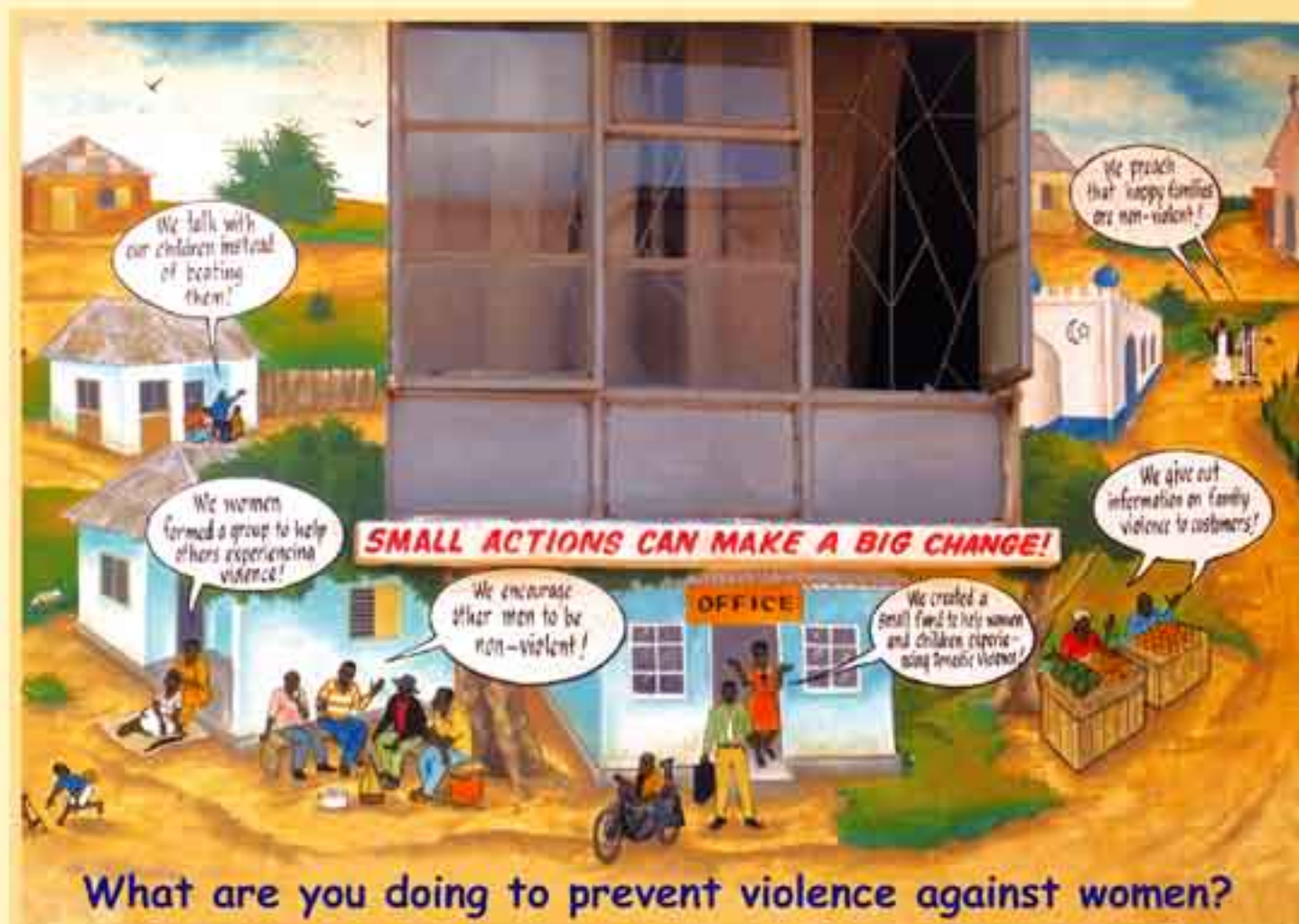


ANNUAL REPORT 2007

# CEDOVIP

Mobilising Communities and  
Civil Society Organisations to  
Prevent Domestic Violence



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## Letter from the Board Chair

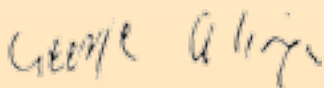
**Dear Colleagues,**

On behalf of Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) Board of Directors and Staff, I am pleased to share with you CEDOVIP's 2007 Annual Report.

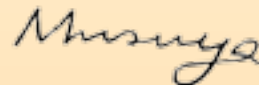
Engaging the entire community, institutions such as the police, media, civil society, and policy makers to prevent domestic violence is a motivating experience. In 2007, CEDOVIP focused on consolidating efforts in domestic violence prevention and response in Kawempe Division. As a result the Kawempe Division Council passed the first ever Domestic Violence By-law in Uganda. More so, the first ever Police Domestic Violence Handbook a co-publication of Uganda Police Force and CEDOVIP was launched as an official standardized police tool for handling cases of domestic violence across the country. CEDOVIP in partnership with Raising Voices continued to promote and enable national prevention of domestic violence through strengthening the capacity of 10 local organizations to scale up efforts to other districts. To advocate for the promotion and protection of women's rights, CEDOVIP worked with national and international networks and engaged in several policy influencing processes such as following up with the Uganda Law Reform Commission to finalize the drafting of the Domestic Violence Bill, and in partnership with civil society organizations highlighted issues of people with disability to be included in the Bill and influenced a section of policy makers to take a public stand against domestic violence.

This report summarizes successes, challenges and lessons learnt in preventing domestic violence. The main challenges were: key stakeholders at both local and national levels did not ably recognize that domestic violence is a critical human rights and public health issue that needs urgent attention. This meant that processes around the formulation of policy on domestic violence at the local level (with the bylaw), institutional level (such as the police) and national level with the Domestic Violence Bill did not prioritize these issues, and as such slowed down the process of having the Bylaw functional and the Bill sent to cabinet.

CEDOVIP expresses sincere appreciation to all organizations, individuals, institutions and donors who believed and supported the work of promoting women's rights and safety through preventing domestic violence. To donors: American Jewish World Service, United Nations Development Fund for Women, Development Cooperation Ireland and Department For International Development we thank you for all the support to our programs. To partners: Raising Voices your technical support to the program and staff had a great contribution to CEDOVIP's successes. To UWOPA, your dedication to spearhead advocacy for the draft Domestic Violence Bill among policy makers is highly appreciated. To COVOID, SHARE, KCCC, HIDO, NVIDA, CADOVIC, IRC, ECCA, ACODEV-U and Good Hope Foundation for Rural Development, your direct participation to promote and enable prevention of domestic violence in several districts of Uganda is of great importance in improving women's lives.



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Mr. George Olinga  
Board Chair



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Ms. Tina Musuya  
Director

## CEDOVIP background

The Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) is a registered non-governmental organization that has worked at the grassroots in Kawempe Division since 2000 to prevent domestic violence. It began as a partnership between NAWOU, Action Aid Uganda and Raising Voices and developed into an independent NGO in early 2003. CEDOVIP's program is based on an award winning program tool 'Mobilizing Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence: A Resource Guide for Organizations in East and Southern Africa' developed by Raising Voices. From 2006 to date CEDOVIP, in partnership with Raising Voices have scaled up domestic violence prevention through the National Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative program by directly working with 10 organizations from 9 districts of Uganda. CEDOVIP also continued to engage in national advocacy processes by engaging the media to raise awareness about domestic violence issues, engaged in formulation and lobbying processes of policies that uphold women's rights, particularly the right to safety. CEDOVIP is seen as a leading organization working on violence prevention in Uganda today and has been highlighted as good practice in several international publications.

