LUWERO DISTRICT DISABLED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

BASELINE SURVEY REPORT

ON THE SERVICE GAPS WITHIN JLOS TO DELIVER JUSTICE TO WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES IN LUWERO DISTRICT

FUNDED BY:

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Table of contents

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 3

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 5

List of figures & tables 6

2. METHODOLOGY 10

3. MAIN FINDINGS 12

3.2 Age of Respondents 13

3.3 Position of Respondents 15

3.4 Experience of Abuse and Rights Violations 18

3.5 Reporting of Abuse Cases 21

3.6 Institutions Where Cases Are Reported 23

3.7 Barriers to Reporting 25

3.8 Justice Outcomes 26

3.9 Barriers to Accessing Justice 28

3.10 Performance of the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) 29

3.11 Overall Implications 29

REFERENCES 31

Annexes 32

Tools 32

LUDDWA DATA INTERPRETATION REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of the baseline survey conducted under the project **"Increasing Access to the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) by Women and Girls with Disabilities in Luwero District,"** implemented by the Luwero District Disabled Women Association (LUDDWA) with support from the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF). The baseline study aimed to assess the experiences of women and girls with disabilities in accessing justice services, identify existing reporting mechanisms, and examine the challenges that hinder effective access to justice.

The study covered five lower local government administrative units in Luwero District: **Kamira Town Council, Luwero Town Council, Makulubita Sub County, Butuntumula sub county and Katikamu Sub County.** Data was collected from a total of **142 respondents**, including women and girls with disabilities, parents and caregivers of children/persons with disabilities, community leaders, district officials, and key actors within the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) such as police officers, magistrates, prisons officers, and legal aid providers. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used, including structured questionnaires and focus group discussions.

The findings reveal that **women and girls with disabilities experience various forms of abuse and rights violations**, including physical abuse, sexual violence, verbal abuse, neglect, and denial of property rights. These abuses often occur within homes and communities, highlighting the vulnerability of women and girls with disabilities due to factors such as social stigma, economic dependence, and limited awareness of legal rights.

Although some cases of abuse are reported, the study found that **many incidents remain unreported**. Survivors often report cases to **Local Council leaders, police, family members, and community structures**, with Local Council leaders frequently serving as the first point of contact due to their accessibility within communities. However, several survivors expressed hesitation in reporting abuse due to fear of retaliation, stigma, lack of trust in justice institutions, and financial barriers associated with pursuing cases.

The study also found that **access to justice remains limited for many women and girls with disabilities**, even after cases are reported. Delays in case handling, informal settlements outside formal courts, insufficient follow-up by authorities, and lack of disability-sensitive services were identified as key challenges within the justice system. These barriers often discourage survivors from continuing with legal processes and contribute to low justice outcomes.

Furthermore, the analysis of perceptions among Justice Law and Order Sector actors indicates that while justice institutions play an important role in receiving and processing cases, gaps remain in ensuring timely and effective justice for women and girls with disabilities. Respondents highlighted challenges such as limited resources, inadequate training on disability inclusion, and weak coordination between community structures and justice institutions.

Overall, the baseline findings demonstrate that **women and girls with disabilities in Luwero District remain highly vulnerable to abuse and face significant barriers in accessing justice services**. Addressing these challenges requires stronger collaboration between community leaders, justice institutions, disability organizations, and development partners. Efforts should focus on strengthening community awareness on disability rights, improving accessibility and responsiveness of justice services, and enhancing support systems that enable women and girls with disabilities to safely report abuse and pursue justice.

The findings of this baseline study will guide the implementation of project interventions aimed at improving access to justice, strengthening community reporting mechanisms, and promoting the protection of the rights and dignity of women and girls with disabilities in Luwero District.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) for funding the baseline survey through LUDDWA on such a topical project. Their commitment to fostering a systemic change through stakeholder engagement in advocacy for access to justice of vulnerable women is truly commendable and sets a foundation for transformative development especially among women with disabilities in Uganda.

I am grateful that the assignment was given my team and has ensured that a quality job was done. I hope that the results meet your expectations in LUDDWA; specifically in the ***Increasing Access to the Justice Law and order Sector (JLOS) by Women and girls with disabilities in Luwero district*** project and that it provides guidance in the implementation of the project in future.

Mention should be made of personalities who facilitated our work in Luweero. First and foremost is Margaret Natseli who oversaw our work with utmost encouragement, guidance and support plus the other members of staff at LUDDWA office who were most hospitable and provided the best environment for us to execute the baseline as best as we could. Third are the Luweero district and local governments, local authorities and communities in the survey areas; women and girls with disabilities, the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) Officers within Luwero, and parents of children/persons with disabilities. All were extremely generous with their time and ideas and we wish to say thank you. My prayer is that the findings in this report generate useful information to stimulate developments that will meet your unique expectations not only under the ***Increasing Access to the Justice Law and order Sector (JLOS) by Women and girls with disabilities in Luwero district*** project but also uplifting the status of advocacy for access to Justice for vulnerable women in Luweero District generally.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank my survey team for a job well done in a very coordinated, professional and spirited manner. I am grateful to my Co-consultant, Mr. Musisi Christopher Robert and the 6 Research Assistants; Gift Sebakijje, Sheba Ndagire, Flavia Tendo, Viola Zawedde, Nanyombi Katrina, Nabukalu Fazirah.

My most sincere thanks to you all and God Bless!

Kabugo James (Mr.)

Social Worker and Capacity Strengthening Specialist

Save the Children Uganda

Lead Consultant

February 2026.

List of figures & tables

Figures

- Figure 1: Girls and Women Abuse status
- Figure 2: Employment Distribution
- Figure 3: Percentage of Women and Girls WD abused
- Figure 4: Girls Education Status
- Figure 5: Reporting Status among Women and Girls WD
- Figure 6: Reporting Status among Women and Girls WD
- Figure 7: Level of abuse- Women vs Girls WD
- Figure 8: Common Abuse Perpetrators
- Figure 9: Reporting Rate in both Women and Girls WD
- Figure 10: Reporting Rate –Women vs Girls WD
- Figure 11: Barriers to Reporting – Girls vs Women WD
- Figure 12: Common Reporting Channels
- Figure 13: Common Reporting Channels –Girls vs Women
- Figure 13: Common Barriers to Reporting among Women and Girls WD
- Figure 14: Rate of Justice served to Women and Girls WD
- Figure 15: Rate of Justice served – Girls vs Women WD

Tables

- Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender Table

List of acronyms and Abbreviations

- **AWDF** – African Women's Development Fund
- **CAO** – Chief Administrative Officer
- **CDO** – Community Development Officer
- **DCDO** – District Community Development Officer
- **DRO** – District Rehabilitation Officer
- **FGD** – Focus Group Discussion
- **FIDA** – Federation of Women Lawyers
- **FOWODE** – Forum for Women in Democracy
- **JLOS** – Justice Law and Order Sector
- **KII** – Key Informant Interview
- **LC** – Local Council
- **LUDDWA** – Luwero District Disabled Women Association
- **NGO** – Non-Governmental Organization
- **OPD** – Organization of Persons with Disabilities
- **PWD** – Persons with Disabilities
- **WD** –With Disability
- **WWD** – Women with Disabilities
  GWD – Girls with Disabilities

1. Introduction

LUDDWA secured funding from the African Women Development Fund (AWDF) to implement a project of ***Increasing Access to the Justice Law and order Sector (JLOS) by Women and girls with disabilities in Luwero district***. The project was premised on the fact that there are a great number of cases of human rights violations against women and girls with disabilities that are not handled by the judiciary/JLOS in Luwero. The assumption was that there are service gaps within the Justice Law and Order Sector that slow down the process of delivery of justice to the women and girls with disabilities whenever their rights are violated/abused. Therefore, the need for commitment and full participation from the policy makers and influential partners/stakeholders to implement reforms that are geared at ushering a systemic change that enables women and girls with disabilities access justice timely.

