WOMEN AND ICTS
WOUGNET
WOMEN OF UGANDA NETWORK

APC
ASSOCIATION FOR PROGRESSIVE COMMUNICATIONS

BASELINE REPORT

THE LINKAGE BETWEEN COVID-19 AND ITS IMPACT ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS IN UGANDA

10TH FEB 2023-KAMPALA-UGANDA

SYNOPSIS

- The covid-19 pandemic revealed how gender inequality manifests itself in times of crisis; that women and girls are more vulnerable and more adversely affected by catastrophic events

BACKGROUND

WOUGNET SMILE Project:

Baseline objectives

The survey focused on;

- To investigate the impact of COVID-19 on women's rights organisations in Uganda.

- To assess the level of access and use of internet and digital technologies by women's rights organisations in Uganda.

- To investigate the gaps in access and use of internet and digital technologies by women's rights in Uganda.

BACKGROUND

WOUGNET SMILE project list of outcome and impact indicators

- Percentage increase in the number of women meaningfully accessing and using internet and digital technologies to respond to COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda.

- Percentage increase in number of digital logistics received by women's rights organisations.

- Frequency of COVID-19 information and other human rights content received by women and girls in the rural areas.

- Percentage increase in number of female staff with capacity, skills and knowledge to effectively access and use digital technologies to develop their communities.

METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

- A cross section research design involving both quantitative and qualitative approaches to collect data from WOUGNET member organisations

- The 20 WOUGNET member organisations were targeted to participate in this baseline study

- The basis was on the areas of intervention and contribution in responding to COVID-19 pandemic and its associated problems on women and the most at-risk population especially persons with disabilities

- The data was collected specifically online by sending the data collection tool to each member organisation to fill and return to WOUGNET for compilation and production of the reports

GENERAL FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

Number of years the organisations have been in existence

The data collected revealed that majority of the WOUGNET member organisations have been in existence between 20-29 years followed by those who have existed between 10-19 years and 0-9 years respectively while those between 30-39 years were represented by only 16.7 percent.

Regions where the organisations are located

WOUGNET member organisations being supported are based in central parts of Uganda represented by 50 percent followed by 33.3 percent in western Uganda while eastern Uganda had only 16.7 percent of the members being supported.
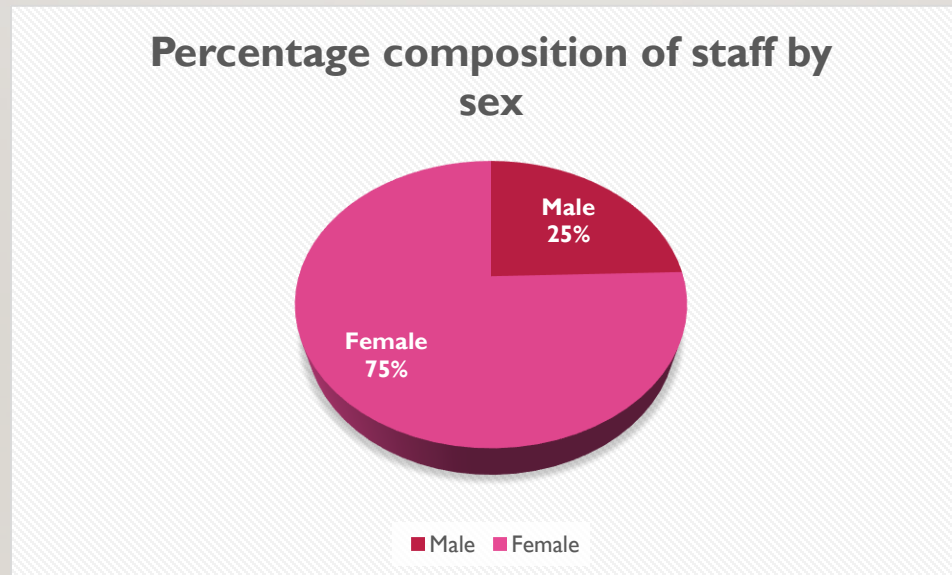
FINDINGS CONTINUE

The percentage composition of staff across the member organizations in Uganda

At least 75% of staff were females followed by 25% who are males indicating that WOUGNET member organizations are led by women as shown on the pie chart below.

Percentage composition of staff by sex

Male 25%

Female 75%

■ Male ■ Female

FINDINGS – CONTINUE

The Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Women's Rights Organisations in Uganda

- All the member organisations (100 percent) agreed in affirmation that they were affected by the pandemic in the following ways;

- Loss of funding and the programming was negatively impacted by the strict implementation of SOPs that limited movement.

