, the number of teenage girls giving birth is bigger than elderly women attending antenatal at hospitals. These numbers are overwhelming as there are many child mothers and the local leaders are unbothered about it and no one is reporting. It has become a new normal in the above districts. Organisations such as the Uganda Youths Adolescents Health Forum are working with the districts in Butalejja on this but more collaboration especially with WMM may take their efforts to another level especially in addressing risks associated with unsafe abortion given their young age.

There is need to address reproductive justice following the entire socio-ecological model. The individuals need to be taught of their rights, the communities and the policy environment also appealed to to enact legislations that encourage Vulnerable women and girls enjoy their reproductive rights.

Addressing abuse of reproductive rights isn't a one persons or organisation duty. It takes a plethora of persons, organisations to address the vices. WWM therefore needs to work with like minded persons and organisations to increase awareness and tracking down of perpetrators.

Communities need to be sensitised on the rights of especially women and girls and their duties in ensuring vulnerable women and girls enjoy their reproductive rights.

Vulnerable women and girls need to be taught life skills such as negotiation skills, assertiveness, problem solving, self defence among others to increase on their safety.

WWM needs to establish more linkages with like minded organisations and government in order to address the SRHR needs of the vulnerable women and girls.

Table 3: Partner engagements

During the year in review, WWM has partnered with a number of organisations to realise her mandate. These include:

No	Name of Partner	Type of Partner/individuals (e.g CBO, NGO, Government agencies, etc)	Purpose of engagement	Highlight from the engagement
1	Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF)	NGO	Trained WWM Staff on Legal Compliance Issues	Legal Compliance Issues
2	Uganda Network for Sex Worker Led Organisations (UNESO)	NGO	Conducted an organization assessment on legal compliance	Legal Compliance
3	Center for Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)	NGO	Conducted Legal Compliance Assessments for 15 health facilities in providing Reproductive Health Services in Mbale, Tororo, Bugiri and Jinja under the Legal Support Network (LSN)	Legal Compliance Assessments for Health Facilities providing Reproductive Health Services
			Training of Lawyers under the Legal Support Network on Reproductive Justice	Reproductive Justice Vs Reproductive Rights
				Comprehensive conversation regarding essential elements of Reproductive Justice within Uganda's Context
				Advancing an understanding of the shift from Reproductive Choice to Reproductive Justice in framing SRHR litigation in Africa

Beyond Domestic Litigation: Need to invest and put real efforts in utilizing Regional and Sub-Regional Avenues

4	Afya Na Haki	NGO	<p>Provided technical support to WWM in developing a Fact Sheet on Family</p> <p>Conceptualization of 2 strategic litigation cases on Reproductive Justice</p>	<p>The Fact Sheet discusses what family planning is, the situational analysis on the uptake of family planning among women and girls, methods of family planning and their Associated Impacts, African Perception towards family planning, understanding perceived access barriers to contraception through an African Feminist lens, Myths and misconception on the use of family planning and recommendations.</p> <p>Conceptualization of 2 strategic litigation cases on Reproductive justice</p>
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5	HEPS-Uganda	NGO	Mapped both Public and Private Health Facilities in Mbale and Tororo that provide Reproductive Health Services	Mapped both Public and Private Health Facilities in Mbale and Tororo that provide Reproductive Health Services.
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6	Mbale Main Hospital, Namatala Health IV Nakaloke Health Centre III, Malukhu Health Centre III in Mbale, Busia Health Centre IV,	Government Agencies	Referred vulnerable women and girls for Post Abortion Care Services	Provision of PAC
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Masafu Hospital in
Busia.

