



Families United
Against

Gender Based Violence
and HIV/AIDS in
Amuria District

7th International
Exposition
2017

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Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange
(Re)creating Peace Internationally



AMURIA DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Families United against **Gender Based Violence and HIV/AIDS** in Amuria

7th International Isis-WICCE Peace Exposition

Amuria District, Teso Sub-region | 6th to 8th November 2017

With Support from



Message from the Executive Director



We were pleased to partner with Amuria district local government as the co-host of Isis-WICCE's 7th peace exposition. This event followed Isis-WICCE's similar collaborations and peace expositions in Soroti, Kasese, Kotido, Lira and Busia all with the aim of partnering to address gender-specific challenges resulting from conflict. In each district, working with local government, local development partners and community members we have seen concrete changes and commitments to progress for women, families and larger communities.

Since 2002, Isis-WICCE has collaborated with various actors in Teso sub-region and implemented diverse activities related to gender-responsive peace building and post-conflict reconstruction. In 2002, a team of researchers from Isis-WICCE investigated and documented women's experiences of armed conflict between 1987 and 2001 in Teso. Through this study of women as resilient survivors of war as well as significant peace builders, the organisation interacted with women leaders and women's groups that would later be long-term partners.

Starting with the Teso Women Peace Activists, working across the sub-region and currently with Akwenyutu People Living with HIV/AIDS (APHAS), Isis-WICCE has continued to collaborate with fellow actors committed to social change and advancing national development goals in Teso. Some of these activities include a medical intervention hosted in Soroti and targeting the unaddressed mental, sexual and reproductive health complications of individuals affected



by the conflict. Over 2000 women and men received general treatment and counselling, and 110 underwent surgery. We also provided training for dozens of health workers to manage the medical and psychological effects of war trauma within the sub-region.

Isis-WICCE also partnered with women and women's groups across the Teso sub-region to identify their specific priorities and ensure the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda (PRDP) includes women and addresses their needs. Currently, we work with APHAS in Amuria's Orungo sub-county providing them with tools for economic empowerment and self-documentation. They have been trained on enterprise development, farming, leadership, their rights as women as well as their sexual and reproductive health rights. Our desire is for women living with HIV/AIDS to have control of their lives and their livelihoods. We aim to ease the burden of HIV stigma, boost women's esteem and counter any gender-specific marginalisation they experience.

This 7th peace exposition allowed community members, local government and civil society the opportunity to discuss HIV/AIDS and its links to gender-based violence while proposing solutions and committing to action for a peaceful Amuria. We thank our partners whose contributions have made this gathering possible, primarily the Amuria District Local Government, Lira and Kotido District Local Governments as well as TASO Uganda- for their support with HIV testing and counselling-, National Union of Women with Disabilities (NUWODU), Red Cross Society, ADDA, UN Women, Nakere Women's Group and WOPI-U. We are confident that the demonstrated and expressed commitment to initiate and support efforts towards "families united against HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence in Amuria" will bear real fruit.

Helen Kezie-Nwoha

Executive Director



Introduction

Isis-WICCE has over the years applied its integrative model to catalyze women's power for peace using research and documentation, holistic healing, skills and movement building as well as advocacy. The running campaigns to tackle context-specific sexual and gender based violence concerns in post-conflict locations dubbed Peace Expositions reflect the same strategies and intentions. Through these peace expositions, Isis-WICCE works in partnership to tackle this impact of conflict on women and wider communities.

Since 2010, Isis-WICCE has organized peace expositions in conflict-affected parts of Uganda as a means of enabling communities to take lead in identifying and addressing issues resulting from the impact of armed conflict. The peace expos pay particular attention to gender-specific challenges, which are often a manifestation of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV).

As a public accountability platform, the peace expo particularly addresses SGBV in fragile contexts – bringing together policy and decision makers as well as diverse community members. Isis-WICCE partners with local government leaders, line ministries, cultural leaders, civil society actors, women leaders and groups to engage women, girls, men, boys, the elderly and different categories of opinion leaders for social change geared to peace and security.

2010

In Soroti (2010), the peace expo prioritized lowering the number of SGBV cases and implementing UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security at local level.

2011

The Kasese (2011) peace expo tackled child marriage, engaging cultural leaders and communities in adopting and implementing solutions to end it.

2013

For Kotido (2013) culture and religion were key in addressing barriers to healthy families and happy communities, with focus on SGBV against school-going girls.

2014

Busia also hosted a peace exposition in 2014 also seeking to catalyze change and tackle SGBV.

2015

In Lira (2012, 2015) the alarming rates of violence against women and the need to mobilize communities to curb the daily incidences was a priority.



The Situation in Amuria District

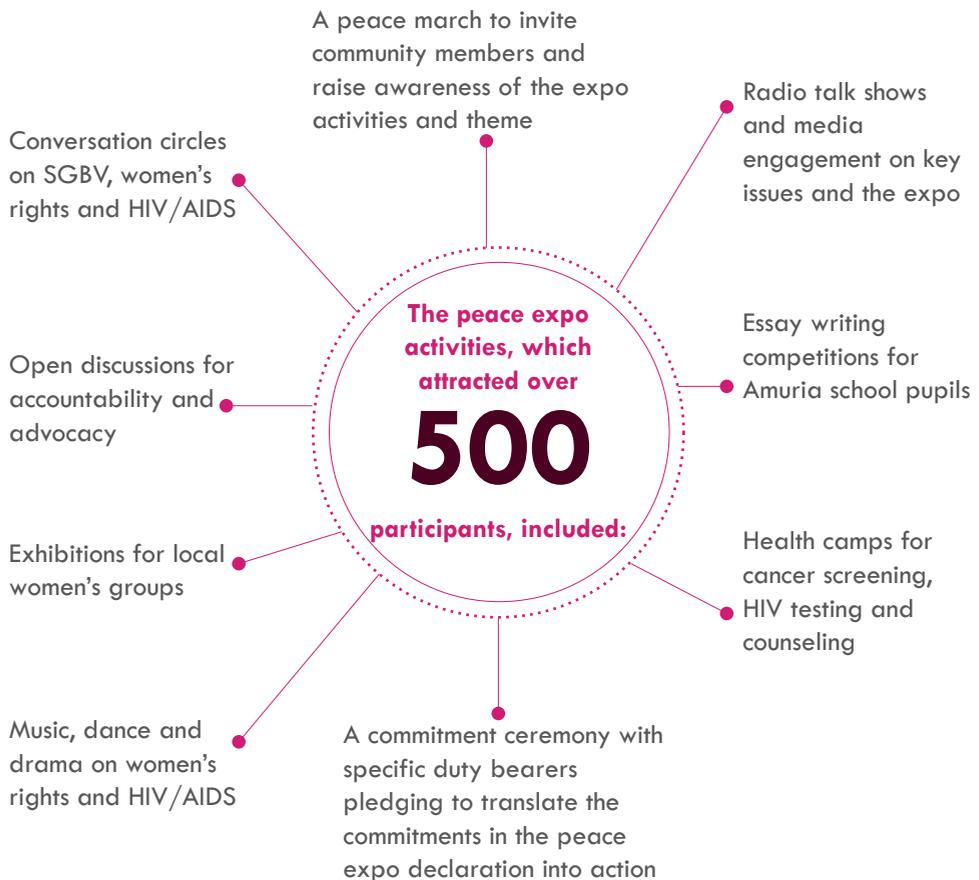
In the late 1980s and 1990s Amuria experienced violent cattle rustling from neighbouring Moroto and Kotido districts. During the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgency led by Joseph Kony, particularly in 2003 the entire population was displaced and experienced grave human rights violations with physical and psychological health effects. Women and girls suffered diverse forms of sexual violence including rape, forced marriage and abduction into sexual slavery. As a result of the challenges in access to health care during the insurgency, high incidence of sexual violence and unsafe sexual contact, HIV infection rates became high.

While Amuria is currently post-conflict and the focus of development interventions is on recovery and reconstruction, gender-responsiveness or women and girls' specific needs are often insufficiently prioritized. This is coupled with limited understanding and capacity for gender-sensitive decision-making among local council and district leaders. While the district will soon gazette a GBV ordinance, coordination mechanisms are not functional and neither are efforts to raise awareness or condemn GBV in the communities. Elders, cultural leaders and institutions, influential group at district level, are also limited in their ability to engage the youth or challenge gender-insensitive, harmful attitudes and practices linked to SGBV. There is also a shortage of male champions, particularly among the educated and employed men.

Consequently, significant gaps remain in addressing the psychological, sexual and reproductive health needs of women in Amuria. Women without children and widows suffer land grabbing from in-laws and lack support to access legal justice. There are growing numbers of single mothers lacking sufficient community support. Women and girls with disabilities also experience even more marginalisation and gaps in responses, which do not specifically benefit them. This is reflected in decision-making, identification of priorities, resource allocation and women's inclusion at different levels.

Responding through the 2017 Peace Exposition

In response, Isis-WICCE partnered with Amuria District Local Government, Akwenyutu People Living with HIV/AIDS (APHAS), National Union of Women with Disabilities (NUWODU), health care providers and civil society actors who focus their efforts on addressing sexual and gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS related concerns of women and girls in Amuria. Following consultations and a meeting with district actors, the peace expo was assigned the theme “Families United Against Gender Based Violence and HIV/AIDS”.



I: The Radio Talk Show

Radio Etop, which covers the entire Teso Sub-Region, hosted a radio talk show where the Amuria District Community Development Officer and HIV Focal Point engaged listeners on pressing SGBV and HIV/AIDS issues in addition to discussing how community members can get involved in the struggle. The talk show started the conversation, eliciting recommendations for the way forward in addition to raising awareness for the events of the peace expo.

II: Essay Writing Competition

Working with the District Education Officer essay-writing competitions were organized among pupils from Amolo Primary School, Living Hope Primary School, Okwalo Primary School and Amuria Primary School. The pupils were engaged as a means of growing a collection of young champions in the fight against GBV and HIV/AIDS. The essays were tailored around the theme of the expo “families united against GBV and HIV/AIDS.” Prizes were awarded to the best-written essays during the expo.



III: The Health Camp: Cervical Cancer Screening and HIV Testing and Counseling

The two-day medical camp offered women screening for cancer of the cervix and breast, HIV/AIDS testing, specialized health care and advice for health conditions presented during the screening.

The medical team consisted of two expert Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, six experienced nurses and nine trained nurses from Lira University, Lira Regional Referral Hospital, Soroti Regional Referral Hospital, TASO Soroti Branch, Amuria Health Center IV and Amuria District Local Government. The team was inducted in cancer screening and identification of common gynaecological conditions they were likely to encounter like pelvic inflammatory disease, abnormal vaginal discharge, pelvic organ prolapse, perineal tear and causes of incontinence of urine and stool, among others. Women arrived with songs and ululations of excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to test for HIV/AIDS and cervical cancer.



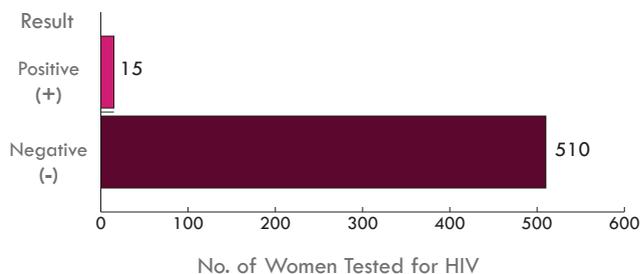
Screening Results

A total of 520 women were screened for cancer of the cervix and breasts. Four (4) women had suspicious lesions for cancer of the cervix and eight (8) had breast lumps.

In general, the abnormalities detected were as follows:

	Abnormality detected	Number	Remarks
1	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)	34	Counseled and treated
2	Vaginal discharge	38	Counseled and treated
3	Suspicious cervical cancer	04	Counseled and referred to Soroti Hospital
4	Breast lumps	08	Counseled and referred to Soroti Hospital
5	Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)	40	Counseled and treated
6	Pelvic Organ (genital) prolapse	06	Counseled and referred to Soroti Hospital
	Total	130	

One hundred and twelve (112) women were counselled and treated for pelvic inflammatory diseases, abnormal vaginal discharge and urinary tract infection. Four women with suspicious lesions for cancer of the cervix were counselled and referred to Soroti Regional Referral Hospital for further evaluation that would require taking a biopsy for confirmation/ruling out of the cancer. Eight (8) women with breast lumps were referred to Soroti regional Referral Hospital for biopsy and confirmation or ruling out cancer of the breast. Six (6) women with pelvic organ prolapse were counselled and referred to Soroti Regional Referral Hospital for operation to repair of the prolapse.



Out of 565 women who tested for HIV, 15 tested positive and these were referred for further counselling and treatment by TASO and Amuria Health Center IV

Testimonies From The Health Camp

Betty was screened of cervical cancer and was found with wounds on her uterus, which haven't yet resulted into a cancer. She was referred for further treatment.

"I have been experiencing severe abdominal pain and didn't know what the problem was, now that I know, am going to get further treatment and create awareness to other women to check for cervical cancer and get help before it is too late."

Acwo Betty, 20 years old

"I was told by people that cervical cancer screening pains but after experiencing this today, I realize that it's not painful."

Abwo Angella, 45 years.



IV: A March For Peace

Women backed by a brass band marched and sang from Amuria District Headquarters to the city centre and back. They raised placards and flags with messages of peace. The march was led by the Amuria Resident District Commissioner Rex Achilla who was also the Chief Walker. The aim was to create awareness of the peace expo activities and to sound an alarm on peace and the fight against GBV and HIV/AIDS.



V: Opening Ceremony

The ceremony opened with anthems of Teso, Uganda and East Africa. The opening prayer was led by the Archdeacon of Amuria District.

Chief Administrative Officer Amuria District– Andrew Leru

The CAO appreciated Isis-WICCE for partnering with Amuria District in a critical health area through the peace expo. “This is the first group I have met who have mobilized women across Amuria district and identified critical areas of breast and cervical cancer for medical intervention.” He encouraged the district leadership to continue mobilizing women for regular health checks, aside from antenatal checks. He advised women to feed on organic foods to avoid chronic diseases such as cancer. The CAO pledged commitment to work with Isis-WICCE for the empowerment of women in Amuria district.

Akwenyutu Angora (meaning women wake up) is a group of women living with HIV/AIDS. They presented a song accompanied by local instruments, which conveyed messages of peace and harmony in homes and on the fight against GBV and HIV/AIDS. The messages also encouraged couples to open up about their status and live peacefully and stigma free.

Executive Director Isis-WICCE – Helen Kezie-Nwoha

Helen thanked Amuria Local Government for partnering with Isis-WICCE in organizing the 7th Isis-WICCE peace expo. She explained that Isis-WICCE approach of partnering with the district structures and leadership is more sustainable in addressing women’s needs and concerns. She shared the history of Isis-WICCE’s relationship with different actors in Teso sub-region and Amuria and highlighted the objective of the peace expo as a means to continue highlighting women’s challenges in post conflict regions and to advocate for districts to incorporate women’s issues into their district plans and budgets. She thanked all partners for the different roles they played at the peace expo. She encouraged women to sustain their boldness to test for HIV/AIDS and cervical cancer, to avoid ill-health or death, especially since women play an important role in developing communities and keeping families peaceful.

LC V Amuria District – Hon. Okidoi Robert

The LCV emphasized that the challenge of HIV/AIDS and cancer is real and with no cure, more people should take precaution by testing regularly. He thanked Isis-WICCE for choosing Amuria district and further affirmed that the peace expo is a milestone in the district’s administration. “I have witnessed families fall apart because of blame games mostly after testing HIV positive. So I encourage leaders of Amuria district to strengthen their presence in communities so that people feel their support in preventing diseases that destabilize families.”

LC V Lira District -Hon Alex Oremo Alot

“Isis-WICCE provided Lira district with a stepping stone for promoting peace.” Since the first peace expo in Lira district in 2012, the LC V has closely interacted with Isis-WICCE particularly on issues of concern to women. The Lira peace expo focused on SGBV and also organised a medical camp for cancer screening and HIV/AIDS testing. He called on districts to mobilize women and men for testing and shared the experience of Lira. Lira Local Government handled GBV in an extreme manner after the expo. Messages were delivered to all communities and women groups about the expo. The causes of GBV in Lira were noted as drunkenness, poverty, financial mismanagement among others, so Lira Local Government passed an ordinance on GBV, which has been tabled before the district council. This has drastically reduced cases of GBV in the district.

The second peace expo in Lira went deeper to the sub county level and work plans to uplift the lives of women were developed. Currently the sub county (Aromo) that hosted the peace expo has been able to significantly lower cases of GBV. The LC V urged the leadership of Amuria district to use the peace flag to promote peace and to execute the peace expo mission for Amuria to develop like other districts.

Keynote Address – Beatrice Were, HIV/AIDS Activist

A brief history on HIV AIDS

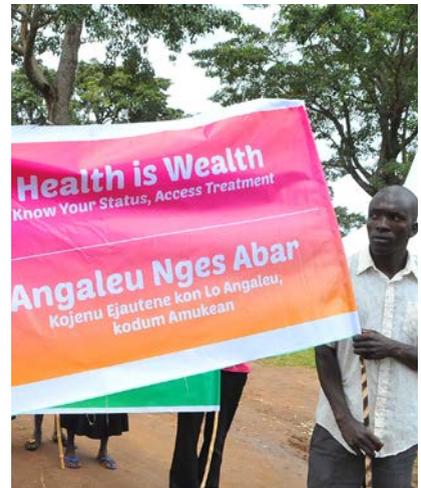
Uganda has suffered the epidemic for almost four decades since the first case was recognized in Rakai. Uganda was one of the first countries in the world to accept HIV/AIDS and the country's leadership quickly responded to the problem, while other countries were in denial. The president then took it upon himself to mobilize everybody in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In 1992 the government put in place a multi sectoral approach that brought everyone on board, and also realized that HIV/AIDS wasn't only a medical but political, socio-economic and family problem which necessitated all Ugandans to be mobilized. By 2002 the infection had dropped from 18.5% in 1980 to 5% in 2002. Painfully the country is losing on this story. A recent UNDP report indicates that Uganda may have the highest HIV infections in the world.



Linking HIV/AIDS, GBV and Climate Change

Findings from various studies across the world have linked HIV/AIDS and gender based violence. These include; UNAIDS 2012; WHO 2011; MGLSD 2011 which show an increased risk of HIV infection among survivors of gender based violence. In post conflict communities like Amuria, GBV becomes a key driver of HIV/AIDS among women. This is further compounded by patriarchy, unequal gender and power relations that are embedded in strong cultural norms and harmful practices which are likely to place women and girls at a high risk of HIV infection.

Climate change is a new dynamic in development that greatly exacerbated the coping abilities of post conflict communities in the face of HIV and GBV. Climate change greatly affects marginalized communities such as post conflict Amuria especially women and girls who struggle to fend for families under harshly changing weather patterns. Such critical needs of nutrition and food, which is core to anti-retroviral treatment, prevention of mother to child transmission and positive living. In these communities, the lack of technical capacity to deal with the challenges of climate change is a major dilemma for women. For women living with HIV and survivors of SGBV climate change simply compounds their tragedy and sense of helplessness - this is a triple pandemic. Climate change therefore, is a major threat to the gains that have been made in HIV prevention and treatment and requires urgent attention in order to sustain meaningful HIV prevention and care interventions.



Her Story

“I tested HIV+ in 1992 (26 years ago). I derived strength to live positively and open up about my status because of support I received from my family, most especially my father. My family didn’t judge me, reminded me of my medical appointments and encouraged me to live healthy. My assessment of Amuria communities towards HIV is a stigmatizing one. I therefore appeal to everyone to remove all barriers of stigma, fear, discrimination, GBV that instill fear among people and prevents them from testing and getting treatment.”

Beatrice advised those infected not to infect others in order to live longer. She encouraged parents with HIV infected children disclose to them their status and closely monitor their medication and encouraged school students against stigmatizing children infected and affected by HIV. She rebuked couples who share medication (most especially among men who don’t want to be seen collecting their medicine from the health centres) not to do so as half medication causes the body to become resistant to the drugs. She encouraged proper nutrition for those on medication otherwise the medicine becomes poisonous to the body and economic empowerment for people living positively to avoid dependency. Beatrice added that those with HIV should have few children to avoid the body from weakening and write wills to avoid wrangles over property in case of death.

“Change begins with you. Together lets fight AIDS to the end and make the world a better place.”

Official Launch of the 7th Peace Expo –Amuria Resident District Commissioner Rex Achilla

“As a country we have had many wars and one is the fight against HIV/AIDS while the other is GBV but we have managed to silence these physical wars. The fight can only continue if we join hands and get involved. ”He said Amuria district would take on the recommendations of the expo since the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and GBV is still high in the district. With these remarks the RDC launched the 7th International Peace Expo.



VI: Exhibition

The expo integrated exhibitions by Nakere Women's Group and Akwenyutu Women's Group, in a bid to promote the economic advancement of these groups



Poem from Orungo High School

By Apiro Esther and Apoluto Shalom

Gender Based Violence and HIV/AIDS

AIDS, AIDS, AIDS

AIDS in every Family

AIDS in every Clan

AIDS in every Community

AIDS in very Nation

AIDS is every where

But who suffers most effects! women and the girl child.

And what is the major cause of all this! It is Gender Based Violence in form of Sexual Abuse of the Girl Child, Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Unwanted Pregnancy, and Low Social-Economic Status.

So let's fight against Gender Based Violence in order to win the battle against HIV/AIDS.

We say this for God and My Country!



VII: School Debate

A school debate was held during the peace expo to orient young activists on advocacy for violent free communities. The debate was between Amuria senior secondary school and Orungo senior secondary school. They debated the motion “Women’s Emancipation Campaign is Responsible for GBV.” The debate provided the opportunity to discuss and debunk attitudes and ideas that entrench GBV and gender inequality.



VIII: Experiences From Kotido And Lira

Kotido

Jesca Ataa Ruth – Coordinator Nakere Women’s Group

“The first peace expo I attended was held in Kasese district and we shared on child marriage. Women shared different experiences on sexual and gender based violence related challenges that girls face. In Kasese, girls are raped while coming down from the mountains and as soon as they get their first period, they are declared ready for marriage. The discussions held emphasized the importance of taking care of the girl child until the age of marriage. I witnessed many journalists at this peace expo, something I had never experienced before.” In Lira district, we shared on GBV. The medical camp in Lira registered high numbers of cervical cancer and HIV/AIDS cases. Cases of GBV were also high.

In 2013, Nakere Women’s group in partnership with Isis-WICCE and Kotido district local government hosted the 5th peace expo. Fewer cases of cervical cancer and HIV/AIDS were registered in comparison to Kasese, Lira and Aromo. The highlight for Kotido was the training of health workers on how to screen cervical cancer. This was a sustainable approach to dealing with the issue. Since the peace expo the Bishop has continuously created awareness on issues of GBV during church services. The district leaders have also showed sustained commitment towards fighting against GBV in the district.”

Best practices from Kotido district

In 2013, Lira handed over the peace flag to Kotido district. Since then, the district in partnership with Nakere Women's Group has realized the following achievements:

- The district formed caucuses from Sub County to district level to front women's issues at women councils. The caucuses are also following up cases of GBV with police.
- Dialogue meetings were held with communities on land rights for women.
- Sensitization of women market vendors on hygiene, sanitation, HIV and other violence caused by their spouses.
- Supporting women to form independent VSLA groups.
- Developed ordinances on health and environmental protection.
- Sensitized grass root women on the procedure or referral pathway for reporting cases of GBV to police.
- Encouraged men to access health care services together with their wives.
- Members of Nakere Women's Group were inspired and empowered to take up leadership positions in the district e.g. Vice chairperson, district speaker and secretary production.
- The district council now has two committees, which are chaired by women.
- Increased networking with NGOs like IRC, Mercy Corps and other development partners in the district.
- Encouraged and supported women to open up farms in green lands to eradicate poverty and hunger.
- The peace expo is also a form of exchange visit for women to learn, share and network.

Lira

The LCV of Lira district along with civil society partner WOPI-U shared the peace expo experience in Lira.

Best Practices from Lira Peace Exposition

- The district engaged development partners, political leaders, community based organizations and technical staff at district and sub county level.
- Isis-WICCE identified and trained community activists as agents for advocacy on issues of GBV and HIV/AIDS. The district has constant engagement with community activists and communities on GBV issues. They used the approach of reaching out to the communities at the drinking places and their leisure or recreation places to pass on messages on GBV.
- They identified circles of influence such as cultural leaders, religious leaders, opinion leaders and role models, who were trained on GBV as ambassadors. The circles of influence now support communities to mediate GBV cases.

- Engagements in schools were held and football competitions were organized, which they used to pass on information as children were playing.
- Dialogues were organized between pupils, teachers, the school administration and parents, on GBV issues that affect students.
- The district organized essay writing competitions, community dialogues and sensitizations on GBV issues that affect pupils.

Achievements of Lira District since the Peace Exposition

- Increased level of community empowerment especially for women who were encouraged to stand out and speak about their rights and issues that affect them.
- Lira is implementing a GBV ordinance.
- Cases being reported to police have reduced because the circles of influence are handling cases in the communities.
- The district linked GBV with HIV and developed strategies to address these issues.
- Most women at the peace expo had never accessed cervical cancer and HIV screening. The medical camp provided that opportunity and enlightened hospitals and health centres which are now offering such services, including surgery for cervical cancer.
- There is increased level of male involvement on GBV related issues, mostly among community leaders.
- More women are now accessing government programs since information now reaches them.
- Increased enrollment and retention of the girl child in school as a result of continuous awareness on the importance of educating the girl child.
- The community activists and circles of influence have supported efforts initiated by the peace expo.
- Communities have been trained to become role models and to appreciate that change begins with them.
- The peace expos in Lira and Amuria made visible and recognized the work of Isis-WICCE, WOPI and Lira Local Government partnership.
- Communities were empowered to go for medical checkup and access health services.
- The Women Peace House was launched. The Peace House was constructed to support and shelter survivors of GBV.
- A campaign to Keep Lira Clean was launched to promote sanitation, hygiene and environment conservation.
- Established a Peace Hut where people gather and listen to cases of GBV.
- Established active peace clubs in schools and communities.
- Increased partnership between Lira Local Government, NGOs and communities.

IX: Conversation Circles

A cross section of participants held discussions on understanding the root cause of GBV, the role each of them has to play in ending GBV and creating peaceful homes and communities. Reports from the conversation camps were presented to partners for further analysis and action.

Discussions on GBV

	How do men contribute to GBV?	How do men contribute to ending GBV?
Girls' Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding the capacity of young women to do what men can do• Forced sex• Use of vulgar language towards women and girls• Use of power over• Early and forced marriage for dowry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• By empowering girls socially and politically• Participating in joint events that concern issues of GBV• Men have accepted women to participate in income generating activities• Allowing women and young girls to study while pregnant or after giving birth• Through collective responsibility in domestic chores• Some men have reduced on alcohol consumption• Men have stopped practicing cultural norms that lead to GBV• Women are allowed to eat all foods, unlike before where it was a taboo for women to eat certain foods like eggs, chicken, grasshoppers among others• The practice of monogamy in marriage has reduced GBV• Avoiding bad peer influence

	In what specific ways can men be held accountable and equipped to end GBV in Amuria?	What role can district leaders, development partners, women's groups, community members play to end GBV?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using cultural institutions and development partners to educate men and women on the effects of GBV • Encourage family dialogues to resolve disputes • Form clubs and associations for men and women to discuss GBV related issues • Expose and punish men who practice GBV • Empower women to know and demand their rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop laws against GBV • Organize educative seminars for men and women on GBV • Punish GBV perpetrators

	How do men contribute to GBV?	How do men contribute to ending GBV?
Women Living with HIV's Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through adultery • Drunkenness • Failing to meet the family's basic needs • Poor financial planning • Poor hygiene and sanitation of men • Forced sex/marital rape • Disowning the family • Selling property without the wife's consent • No respect for women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding their spouses • Loving their spouses • Planning together • Practicing religion • Desisting from alcohol • Staying faithful to one partner • Tolerance
Men's Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over drinking of alcohol • Struggling for family assets • Polygamous marriages • Extra sexual partners • Difference in party affiliations • Lack of respect by women • Poverty in families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men should provide basic needs for their families. • Promote monogamy and faithfulness in marriages • Sharing information on ending GBV in communities • Promoting Income Generating Activities for women
Women's Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra marital relations • Alcoholism • Poverty • Ownership of poverty {land, money, selling food, cattle} • Biasness and segregation of relatives • Decision making • Demand for respect • Failure to provide basic needs • Reproduction issues e.g. more girls are produced than boys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint/equal decision making • Staying faithful to one partner • Godliness • Taking family responsibility • Stopping drug abuse and alcoholism • Capacity building i.e. being part of awareness campaigns • Being transparent, honest and accountable to the family

	In what specific ways can men be held accountable and equipped to end GBV in Amuria?	What role can district leaders, development partners, women's groups, community members play to end GBV?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through clan meetings • Continuous sensitization in churches, village meetings etc • Arrest perpetrators • Through guidance and counseling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrest perpetrators • Work with police • Report GBV cases to relevant authorities • Carry out family visitations • Conduct guidance and counseling sessions • Facilitate outreaches
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing men on board and using model men discussions on GBV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community based departments and cultural leaders should conduct sensitizations and discussions with communities and identify champions/models in society to end GBV
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving men in gender related issues e.g. awareness creation meetings community dialogues, and advocacy campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous guidance and counseling of families • Encourage male action groups • Organize community dialogues to educate communities • Encourage male engagement in health issues e.g. HIV testing, cancer screening jointly with their spouses • The district should allocate funds for awareness creation campaigns • Formulation of by laws • NGOS should use participatory approaches to involve grass root people in advocacy for peaceful communities

	How do men contribute to GBV?	How do men contribute to ending GBV?
Persons with Disability's Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoiding multiple partners • Controlling peer groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled persons report their cases to the authorities i.e. LCs, Clan Leaders and the perpetrators are summoned and counseled by the concerned leaders • Contribution of male champions in indentifying and resolving GBV Cases • Community mobilization and sensitization through music, drama and training

Linking HIV/AIDS to GBV

	What is the link between HIV/AIDS and GBV?	In what ways do school going children, young women, young men, women, men and women with disability experience stigma for living with HIV?	What must happen to end HIV stigma and who has the power to take the required action?
Girls' Camp	HIV/AIDS leads to GBV and GBV leads to HIV/AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discrimination/ isolation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of counselling services for survivors • Medical support for survivors • Economic support for survivors
Men's camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One partner testing without the other causes GBV • Declaration of one's status to the partner may cause GBV • Sharing drugs may lead to GBV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segregation • Isolation • Fear of medication • Insults from society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitizations in school and communities • Motivate survivors by involving them in community activities • NGOs, Local Government and Cultural leaders are required to take action

	In what specific ways can men be held accountable and equipped to end GBV in Amuria?	What role can district leaders, development partners, women's groups, community members play to end GBV?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By establishing a GBV ordinance in Amuria • Community sensitization campaigns • Advocate for separate special grant for disabled Persons • Prioritize allocation, registration and certification of land for disabled women in Amuria

	What are the experiences of women with regard to owing or using land?	Challenges women face as a result of not owning land	Laws that should be implemented by the district	What can be done by district leaders?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women are not allowed to own land • They are also not allowed to take control of the produce out of the land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death • Neglect of children due to lack of food • Addiction to alcohol leading to drunkenness • They end up as sex workers exposes them to HIV/AIDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District ordinance on GBV • Child Rights Act • The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective implementation of existing laws on GBV • Continuous counselling and sensitization
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women don't own land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women are chased away from land • Women are ignorant about writing wills • Their husbands sell land without their consent • Land is not utilized effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Land Act • Marriage bil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization

	What is the link between HIV/AIDS and GBV?	In what ways do school going children, young women, young men, women, men and women with disability experience stigma for living with HIV?	What must happen to end HIV stigma and who has the power to take the required action?
Women's Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discordance issues • Poverty • Inheritance of widows • Increase in orphanage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They get ulcers which could lead to death • Poor performance in school • Neglect drugs • Low self esteem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay together with them • Take care of them (dressing, feeding, love) • Community sensitization • Empower them through IGAs • Encourage them to take their medication

X: Peace Flag Handover And Commitment Ceremony

The peace flag was handed over from Kotido to Amuria District Local Government as a symbol of commitment by the district to promote and sustain peace, as well as protect women and girls from SGBV, protect women living with HIV/AIDS and support women to access, control and own land.

Akol Ketty the Council Speaker and Woman Councillor for Kaperebyong Sub County spoke on behalf of the district leadership. She pronounced a covenant for peace which she said the district will not break and pledged to use the peace flag to defend and protect the rights of women. "I am privileged to receive the peace flag on behalf of the district, I commit to upholding its goal."



What are the experiences of women with regard to owing or using land?	Challenges women face as a result of not owning land	Laws that should be implemented by the district	What can be done by district leaders?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They don't control land • They don't own land • Land is grabbed from them • They are seeking redress from police, cultural leaders and other community leaders while others don't know where to report or seek redress (referral pathway) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of property • Homelessness • Harassment from community • Failure to provide for the children • Poverty • Suicide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda • The Local Government Act • The African Charter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitizing communities • Change of personal attitude • Implementing provisions within the Constitution

The Executive Director of Isis-WICCE – Helen Kezie-Nwoha thanked all participants at the peace expo for sparing three days to learn, share and network. She appreciated the district leadership for their support in coordinating the expo and mobilizing women to participate. She encouraged women leaders in Amuria to take active part in the efforts of the national women's movement to protect and advance women and girls' rights. She further expressed gratitude towards partners APHAS, Nakere Women's Group, UN Women, TASO, Red Cross and the medical team for organizing the medical camp that provided health care services to several women.



Zero HIV Infection and Stigma
in Amuria
It is my Responsibility

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7TH INTERNATIONAL ISIS-WICCE PEACE EXPOSITION

Since 2010 Isis-WICCE has organized peace expositions in conflict-affected parts of Uganda as a means of enabling communities to take lead in identifying and addressing issues resulting from the impact of armed conflict. The peace expos pay particular attention to gender-specific challenges, which are often a manifestation of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV).

As a public accountability platform, the peace expo particularly addresses SGBV in fragile contexts – bringing together policy and decision makers as well as diverse community members. Isis-WICCE partners with local government leaders, line ministries, cultural leaders, civil society actors, women leaders and groups to engage women, girls, men, boys, the elderly and different categories of opinion leaders for social change geared to peace and security.

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