

ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE



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Organizational Background

Women Aid Vision was started in Mvolo County of Western Equatoria State, South Sudan as Community Based Organization known as Mvolo Women Development registered by the Office of Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and Commissioner's Office by County Authority in the middle of 2009. Mvolo County of Western Equatoria in South Sudan has had long history of inter-tribal clashes with the neighbouring communities of Rumbek. This conflict has indeed left these communities without trust for each other. Women and Children continue experiencing profound suffering during episodes of violence and displacement. Mvolo Women Development organisation therefore came up to address the issues that women and children were facing in the communities. The Organization noted the importance of supporting local peace and reconciliation efforts, specifically targeting women in these areas. It was also realized that the shared history of relationships among and between this communities go beyond the recently created divisions, and that powerful connectors or interdependencies can still be reinforced and rebuilt. As such the organization started to mobilize women to form Women Group associations with the mandate of forming a platform for women to come together to identify their issues, identify remedial approaches to addressing this issues, learn and share together.

\$\$The organization therefore worked together with the women group associations seeking to instill in women and youth the belief that they can affect change and can improve their own lives. At the time, Community-based livelihood projects were initiated with a main mandate of engaging women in small entrepreneurship skills through baking of bread, raising vegetables, buying and selling out second hand clothes and provision of Village Saving Loans Association (VSLA). The organization also responded to the protection issues affecting women and children hence psychosocial support care services were provided to women and children in IDP camps and communities. The organization further mobilized women to participate in peace building activities and members of the women association secured their space in the peace committees who were mediating between the two communities.

\$\$Through these efforts, Mvolo Women Development organization attracted the attention of community, Government Partners and donor communities. The organization was later renamed as Women Aid Vision (WAV) and acquired its certificate from the Ministry of Justice by 2013 to operate nationally to pursue the needs of women and youth population not limiting the services only to Mvolo Women and youth but to other South Sudanese women and youth across the Country.

With nearly 7 years of service, Women Aid Vision (WAV) focuses exclusively on Women and children perspectives on issues of peace building, Governance, Protection (Gender Based Violence and Child Protection), political and socio-economic empowerment. This will allow South Sudanese women and youth to go forward despite strong and seemingly immovable traditional obstacles are not only of historical interest but also relevant to the condition of women in other contemporary developing countries.

The function of Women Aid Vision is to connect innumerable groups of women leaders and youth leaders who are scattered across the Country to work closely at grassroots level at the states, counties, Payams and Bomas for their well being. South Sudanese women and youth are still being deprived of their basic economic, legal, social, political rights. Women and youth constitute half of the population of the world. They make up a great workforce whose effective participation in activities is an essential requirement for all development and progress and so let us not forget of their problems in South Sudan which the fate of the human race depends as cannot be resolved without the complete and effective participation of women, children and youth.

Thematic areas

- 1. Peace building and governance:** This department deals on conflict management, conflict analysis, mediation, reconciliation and forgiveness. Promotion of democratic principles, access to justice and Human Rights awareness.
- 2. Protection:** This department employs holistic frame work to create an environment that promotes full respect for rights of individuals with special consideration for vulnerable groups of people like children and women. Also responds to the protection needs of women and children who have experienced violence and abuse. Key areas are; child protection against abuses and exploitation, Gender Based Violence and psychosocial care services.
- 3. Education:** Promotion of Girl-child education, capacity building for primary school teachers, support adult literacy.
- 4. WASH:** This department deals with interventions aimed at saving lives and reducing illness through access to safe water, adequate sanitation and improved hygiene. This is to foster for clean environment, advocacy in digging

pt latrines, personal cleanliness, sensitization on water points and maintenance.

- 5. Livelihood:** Building capacity of women in business skills through training and empower them economically to start different sort of business ventures of their choice through Women Aid Vision guidance and most especially the provision of Village Saving Loans Association (VSLA).

Our Target Groups

- ❖ Women
- ❖ Youth
- ❖ Children
- ❖ Church leaders
- ❖ Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- ❖ School girls
- ❖ Local government
- ❖ Police

Vision

To see a society where women and youth enjoy equal rights opportunities and participation in public domain

Mission.

WAV exists to build a peaceful society, gender balanced, democratic, literate, healthy and economic sustainable society.

Our Goal

The goal of WAV is to strengthen and empower the South Sudanese women and youth by equipping them with basic tools to nurture them for challenges they are facing. Our passion is to enable the South Sudanese Women and youth to be aware of their rights and become more informed and critical in the nation building.

Objectives

- ❖ To mitigate domestic violence and enhance peaceful coexistence among communities, individuals and families

- ❖ To provide Psychosocial support through Counseling to war and conflict affected person/family victims
- ❖ To protect women, youth and children from abuses and build up a strong society which is gender sensitive
- ❖ To promote democratic principles and access to justice
- ❖ To provide capacity building through literacy Programs to reduce illiteracy and value girl child education as means to discourage early marriages to reduce gender disparity
- ❖ To equip women with entrepreneurs skills and set up loans scheme for business ventures
- ❖ To promote hygiene and sanitation awareness campaigns.