- Work became on a stand still as no activity was taking place like sensitisation.

- Lack of digital technologies or usual means of information dissemination from physical workshops and trainings to virtual means and this is still a challenge to many women entrepreneurs.

FINDINGS – CONTINUE

The Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Women's Rights Organisations in Uganda

- Some staff were infected by COVID-19.

- There was limited travel time and or curfew restricted the amount of time available for us to travel to and from the field to work.

- Members income generating activities were affected by the lockdown, and members found it challenging to make the monthly payments hence affecting the group planned activities.

- Limited reach to project stakeholders, communication with all our members was not effective, our staff left. There was a lot of fear in people daily lives.

FINDINGS-CONTINUE

What was done to lessen that impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the organisation

- Besides COVID-19, we decided to do sensitisation on home-to-home visit. This is because gathering of members was not allowed and also due to inadequate resources to reach to the community.

- We had to break down activities in small cohorts to meet SOPs which put pressure on human resource and some staff had to spend nights in the field although this was not initially planned for in the programs budgets.

- Though we were highly affected by the pandemic, we devised means by re-focusing some physical meetings with social media activities like radio talk shows, radio sports and zoom meetings.
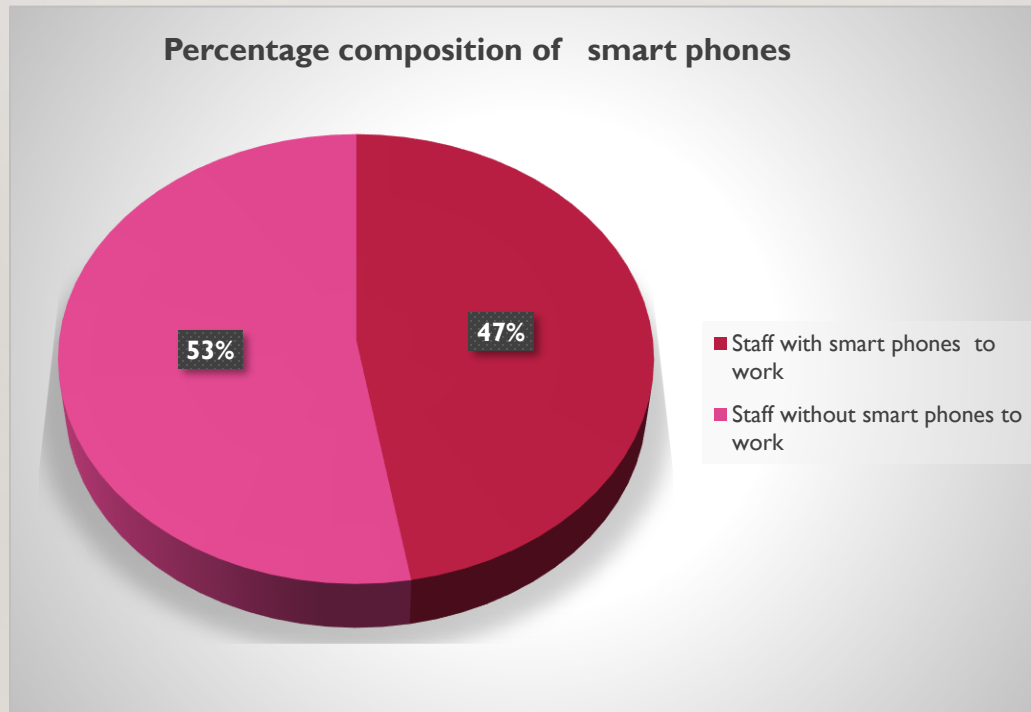
FINDINGS-CONTINUE

**The percentage composition of smart phones**

Out of the total number of 129 staff reported, majority do not have access to smart phones represented by 53% while 47% have access to smart phones as shown below.

