

# 2020 ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN THE FACE OF COVID-19



## RIISING TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF COVID-19

WGEF expanded its programs to meet the challenges of increased incidents of gender-based violence and serve girls, vulnerable while out of school, facing early marriage and trafficking. WGEF is filling an emerging need for crisis services due to restrictions on public transportation and reduced capacity at local healthcare facilities.



With reduced services, many expectant mothers do not have access to life-saving care. WGEF received a distress call from one of our peer counselors, Alice, who was expecting.

*"...the doctor told me my pressure is hiking and my blood count was low and I needed transfusion and be prepared for an emergency cesarean delivery as soon as possible to save both me and my baby. But their facility does not handle that and they referred me to Lacor hospital located in Gulu 68km away. It was already 9:00pm in the night and no public means was available, the health center where I was, did not have a standby ambulance. I was stuck and every one was getting worried as my condition continued to worsen. I straightaway remembered our toll-free services based at WGEF office and called them immediately for rescue. In less than two hours our Program Director picked me up and delivered us safely to Lacor hospital, who helped me deliver my live baby and saved me too. Thank you WGEF family we are both safe and healthy."*

## 35 WOMEN RUNNING FOR OFFICE IN 2021!

The elevation of women's voices is crucial during and after COVID-19 as women and girls are more likely to suffer negative social and economic consequences.

As Uganda prepares for the 2021 general election, WGEF is training and supporting women who aspire for elected positions at all levels. We believe women are natural leaders and know what's best for their families and communities. While women are more at-risk due to the pandemic, they are also better placed to act as community-based social mobilizers and agents of change.

*35 women from our leadership program have already won their seats to represent their community at different levels, including our senior peer counselor Prisca who has been elected as Gulu City Women Representative.*

## 2020 PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

**12,000+ new micro-loans**  
and agricultural loans, enabling economic opportunities for women, creating stronger families and communities

**500,000+ sanitary products**  
delivered to schools, homes, and villages, and distributed at Gulu Women's Resource Center

**500+ women leaders**  
serving in leadership positions across northern Uganda; women have a seat at the table, are highly trained, and ensuring women's voices are heard



The mission of Women's Global Empowerment Fund is to support women through economic, social, and political programs, creating opportunities while addressing inequality; strengthening families and communities.



## PERIODS DON'T STOP DURING A PANDEMIC, AND NEITHER DO WE!

*"When the government announced lockdowns, my family used their savings to stock on food and supplies, but sanitary pads were not considered. Those are normally considered a luxury. I am always glad to go to school as we can get the lucky girl pads from school." - Milam, HPI Recipient*

To respond to this crisis, WGEF is working in our communities and with the District Task Force to continue distributing sanitary towels to adolescent girls and women across northern Uganda over the next several months. Our ability to do this will depend on funding for materials and transportation.

Moving into 2021, we need your help to continue providing opportunities and resources to women and girls. Please consider a year end gift to our Annual Fund effort, ensuring the fight for equality, dignity and justice continues.

### OUR FOCUS FOR 2021 INCLUDES:



- **COVID-19:** Ensure women and girls experiencing violence and exploitation have access to services, support and resources during the global pandemic. GWRC has received special permission to stay open for emergency response and service.
- **Ag Loans:** Provide loans for women entrepreneurs managing small farms and agricultural businesses to support a strong local food system.
- **Leadership Development:** Train and encourage women running for local and national elected office, ensuring women have a seat at the table.
- **Access to Justice:** Expand the Initiative's work to facilitate community dialogue and action on issues of human rights and gender-based violence in northern Uganda.

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