Malaba Health Centre
III, Tororo,

Budumba & Bunawale
HC II, Butaleleja

7	Marie Stopes Mbale and Dembe Clinic, Busia	Private Health Facilities	Referred women and girls who were victims of sexual violence got pregnant and wanted to access Safe Abortion Care (SAC) services	Safe Abortion Care Services were offered.
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8	Springs Public Interest Hub	Private Law Firm	Legal Rapid Response Registering WWM as a legal aid clinic	Provision of legal rapid response to John Bosco Otim, a health worker from Ebenezer Medical Centre charged with procuring Abortion. WWM is in the process of registering a legal aid clinic`
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9	Justice Centers Uganda (Mbale and Tororo	NGO	To discuss how they can work together as legal aid service providers and provide probono services.	Legal Rapid Response
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10	Trained SRHR Change Agents and Community Paralegals from Mbale, Tororo, Busia and Soroti	Community Members	Introducing the LIRA Programme to the stakeholders and emphasized the referral of Reproduc- tive Injustices cases to WWM legal aid clinic for rapid response	Identification and referral of cases to WWM legal aid clinic for legal rapid response These too respond to these cases of repro- ductive injustice before forwarded to WWM legal aid clinic for further handling
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11	Soroti Central Police Station, East Kyoga Region, Uganda Police	Government Agency	In Soroti, we demanded that a client's file that had disappeared for over 2 years be traced and forwarded to the State Attorney	Client's file found and defilement case is for mention at Soroti Magistrate Grade One Court, 15th March 2023.
	Malaba Police Station, Bukedi Region, Uganda Police		Demanded that client's file in a defilement case be forwarded from Malaba to Tororo Central Police Station.	File was forwarded from Malaba Police Station to Tororo Central Police Station
	Tororo Police Station, Bukedi Region, Uganda Police		Demanded that Suspect in a defilement case be arrested	Suspect in this particular case was arrested by police though complainant frustrated the matter by negotiating with the family of the suspect to be paid compensation because the 16 years old girl was not a virgin at the time of the second defilement

12	Ahaki, Springs Public Interest Hub, Uganda Law Society, HRAPF and IWLAP	NGO	Conceptualization of the Strategic Litigation Case on SRHR	Conceptualization of the Strategic Litigation Case on SRHR
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13	Planned Parenthood Global	NGO	WWM participated in meetings organized by Kyetume with support from Plan Parenthood International who are in the process of forming a Grass root SRHR movement in Eastern Uganda to advocate for equitable access to SRHR services.	<p>An Advocacy strategy was developed for partners.</p> <p>A work plan drafted for activities for 2024 in the different districts</p>
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Going forward

Legislature - Parliament

Legal amendments to ensure a secure environment for activists and survivors of reproductive justice.

Law Enforcers

Capacity strengthening of the police officers especially in handling cases of aggravated nature for example rape, defilement etc. The officers may need training and retraining on the procedures, repercussions and management.

Partners

Intensify collaborations with the district structures. The District Local Governments will enable WWM reach out to the most vulnerable women in the community and also cost share on services such as Airtime for Radio talk shows for the district. This airtime can be used for sensitisation free of charge if WWM and the district harmonised schedules and plans.

Offer shelter after suffering violence: Many survivors of violence would rather not place charges with fear that they will have no where to stay. This increases the risk of Human rights violations for the survivor.

Partnerships with organisations in the socio-ecological model such as ATGWU for sensitisation of truck drivers on GBV, SRHR and tracking offenders.

Partners with like minded organisations such as the Uganda Youths and Adolescents Health Forum to reach out to young mothers in districts such as Butalejja to address risks associated with child birth at a young age- unsafe abortion.

Intensify community mobilisation and sensitisation on negative male gender norms that perpetuate use of Violence against women especially rape, forced sexual intercourse, early sexual debuts etc.

Survivors of Reproductive injustice

Life skills training for survivors of violence so they can manage situation involved in sexual violence such as rape, forced sexual intercourse etc.

Livelihoods training for FSWs and survivors of GBV. The FSWs and survivors always fail to report and follow up on cases because the offender is the breadwinner, A livelihood for the survivor will however give them the “power” to report without fear of losing their source of livelihood.

Conclusion

It is clear that the situation of Reproductive Justice for Vulnerable women and girls in Uganda (Eastern Uganda) continues to be particularly difficult, with cases of deliberate and targeted discrimination even with the law enforcers and health service providers continuing to discriminate against them as discussed above. Arrests also continue and people continue to be charged under laws such as the Penal Code Act and the recently ascended to AHA 2023.

Organisations such as WWM therefore need backing morally, financially, programmatically and with connections locally and globally to stand the test of time and defend rights of those marginalised especially women.

Some pictures of the Survivors



Left: Client assaulted by a client after refusal to have Anal sexual intercourse. **Right:** A picture of a wound of a young girl not properly stitched together by health workers during child birth via a C-Section.



Left: WWM Counsel registering a case of Rape at WWM offices. **Right:** WWM legal team on a courtesy call at the State Attorney's office - Butalejja District.

Report On Violation Of Reproductive Rights Of Vulnerable Women And Girls In Their Diversities In The Districts Of Busia, Tororo, Mbale, Butaleja And Soroti - 2023



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