### Staff at CEDOVIP in 2007

Name	Position
Tina Musuya	Director
Hope Turyasingura	Strengthening Capacity Program Officer
Josephine Kamisya	NDVPI Program Officer
Monica Amoding	Advocacy Program Officer
Yvette Alal	Assistant Local Activism Program Officer
Peter Lwanga	Assistant Local Activism Program Officer
Jenn Heetner	Volunteer from AJWS (June- August 2007)
Denis Kizito	Accountant/Administrator
Rose Muduwa	Office Assistant
Peter Wateya	Driver

### Board of Directors at CEDOVIP in 2007

Name	Position
George Olinga	Chairperson
Lina Zedriga	Vice Chairperson
Florence Nekyon	Treasurer
Benson Oyo Nyeko	Member
Hellen Alyek	Member
Flavia Senoga Anglin	Member
Dipak Naker	Member

### Overview of CEDOVIP

CEDOVIP's work is structured into three interrelated program areas. The first is the 'Domestic Violence Prevention Demonstration Project', which works directly with communities at the grassroots to develop a participatory response to the problem of domestic violence. The second is the 'National Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative' (NDVPI) which works to promote and enable national prevention of domestic violence and works with 10 partner civil society organizations (CSOs) by strengthening their capacity to implement effective community based domestic violence

prevention projects. And the third is the 'National Advocacy' program which works with the media to advocate for the promotion and protection of women's rights as well as advocate for positive change within the judicial, legislative and executive branches of government to work towards a more supportive legal and policy framework in Uganda that operationalizes women's rights, particularly the right to safety.

CEDOVIP closely engaged communities, institutions such as the Police, Local Councils, media, religious leaders, and policy makers on the issue of domestic violence. This resulted into several formal institutional responses to domestic violence.

#### **Key areas of success in 2007 include:**

- Kawempe Division Council III taking a historical step where they formally outlawed domestic violence by passing the first ever Domestic Violence Bylaw in Uganda, created and advocated for by CEDOVIP and Kawempe community leaders and members.
- Creation and institutionalization of the first-ever national guidelines for the Uganda Police Force in responding to domestic violence.
- CEDOVIP identified a team of 96 (half men and half women) committed community activists to spearhead efforts to prevent violence against women and HIV/AIDS in Rubaga and Makindye Divisions in the new SASA! project.
- Influencing members of the public, leaders and policy makers such as the women members of parliament to take a public stand against domestic violence. Women members of parliament formed a round table on gender based violence that has focused attention to advocate for support among members of parliament, and line ministries to pass the Domestic Violence Bill when tabled in parliament in 2008.

At CEDOVIP we are optimistic that the holistic engagement of the community at different levels that includes, men and women, institutions, civil society, government bodies and policy makers as key stakeholders has a significant contribution in creating the much needed individual and social change in attitudes and practices that perpetuate violence against women, to promote and uphold women's rights.

#### **Overall objective**

Catalyzing communities and civil society organizations to prevent domestic violence

#### **Specific objectives:**

1. To mobilize communities in and around Kampala district to change attitudes and practices that perpetuate domestic violence.
2. To promote and enable national prevention and response to domestic violence.
3. To create a supportive environment by influencing a change in attitudes, actions and legislations that uphold women's human rights, particularly the right to safety.

# 1. Domestic Violence Prevention Demonstration Project

The Demonstration Project's work is structured into three interrelated strategies of:

- i) Strengthening Capacity
- ii) Local Activism
- iii) Local Advocacy

## i) STRENGTHENING CAPACITY

This strategy works with key staff of institutions (police, healthcare providers, staff of NGOs) with in Kampala District to influence policy and practice around women's rights and domestic violence within the workplace. Key activities included:

### a) 39 CEDOVIP staff weekly check in meetings

CEDOVIP and Raising Voices held staff weekly check-in meetings to enable staff keep track of all programs. The meetings were forums for staff to share successes, lessons learnt, challenges and collectively contributed to enable staff make key decisions to move to the next steps in each program area. This is a forum where staff are held accountable for their work and action points are created.

### b) 17 staff development sessions



*Staff discuss teamwork*

CEDOVIP believes in a competent and committed work force and as such fosters staff development in several areas. The 17 sessions and one workshop strengthened staff's capacity in several relevant areas which included:

- Fostering teamwork
- Defining SMART program objectives
- Human Rights which helped staff to understand and appreciate that as human rights activists, they need to be liberated from stereotypes,

blaming and discriminating minorities so as to ably promote human rights at all times.

- Linking domestic violence with disability: inspired staff to review the draft Domestic Violence Bill to ensure that there are specific provisions for people with disability
- The Kawempe Division Domestic Violence Bylaw: enabled staff to strategize effective advocacy for the passing of the domestic violence Bylaw in Kawempe Division

CEDOVIP continuously improved staff's capacity to implement programs and as such built a strong team that enabled the achievement of several successes over the year.

### c) Work with the Uganda Police Force (UPF)

Throughout 2007, the police was very busy keeping law and order following the numerous riots in Kampala city. More so, the UPF's main task was the preparations and security matters regarding the Common Wealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in November 2007, leaving the police with very little time for other work. CEDOVIP focused on enabling the police to have standardized protocol to respond to domestic violence. Activities included the following:

- **Launch of the Police Domestic Violence Handbook**



*Launch of the Police Handbook*

CEDOVIP, in close partnership with UPF and Raising Voices, developed and launched the Police Domestic Violence Handbook as an official Police tool to be used by officers when handling domestic violence cases. The handbook provides basic information on domestic violence (DV) and rights, mediation and interviewing suspects and victims of domestic violence. The launch of the handbook was presided over by the Cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police in charge of crime prevention who represented the Inspector General of Police. Over 120 participants (police officers, staff of civil society organizations, development partners, academia and media) attended the launch. The Police leadership expressed gratitude to CEDOVIP for the continued support and for providing the much needed standardized protocol for the Police to effectively handle cases of DV.

▪ **6 trainings with Police Officers**



*CLO and CFPU discussing the bylaw*

Trainings were conducted for 80 Police officers who included officers from the Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU), Community Liaison Office (CLO) and Unit Commanders of the 11 Police Stations in Kampala Extra Region, issues covered included:

- Dynamics of abusive relationships, where the abuser is a Police officer
- The cycle of DV and why women remain in abusive relationships
- Human rights and domestic violence
- How to supervise officers handling domestic violence cases
- Identifying barriers to effective handling of domestic violence cases
- Content and rationale of the Kawempe Division Domestic Violence Bylaw
- Use of the Police Domestic Violence Handbook

The sessions equipped officers with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively handle domestic violence and enabled them to understand the formal response of communities in the prevention of domestic violence in Kawempe Division.

▪ **10 Steering Committee Meetings with Police Leadership**

Steering committee meetings were conducted with the Police leadership who included a team from the Police Headquarters, 8 DPCs and representatives from the 11 police stations from Kampala Extra Region. Some of the issues discussed and followed up included:

- Distribution and use of the Police Domestic Violence Handbook
- Progress of the advocacy process of the DV Bylaw in Kawempe Division
- The unfair police surgeon fee for victims of sexual abuse
- The need for including violence against women issues in the police curriculum
- Police standing orders on domestic violence issues

It was noted that some police stations did not receive the handbooks while many acknowledged receipt and use of the handbooks. Some of the recommendations were that :

- CEDOVIP should engage the Director Medical Services of the Uganda Police Force on the issue of the police surgeon's fee
- CEDOVIP should lobby the Legal Department and collaborate with the Police Council to engage in the Police policy review process
- The Police leadership should closely follow up to ensure that all stations receive and use the handbooks with a directive that each DPC should ensure that the officers use it
- If possible provide more copies of the Police Domestic Violence Handbook

The Police leadership considered the police surgeon fee as an urgent matter and plans to budget for and present it to the Ministry of Internal Affairs for discussion. The leadership advised CEDOVIP to urgently develop modules for the Police training to ensure sustainability of the capacity development of the officers on domestic violence issues.

▪ **One Extra-ordinary Meeting with the Top Police Leadership**

CEDOVIP with a team of civil society organizations that included Raising Voices, Forum for Women in Democracy and ANNPCAN engaged the Police on urgent issues that included:

- General complaints about Police’s slowness on holding suspects of sexual abuse accountable for their actions
- Increased officers blame and intimidation of the victims of sexual abuse
- Delayed Police compilation on information on defilement and domestic violence
- Poor facilitation of Police officers that leads to lack of motivation to follow-up on cases
- The exorbitant Police surgeon’s fee that leads to failure to prosecute the offenders of child sexual abuse as the victims are unable to pay for the medical examination fee.

The leadership encouraged civil society to give feedback on Police response to enable them take positive action. The leadership immediately called for re-arresting of a suspect and also followed up to hold the police officers involved accountable, in a case of a sexual abuse of a 4 months old baby that had been poorly handled by an officer in Mukono Police station.