Percentage composition of   smart phones

- Staff with smart phones to work
- Staff without smart phones to work

FINDINGS-CONTINUE

Composition of Staff with Computers to enable efficient Work

- Out of the total number of 102 staff reported, majority do not have access to working computers represented by 66% while only 34% have access to working computers as shown below.
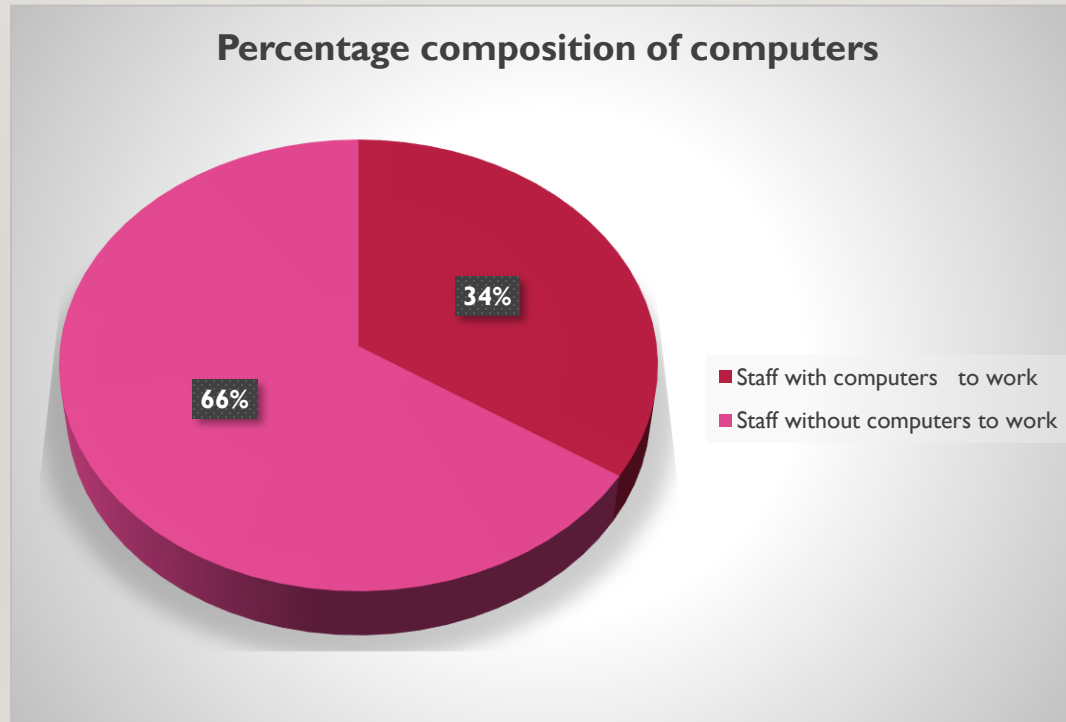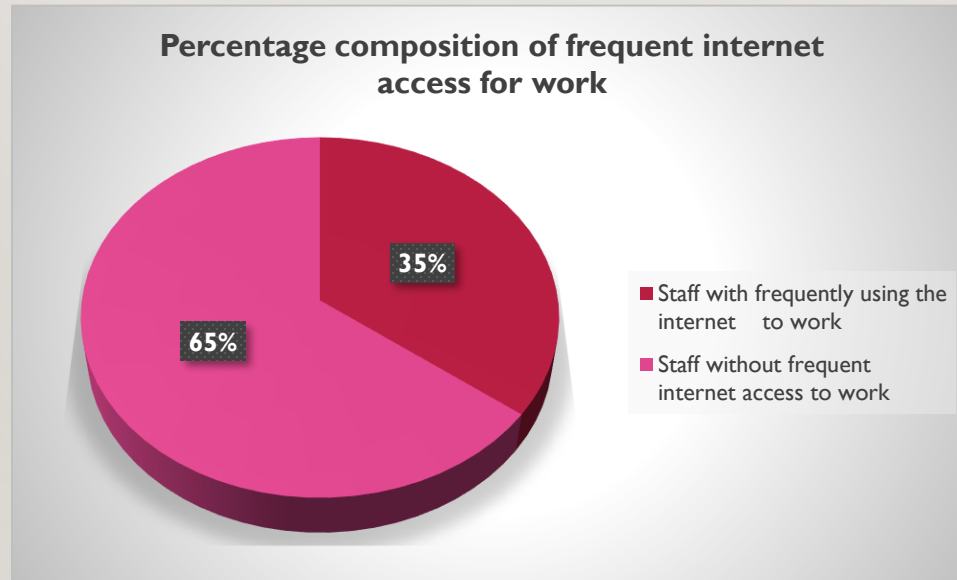
Percentage composition of computers

34%

66%

- Staff with computers   to work
- Staff without computers to work

FINDINGS-CONTINUE

Composition of Staff with Computers to enable efficient Work

- Out of the total number of 102 staff reported, majority do not have frequent access to internet for working represented by 65% while only 35% have frequent access to internet for working as shown below.

