



Your Gifts at Work in Uganda



In 2016, a grant from PHP is supporting a project through Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE) in Gayaza Sub County, Kyankwanzi district, Uganda. This grant was made possible thanks to gifts to the Hunger Program, including a generous gift from Presbytery of the Redwoods.

In an area faced with many land conflicts, the goal was to create awareness of land rights and to enhance the capacity of rural women farmers to protect those rights. Two hindrances to land justice for women are customary inheritance laws and illiteracy.

Drama

A theater drama show was conducted to educate communities on their land rights and responsibilities. The drama highlighted land grabs and unlawful evictions, as well as the land rights of occupants and where to get help in case of violations. Through this entertaining and engaging method, more than 200 people learned of their rights and responsibilities.

"...It was relevant and people, especially the occupants, were able to understand articles of the land act 2010 to protect them from violations. We still need such theatre for drama to educate our communities in land issues since many people's land rights are violated."

—Gayaza sub county administrative chief

Paralegals

Five women and one man were trained to be advocacy champions. They received a copy of the translated National Land Act and were provided with training materials they can use. Serving as paralegals, they will provide legal aid information, pass on land rights knowledge, monitor land issues, report violations, and mediate. Their slogan is "Know your rights, protect them, and report violators." Training topics included conflict resolution, negotiation, mobilization, land instruments, and recognizing the most vulnerable members of the community.



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Trainings

Issues addressed include rights provided for women and children in the national land act, rights and responsibilities of landlords and occupants, the benefit of legally registering marriages, conflict resolution, negotiation skills, etc.

Learning has happened on many levels and in a variety of settings, including:

- Meeting for district leaders; meeting for sub county leaders, including local council chairpersons, land area committee members, community development officers, police officers, and women councilors
- Two community dialogues, attended by 204 people, who participated in discussion, lecture, and question and answer time
- Two trainings of formal and informal land dispute bodies, including village level court members, members of the district land board, police constables, parish chiefs, and others who directly handle land issues.
- An interactive radio talk show to further sensitize communities in their land rights and responsibilities, with emphasis on National Land Act 2010.

“I have been more enlightened on land issues. Now I will deal with land cases in my community more effectively than before.” —local council chairperson

Printed materials



Land area management committees, paralegals, and women group leaders responsible for creating awareness about land rights were given t-shirts printed in the local language, “It is your responsibility as an occupant to know your rights pertaining to land.” 350 stickers were printed with information from the Land Act 2010 and hung on people's houses, health centers, and other public places.

“Since we are an agricultural community and land is our major production resource, this training is not only relevant but empowering too for our livelihood . . . Knowledge is power.” —participant

404 women farmers from two villages, 28 land actors and members of area management committees, and 20 participants in the theater drama have benefitted directly from this project. Additionally, the information has reached people who saw printed materials, heard the radio broadcast, or learned from the women in their households who received training.



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