To this end LUDDWA commissioned a baseline survey to understand the service gaps within the JLOS to deliver justice to the women and girls with disabilities in Luwero district. These findings will enable LUDDWA and her partners establish clear benchmarks on how women and girls with disabilities have been accessing justice which relate to the actual project deliverables against which progress will be measured and impact assessed at district level. This will go a long way in informing the different stakeholders on how justice can best be served to persons with disabilities most especially women and girls with disabilities. The findings will be shared with key stakeholders, such as leaders, JLOS leaders, persons with disabilities so that they are used to design advocacy agenda for the rights and welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and to expedite justice when needed.

1.1. The purpose of the survey:

The purpose of the baseline survey included the following:

1. Provision of clear guidelines mapping the current status/levels of women and girls with disabilities on different aspects not limited to; most common types of disabilities, type of disability that makes women most vulnerable to abuse, forms of abuse encountered, perpetrators of abuse, knowledge on the referral pathways/ mechanisms in access to justice, involvement with JLOS at different levels, and how they contribute to expedition of justice for the women and girls with disabilities in Luwero district,
2. How the JLOS can improve delivery of justice to women and girls with disabilities and the contributory role of community stakeholders in supporting the referral pathways.
3. Bringing out the JLOS effectiveness and leadership efficiency against perceptions of different stakeholders in the justice landscape to generate empirical indicators for ensuring the relevance, validity, efficiency, and sustainability of the project.
4. To develop guided plans for project interventions basing on information about understanding the service gaps within the JLOS to deliver justice to the women and girls with disabilities

1.2. Statement of the Problem:

Increasing access to justice for women and girls with disabilities calls for understanding of the gaps that exist between those seeking for justice and those mandated to provide it. Mention is often made of rights violations against women and girls with disabilities whenever opportunities arise at community level during meetings by women with disabilities, local leaders and civil servants but this is usually very informal because such cases aren't reported formally. There is need therefore, for more empirical evidence to understand whether cases are reported and for those that are, whether justice is expedited.

There is need to also establish other redress channels that exist at community level that support reporting cases for the women and girls with disabilities. This will help determine

how best the women and girls can be supported by the different stakeholders within their communities and at district level. Short of this, these forms of rights violations could as well be sustained within communities due to delayed or un- accessed justice especially among women and girls with disabilities.

2. METHODOLOGY

The baseline adopted a combination of approaches: comprehensive desk review of project background document analysis, consultations with key stakeholders including LUDDWA staff, district and community leaders, the Justice Law and Order Sector Officers, women and girls with disabilities and communities in the areas where the project is implemented and the Community social services department officials at the district and within the communities. The baseline survey was participatory in nature and made use of both quantitative and qualitative tools for data collection. The study areas and sub counties/Town councils were purposively selected to include those that have reported rights violations cases against women and girls with disabilities, and those that have trained volunteers as a referral pathway to recording and reporting cases.

2.1. Sample and scope of the study

The study was conducted for a period of 18 working days in mid-January and early February 2026. In all, the baseline survey covered 15 focus group discussions, 4 key informant's interviews(KII) mainly with NUDIPU official and LUDDWA board members and 63 questionnaires were administered (32 to women with disabilities, 11 to girls with disabilities, 02 to magistrates, 05 to police officers, 02 to prisons officers, 08 to district officials and 03 to legal aid entities).The lower local government administrative units where the survey was conducted included; Katikmu sub county, Kamira Town Council, Kamira Sub county, Luwero Town council, Makulubita sub county and Butuntumula sub county. In each subcounty/Town council, a proportionate random sample of women and girls with disabilities, local council one (village level leaders), parents/guardian of children/Persons with disabilities – from the total population in each lower local government administrative unit- was drawn for inclusion in the study to ensure effective representation. Staff and board members in LUDDWA, JLOS officers, subcounty/town council

leaders, the district officials, peer educators and the organization of persons with disabilities were purposively selected for inclusion.

In five (5) lower local government administrative units of Kamira Sub county, Kamira Town council, Katikamu Sub county Makulubita sub county and Butuntumula subcounty where the survey was conducted, LUDDWA had trained peer educators to act as a referral pathway for case handling at community level for rights violation cases for women and girls with disabilities. However, in addition one (1) additional lower local government administrative unit (Luwero Town Council) was incorporated that is outside the project experience in order to obtain a comparative advantage in assessing the pre-community support mechanisms vis a vis number of cases reported and post community support mechanisms performance in terms of concrete improvements in case reporting, case handling and follow up for expedition of justice.

2.2. Qualitative tools for data collection

The study adopted mainly qualitative methodologies. The methods of data collection included; informal conversations, Key informant interviews and Focus group Discussions. These methodologies were the most suitable to comprehensively achieve the set objectives since the results obtained from the different approaches were triangulated to provide a more thorough and accurate analysis. Key informants were drawn from, parents of children/persons with disabilities, LUDDWA board members and staff, peer educators and community leaders who were deemed to have privileged information that has implications on implementation of the project. These were engaged in dialogue to help provide a deeper analysis of the strength and gaps in implementing the project. The list of stakeholders interviewed has been annexed to this report.

2.3. Quantitative tools for data collection

A coded questionnaire was developed to collect quantitative data on specific variables of the sample e.g. characteristics of respondents, abuse cases and their perpetrators, knowledge on legal redress channels especially from the district officials, JLOS officers, civil servants and legal aid representatives/OPD staff. Issues of the efficiency and effectiveness of the JLOS officers

especially in handling cases of women and girls with disabilities, what they know, perceptions of gaps that may hinder access to justice discussions and outcomes generated were captured.

2.4. Data analysis and reporting

For the qualitative data, content or discourse analysis techniques were used to analyze the data collected. The analysis was based on the study objectives where themes and sub-themes were generated and findings interpreted and presented accordingly. For quantitative data Excel Microsoft office was applied to tabulate and use other graphics for analyzing and presenting results of the survey.

3. **MAIN FINDINGS**

3.1 Respondent Categories

The respondents were drawn from various categories including:

- Women (31 respondents)
- Girls (11 respondents)
- District Officials (8 respondents)
- Police Officers (5 respondents)
- Magistrates (2 respondents)
- Prison Officers (2 respondents)
- Legal Aid Representatives (3 respondents)
- Parents (4 FGDS) 32 respondents
- Sub-county Officials 4 FGDs (30 respondents)
- Peer Educators 2 FGDs (11 respondents)
- LC1 Representatives 4 FGDs (35 respondents)
- Organization of persons with disabilities-1 respodent

3.1.1 Demographic Analysis

The demographic analysis aims to **understand who the women and girls with disabilities are**, their vulnerabilities, and how these factors affect their **experience of abuse and access to justice**. Male respondents were included only to provide **institutional insights** (Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS), district officials, LC1 leaders), not as part of the survivor sample.

1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender Table

Sex Distribution

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Female	56	75.6%
Male	10	13.5%
FGD (groups)	14	18.9%

NB: The high proportion of Girls and Women-WD respondents strengthens Abuse-focused insights.

Age Distribution

- The survey included both **girls with disabilities (11 respondents)** and **adult women with disabilities (31 respondents)**. However, during mobilization it was noted that the girls with disabilities who were either stunted in growth and had mental issues were commonly called girls when in actual sense they are above 18 years of age. It was after interaction with the family members that their age was established.

3.2 Age of Respondents

The study engaged **women and girls with disabilities aged between 3 and 80 years**, capturing experiences across childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. Male participants were included only as stakeholders (JLOS actors, LC1 leaders, sub county leaders, district officials) and are not considered in this survivor-focused analysis.

i. **Children (3–12 years):** 3% of respondents

Mainly girls with physical or sensory impairments.

- Vulnerable to neglect and sexual abuse.
- Depended heavily on caregivers and family for reporting.

ii. **Adolescents (13–17 years):** 7% of respondents

- Experiencing sexual abuse, neglect, and property denial.
- More likely to report abuse to family members or police than adult women.

iii. **Young Women (18–35 years):** 25% of respondents

- Face sexual abuse, physical abuse, and property-related violations.
- Reporting is limited due to **stigma, transport costs, and financial barriers**.

iv. **Adult Women (36–60 years):** 35% of respondents

- Experience neglect, property denial, and physical abuse, often within the home or community.
- Less likely to report incidents, reflecting barriers such as **police delays, lack of disability-sensitive services, and fear of retaliation**.