Percentage composition of frequent internet access for work

35%

65%

■ Staff with frequently using the internet   to work

■ Staff without frequent internet access to work

FINDINGS

Composition of staff with ICTs skills

Out of the total number of 102 staff reported, majority do not have adequate ICTs skills for working represented by 72 people while only 30 people have adequate ICTs skills for working as shown below.

Composition of staff and ICTs skills
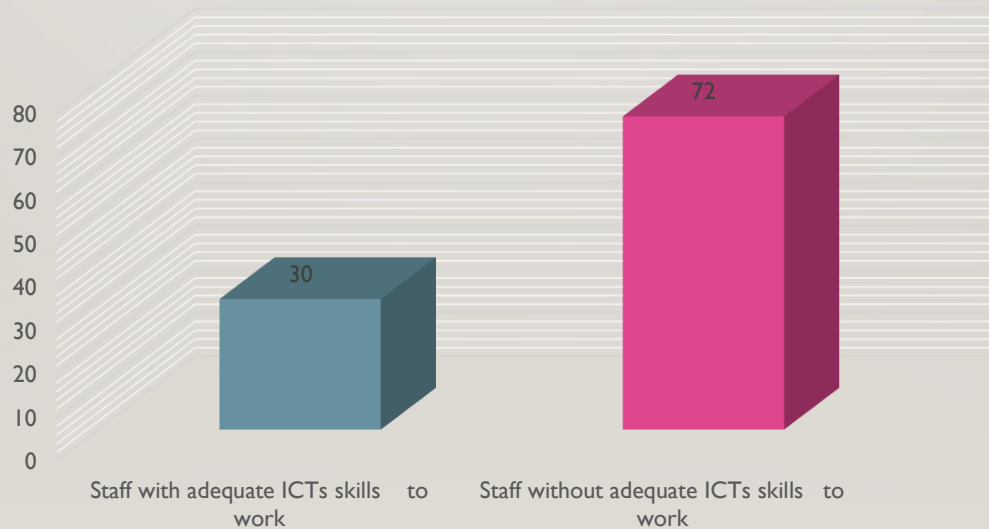
FINDINGS

## Satisfaction with the current staff level of ICT skills

Majority of member organisations reported that they are not satisfied with their current level of staff ICT skills represented by 66.7 percent followed by 25 percent who were not sure about the level of satisfaction while 8.3 percent are currently satisfied with their level of ICT skills.
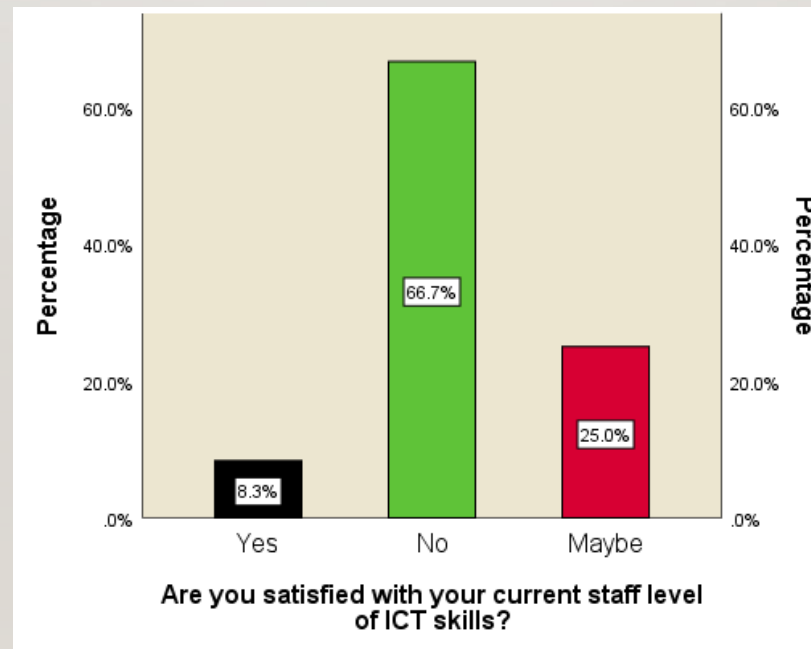
FINDINGS

Staff access to the Internet for work (For example, through the mobile phones or through fibre/cables)