▪ **15 Monitoring Support Visits**



*Staff debrief with police officers.*

The support visits followed up on the distribution and use of the Police Domestic Violence Handbooks that were provided to the Child and Family Protection Units of 11 Police stations in the Kampala Extra region. Officers

who used the books, found them helpful in improving their response to domestic violence cases. One officer from Jinja road police station said, ‘The interview guides help us to easily identify the victims problem. This way we save time and are able to handle many clients.’ Some Police Divisions were not fully utilizing the handbook partly because some had personalized the available copies, yet the new officers in the CFPU office with limited knowledge on DV issues had not been oriented on how to use the handbook. CEDOVIP raised the issue with the leadership who are to follow it up. In addition, more copies were printed by CEDOVIP and distributed to ensure they were freely available to officers.

**d) Development of Modules for the Police Training Curriculum**

Incorporating DV issues into the Police training curriculum for sustainability of effective Police response. The modules developed included: (1) The experience of domestic violence, (2) Gender-based analysis of DV, (3) Causes and consequences of domestic violence, (4) The cycle of domestic violence, (5) How to avoid blaming victims of domestic violence, (6) Characteristics of victims and offenders of domestic violence, (7) Interviewing and mediation skills, (8) Linking domestic violence to Police work and other socio-economic issues and (9) How to use the Police Domestic Violence Handbook. The modules are yet to be shared with the Police leadership. CEDOVIP plans to train officers in the Police training school on the modules.

▪ **Work with Healthcare Providers (HCP)**  
Work with HCPs in Kawempe has been challenging. One of the bottlenecks is that a directive for them to embark on work with civil society must be issued from the line Ministry. Because of this, the managers of the health units were not very keen on sending the same team of HCPs for continuous skill building on DV issues. Activities conducted included the following:

▪ **Development of and field testing of HCPs interview guides and training modules for addressing violence against women(VAW) and HIV/AIDS in the health settings.**

In collaboration with Raising Voices and HCPs, interview guides were developed to enable the HCPs to discuss the issue of VAW and HIV/AIDS with clients. The interview guide gives objectives and principles for the screening and

the interview questions a provider can use to address these difficult issues. Another tool is for general health practitioners to talk about violence with women. It provides general principles and steps to interview, screening questions, safety assessment and planning for clients experiencing domestic violence.

The interview guides were field tested with HCPs from Kamwokya Christian Caring Community, Family Planning Association of Uganda, Kawempe Health Centre of Kampala City Council and Mulago Hospital. The HCPs found the domestic violence/ HIV section useful in opening up discussions with the survivors which enabled them to refer the clients for further support. Participants suggested that the guide be simplified and additional information be given as appendix to enable the HCPs to effectively use the tools. The module will be incorporated into the SASA! Activist Kit, an upcoming tool developed by Raising Voices that will help activists to concurrently address the link between violence against women and HIV/AIDS.

▪ **9 trainings with 15 HCPs**

The trainings with an expert from the World Health Organization (WHO) aimed to wrap up work with HCPs from Kawempe Division. The HCPs were equipped with knowledge and skills on the management of survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV). Issues covered included:

- Steps in medical treatment for survivors of rape
- Human rights issues and medical care for survivors of rape
- GBV Protocols for prevention and treatment of STIs, and administering PEP for HIV infection and Emergency Contraception

The participants committed to use the acquired skills to provide effective services to the survivors. They also suggested that the training be given to HCPs at all levels of service provision.

**e) Engagement in Policy Issues**

The Ministry of Health has drafted a national policy on HIV Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). CEDOVIP and Raising Voices reviewed the draft policy and collectively recommended that the policy should address VAW as this increases women's risk of HIV infection. Some of the recommendations were that:

- The document should reflect definitions and recommendations

contained in the WHO Guidelines for Medico-legal Care for Victims of Sexual Violence, 2003.

- There is no evidence that sensitizing victims (women and children mostly) to prevent an incident of sexual assault is effective because victims have no powers to prevent it. In fact this is putting misplaced responsibility on the victims of violence instead of the perpetrators.
- The glossary of terms should include the standard definition of sexual assault which covers vaginal, anal and oral assault.
- PEP services should be offered to all sexual assault survivors and not only health care workers.

It is hoped that if the input is incorporated, the policy will enable HCPs incorporate GBV issues in HIV prevention and response to improve the quality of services to women survivors of GBV and HIV.

**ii) LOCAL ACTIVISM**

Works with 95 trained community volunteers from Kawempe Division (equal numbers of women and men) to engage community members and local leaders to prevent DV at the grassroots level. Activities included: solidarity meetings with the volunteers, Community Action Groups, Street Theatre, public events. Building supportive environments, public events, and community action fund to help (women) survivors of domestic violence to pursue for justice.

**a) 12 Solidarity Meetings with Kawempe Division Community Volunteers**



*Solidarity meeting with CVs*

CEDOVIP maintained a close collaboration with the 95 community volunteers (half men

and half women) in Kawempe Division. The engagement focused on enabling them consolidate efforts of DV prevention and to lobby for support of the Division Councilors to pass the DV Bylaw. Issues discussed included:

- Dos and don'ts of the Community Action Groups and Neighborhood Watch Groups
- Roles of the Neighborhood Watch Groups and Community Action Groups
- Practical ways to lobby the councilors to pass the DV Bylaw
- Sharing lessons learned in the local advocacy process for the Bylaw

Follow up meetings fostered solidarity among the community volunteers who shared their experiences and challenges in preventing DV. Many reported that they continued to engage communities on the prevention of DV. Some faced a challenge of community activists shifting to new places due to the numerous evictions and floods leaving them with new community members who are insensitive to DV. The volunteers were very instrumental in re-strategizing the local advocacy process for the DV Bylaw. They spearheaded efforts of sensitizing community members who made strong demands to the Division council to pass the Bylaw.

### **b) Continued Activism by Kawempe Division Community Volunteers**

The team of community volunteers' sustained activism against DV, some of the activities conducted included the following:



*Drama show in Mulago*

- 5 drama shows that engaged over 510 community members
- 15 community action groups

that engaged community members and the local councils through 90 meetings, 20 community dialogues and village announcements on the urgency of passing the DV Bylaw. They reached over 1800 community members

- 12 Neighborhood watch groups (NHWGs) engaged community members through one on one meeting, community dialogues and reach out to schools. The NHWGs closely worked with the Sengas and reached over 880 community members
- Poster facilitations and distribution of over 1000 learning materials that continuously engaged community members
- Engaged the Local Council III counselors in over 35 one on one meetings to win their support and pressurized them to pass the Bylaw
- Telephone campaign that included each volunteer sending over 10 sms messages to each of the Councilors to pass the Bylaw during the council meetings

### **c) Disbursement of the Community Action Fund**

Over 50 women victims of domestic violence were given support from the emergency fund. Some women used it to pay for medical examination fee at the Police surgeon's in cases of physical or sexual violence to enable them fill the PF3 forms to open up files at the Police stations. While other women and their children were enabled to travel back to safety in their rural homes. Some few beneficiaries came back to give an update on their lives, one such woman is Florence who was severely beaten and abandoned by her partner. Her life improved after accessing funds that she used to begin a small charcoal business at Kalerwe market. She is able to rent a small house, feed and cloth herself and her children.

### **d) Community Celebration in Kawempe**

The activists who included community volunteers, counselors and male activists, sengas and the religious leaders held a celebration to mark the Kawempe Division Council's passing of the DV Bylaw and the 16 days of activism, a football match against members of a CAG in Mulago II, where they

engaged in DV prevention discussions. They committed to working with CEDOVIP to sensitize their communities about the Bylaw.

#### e) Preparation for work in the new communities

##### ▪ **The SASA! Study**

In an effort to strengthen our understanding of the impact of violence prevention work, CEDOVIP and Raising Voices collaborated with Makerere University and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to conduct a rigorous scientific research and evaluation of the project in two Divisions i.e. Rubaga and Makindye. This project is the site for an extensive, first of its kind randomized control trial of SASA! the community mobilization approach to prevent VAW/HIV. The evaluation includes population based household survey of 1600 community members as well as extensive qualitative components.

Through a randomized selection, the parishes of Salaama, Makindye I, Kibuye I, Nakulabye, Kasubi and Mutundwe were chosen as intervention sites and Ggaba, Kibuli, Wabigalo, Najjanankumbi II, Ndeeba and Busega were chosen as the control sites. As a result, a mapping exercise in Makindye and Rubaga Divisions was done to know the existing resources and infrastructure and to select community activists. A meeting was held with the Vice Chairpersons of Makindye and Rubaga Divisions to introduce CEDOVIP's work and permission to work in the divisions was sought.