Our Conviction

The conviction of WAV is that without Women and youth participation in South Sudan status quo, there will remain different challenges and there will be less impact in the communities.

Our Core Values

- ❖ Faithfulness
- ❖ Diversity
- ❖ Accountability
- ❖ Respectful

Our Approach

A community based approach to programming is an integral part of a long term strategy that WAV has employed in its work in the community at the grassroots. WAV strongly believes in the importance of local community self-reliance and in the significant role that, community leadership; women and youth can play in rebuilding a society that has been affected by conflict.

How we are managed

WAV is made up of General Assembly who elects the board and the board makes policies and takes oversight on the management committee which the board recruits to run the day to day activities of the organization. Women Aid Vision comes together once a year in a general assembly meeting and discuss on topical issues about the organization. With regard to governance, WAV has

an Advisory Board which performs the role of Directors. It provides overall oversight of the organization. The Board provides strategic direction, guidance to the executive members. It is the ultimate body which the organization accounts to. The executive committee is headed by the Executive Director who supervises and gives direction to the welfare of WAV at the executive committee level.

Our location

The Headquarters of WAV is currently moved to Juba on Mundri Highway, Opp. Gudele 2 Park, Plot No: 415 - Block 4. We have an active satellite Office in Mvolo County of Western Equatoria State with our staffs and community mobilizers' presence in the neighboring of Lakes State, we also exist in Central Equatoria state, Unity State, Northern Bhar Ghazal in Aweil Centre County and Greater Pibor Administrative Area.

The WAV's Philosophy

WAV exists to serve the needs of women, youth and children in particular as the most vulnerable groups. It is a viable civil society organization that addresses women abuses, exploitation or other challenges facing women, youth and children. WAV mobilizes resources to conduct capacity building seminars, workshops, conferences, advocacy and campaign for women, youth and children to have projects corresponding to their matters, WAV organizes to absorb the youth and young mothers into healthy businesses and practices so that, they would be productive and able to cater for their needs as well the South Sudanese society.

\$\$\$We need to leave behind ideas and actions and attitudes which are no longer helpful. In the past the traditional image of women in South Sudan shows that women being dependent on men, staying at home all the time, waiting for help and remain as housewives. Therefore, WAV believes that women have to be accorded equal opportunities with men as active and effective participants in the growth and development of the society.

\$\$\$However, with signing of Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan and the then rebels Sudan People's Liberation Movement and Army (SPLM/A) in Nairobi, Kenya 2005 after 2 decades of civil war in the Sudan the former leader of the SPLM/A Dr. John Garang de Mabior had on that occasion highlighted and pointed out one thing, which is the concern about women, by giving them 25 per cent representation in political, social, moral and economic to equally participate with men in policy and decision publicly. Nevertheless, he stated it in his marvelous speech, through this statement

“Women in Sudan as elsewhere in the world, are marginalized of the marginalized, whose suffering goes beyond description. The rural women for example, gets up at 5 o’clock in the morning to walk 5km, just to get 5 gallons of water after 5hours walk, spends another 5hours working on the family farm, 5 more hours making the family meal then she goes to sleep.”

\$\$This speech gave the South Sudanese women a tremendous zeal and the momentum to dedicate themselves to work harder and harder throughout the political arena in South Sudan. However, this let women occupy few positions in all Government levels and NGOs today in South Sudan to present their issues to the relevant authorities and NGOs concern for equity and consideration.

\$\$If you find any women in any office today in South Sudan, it is the result and impact of that famous speech of the late Dr. John Garang. That speech is one of the cornerstones which promoted women in South Sudan and in Mvolo. This creates an association in women that opens and paves a new way for thinking, and a new way for living strategic modalities.

\$\$The dream of Mvolo Women Development (MWD) that is today known as Women Aid Vision is today empowering women and youth pragmatically, and to diversify their lifestyles, so that they are not only limited to the kitchen but also to the stage of arts and beyond. This is what WAV intends to mitigate gender disparity and to increase women participation in most public affairs at least by 40 per cent in the year 2030.

\$\$Women endeavor to emerge in a dynamic and participatory development. In a prosperous society, women are indispensable and complementary, as part and parcel of development process that is; financial, educational, political, economic, social, technological, environmental and legal orientation to fit in the day today games to impart a culture of peace and struggle for decent life.

\$\$WAV has the task of urging women to recognize their rightful roles in response to their promotion in the public domain. One sure way of giving them ability to choose the kinds of lives they wish to lead on earth. Having chance of a healthier and happier life is everybody’s pursuance. They need to have the skills, information and self-confidence to be parents, workers and happy citizens.