

Background

Although they are unique in many respects, Uganda and Rwanda are facing similar socio-economic challenges. Both countries have a young population, face growing urbanization and impacts of climate crisis, gender inequality and displacement.

Together with women, youth, communities, civil society and local authorities, the Gender Equality and Resilience Project (GEAR) will challenge discriminatory social norms at community and household level and strengthen women's entrepreneurship and meaningful participation.

Result Areas



Positive gender norms protect women and girls and advance gender equality & women and girls' social and economic rights in the target communities



Marginalized women, girls and youth have **sustainable and dignified income opportunities**



Women and girls have **increased voice and leadership** to influence decisions and effectively take action to address their priorities



Knowledge on effective approaches of transforming gender norms and women's empowerment is disseminated at program, national and international level.

Target Groups

57.000 women and girls, men and boys in urban, refugee and rural settings, especially



- **Marginalised women, girls, and youth** (aged 15 and 59 years), including teenage mothers, survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), persons at risk of GBV, persons living with disabilities or female headed households.



- Members of their households and communities, as well as women-led organizations, government leaders, and cultural and religious leaders.

Indirect beneficiaries: about 310,000 persons



GEAR's Objective

The Gender Equality and Resilience Project (GEAR) supports **women, girls, and youth to become more self-reliant and to live in a responsive and inclusive environment in Northern Uganda and Eastern Rwanda.**

It contributes to increased gender equality (SDG5) and socioeconomic resilience, thereby reducing poverty (SDG1).

Facts and Figures

Austrian Development Agency (ADA) Strategic Partnership

Duration: 4/2024 - 3/2029

Location: **Northern Uganda** (Arua City, Terego District, Omugo Settlement, Gulu City); **Eastern Rwanda** (Gatsibo, Kayonza)

Partners: Benishyaka, CARE Austria/Rwanda/Uganda, CEFORD, Feminature, Pro Femmes Twese Hamwe, Thrive Gulu

Budget: 5,75 Mio. EUR



Main Activities



Positive gender norms protect women and girls and advance gender equality & women and girls' social and economic rights in the target communities

Unequal gender norms and practices permeate whole societies and affect women's and girls' opportunities in life. GEAR engages women, girls, their families, communities, and institutions to challenge and transform discriminatory norms. These can be related, for instance, to gender-based violence (GBV), unpaid care work, family planning services, control over productive assets and/or inheritance. GEAR will work with couples experiencing GBV through an Engaging Men and Boys Approach and communities and stakeholders by applying Social Analysis and Action.



Marginalized women, girls and youth have sustainable and dignified income opportunities

Many members of existing savings groups (VSLA) currently run unregistered businesses or engage in other income-generating activities, both as individuals, sometimes also in a group. GEAR supports women entrepreneurs to develop and grow their businesses and to have more control over their economic resources. For their businesses to thrive, the project provides relevant entrepreneurship and life skills trainings as well as mentorship. Moreover, it supports VSLA members and women entrepreneurs to engage more effectively with markets and financial services. In Uganda, GEAR also supports youth with vocational skilling opportunities.



Women and girls have increased voice and leadership to influence decisions and effectively take action to address their priorities

Many women and girls are not participating equally and meaningfully in decision-making processes, even when they are represented in relevant spaces. Thus, the project aims at strengthening the capacity of women and girls in community groups, grassroots organisations, and women-lead organisations to claim their rights and implement more effective actions in support of their communities. GEAR supports women's activists and community-led advocacy groups to influence local decision-makers on issues related to GBV and women's rights. It facilitates networking and knowledge sharing among women-lead organisations to support them fulfill their potential as change agents. Together with these various actors, CARE and partners conduct joint evidence-based advocacy to hold duty bearers accountable, including on Women, Peace and Security. Notably, Community Score Cards allow marginalised community members to directly engage with stakeholders and to jointly develop actions plans for improving service delivery.



Knowledge on effective approaches of transforming gender norms and women's empowerment is disseminated at program, national and international level.

The project is committed to fostering knowledge sharing and joint reflection between project partners in each of the countries and between country teams, for generating evidence on the transformation of gender norms and women's economic empowerment. It will disseminate good practices and recommendations to a wider audience in Uganda, Rwanda, Austria and beyond.