This research and evaluation component is a major initiative expected to last over a period of three years.<sup>19</sup> research staff were hired and trained (funded by Raising Voices, London School, Irish Aid and PATH), the study design was created, protocols established, research and ethical approvals received from the international and local Institute Review Boards (IRBs) and the local government authority. The pilot test of the tools was done in Kawempe Division in November 2007. The household survey commenced in November 2007 and will end in March 2008.

#### f) Meetings with Local Authorities in Rubaga and Makindye Divisions

A series of consultative meetings with over 24 LCs and 10 Parish Chiefs from 10 parishes were held to gather information about the available local infrastructure that CEDOVIP will tap in to advance the SASA! Project,

which will engage community members, local institutions and policy makers in Rubaga and Makindye Divisions to rethink their use of power – particularly in intimate relationships to foster more equitable and safe relationships. Some of the active groups include LCs, women and youth groups, and some religious leaders who are enthusiastic about working with CEDOVIP.

#### g) Selection of a team of Community Activists for SASA! Intervention



*Participants discuss balancing power*

Maximum caution was taken to select a team of activists who are rooted with in the community. Six meetings were held with over 200 men and women whereby a team of 96 (half men and half women) community activists were selected from the 12 parishes in Makindye and Rubaga Division to spearhead efforts to implement SASA! Eligibility of recruitment as an activist was based on: one's commitment to voluntarily promote women's rights, degree of gender sensitivity, availability and willingness to learn more about power, violence and HIV/AIDS. Extra caution was taken to map around the selected activists who reside in areas with un-gated homes which are more friendly for community mobilization.

#### iii) LOCAL ADVOCACY

Works with local leaders, institutions and organized bodies to influence practice within the civil society around women's rights and DV. Activities included series of training workshops and seminars for opinion leaders, lobbying local councils, policy makers and parish chiefs to review and enact Bylaws.

### a) Six Trainings with Religious Leaders from Kawempe Division



*Imams discuss experiences with UK Minister for women*

Their leaders committed to foster a strong collaboration between CEDOVIP and Imams from various parts of Kampala District.

### b) 8 Trainings with 30 Sengas

CEDOVIP focused on strengthening their skills in advocating for the prevention of domestic violence. Issues discussed included:

- Voluntarism and activism in domestic violence prevention
- Update on status of DV Bylaw and re-strategizing the advocacy process
- Conflict resolution and how to help couples prevent DV in their relationships
- Consolidating advocacy work in the prevention of domestic violence

CEDOVIP conducted trainings with 50 religious leaders who included both Church and Moslem leaders. The trainings aimed to inspire activism against domestic violence. Issues discussed included:

- Understanding the Biblical/Koranic view of DV and women's rights
- Religious leaders role and commitment to prevent DV
- Working with community action groups and inspiring activism among their followers
- Sharing specific roles in the advocacy process of the DV Bylaw
- Defining collaboration with Church leaders and Moslem on DV prevention

The Religious leaders' assessment of the Biblical/Koranic teachings established that the Holy Books do not condone DV, and their role is to promote and protect rights of every one at all times. They formed a committee of 10 members from both Christians and Moslems to jointly address DV. They committed to: conduct meetings to share experiences in preventing domestic violence, remind religious leaders to ensure that DV prevention issues are included in their prayer sermons and to lobby the Division Councilors to pass the DV Bylaw.

One meeting with a group of 28 Sheikhs from various parts of Kampala District clarified CEDOVIP's work. Many of them thought that CEDOVIP's work contradicts the Koranic teachings. The meeting enabled them to understand that CEDOVIP was emphasizing the Koranic teaching on VAW (respect between men and women) and was calling on them to work as partners in DV prevention.



*Sengas discuss conflict resolution*

As a result, the sengas actively engaged in preventing and responding to DV issues within their community. Some of their accomplishments included:

- Mediation in over 30 cases of domestic violence
- Referred over 20 cases for further support
- Formed a committee of activists that included community members, local councils and the Police to sustain activism against domestic violence
- Scaled up prevention of domestic violence by inspiring 3 secondary schools and 2 vocational schools to take on the prevention of domestic violence
- Lobbied the Kawempe Division III and I councilors to support the DV Bylaw

Work with sengas faced some challenges, for instance two sengas from Kawempe I parish had not fully embraced the spirit of activism against DV; they reduced their level of activism

after CEDOVIP wrapped up work. CEDOVIP followed up with the specific sengas and has encouraged the committee of sengas to have occasional meetings to motivate and sustain activism against domestic violence.

### c) Work on the Domestic Violence Bylaw

After several years work, CEDOVIP and Kawempe community members successfully advocated for the passage of the DV Bylaw – a first of its kind in Uganda. This process was faced with challenges and lessons learned. The Domestic Violence Bylaw had earlier faced resistance from a section of the Local Council III. CEDOVIP, community volunteers, Sengas, Religious leaders, Police and Local Council I at the zone level focused efforts on winning the Local Council III's support for the passing of the Domestic Violence Bylaw. This section describes some key highlights of the journey.



*A parish meeting in Makerere III discusses the DV bylaw*

- Staff closely engaged 6 key influential Local Council III who organized for a meeting between CEDOVIP staff, community activists and a group of 24 councilors who included 9 women and 15 men. CEDOVIP publicly refuted allegations that huge bribes had been paid to some councilors to pass the Bylaw, and clarified that the Bylaw is responding to a community problem and no one is to be paid for passing it

- Three meetings to win the support of 24 Councilors III, who thought that CEDOVIP was enabling the LC III Chairperson to impose the Bylaw on them, and they wanted the Bylaw written in a legal language. CEDOVIP effectively responded to these two critical issues

- Community volunteers, and sengas conducted over 20 one on one meetings with 10 influential Councilors to ensure that they understand, believe in and support the Bylaw

- Nine consultative meetings with 4 lawyers to discuss and review the Bylaw. One of them redrafted it in a legal language clarifying, punishments for offenders, cases to be handled by the Local Council I courts and cases for referral to Police and Courts of law

- One meeting to win support for the Bylaw with the 42 Local Council III Councilors two days before the council meeting. The discussants were: a senior police officer who directly linked the Bylaw to Police work, a Legal expert who responded to all the legal related questions and staff of CEDOVIP who responded to Kawempe community members concerns on the Bylaw

- Media campaign that included news paper articles, public announcements about the Councilors deliberations on the bylaw, over 4 radio talk shows discussing the content, rationale and benefits of the Bylaw

Though the advocacy process faced several challenges that ranged from council meetings being postponed, some councilors continuing to politicize the Bylaw, while some still expected to be bribed to pass it, to some of the community activists losing hope that the Bylaw may never be passed, the councilors unanimously passed the Bylaw on 5th October! This is the first ever Bylaw of its kind in Uganda and a major success for the Kawempe community, Councilors and CEDOVIP.

The Bylaw will be operational 14 days after it is endorsed by the LCV Chairman of Kampala District. Many of the councilors were hopeful that the Bylaw will be helpful in reducing DV cases in their areas. CEDOVIP is currently following up closely to see that all the official procedures are finalized.

## 2. National Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative (NDVPI)

CEDOVIP and Raising Voices aim to promote and enable national prevention of domestic violence, by building capacity of 10 partner CSOs (COVOID, SHARE, KCCC, HIDO, NVIDA, CADOVIC, IRC, ECCA, ACODEV-U and Good Hope Foundation for Rural Development) to implement community-based DV prevention programs in 10 communities in Uganda. Key activities were as follows:

### i) TRAINING

CEDOVIP and Raising Voices conducted a five day training workshop on Module Two for the National Training Course on DV prevention with 19 staff of 10 CSOs partnering with CEDOVIP. The workshop strengthened the conceptual and practical skills of CSO staff to understand, plan and implement the Raising Awareness Phase (Phase II) in DV prevention. Issues covered included:

- Community mobilization
- Raising awareness
- Working with LCs/Religious leaders, police, and healthcare workers
- Facilitation skills and report writing
- Sharing organizational experiences
- Constructive conflict resolution
- Working with men to prevent domestic violence
- Domestic violence as an economic problem



*Participants discussing community mobilisation*

Capacity of CSO staff was strengthened as evidenced in their acknowledgements in the workshop evaluation: "We have been raising awareness but not systematically, to have impact we have to start asking questions "What do you think? Is it okay? to meet objectives of the raising awareness phase."

### ii) LEARNING CENTER (LC)

The LC is a joint project of CEDOVIP and Raising Voices created to give interested individuals, organizations and groups, from Uganda, East, Horn and Southern Africa hands-on learning experience in designing and implementing community-based domestic violence prevention work.



*EWLA staff at the LC*

The LC hosted colleagues from civil society and partnering CSOs, who included 16 staff of Health Integrated Development Organization, Kamwokya Christian Caring Community, Women Savings and Credit Association Tanzania for one week, and International Rescue Commission (IRC) for three days. Seven staff from IRC Darfur for 5 days and 10 staff of Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association for 5 days. Their interest was to learn about techniques used at grassroots: i) strengthening community capacity to respond to VAW cases, ii) working with Police, iii) engaging the media, iv) using a preventative approach.

From the experiences shared on practical ways in which to engage communities, the group realized that working with all stake holders in the community and putting them in the lead ensures sustainability and enforces individual and social change.

OXFAM GB sought CEDOVIP's support in training 60 stake holders from the Eastern, Western, and Central regions of Uganda about domestic violence. Participants felt that the training was timely as they needed the skills and information to strengthen their DV prevention work.

### iii) TECHNICAL SUPPORT VISITS TO PARTNER CSOS



*Activists in Olukolom Camp conduct a dialogue on DV*

CEDOVIP and Raising Voices staff visited each participating organization and gave at least three days each onsite technical support. The support included monitoring and assessment of organizational issues that might have hampered their effective implementation of the DV prevention projects. CSO staffs were supported to use the modules to conduct in house trainings (module I & II) with their staff and analysis of data collected for the community assessment exercise. They appreciated CEDOVIP and Raising Voices for the support and acknowledged that their capacity was strengthened around discussing domestic violence issues. The Executive Director of ECCA remarked that, "We are really grateful to CEDOVIP and Raising Voices support. My staff is far better in articulating DV issues than before getting training from CEDOVIP and Raising Voices".

21 technical support visits were conducted to 10 partner CSOs. Approximately 55 staff were trained i.e. 25 men and 30 women.



*Community activists present a drama*

### iv) PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTING 8400 LEARNING MATERIALS

Each CSO was given 600 posters to be used as tools to enable activists initiate dialogues and debate in the community about the meaning and types of domestic violence, its causes and consequences which is the main focus of the Raising Awareness phase. This enables community members to have personal reflections about what it means for their own relationships, lives and families. Posters given were titled:

- What are these children learning?  
Violence affects every one in the family
- You have a right to live free of violence
- We all have the responsibility to prevent domestic violence!

The staff of CSOs trained their community activists on how to use posters to facilitate dialogue and many used posters to provoke meaningful discussions on DV issues with in their communities.

### 3.

## National Advocacy Program

The program works to influence attitudes, behaviors, policy and practice to prevent domestic violence through extensive national media and advocacy campaigns. Key activities included:

### i) MEDIA CAMPAIGN

CEDOVIP ran a multimedia campaign to influence public dialogue regarding women's status and rights within their families and the community. Electronic and print media were utilized which included two daily English national papers and one vernacular paper that reached countrywide. Additionally, radio was extensively used, focusing on those stations that have national coverage. CEDOVIP closely worked with journalists and editors from some media houses to improve the media reports on violence against women issues and the portrayal of women in the media. Key activities included:

### a) Tracking of Domestic Violence Reports in the Print Media

Tracking assessed the print media's objectivity in reporting on women's rights and issues of

- DV. The tracking indicated that there was an increase in the number of DV cases reported in
- The New Vision, Bukkedde and Daily Monitor as compared to the previous years. For example
- A total of 335 cases were reported in the New Vision, Bukedde and Daily Monitor News papers.
- One third of the articles were objectively analyzed by the writers, while almost two thirds of the
- Articles victimized women for the DV they experience, this is because media houses are
- Business oriented and sensationalized stories make quick sales.

The media reports were used to engage policy makers and the general public on the need to have specific legislation on domestic violence. The Deputy Attorney General for instance, asked the DV Bill Coalition to avail him with the up to date media reports on severe cases of DV that he will use to reach out to the members of parliament about the urgency of passing the DV Bill when it is finally tabled in the house.

### b) Editors and Radio Managers Seminar

One day seminar to strengthen objective reporting on DV issues by print and electronic media in Uganda, with 8 Editors from the print media and 22 radio programme controllers from specific media houses (UBC TV, WBS TV, Top TV, Record TV, FM radio stations that included Super FM, CBS FM, UBC Radio, Mama FM, Magic FM, Voice of Tooro, Radio Pacis, Rock Mambo Prime radio).



*Editor's Seminar*

As a result, some media houses availed free radio time on a weekly basis to host CEDOVIP. The discussions focused on the Domestic Violence By-Law in Kawempe Division. Over 50 calls were received from the listeners who contributed to the discussions on DV issues.

### c) Journalists' Seminars

Two seminars with 16 journalists from different print and electronic media houses shared:

- Experiences and challenges in reporting on issues of DV
- Information and emerging areas of concern in media reporting on DV
- Ways to strengthen the working relationship between CEDOVIP and journalists
- Information on the draft Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) HIV Policy

Issues discussed included the various types, causes and effects of DV, statistical data from recent researches, the link between DV and HIV/AIDS and other socio-economic problems, and findings of a print media analysis on DV reporting highlighted strong areas and those that required improvement. The meetings inspired several journalists to take initiative to objectively report about domestic violence as detailed below.

**d) Follow up on trained Journalists and Editors**

Close follow-up was made on journalists and editors to inspire more positive reporting on DV issues in the media. Two support visits were made to 2 editors of the Weekly Observer and New Vision. CEDOVIP recognized their support by writing personal appreciation notes. Sustained communication with the 16 team of trained journalists resulted into their publishing of objectively written articles that included:

- 'Domestic violence up', Hariette Onyalla, New Vision 07.03.07
- 'Battling domestic violence', Jan Ajwang, Daily Monitor 03.03.07
- 'Ending violence is a priority activists say', Alice Emasu, New Vision 08.03.07
- 'Why I wear the purple ribbon' Features Editor, Weekly Observer, 6-12 Dec, 2007
- 'Speak out, Reach out' Editor Full Woman, Daily Monitor, 01.12.07
- In-Family violence kills community bonds, Editor, Red Pepper, 07.12.07
- 'Kawempe Division gets first By-Law on domestic violence' New Vision, 06.09.07
- 'Sexual violence', New Vision, 19.08.07
- 'Is domestic violence a part of Life?', New Vision, 29.09.07

Journalists from the electronic media conducted the following programs on DV with the support and inspiration from CEDOVIP:

- 'The role of Police in addressing domestic violence' Tina Wamala Day Breaker, Record TV on 22/02/2007 and 02/03/2007
- 'What do men say about domestic violence' Tina Wamala Record TV on 22/02/2007
- 'CEDOVIP's work to empower women in Uganda' by Charles Musana, Gender Agenda programme on UBC TV on 3/03/2007
- Beatrice Birungi aired 3 programmes on UBC radio in her 'Amaka Amalungi' programme 'promoting women's empowerment for development'; 'Men should be responsible in their intimate relationships'
- The Editor's comment entitled 'We need Bylaws against domestic violence' for the Local Leader magazine in which the article on the

Bylaw was published, New Vision, 06.09.07

**e) CEDOVIP Newspaper Campaign  
Print media highlights of the year**

CEDOVIP wrote and published several articles in national dailies and newsletters highlighting DV as a critical health and human rights problem. CEDOVIP linked local advocacy gains into the national advocacy by conducting a media campaign to popularize the DV Bill. Published articles were titled:

- 'Domestic Violence is costly to government', The New Vision, 05.02.07
- 'Men should surrender some powers to women', The New Vision, 28.03.07
- Kawempe Division makes a historic achievement! The New Vision, Bukedde, 11.10.07



*Article on the bylaw*

- 'Kawempe Division Councilors have an opportunity to make history' New Vision, and Bukedde, 14.09.07
- 'How the Equal Opportunities Commission will address domestic violence in Uganda' ACFODE Newsletter (Arise Magazine) published on 28.03.2007.
- 'Young women's vulnerability to domestic violence and HIV/AIDS' National Council of Women quarterly magazine 'Woman' Volume 4; 2007. Nationally distributed to Women's Local Councils

