

By Rhyman Agaba

Government efforts to economically empower women through the Parish Development Model (PDM) are yielding positive results, with new research showing that the initiative is significantly improving women's participation in business and household income generation.

Findings presented during the Annual Research Symposium on Unpaid Care and Domestic Work organised by Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) in Kampala showed that the PDM's deliberate allocation of at least 30% of programme opportunities to women has enabled more women to access resources for enterprise development and financial independence.

The symposium, held at Four Points by Sheraton Kampala in Kololo last week, attracted over 70 participants, including government officials, Members of Parliament, civil society leaders, researchers, diplomats and development partners.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Susan Achen, the co-ordinator for women's rights and access to justice at UWONET, said the research assessed

PDM LAUDED FOR EXPANDING WOMEN'S EARNINGS

how government economic programmes are responding to unpaid care and domestic work, which often limits women's participation in economic activities.

Research, conducted between 2023 and 2025 in Kampala's Nakawa division and Gulu city, found that government economic programmes are increasingly becoming gender-responsive by recognising the realities women face in their daily lives.

According to Achen, many women face challenges balancing entrepreneurship with domestic responsibilities, such as childcare, cooking, laundry and other household management, tasks that are largely unpaid, yet time-consuming.

She explained that placing more resources directly into women's hands has strengthened their ability to participate in business activities while also addressing household needs.

Achen also noted that some women who benefited from government financing were



Achen



Dr Nakafeero

OBSERVATION

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able to hire farm workers and domestic helpers, reducing the burden of unpaid care work and freeing up more time for productive economic engagement. Others invested in labour-saving technologies, such as ox ploughs and solar dryers, which have simplified agricultural work and

improved productivity.

SUPPORTING INTERVENTIONS

The symposium also highlighted broader government investments in social services, such as safe water access, education and childcare support, which researchers said are critical

Currently, men appreciate better the importance of women's participation in business and entrepreneurship.

programmes, such as the GROW Project, are helping communities and men better appreciate the importance of women's participation in business and entrepreneurship.

The researchers recommended that all government economic programmes continue embedding care-sensitive approaches during programme design and implementation to ensure women can fully benefit from development opportunities.

Dr Angela Nakafeero, a commissioner at the Ministry of Gender, emphasised the importance of technology in reducing the burden of unpaid care work.

"There are those appropriate technologies which can be more or less affordable. Allowing technology to come in at affordable prices could include reducing taxes on technologies required for ordinary Ugandans, but also investing into research for us as a country to come up with appropriate technology," she said.

in reducing the unpaid care burden carried by women and girls.

Researchers observed that some harmful social norms still create resistance when women gain financial independence, sometimes leading to domestic conflict or gender-based violence.

However, initiatives under

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

THE CAPITAL MARKETS ACT (Chapter 485A, Laws of Kenya)

Regulation 5 of The Capital Markets (Take-overs & Mergers) Regulations, 2002

The Capital Markets and Securities Act, Chapter 79, Revised Edition of 2023 of the Laws of Tanzania

Regulation 5 of The Capital Markets (Take-overs & Mergers) Regulations, issued under



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