WOUGNET members access the Internet for work through mobile phones represented by 75 percent followed by 17 percent who are accessing internet through fibre/cables and 8 percent accessing the internet through Wi-Fi.
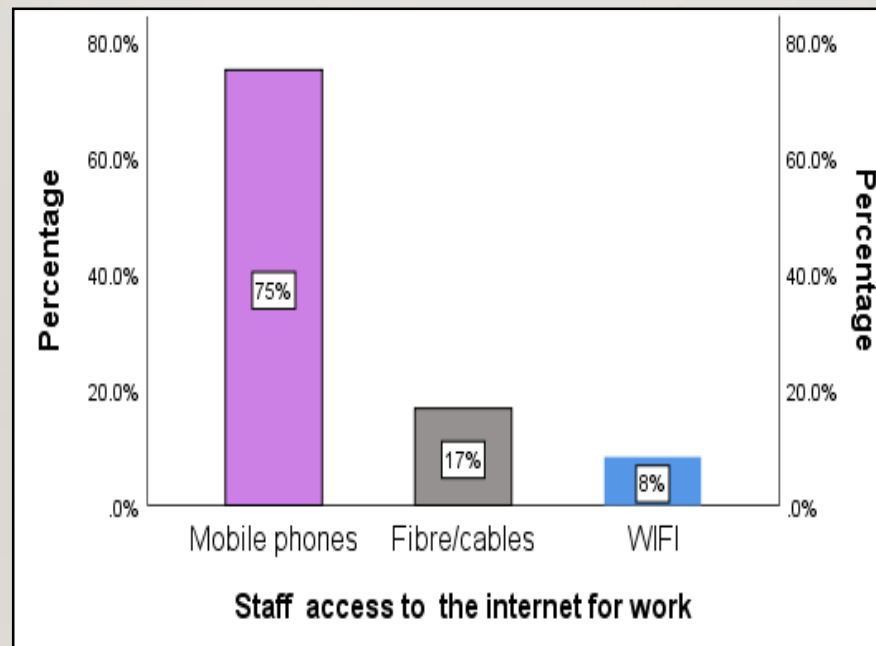
FINDINGS

Some of the areas that you need the staff capacity to be built on to produce quality newsletters and blogs about the work you are doing as an organisation.

- Computer Office Application skills.

- Graphical Designs, Use of Canva and Other Graphical Programs, Digital Reporting Skills.

- Effective tools to publish and share digital information.

- Methods and tips for content generation and Photography.

- Key pointers in sharing implementation impact.

- Writing and editing skills.

- How to build and run a blog at a lesser cost.

- How to grow a following on social media.

- How to restore hacked organization accounts.

- Social media management, publication skills, effective content, marketing and networking. social networking, photo editing.

- Basic SEO understanding, Audience analysis, proper formatting, writing skills, storytelling, graphic design, call to action, data analysis, video editing.

FINDINGS

Some of the areas in ICTs (capacity building or logistics) where you need support on as an organisation to cope up with the effects of COVID-19

Hardware	Software
• Internet bundles and airtime provision for Office and field use. • Printer/Photocopy. • IEC materials for Training purposes and visibility. • Smartphones, laptops, standby generator or solar kit. • Equipment for internet access like phones, tablets and laptops for field officers to report remotely.	• Computer Office Application skills. Graphical Designs, Use of Canva and Other Graphical Programs. • Effective tools to publish and share digital information. • Digital security and Online safety training. • Training on utilization of digital tools to limit use of paper or physical engagement in project execution. (Project management tools). • Microsoft database. • Data collection tools.
Networks	**Communication Technology**
• Internet installation. • Internet Device (Wi-Fi). • Data (unlimited internet).	• Methods and tips for content generation. • Social media management. • Blogging. • Online marketing and sales/ E-commerce. • Video editing, graphics and animations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Capacity building and empowerment	Policy Advocacy
• Refresher training for women's rights organisation staff in digital skills. • Increase skills in use of digital platforms for group leaders. • The training in ICTs should be extended to rural women and girls to enable them use ICTs in sharing information on COVID–19.	• Lobby the Government to lower the costs of internet and ICTs related tools, that would enable women to afford use and application of ICTs. • Lobby for greater funds from stakeholders to support ICTs training for women who lack the knowledge. • Create awareness about women's rights through print media (writing articles) and social media platforms.
Equipment support • Logistical Support for effective programming. • Increase access to the internet and data for group leaders.	**Information sharing and networking** • Peer visits to other organisations to benchmark the best practices. • Regional dialogues for experience sharing.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING