



# DGF's Contribution to Uganda's Democratic Governance in 2018

The Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) is a multi-donor funding mechanism funded by seven development partners: Austria, Denmark, the European Union, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. The facility aims at providing harmonised, coherent and well-coordinated support to state and non-state entities to strengthen democratic governance, promote and protect human rights, enhance access to justice, and improve accountability at national, regional and district levels in Uganda.

The current programme implementation follows three broad and interconnected spheres namely:

1. Democratic processes that build citizen-state relationships
2. Citizen empowerment, engagement, and accountability
3. Protection of human rights, access to justice, and gender equality

In 2017 and 2018, the DGF organised two calls for expressions of interest, which resulted in a total of 860 funding applications. Through a transparent process, involving the DGF Steering Committee, 95 partners were selected and invited to submit a full proposal. Selected organisations formed a mixture of large ones, small ones, based in Kampala, based up country, state institutions, civil society organisations, service providers, and advocacy organisations but all contributing to the shared vision. In 2018, the first year of the new programme phase, the DGF entered into partnership with 58 implementing partners (8 state and 50 civil society actors). This portfolio grew to 76 active partners in 2019, and a few additions are expected in early 2020.

In 2018, the DGF and its partners worked on the following broad themes: responsiveness of government towards citizens; citizen engagement on government accountability; human rights promotion and protection; access to justice for vulnerable and indigent citizens; peace, conflict management and rehabilitation; gender equality mainstreaming; and youth engagement in governance.

## In 2018, the DGF entered into partnership with 58 implementing partners (IPs).

DGF's mandate is aligned to the Government of Uganda's democratic governance objectives and principles as laid out in the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and contained in the Country's Vision 2040. Building on the achievements of the first programme phase (July 2011 - December 2017), DGF is now implementing a five-year governance programme (January 2018 - December 2022) to address the continuing democratic deficits and consolidate peace and stability in the country.

### Vision Statement: "A Uganda where citizens are empowered to engage in democratic governance and the state upholds citizens' rights".

#### Some highlights of programme achievements the DGF and its partners realised in 2018:

<p><b>47,926</b> indigent Ugandans received direct legal assistance</p>	<p><b>98,204</b> Ugandans reached with human rights education.</p>	<p><b>19</b> IP initiatives related to implementation of pro-gender equality legislative frameworks were taken up by duty bearers.</p>	<p><b>126</b> issue-based initiatives conducted, with support from the DGF, to influence the legislative/ policy framework.</p>
<p><b>7,909</b> youth representatives were supported to engage in decision-making processes and structures.</p>	<p><b>4,484</b> women representatives were supported to engage in decision making processes and structures.</p>	<p><b>26,518</b> representatives from marginalised groups participated in partners' activities and events to ensure inclusion and non-discrimination.</p>	<p><b>878</b> public forums conducted to facilitate interactions between citizens and state representatives on issues of legislation/policy framework. <b>2,579</b> inputs raised by citizens were taken on board by the state representatives.</p>
<p><b>5,813</b> survivors of conflict and torture received medical repair and psycho-social support.</p>	<p><b>713,000</b> individuals participated in events supported by the DGF.</p>	<p><b>29,967</b> awareness campaigns on civic responsibilities, human rights, and anti-corruption conducted.</p>	<p><b>620</b> monitoring reports were submitted by IPs to oversight bodies at local and national levels to promote public accountability and state responsiveness.</p>

## Widow regains control from male in-laws to buy land

For many women in Uganda, making decisions over land transactions is still linked to the influence and control of men.

This story recounts how Olivia Nuwagaba, a resident of Byanjiri Village, in Lwengo District was supported by FIDA to overcome the control and interference by her male in-laws, when she decided to buy a piece of land for her daughter, Florence Nagawa.

When Nuwagaba's husband, Vincent Ssegawa passed on, his land was distributed among his children. Nuwagaba, who had one daughter with the deceased, received a small piece of land on behalf of her daughter. Because the land was small, Nuwagaba decided to sell it and buy a bigger one near her home. After protracted negotiations, the in-laws bought the land from her at UGX 2 million.

When the transaction was concluded, the in-laws linked up with Mr. Muda Tumwine, who was selling a piece of land near Nuwagaba's village and tried to influence her to buy it. However, she declined to buy it because it was very small, far off the main road, and expensive. The in-laws and Tumwine then resorted to using the Police to compel Nuwagaba to buy the land. They caused her to be arrested and detained at Lwengo Police Post, on allegations that she was plotting to

divert the money meant for her daughter's land to her private businesses. Based on this misinformation, the police compelled her to pay for Tumwine's land at UGX 1.7 million.

Upon her release from police detention, Nuwagaba reported the matter to FIDA, a women's rights organisation that promotes and defends rights of marginalised men, women and children, and asked them for support to recover the money. FIDA convened a mediation meeting at Lwengo Police Station, in which they advised Tumwine and Nuwagaba's in-laws to refund the money because their transaction was illegal. When they refused to refund the money, FIDA helped Nuwagaba to file a case to the Chief Magistrates Court Masaka.

On its part, the court proposed another mediation and assigned its staff to preside over it. In the end the accused accepted to refund the money (UGX 1.7 million) and an additional UGX 200,000 awarded by the court as costs to Nuwagaba. They were directed to deposit the money to the court.

After recovering all the money, the court

notified Nuwagaba to look for a piece of land of her choice, and released the money for payment. The transaction was witnessed by the area LC 1 leaders, Court Clerk, Court mediator and a FIDA representative.

Nuwagaba attributes this turn of events to FIDA's legal aid. "FIDA stood with me in this long struggle. They made initial attempts to mediate between us, drafted the court documents I used to file the case, provided me with free legal representation during the court mediation and witnessed the purchase of my daughter's land... I am very happy because when my daughter grows up, she will have some property of her own."



Ms Olivia Nuwagaba after buying land for her daughter. (Photo credit: DGF)

## Training on gender inspires change in radio programming and policy

A report authored by the Uganda Media Women's Association in 2014 on "Gender Dimensions in Uganda's Print Media: A Case for Engendering Practitioners" indicates that, compared to men, women's participation in the print media is still low particularly in terms of staffing and news coverage.

There has been a rise in the number of media houses in Uganda since the early 1990s. This growth has increased the media footprint and evolved its traditional role of informing, educating and entertaining to include mobilising and influencing personal and public opinion on several issues such as gender relations.

To promote gender equality in media operations, the Uganda Media Women's Association (UMWA), with support from the DGF, has spearheaded efforts to strengthen media gender lenses in regards to reporting and programming. In this effort, the association has conducted trainings on gender-sensitive reporting targeting media editors, managers and owners as well as women leaders.

Ms Laila Baale, the Head of News at Spice Fm in Hoima District, is one of the beneficiaries of the training. She acknowledges that the training she attended was a game-changer as far as her understanding of gender issues was concerned. "I had a bit of knowledge on gender, but I could not relate it to journalism... In the training, I got to learn about gender-

sensitive reporting and how it should be embedded in the procedures and structures within the organisation".

The training also caused her to appreciate the need to have all voices heard; to have editorial policies that take into account gender equality and to embed gender concerns in programming, management and news reporting.

After the training, Baale organised a feedback session to engage fellow staff and the top management at Spice Fm on the need to do business differently with gender lenses. This sparked new positive shifts at the station. For example, Spice Fm management appreciated the need to develop gender guidelines for the station's operations, to recruit more female news reporters and include women panelists on the station's political talk show "Spice Parliament" which since inception six years ago, had been dominated by men.

Today Spice FM has become more deliberate in relaying gender-sensitive news

stories, increasing coverage of issues salient to women and reflecting more female voices in its content. The station has recruited four female staff as news anchors and has adopted a gender policy to guide gender considerations in their operations. Management has also brought on board Ms Everse Munguryeki, the woman councillor for Kyangwali Sub-county at Kikuube District Council, as a regular panelist on "Spice Parliament" talk show.



Ms Laila Baale, a beneficiary of UMWA's training. (Photo credit: UMWA)