- 'Mobilizing communities to take action against domestic violence CEDOVIP's Experience', April 2007 Oxfam GB Newsletter
- 'ABC Strategy not working for Women' 2nd Edition, Vol. I, No. II, 2007 Common Wealth People's Forum Newsletter
- CEDOVIP's publication of the Police Domestic Violence Handbook (July issue.2007), and the upcoming CEDOVIP and Raising Voices SASA! Community mobilization program to prevent VAW and HIV/ AIDS was highlighted in the GBV Prevention Network newsletter, Nov issue.2007
- 'Commit to Preventing Violence against Women Today! in the New Vision, Rupiny and Daily Monitor, during the 16 Days of Activism
- 'Promoting women's empowerment for development and ending domestic violence in Uganda', the Weekly Observer, 01.03. 2007

#### f) Two Press Conferences

The press conferences were used to introduce and launch the domestic violence week and to respond to the rampant incidences of DV reported in the media. The public and policy makers were urged to urgently take action against DV. As a result electronic media i.e. 5 radio stations and 3 Television stations hosted CEDOVIP staff on various programmes that included:

- Domestic violence on CBS FM, Mama FM and Radio Busiro FM
- In-depth Features Interviews on domestic violence for News Hour- UBC Radio
- Increased reports of domestic violence- UBC Television programme Gender Agenda
- Tabling of the Domestic Violence Bylaw in Kawempe Division - Akabozi Kubiri FM

CEDOVIP featured in several press interviews that included:

- NTV Features News story, 'Maternal Health and DV', World Population Day
- BBC Radio International, 'Violence Against Women in Uganda'
- New Vision, 'Perceptions of Women on Wife beating'

- Spy Newspaper, 'Domestic Violence'
- Daily Monitor, 'Date Rape: When passion turns into violence', 22.09.07

A song titled 'End domestic violence' was launched during one of the press conferences to continuously raise awareness about the negative effects of domestic violence. The song was played on many local FM stations.

#### g) Radio and Television Campaign

CEDOVIP conducted over 15 radio talk shows on several FM radio stations and discussed issues that included:

- Content and the rationale for the Kawempe Division Domestic Violence Bylaw
- Men's efforts to prevent domestic violence in Kawempe Division
- Linking domestic violence to HIV/ AIDS
- Effects of domestic violence on the economic development
- Domestic violence as a critical health and human rights issue

The media team of 16 journalists and 8 editors provided free air time on various radio and television programs to discuss:

- Domestic violence (done twice) on Magic FM
- Violence Against Women (done twice) on UBC Radio
- Economic empowerment for women in Uganda on UBC TV
- Using PEP for preventing HIV infection among victims of sexual violence Record TV

Many activists from the region showed interest in learning lessons from CEDOVIP's media campaign experience. The Gender Based Violence Prevention Network consisting of organizations engaged in work on GBV in the East, Horn and Southern Africa, requested CEDOVIP to upload articles on the website to be accessed by a wider readership in Uganda and countries within the region where the Network operates on [www.preventgbvafrica.org](http://www.preventgbvafrica.org)

#### h) 16 Days of Activism Campaign

The 16 Days of activism against violence against women is an annual global campaign that takes place from 25th Nov. to 10th December. The regional theme by the GBV Prevention Network was: "I commit to prevent

Violence against Women! What about you?! Speak out, reach out, and stand out! CEDOVIP is the focal NGO in Uganda for the GBV Prevention Network thus the campaign mainly used the regional theme. Some of the key activities included:

▪ **Printing and Distribution of Campaign Materials**

600 T-shirts bearing the GBV Prevention Network theme were printed and distributed to partners that included community activists of Kawempe Division, 10 NDVPI partner organizations, the Police, CSOs, and institutions that CEDOVIP closely works with. T-shirts were worn during demonstration marches and public events attracting approximately 300 activists.

Two thousand stickers, 400 posters and post cards from the GBV Prevention Network were distributed to partner organizations, institutions and other sections of the public through the various campaign events. Most of the stickers and posters were stuck on vehicles, boda bodas and strategic public spaces to continuously remind people to stand out against DV.



*Weekly Observer on the purple ribbon*

4000 purple ribbons with the message 'Prevent Violence against Women' were received from the GBV Prevention Network to facilitate the 16 Days of Activism campaign. CEDOVIP launched the purple ribbon campaign on the 25th November during a public dialogue on VAW organized by the Bahai Community with over 200 participants. The media picked up the ribbon campaign by writing about it, some FM stations such as Radio one, Akaboozi and UBC talked about the ribbon campaign during some programmes and many of their staff wore the ribbons. The Weekly Observer and Daily Monitor published articles about the purple ribbon campaign. The ribbons were distributed:

- During CHOGM Peoples Forum, November 2007
- To 8 partner organizations under NDVPI who each received 200 ribbons
- To all stakeholders including the Editors, Journalists, Women Parliamentarians, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and other partner organizations.

▪ **NDVPI Partners Campaign**

CEDOVIP embarked on taking the campaign up country by facilitating some NDVPI partners to join the campaign. Some of the activities included:

- 10 drama shows that reached out to over 2,510 people
- 24 poster facilitations that reached over 1,390 people
- 6 community dialogues that engaged over 100 people
- 8 film shows that reached over 800 people
- Distributed 1600 purple ribbons to their community members
- 4 staff trainings for 3 CSOs that engaged over 400 activists
- Good Hope painted 3 murals in the 3 sub counties in Kasese
- Four radio programs on Radio Buddu and Mega FM attracted over 70 callers
- 148 spot messages on Radio Buddu and Mega FM



*Village meeting on DV in Monroc Camp*

▪ **Participation in Events Organized by Civil Society**

CEDOVIP actively participated in:

- FIDA's Public dialogue on wife killing by husbands, with over 300 participants

- HURINET's Human rights week exhibitions with over 400 participants
- Teleconference on VAW organized by the American Embassy
- NAWOU's National Gender Conference on; 'VAW: a threat to national development', what is the Way forward for Uganda?' with over 600 participants from across the country

CEDOVIP made important contributions in raising civil society's voice to call for the end of VAW. The Bahai Community and members of UWOPA issued public statements indicating their stand against VAW and called on the public and the government to urgently address the problem of VAW.

### **i) National Domestic Violence Week**

The national DV week (1-10 March) was an initiative to highlight critical issues on women's rights in relation to the women's day. Discussions revolved around DV as a health and socio economic development problem. Activities included:

- Participation in the Women's Day supplement published on 8th of March in the Daily Monitor, New Vision, and Weekly Observer
- A public dialogue by CEDOVIP and National Women's Council officiated by the Minister of State for

Gender, Labour and Social Development engaged the public i.e. the academia, CSOs Policy makers, legislators and general public at Grand Imperial Hotel. The theme was 'Domestic violence as a hindrance to development in Uganda'. Over 100 people participated.



*Public dialogue during the DV week*

The media campaign inspired key stakeholders i.e. policy formulation bodies and government institutions to discuss meaningfully about DV

and women's rights issues. CEDOVIP's input was sought on various policy issues i.e. the review of the National Plan of Action for Women, the fifth priority area 'VAW and Peace building' and the draft Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) HIV Policy. A wide section of the public, donors and partners sent congratulatory messages to CEDOVIP for having spearheaded DV prevention work in Uganda many indicating that, this was an inspiration for advocacy work for the much needed national domestic violence law.

### **ii) INFLUENCING POLICY AND COALITION BUILDING**

CEDOVIP worked in collaboration with CSOs, government ministries and other stakeholders to advocate for more attention and investment in domestic violence prevention in Uganda. Activities included:

#### **a) Information Sharing on DV Policy Issues**

CEDOVIP used studies on VAW in Uganda to highlight its magnitude through persuasion/briefing papers for stakeholders who included Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA), MGLSD, journalists and editors. Some of the key issues highlighted was the impunity on VAW through:

- A policy Memo on HIV Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)
- A Press release on the current trends of domestic violence
- Information on Domestic Violence Bill (DVB)

#### **b) DV Bill Coalition Meetings**

CEDOVIP takes leadership of the DVB coalition whose members are: ACFODE, FIDA, UGANET, FPAU, CEEWA, NUDIPIU, HAG, Raising Voices, and Uganda Land Alliance. Six meetings were held to define activities and actions for the advocacy process for the bill. Specific activities conducted included the following:

#### **▪ Engaging Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC)**

One meeting with the Chairman of the ULRC, where the members (10) presented a petition urging the Commission to finalize the drafting process of the DV Bill, to enable them popularize it and lobby support amongst Parliamentarians. The Chairman recommended that the coalition should:

- Lobby the Attorney General and the

Minister for Constitutional Affairs to enable him understand the urgency for the DV Bill to include it on the agenda of Cabinet

- Influence Parliament to demand that the Minister makes available and presents the Bill before the House
- Lobby the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee to raise demand in the House for this Bill

The Coalition members took on the recommendations as the way forward for the DVB advocacy process.

#### ▪ DV Bill CSOs thematic discussion



*Thematic forum*

One meeting in collaboration with UWONET was held with members of the coalition to review the bill. It was noted that the bill did not have specific provisions for people with disability. A policy memo suggesting changes and provisions for disability and elderly to the MGLSD and ULRC were submitted to the Minister in charge of PWDs and the Elderly.

#### ▪ Meeting with Minister for People with Disabilities (PWDs) and the Elderly

One meeting with the Minister highlighted the gaps in the draft DV Bill. The Minister requested the coalition to suggest provisions that are sensitive to PWDs taking into consideration:

- The inclusion of the word disability/elderly
- Types of violence from the perspective of the people with disability
- Deal with the issues that challenge

evidence provision of PWDs in court  
The Minister committed to engage the whole MGLSD to ensure that the Bill is forwarded to Parliament as a Government Bill.

#### c) Lobbying Parliamentary Committees and UWOPA to support the DV Bill



*Meeting with the Parliamentary committee on Gender*

CEDOVIP interfaced with the Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development, HIV/AIDS and UWOPA to deepen their understanding on DV issues by sharing information on the magnitude of and the negative effect of domestic violence and its link with HIV/AIDS. The committees recommended that the coalition should:

- Continuously share information on domestic violence and HIV/AIDS issues
- Come up with action points for them to follow up in order to address DV
- Input in the draft HIV bill that was drafted by the HIV/AIDS parliamentary committee
- Summarize the draft DVB to make it easier to comprehend

CEDOVIP participated in three days consultative meeting with members of UWOPA to discuss women's legislative agenda for the 8th Parliament. CEDOVIP influenced them to have the DV Bill as a priority issue and they formed a round table to follow up on the DVB.

One breakfast meeting with 12 members of UWOPA and 12 members of the coalition, discussed the content of the draft DVB, unexplained delay in finalizing drafting it and the need to pressurize ULRC to finalize the



*Breakfast meeting with UWOPA*

#### ▪ **UWOPA's activities on DV issues**

CEDOVIP's engagement with UWOPA inspired the members to take a public stand against VAW and recommitted to spearhead efforts to prevent VAW and Girls in Uganda. Some of their activities included:

- Participation in the 16 Days of Activism ribbon campaign and held 4 radio programmes
- One meeting with the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and engaged him on the urgency of having specific DV legislation in Uganda
- Issuing a press statement in the New Vision, 10th December 2007

The MPs concerns were as follows:

- The need for male involvement in the advocacy process for the DVB
- CSOs to deliberately identify and address the possible contradictions in the draft bill amongst women; to have a common position
- Name of the bill similarity to the DRB, which may invoke similar resistance. The MPs requested the coalition to urgently consult for a new name to be proposed to the Minister of Constitutional Affairs in their upcoming meeting

The coalition recommended that the Parliamentarians should put pressure on the Minister and ULRC to finalize the bill and have it forwarded to other levels.

#### ▪ **Training for UWOPA Members of the Gender Based Violence Roundtable**

CEDOVIP in collaboration with UWOPA secretariat facilitated a 2 days training workshop with 40 participants including members of the GBV round table and Civil Society. The training deepened participants understanding on GBV, human and women's rights issues, using gender based analytical skills in advocacy and lobbying for support for the upcoming DVB. Member's commitments were to:

- Work together and internalize the UDHS (2007) and ULRC (2006) research findings on domestic violence to effectively engage the public
- Sensitize male members of Parliament and the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee on the DVB
- Lobby the MGLSD to present the DV Bill to the cabinet

#### **d) Engaging the State Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs**

CEDOVIP led the DVB coalition and UWOPA to engage the Deputy Attorney General and the State Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs on the state of DV issues in Uganda. The coalition highlighted the urgency for the enactment of the DVB and showed great concern about the slow down in finalizing the drafting of the DVB and recommended that the Attorney General should include the DV Bill onto Cabinet's Legislative Agenda and mark it as a priority Bill. The Minister noted that though prioritizing cabinet's business is difficult, he is committed to putting the DV Bill on cabinet's legislative agenda after the CHOGM, and to personally follow up on this.

#### **e) Engaging the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development**

One meeting with the Commissioner for Gender to influence the Ministry to spearhead the advocacy process and tabling of the DV Bill before Cabinet. The Commissioner said that the Ministry has embarked on drafting the Guiding Principles for the DV Bill which is a prerequisite for the tabling of the Bill before Cabinet and Parliament. During the 16 Days of Activism, the Ministry issued press statements showing the Ministry's commitments to preventing GBV in Uganda.

#### **f) Contributing to the drafting of the National HIV PEP Policy**

CEDOVIP and Raising Voices reviewed the draft HIV PEP policy and made recommendations. The team took on several of CEDOVIP's recommendations and incorporated provisions to address some issues of VAW. Issues of sexual violence in consensual relationships such as marriage and cohabitation were not

addressed. CEDOVIP strongly emphasized the need to provide for violence in consensual relationships. The team promised to have a further reflection on the issues raised and make the necessary input that they deem fit.

#### **h) Lobbying and Advocacy with other CSOs**

CEDOVIP participated in several consultative, lobbying and advocacy meetings on women rights issues which included:

A meeting where information for CEDAW Country Report was gathered. CEDOVIP raised issues of VAW in regard to gaps in government and non-government interventions to address VAW.

Coalition on the Sexual Offences Bill (led by ACFODE) meetings for the penal code amendment process. The Legal Affairs Parliamentary Committee requested the coalition to make proposals for the penal code amendment. Some of the coalition's proposals were:

- Mandatory testing (section b) for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections
- Where the offender is in authority and registered under any enactment, the court should in addition to the punishment order for cancellation of the registration
- For article 3 clause (b), the coalition recommended that all cases of defilement should be tried in camera and exclude the press to avoid the victim's loss of dignity and confidentiality during the trial

Thematic forum discussion organized by FIDA Uganda with over 50 participants to share findings on the sensitization programmes conducted in four districts of Uganda on the Domestic Relations Bill (DRB) and the Canon laws in preparation for the engagement with Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC)

DRB consultative meeting with UJCC on what they view as the contentious issues. A common position was reached on issues of property ownership and polygamy. Cohabitation issues however were not agreed upon. The Coalition is in process of taking this issue forward as well as engaging the Muslim leaders.

#### **i) Networking with CSOs/Stakeholders**

CEDOVIP participated in:

- A two day meeting for the focal NGOs from the region for the GBV Prevention Network.

Where successes, challenges

and lessons learnt were shared

- Uganda Media Women's Association's (UMWA) Editors meeting in which a draft Code of Conduct for journalists reporting on child sexual Abuse was discussed
- 'Women Won't Wait' Campaign public dialogue organized by UWONET, which drew the link between Gender Based Violence and HIV/AIDS in Uganda
- NAWOU's workshop on evaluating women's participation in multi party politics in Uganda to identify better strategies for effective engagement of women
- The gender analysis of the UDHS 2006 survey planning meeting
- Launching of the National Plan of Action for Women in Uganda (NAPW), which CEDOVIP participated in drafting and input issues of violence against women
- Empowerment session on a gender analysis of the 2007/2008 Budget and taxation policies organized by CEEWA-U
- Civil Society thematic forum on gender and women's issues on Land issues organized by Uganda Land Alliance
- African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Civil Society Consultative Meeting with Women's Organizations and Women Leaders in Uganda where it was recommended that government enacts pending policies and legislations to address women's issues in Uganda including the DRB, Sexual Offences and DV Bill

The networking played a key role in strengthening links with CSOs in advocacy for the promotion of and protection of women's rights.

#### **▪ Institutional Strengthening**

CEDOVIP staff was engaged in several capacity development sessions by ACLAIM-Uganda under the CSUP, PATH, GBV Prevention Network and Population Reference Bureau that strengthened CEDOVIP's capacity for effective media and policy advocacy engagement, monitoring and evaluation, and research on GBV.

Participation in International Conferences

- First international forum on 'Dynamic Cities Need Women:

Actions and Policies on Gender Equality' in Brussels in the context of the European year of equal opportunities for all. CEDOVIP presented a paper to over 300 participants on CEDOVIP's contribution in preventing domestic violence

- in Uganda under the theme of urban safety
- UNIFEM's Regional workshop on Gender and HIV/AIDS in conflict affected settings in the Great Lakes region in both Entebbe and Kinshasha where CEDOVIP shared experiences on GBV prevention

## 4. Overall Success

CEDOVIP's work focused on creating supportive environments for women experiencing violence with in the community and in institutions. As noted above, CEDOVIP was very influential in engaging the community, media, police, health units, Sengas, policy makers, opinion leaders and local councils on promoting and upholding women's rights particularly the right to safety.



*Activists in Kasese*

1. CEDOVIP was able to inspire and influence Kawempe Division to make history by passing the first ever Domestic Violence Bylaw in Uganda.
2. Community volunteers and male activists have sustained activism against domestic violence in Kawempe Division after CEDOVIP wrapped up work in their community.
3. A committee of Religious Leaders from various sects in Kawempe Division was formed and is committed to ensuring that the religious leaders incorporate DV prevention issues in all their prayer sermons.
4. The community action fund supported over 50 women who were in dire need; this enabled some to travel to places of safety or to file their cases in courts of law to pursue justice.
5. CEDOVIP and Raising Voices' collaboration with Makerere University and the London

School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has paved way for an extensive, first of its kind impact assessment of the community mobilization approach to prevent VAW/HIV, an important contribution to the field of violence prevention.

6. A team of 96 committed activists (half men & half women) was selected to spearhead efforts in the SASA! work in 12 parishes of Makindye and Rubaga Divisions.
7. The creation and institutionalization of the Uganda Police Force Domestic Violence Handbook as standardized protocol to handle domestic violence across the country.
8. Trainings with officers of different ranks with in the police institution enabled building of the much needed practical skills for handling cases of domestic violence.
9. The team of health care workers continued to talk to their clients about domestic violence and HIV/AIDS, enabling them to support and treat their clients better.
10. Working with Sengas ensured that grassroots structures are at the fore front of promoting women's rights within the private spheres and are working hard to reduce the common blaming of women for the violence they experience.
11. Several trainings held with staff of CEDOVIP played a key role in strengthening their knowledge and skills on human rights and violence against women issues which enabled effective program implementation.
12. The NDVPI program played a key role in helping to transform the way that DV is approached in 9 districts in the country i.e. more have taken on prevention—this means a great deal in terms of the national dialogue and framing of this issue.

13. CSOs conducted a community assessment of attitudes and practices on domestic violence with in their communities and this has enabled them to realize the need to work on prevention of domestic violence in their communities.
14. CSOs under the NDVPI created a team of over 300 committed activists who spearheaded efforts to prevent domestic violence with in their communities.
15. The Learning Center is an active resource for activists working to prevent domestic violence. Many colleagues hosted at the learning center are using the acquired practical skills of engaging different sections of the community.
16. The Learning Center gained recognition from local and international institutions. For example CEDOVIP was identified by DFID as a model organization for new grantees to learn from and hosted the Minister of Gender and Equity from the UK.
17. CEDOVIP's work inspired more CSOs to prevent domestic violence e.g. OXFAM, Mpigi Women's Network sought to learn more from CEDOVIP to re-orient their work towards preventing domestic violence.
18. A significant role was played in influencing a team of journalists and editors to promote increased objectivity in reporting on domestic violence as shown by the editorials and articles written on the issue.
19. Engagement with UWOPA greatly influenced them to take public stand against VAW. This is very important in building the political will for the passing of the upcoming DV Bill.
20. Engagement in policy review and formulation processes particularly the draft
21. Domestic Violence Bill; National HIV PEP Policy ensured that clauses to protect women in the private sphere in regards to violence against women issues are addressed.
22. Members of the GBV Round Table of UWOPA were engaged on the DVB and they took up immediate action to pressurize the ULRC and the MGLSD to finalize the drafting of the bill.

## 5. Challenges and lessons learned

1. In a multi party democracy divisive party politics at local levels tend to focus on political differences at the expense of critical health and human rights issues such as DV. This greatly delayed the process of tabling the Bylaw to the council as the councilors were preoccupied with their conflicts. While the Bylaw was passed by the council, there are two more steps to be completed before it can be effectively implemented. Persistent engagement, persuasion and convincing and one on one meetings with the councilors was essential to win the councilors support for the Bylaw. CEDOVIP is following up with the LC V Chairman of Kampala District and the chairman of Kawempe Division Local Council to ensure that they endorse the Bylaw and have it functional.

2. Work with the Police oftentimes slowed down due to uncertainties that surround police programs. For instance the police was involved in security matters and preparations for CHOGM. This also influenced persistent turn overs with in the Police Force, and less attention was paid to ensure that the Police Domestic Violence Handbooks were properly distributed and used by the officers. There is need to closely follow up to ensure that the leadership issues a directive that the Police Handbook must be distributed to all Police

stations and used by the Police officers. There is need for Police to incorporate VAW issues into the Police training curriculum.

3. The period was characterized with high staff turn over for partnering CSOs under the NDVPI. Staff of some CSOs went for further studies outside the country while others got other jobs. This slowed down the progress of the program. CEDOVIP needs to conduct more technical support visits to support all staff of CSOs and there is need to remind the management of the partnering CSOs to ensure that their staff who have been trained under the NDVPI pass on the knowledge and skills gained to their entire staff.

4. Many of the media houses are business oriented and still published sensational stories and articles on DV, aimed at making quick sales. There is need to continuously engage the journalists and editors to inspire more objective reporting on domestic violence.

5. Process of finalizing the drafting of the DVB was delayed due to government's focus on commercial laws and preparation for the CHOGM. There is need for CSOs to put pressure on the ULRC, Attorney General and the Minister of Constitutional Affairs to focus their attention on finalizing the Bill and sending it to parliament.

## 6.

## Conclusion

CEDOVIP's work played a very significant role in inspiring civil society, government institutions, media and the general public to pay attention to VAW in Uganda. CEDOVIP influenced the Kawempe community to formally outlaw DV through passing the first ever Domestic Violence Bylaw in Uganda, had the Uganda Police Force institutionalize the use of the Police Handbook as standardized protocol to handle DV, inspired 10 civil society organizations under the NDVPI program to engage communities in 9 districts to prevent DV, provoked meaningful media debates on DV issues. Engagement in policy advocacy ensured that the policies provided for the usually forgotten VAW issues, to having sections of policy makers taking deliberate action to support the upcoming Domestic Violence Bill. All these efforts went a long way in creating supportive environments for women experiencing domestic violence. This interface from grassroots, civil society, to national institutions and policy makers paved way for urging policy makers to take practical actions that will lead to supporting the advocacy process for the national Domestic Violence Draft Bill. CEDOVIP is committed to ensure that the Bylaw is operational in Kawempe, the Uganda Police Force uses the handbook to sustain effective response to cases of domestic violence and to working to ensure that national legislation on domestic violence is in place.

## Overview of CEDOVIP's Income for 2007

Grants	Amount	Purpose
United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)	\$ 16,900	Mobilising the Community and CSOs to Prevent Domestic Violence'
American Jewish World Service (AJWS)	\$ 41,101	Domestic Violence Prevention Demonstration Project
Department For International Development (DFID)	\$ 95,028	Catalyzing Communities and Civil Society to Prevent Domestic Violence
Development Cooperation Ireland (DCI)	\$ 25,778	Mobilizing Men to Prevent Domestic Violence'
Other income	\$ 6,765	Provision of consultancies and collaborations with civil society

## CEDOVIP Expenditure Breakdown of 2007

Particulars	Budget USD
National Advocacy	43,526
Strengthening Capacity	27,818
National Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative	25,840
Men's Program	15,790
Local Activism	10,395
Administration and staffing	52,253
Bank charges	462
<b>Total</b>	<b>176,084</b>





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