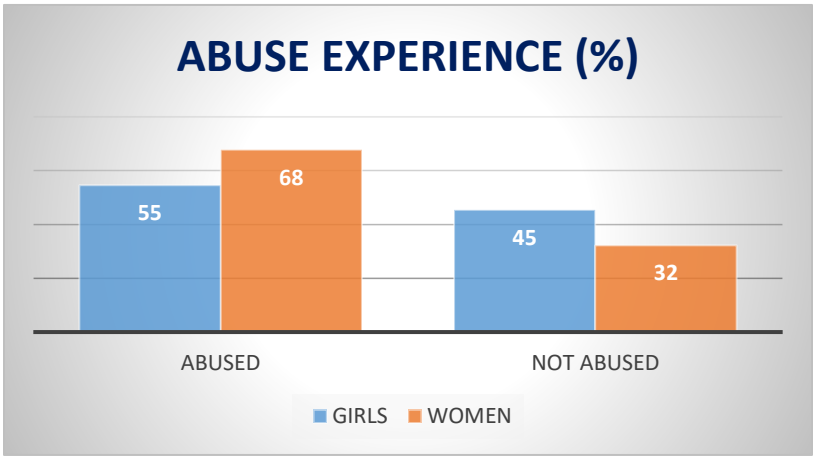
v. **Older Women (61+ years):** 13% of respondents

- Primarily affected by property denial and neglect.
- Often rely on **local councils, family, or community leaders** to report abuse.

Key Insights:

- Adult women make up the **largest proportion of survivors**, highlighting long-term exposure to abuse and systemic vulnerabilities.
- Adolescents report abuse more frequently than adult women, indicating **higher reliance on family or formal justice mechanisms**.
- Age correlates with both **type of abuse experienced** and **likelihood of reporting**, emphasizing the need for **age-specific interventions**.

Figure 1: Girls and Women Abuse status



Implication:

Programs must target **protection and reporting mechanisms for girls**, while ensuring **empowerment, livelihood support, and accessible justice services for adult and older women**.

3.3 Position of Respondents

The study engaged respondents from various stakeholder groups including parents and caregivers, local council leaders, sub-county leaders, district officials, and representatives from the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) such as police officers, magistrates, and prison officers. However, **the main emphasis of the study was on women and girls with disabilities**, whose experiences, challenges, and perspectives formed the central focus of the analysis. Other respondents were included to provide institutional and community-level insights into the factors that influence access to justice for women and girls with disabilities. The inclusion of these groups enabled the study to capture both survivor experiences and institutional perspectives on access to justice.

I. Socio-Economic Profile

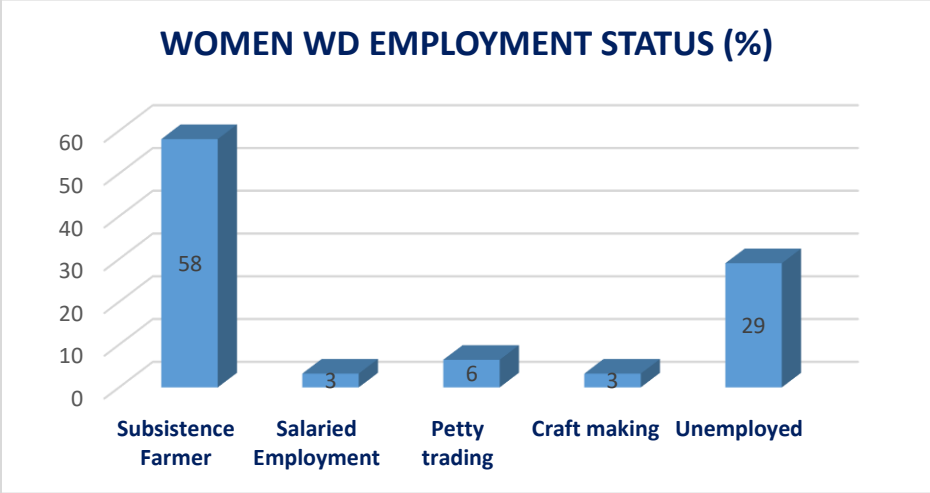
Employment

Subsistence farming emerged as the dominant occupation with 58% indicating dependence on small-scale agriculture. Limited diversification of income sources suggests economic

vulnerability. A small number of 29% women with disability reported unemployed, while 6% engaged in petty trade, only 3% with professional roles and craft making.

Predominantly subsistence farmers, indicating economic vulnerability, which may contribute to higher exposure to abuse.

Figure 2: Employment Distribution

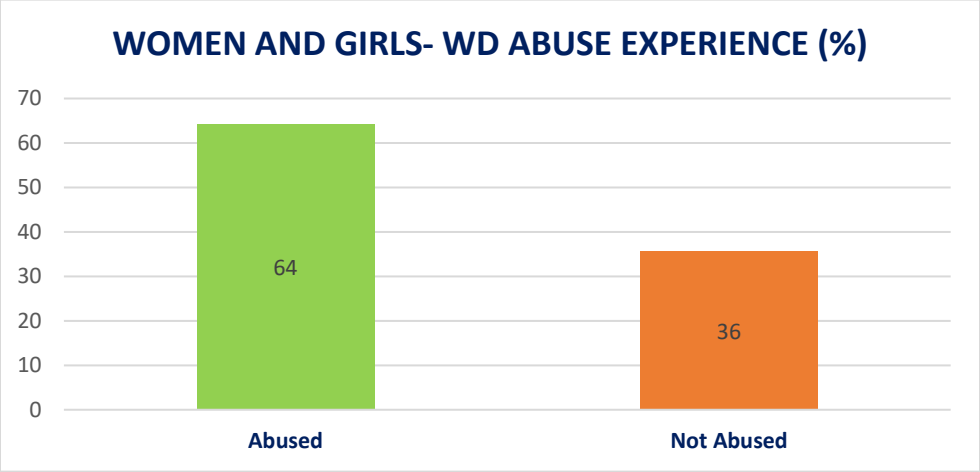


Police, magistrates, legal aid, and district officials were included, giving credibility to multi-stakeholder perspectives.

Implications

High Vulnerability: The 64% abuse rate signals a critical need for targeted protection and support services for women and girls with disabilities.

Figure 3: Percentage of Women and Girls WD abused



Girls and Women-WD Focus Needed: Since women constitute the majority of respondents and abuse cases, programs should focus on women-focused empowerment, protection, and livelihood support.

Institutional Collaboration: The inclusion of governance and justice actors highlights the opportunity to strengthen systems for reporting and addressing abuse.

Socio-Economic Link: Economic vulnerability may exacerbate risk, reinforcing the need for income diversification and skill-building initiatives.

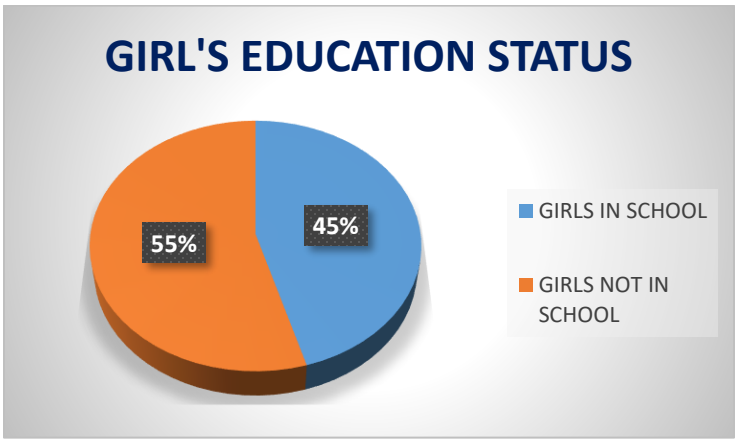
Implication: Economic vulnerability may contribute to increased exposure to social and protection risks.

Education

Girls with disabilities are likely underrepresented in formal education where 55% cannot access formal education.

Education barriers may stem from socio-economic factors, caregiving responsibilities, and lack of inclusive facilities.

Figure 4: Girls Education Status



Implications:

Programs should prioritize girls' access to education, especially those with disabilities.

Integration with livelihood programs for families could indirectly improve school attendance among Girls-WD.

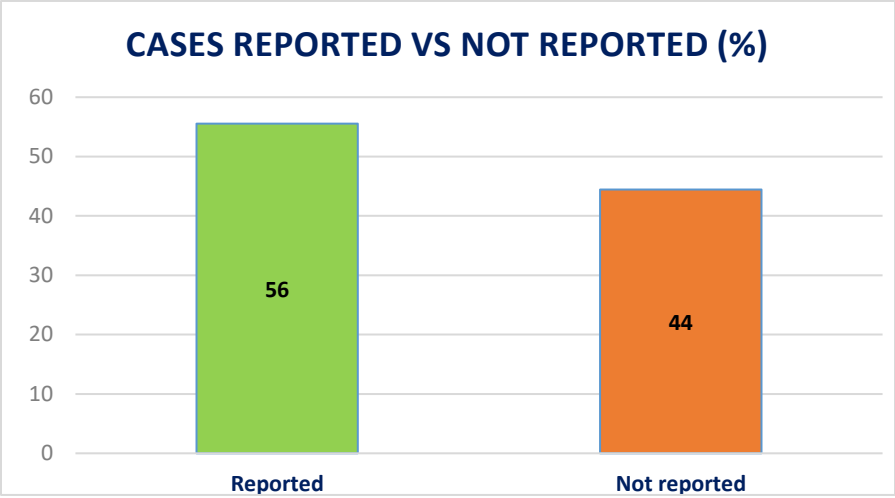
NB: Multi-sectoral collaboration (education + governance + protection) is essential.

3.4 Experience of Abuse and Rights Violations

The study sought to determine whether women and girls with disabilities experience abuse and rights violations within their communities.

The findings reveal that a significant proportion of respondents reported experiencing different forms of abuse.

Figure 5: Reporting Status among Women and Girls WD



Specifically, 26% **reported neglect, 17% reported sexual abuse, 12% reported property denial, and 10% reported experiencing physical abuse / beating, while only 2% reported verbal abuse.**

Figure 6: Reporting Status among Women and Girls WD

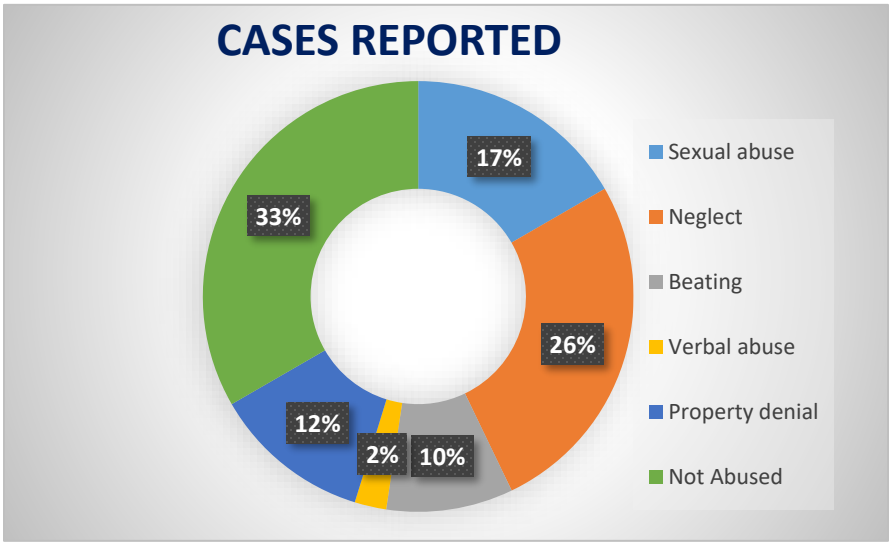
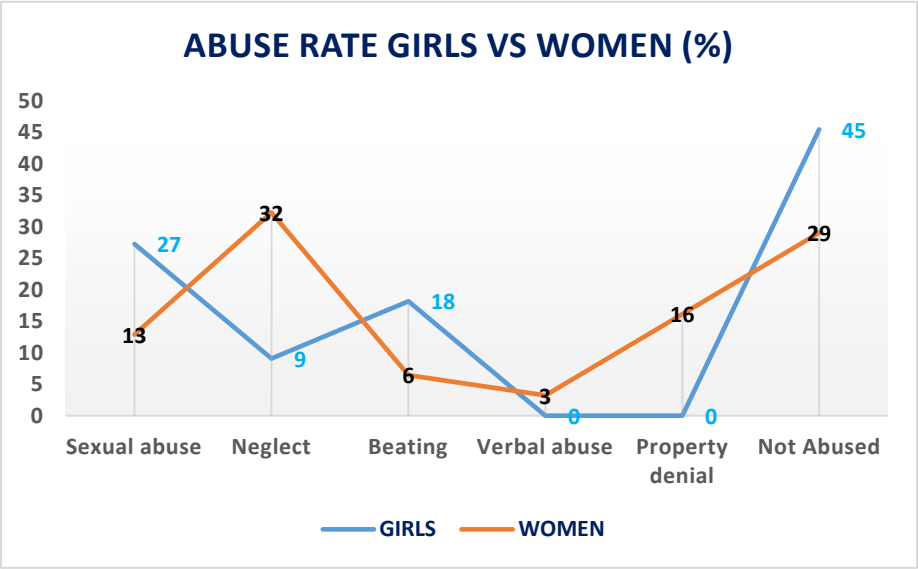


Figure 7: Level of abuse- Women vs Girls WD



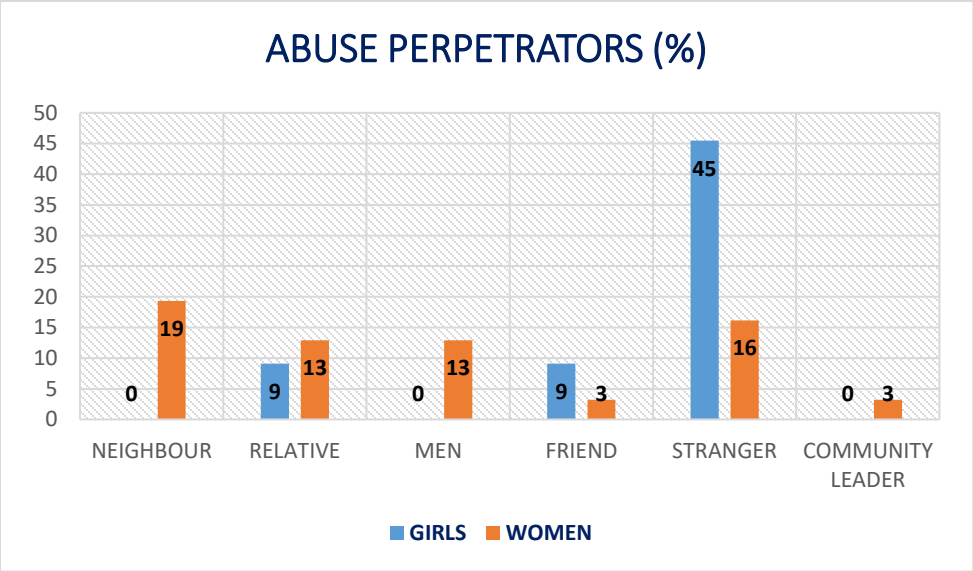
The findings also reveal that 39% of these abuses occur in homes, 21% in communities, 2% in the neighborhood and 2% in workplaces.

Among girls, strangers were the most common perpetrators of abuse (45%), followed by relatives (9%) and friends (9%), with no cases reported involving neighbors, men in general, or community leaders. About 36% of girls reported no abuse.

Among women, abuse was more evenly distributed: neighbours (19%), strangers (16%), relatives (13%), men (13%), friends (3%), and community leaders (3%), while about 32% reported no abuse.

Overall: Women and girls with disabilities are at risk of abuse both from people within their close social networks and from outsiders, indicating vulnerabilities in both private and community settings.

Figure 8: Common Abuse Perpetrators



The high prevalence of abuse highlights the increased vulnerability of women and girls with disabilities within society. Factors such as stigma, dependence on caregivers, poverty, and lack of awareness about legal rights contribute to this vulnerability.

These findings suggest that women and girls with disabilities remain at significant risk of rights violations and require stronger protection mechanisms within both community and justice systems.

3.5 Reporting of Abuse Cases

The study further examined whether women and girls with disabilities report cases of abuse to relevant authorities.

The results show that **56% of respondents reported abuse cases**, while **44% did not report the abuse they experienced**. It should be noted that 45% of the abused Girls report while only 39% of abused women report their cases.

The relatively low reporting rate suggests that many cases remain hidden within communities. Several factors contribute to under-reporting, including stigma associated with abuse, lack of knowledge about reporting procedures, and limited trust in justice institutions.

Figure 9: Reporting Rate in both Women and Girls WD

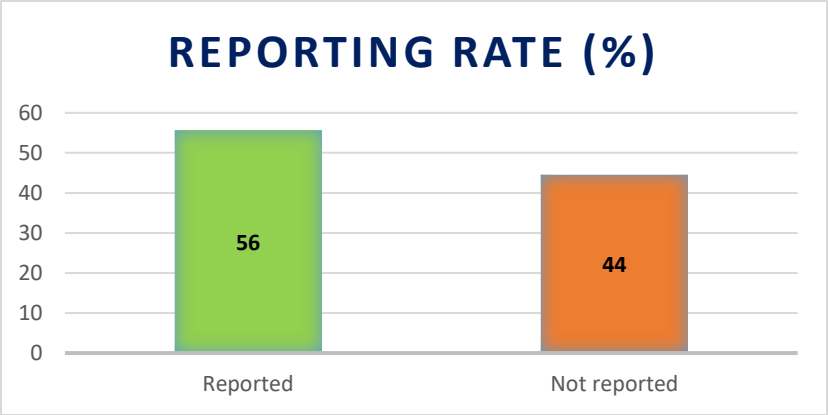
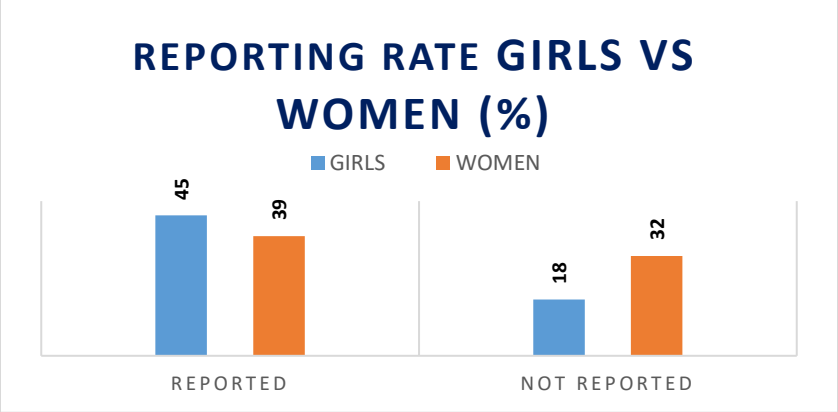
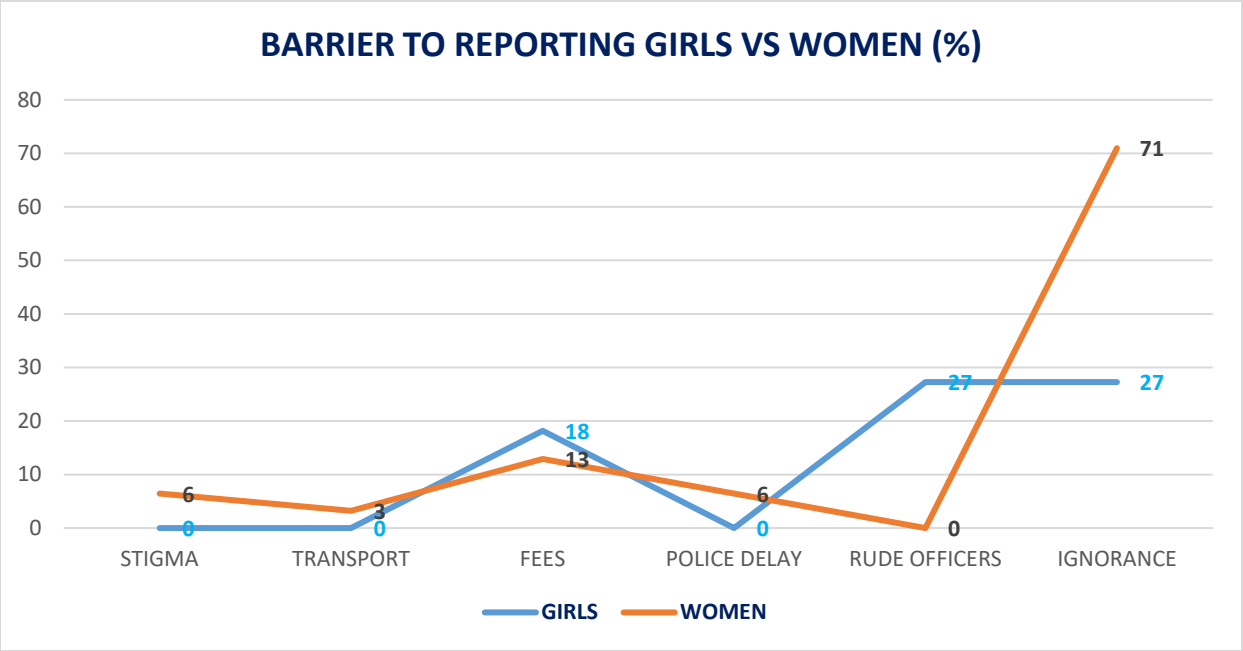


Figure 10: Reporting Rate –Women vs Girls WD



It should be noted that 45% of girls reported their cases, compared to only 18% of women. This significant drop in reporting among women may be attributed to several barriers that discourage them from seeking justice. These include limited knowledge about reporting procedures, negative attitudes or rude behavior from some officers, fees associated with processing cases, delays at police stations, stigma related to the incident, and transportation challenges. Together, these factors contribute to the low reporting rates among women with disabilities and highlight the need for more accessible and supportive justice mechanisms.

Figure 11: Barriers to Reporting – Girls vs Women WD



Some survivors choose not to report abuse due to family pressure or fear of damaging relationships, especially when perpetrators are relatives or close community members. As a result, despite the existence of reporting mechanisms, many women and girls with disabilities remain discouraged from reporting abuse.

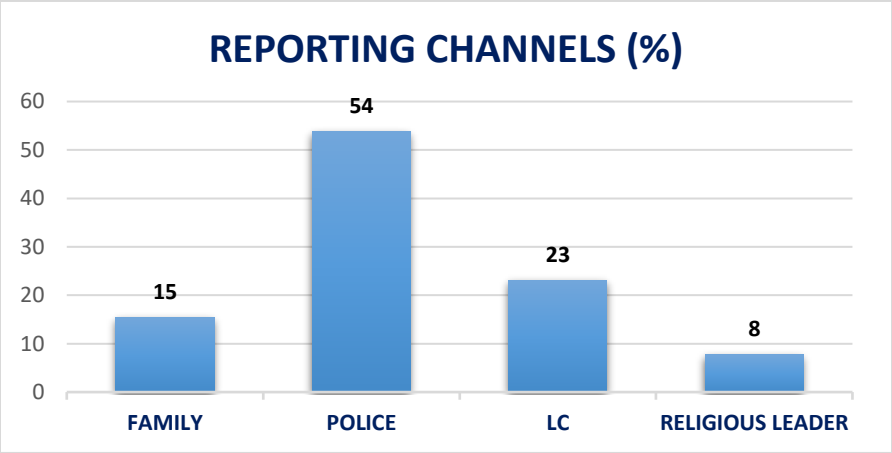
3.6 Institutions Where Cases Are Reported

Among respondents who reported cases of abuse, different institutions were identified as reporting channels.

The findings show that 54% reported to the police, 23% reported cases to Local Council leaders, 15% reported to family members, while 8% reported to religious leaders.

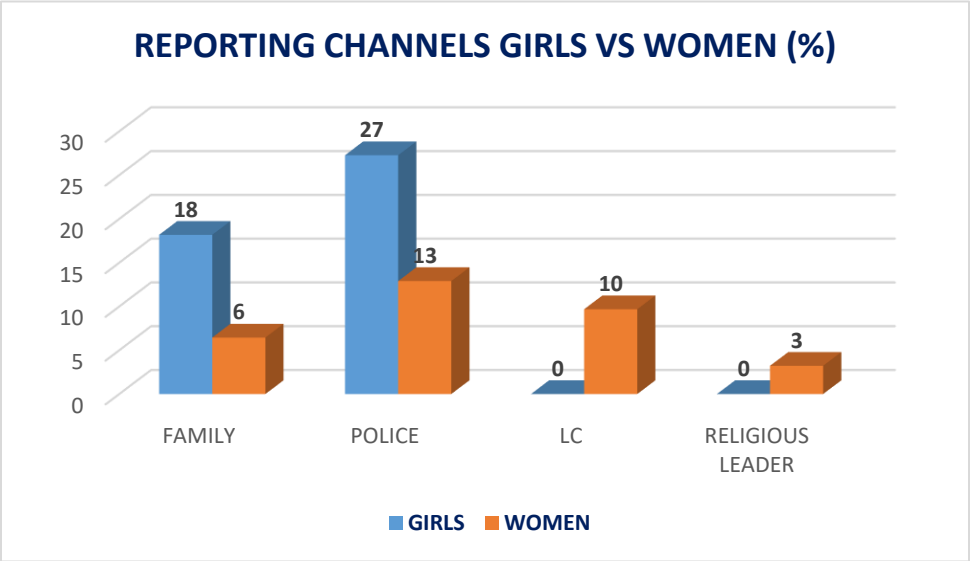
The Police appear to be the most commonly used reporting channel because they are easily accessible within communities and are perceived as trusted authorities. Police institutions receive cases mainly when the abuse involves serious criminal offences such as sexual violence and beating. However, some cases are not reported because the offenders are relatives.

Figure 12: Common Reporting Channels



The findings indicate variations in reporting channels between girls and women with disabilities. **About 17% of girls reported cases to the police compared to 13% of women**, suggesting that girls may rely more on formal justice institutions when reporting abuse. Additionally, **18% of girls reported incidents to family members compared to only 6% of women**, indicating that girls tend to seek support within their immediate family networks. On the other hand, **10% of women reported cases to Local Council leaders, while no girls were recorded using this channel**, and **3% of women reported to religious leaders, with no cases reported by girls through this avenue**. These findings suggest that women with disabilities may be more likely to use community leadership structures, while girls tend to rely more on family members and formal institutions when reporting abuse.

Figure 13: Common Reporting Channels –Girls vs Women

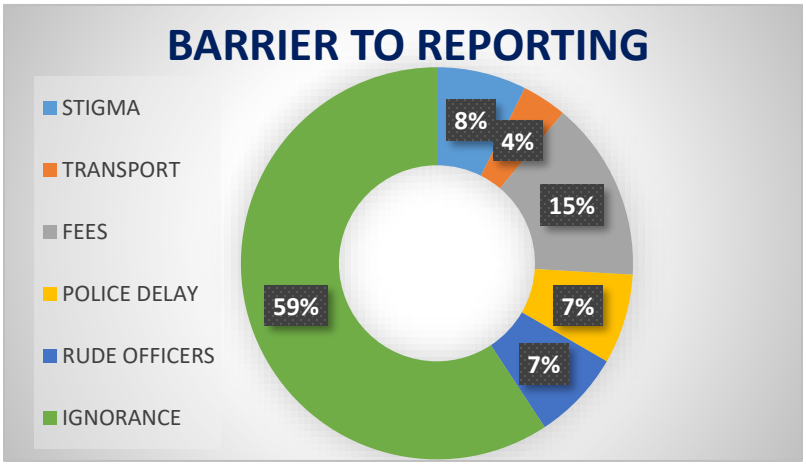


These findings underscore the critical role of both formal justice institutions and community-based structures in facilitating the reporting and referral of abuse cases involving women and girls with disabilities, highlighting the importance of strengthening these mechanisms to ensure more accessible, responsive, and effective pathways to justice.

3.7 Barriers to Reporting

Specifically, 59% of respondents identified lack of knowledge about reporting procedures as the major challenge in accessing justice. Additionally, 15% reported that payment of fees was a barrier, while 8% indicated that stigma associated with the incident discouraged them from reporting cases. Furthermore, 7% of respondents noted that cases are often delayed or referred to future dates, and another 7% reported that some officials do not handle cases with the seriousness they deserve. A smaller proportion, 4%, indicated that transport costs limit their ability to pursue justice services.

Figure 13: Common Barriers to Reporting among Women and Girls WD



Overall, the findings show that women and girls with disabilities report abuse through various channels such as police, family members, local council leaders, and religious leaders. However, 44% of the cases remain unreported due to barriers such as stigma, lack of awareness, financial constraints, and limited trust in the justice system, **as highlighted in figure 13 above**. This underscores the need to strengthen and make reporting mechanisms more accessible and responsive.

3.8 Justice Outcomes

The study assessed whether women and girls with disabilities receive justice after reporting cases of abuse.

The findings show that 15% of reported cases resulted in justice being served, 5% Cases were partly served, while 23% of the reported cases did not result in justice.

Figure 14: Rate of Justice served to Women and Girls WD

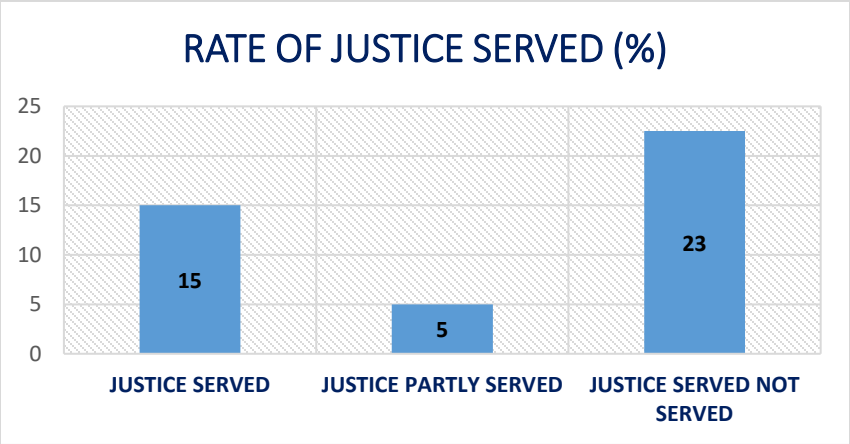
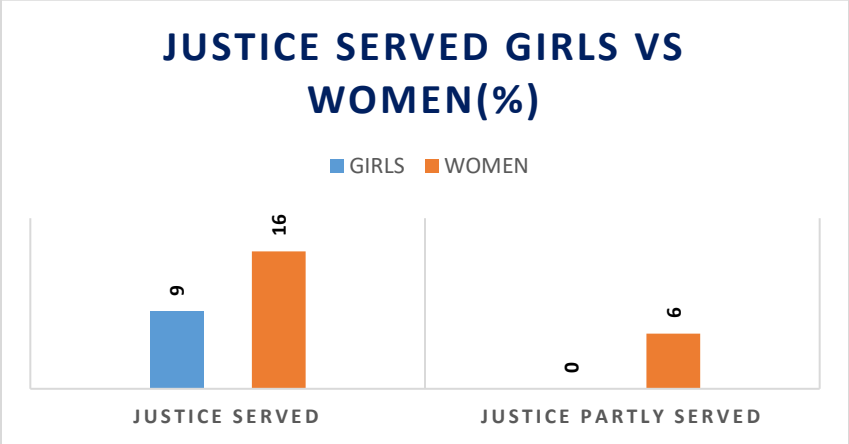


Figure 15: Rate of Justice served – Girls vs Women WD



The findings indicate that justice outcomes for women and girls with disabilities remain limited. **About 16% of women reported receiving justice, while 9% of girls indicated that they did not receive justice, and 6% of women reported receiving only partial justice.**

Bukirwa Hadijah, a 62-year-old woman with disability who reported sexual harassment to police, had the suspect arrested but later released,

This highlights how delays in investigations, lack of sufficient evidence, withdrawals, informal settlements, and financial constraints often prevent cases from reaching satisfactory resolution, leading some survivors to abandon their pursuit of justice.

Namakula Jovia, *a 16 year old from Nsavu Parish, Namayumba Village faced 3-year delay with no feedback after a rape case which is a serious breakdown in case management*.

The allegation that the perpetrator "bribed police" is something that would need formal investigation by oversight bodies—it cannot be treated as confirmed without evidence, but it reflects a perception many survivors have when cases stall. These outcomes suggest that many cases do not progress to a satisfactory resolution within the justice system. Several factors contribute to this situation, including delays in investigations, lack of sufficient evidence, withdrawal of cases, and informal settlements outside the formal court system. In some instances, survivors abandon their cases due to frustration with lengthy procedures or lack of financial resources to continue pursuing justice.

These findings highlight persistent gaps in the justice process and suggest that women and girls with disabilities face significant challenges in obtaining timely and effective justice, despite the existence of formal legal mechanisms.

3.9 Barriers to Accessing Justice

The study identified several barriers that prevent women and girls with disabilities from accessing justice services.

The most commonly reported barriers include financial costs associated with pursuing cases, negative attitudes from some JLOS officials, and delays in handling cases.

Other barriers include lack of accessible reporting mechanisms for persons with disabilities, limited legal awareness, and family members who may compromise cases before they reach formal justice institutions. These barriers significantly limit the ability of women and girls with disabilities to seek justice and highlight the need for targeted interventions to improve access to justice services.

3.10 Performance of the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS)

Respondents from the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) were asked to rate different aspects of the justice system's performance in handling cases involving women and girls with disabilities. The analysis of the mean scores indicates varying levels of performance across different justice institutions. Overall, the justice system received a **mean score of 2.7**, which, according to the rating scale used in the study, indicates that the system is **weak** in effectively responding to cases involving women and girls with disabilities.

While some respondents acknowledged that the police and local leaders play an important role in receiving and recording cases, several concerns were raised, including delays in case handling, limited follow-up on reported cases, and challenges in ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable. These findings suggest that although institutional structures for handling such cases exist, **significant improvements are needed to ensure that women and girls with disabilities receive timely and effective justice**.

3.11 Overall Implications

Women and girls with disabilities (WDs) in Luwero District remain highly vulnerable to abuse, with **64% of respondents reporting neglect, sexual violence, property denial, or physical abuse**. Abuse occurs both within households (39%) and in communities (21%), highlighting risks from both close networks and outsiders. Reporting is limited, with only **56% of cases disclosed**, and adult women less likely to report (18%) than girls (45%), due to lack of awareness of reporting procedures (59%), stigma (8%), financial constraints (15%), and delays in case handling (7%).

Justice outcomes are generally poor: only **15% of reported cases were fully resolved**, 5% partially, and 23% remained unresolved. Contributing factors include procedural delays, informal settlements, insufficient evidence, and limited disability-sensitive services. Socio-

economic vulnerabilities exacerbate risk, with **58% of women-WD engaged in subsistence farming**, **29% unemployed**, and **55% of girls-WD excluded from formal education**, limiting both independence and access to justice.

Institutional gaps also persist. The Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) scored **2.7/5** on responsiveness to cases involving WDs, reflecting weak coordination between community structures and formal justice institutions, inadequate training on disability inclusion, and limited follow-up on reported cases.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen community awareness on disability rights, abuse reporting, and protection mechanisms.
- Improve accessibility and responsiveness of justice services, including disability-inclusive procedures.
- Prioritize empowerment and protection for women-WD through livelihood support, and ensure safe education access for girls-WD.
- Enhance institutional capacity, coordination, and accountability of justice actors.
- Address socio-economic vulnerabilities through integrated education, livelihood, and skill-building programs.

Conclusion: Without targeted, multi-sectoral interventions addressing social, economic, and institutional barriers, women and girls with disabilities will remain at high risk of abuse and face limited access to effective justice.

REFERENCES

1. Luwero District Disabled Women's Association – Project proposal "***Increasing Access to the Justice Law and order Sector (JLOS) by Women and girls with disabilities in Luwero district,*** 2025.

2. LUDDWA – Terms of reference for conducting a baseline survey on the service gaps within the justice law and order sector to deliver justice to women and girls with disabilities; December, 2025

3. LUDDWA baseline survey report, 2021, how women and girls with disabilities were affected by Covid in Luwero district.

4. LUDDWA-Annual activity implementation reports-2022,2023 & 2024

Annexes

- Annex 1: Questionnaire for Women with Disabilities
- Annex 2: Questionnaire for girls with disabilities
- Annex 3: Questionnaire for Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS)
- Annex 4: Questionnaire for District Officials
- Annex 5: Interview guide for parents/caretakers of children/persons with disabilities
- Annex 6: Interview guide for sub county/town council and village leaders

Tools

The study employed a mix of quantitative and qualitative data collection tools tailored to different respondent categories. These included:

- Structured questionnaires administered to women and girls WD
- Interview guides for parents/caretakers of children/PWD
- Questionnaires for Local Council leaders and sub-county officials
- Questionnaires for district officials
- Questionnaires for Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) actors
- Consent forms to ensure voluntary participation

ANNEX 1

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES (18+ YEARS)

SECTION A: IDENTIFICATION PARTICULARS

A1. Location (Sub-county/Town Council): _____
A2. Parish/Village: _____
A3. Age: _____
A4. Type of disability (tick): Physical ☐ Visually impaired ☐ Hearing impairment ☐ Deaf blind ☐ Deaf mute ☐ Speech impairment ☐ Little person ☐ Albino ☐ Intellectual ☐ Epilepsy ☐ Mental/psychosocial ☐ Others……

A5. Marital status: Single ☐ Married ☐ Separated ☐ Widowed ☐

A6. Have you ever given birth? YES ☐ NO ☐

A7. How many children .....

A7. How many people live in this household? _____

A8. Are you a household head? YES ☐ NO ☐

SECTION B: PERSONAL INFORMATION OF RESPONDENT

B01: What is your level of education?

Never attended school ☐ Primary not completed ☐ Primary completed ☐ Secondary not completed O'level ☐ Secondary completed O' level ☐ Secondary completed A 'level ☐ Certificate course ☐ Diploma certificate ☐ Degree certificate ☐

Other …….

B2. What is your current occupation?

Subsistence Farmer ☐ Salaried employment ☐ Casual laborer ☐ Petty trading ☐ Formal business ☐ Student ☐ Other (specify)……..

B3: What is your means of transport?

Bicycle ☐ Boda boda (motor cycle) ☐ Wheel chair ☐ Crutches ☐ Car ☐ Walking ☐ others……

SECTION C: KNOWLEDGE OF RIGHTS

C1. Do you know that women with disabilities have equal rights under Ugandan law?

Yes ☐ No ☐

C2. Which rights do you know? (in *case they don't know, probe if they know any of these legal instruments and any articles*)

1. The African Disability Protocol'
2. The employment Act
3. Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women (1948)
4. National Disability Act, 2006
5. Equal Opportunities Act, 2006
6. United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities
7. Universal declaration of Human rights
8. The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) as amended.
9. Others ……
   ……
   ……

SECTION D: EXPERIENCE OF ABUSE

D1. Have you or anyone you know ever experienced abuse or rights violation? Yes ☐ No ☐
D2. If yes, what type? (tick all): Sexual ☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Economic ☐ Neglect ☐ Property grabbing ☐ Other.....
D3. Where did it happen? Home ☐ Community ☐ Workplace ☐ School ☐ Other ☐
.....
D4. Who was the perpetrator? Partner ☐ Relative ☐ Neighbor ☐ Caretaker ☐ Stranger ☐

D5 What exactly happened?.....
.....

D6 What in your own view causes the abuse/rights violations? ……

……
…….

SECTION E: REPORTING AND JUSTICE

E1. Did you or that person report the incident? Yes ☐ No ☐
E2. If yes, where? Police ☐ LC ☐ Family ☐ Religious leader ☐ Court ☐
E3. Was justice served? Yes ☐ No ☐ Partly ☐
E4. What challenges did you face? Fees ☐ Delays ☐ Fear ☐ Stigma ☐ Distance ☐ Other.....

E5. Put a tick to show whether you agree, strongly agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the statement

OPINIONS ABOUT REASONABLE ACCOMODATION AND ACCESIBILITY OF THE JLOS

S/N	Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
E5.1	The local council courts/leaders and police give timely support by receiving & recording cases, giving advice on next steps when there's a case concerning a woman/girl with disability				
E5.2	The local council courts/leaders and police forward files on time where need be, follow up the file of the victim to the next level				
E5.3	The local council courts/leaders and police apprehend/remand the offenders till he/she is produced in court				
E5.4	The perpetrators of criminal charges are committed to courts till cases are heard and judgement is passed				
E5.5	Information on when offenders will be produced in court for hearing cases is relayed through known channels/mechanisms to the victims/victims' family				
E5.6	A case doesn't progress normally and justice cannot be expedited unless a woman/girl with disability pays money at one level or another.				
E5.7	Cases of women and girls with disabilities are received but no guidance on next steps is given, the offenders are apprehended and released before next actions are determined				
E5.8	When cases for women and girls with disabilities are not concluded quickly, it is denial of justice				
E5.9	The legal aid entities play a key role in guiding and counselling women and girls with disabilities and representing them in court				

E5.10	Reasonable accommodation is provided whenever a case is lodged for a PWD like (More time in court, sign language interpreter, local language translator, etc.)				
E5.11	Affirmative action was provided when interacting with the JLOS officials i.e. like working on you before others.				
E5.12	The JLOS facilities (like offices, police counters, prison cells, court rooms, bar areas etc.) are physically accessible.				
E5.13	I know of a case where Judgment was provided on the case and the file was closed				

E6. What do you perceive as the 3 biggest challenges in the way cases of women and girls with disabilities are handled by the JLOS?

1. Paying for recording cases/a fee for hearing cases ☐
2. Not being received well (care free/rude officers) ☐
3. No immediate help ☐
4. Referring cases to future dates ☐
5. Throwing out cases without consulting the victims ☐
6. Suspects being left at large ☐
7. Parents/guardians compromised by the perpetrators ☐
8. Others _____

E7. Suggest 3 ways of overcoming these challenges

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

SECTION F: KNOWN COMMUNITY REDRESS CHANNELS & PATHWAYS

F1. What other referral pathways exist at community level that support case handling/management for women and girls with disabilities? (individuals/groups resident in the communities, trained to record, forward/report abuse perpetrated on women and girls with disabilities and PWD in general; usually known by the leaders and most people.)

1. Para legals who are trained to support persons with disabilities ☐
2. Peer educators conduct home /family outreaches ☐
3. Self-help groups fo
4. r persons with disabilities ☐
5. legal aid entities ☐

6. Other (specify)……
7. I don't know of any

F2. Are these community referral mechanisms useful? How are they useful**? (Skip if he/she doesn't know)**

_____
_____
_____

F3. How can women and girls with disabilities get justice on time whenever their rights are violated? (***Give recommendations***)

_____
_____
_____

PARTICIPANTS' CONSENT

I _____ of _____ agree to provide information for this baseline survey conducted by LUDDWA.

Signature: _____
Date: _____

ANNEX 2:

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES

SECTION A: IDENTIFICATION PARTICULARS

Date of Interview: _____

A01. Location: Rural ☐ Urban ☐

A02. Sub-county of residence:

1. ☐ Kamira Town Council
2. ☐ Luwero Town Council
3. ☐ Katikamu Sub-county
4. ☐ Makulubita Sub-county

A03. Parish / Ward: _____
A04. Village / Zone: _____
A05. Interviewer's Name: _____

SECTION B: PERSONAL INFORMATION OF THE RESPONDENT

B06. Age (write actual age): _____

B07. What is the highest level of education you have reached?

Never attended school ☐ Primary not completed ☐ Primary completed ☐ Secondary not completed O'level ☐ Secondary completed O' level ☐ Secondary completed A 'level ☐ Certificate course ☐ Diploma certificate ☐ Degree certificate ☐

Other _____

B08. Type of disability:

Physical ☐ Visually impaired ☐ Hearing impairment ☐ Deaf blind ☐ Deaf mute ☐ Speech impairment ☐ Little person ☐ Albino ☐ Intellectual ☐ Epilepsy ☐ Mental/psychosocial ☐
Others_____

B09. What is your usual means of transport?

Bicycle ☐ Boda boda (motor cycle) ☐ Wheel chair ☐ Crutches ☐ Car ☐ Walking ☐
others_____

B10. Current living arrangement:

1. ☐ Living with parents/guardians
2. ☐ Living with relatives
3. ☐ Living alone
4. ☐ Other (specify): _____

B11. Are you currently in school or training?: Yes ☐No ☐

B12. If NO, why are you not in school/training?

SECTION C: ABUSE / RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN COMMUNITIES

C17. What are the most common rights violations or abuses that girls with disabilities experience?
(Multiple answers allowed)

1. ☐ Neglect
2. ☐ Sexual abuse
3. ☐ Stigmatization / labelling
4. ☐ Denial of property
5. ☐ Isolation
6. ☐ Property grabbing
7. ☐ Deprivation of basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, medical care)
8. ☐ Removed from school
9. ☐ No child support extended
10. ☐ Denial of the right to live with family
11. ☐ Excommunication from family/clan
12. ☐ Threats of human sacrifice
13. ☐ Forced marriage
14. ☐ Child labour
15. ☐ Other (specify): _____

C18. In your own view, what causes these abuses or rights violations?

C19a. Have you ever experienced any form of violence, abuse, or discrimination?: Yes ☐No ☐

b. If YES, when did this happen?
(Tick all that apply)

Period	Tick
When I was very young (below 13 years)	☐
During adolescence / teenage years	☐
After losing a parent/guardian	☐

Period	Tick
Other (specify)	☐

c. Where did this happen?
(Tick all that apply)

Place	Tick
At home during the day	☐
At home during the night	☐
In the community / while working	☐
At a neighbour's home	☐
At school	☐
At an event	☐
At a relative's home	☐

SECTION C (CONTINUED): PERPETRATORS AND REPORTING

C20. Who was the perpetrator?
(Tick all that apply)

Stranger ☐ Family member ☐ Teacher ☐ Student ☐ Community leader ☐ Friend ☐ Neighbour ☐ In-law ☐ Other relative ☐

C21. What exactly happened?

C22. Did you report the case to anyone?: Yes ☐ No ☐

b. If NO, why didn't you report?

C23. If YES, where did you report the case?

1. ☐ Family member
2. ☐ Church / Religious leader
3. ☐ LC I
4. ☐ Police
5. ☐ Other (specify): _____

C24. Who helped you to report or record the case?

1. ☐ Family member
2. ☐ Myself
3. ☐ LC (Secretary for Gender)
4. ☐ Police officer
5. ☐ Other (specify): _____

C25. What was done to the person who committed the abuse?

SECTION D: KNOWN REDRESS CHANNELS / PATHWAYS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

S/N	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
D26	Local council leaders and police give timely support	☐	☐	☐	☐
D27	Police and leaders forward files on time	☐	☐	☐	☐
D28	Offenders are apprehended and taken to court	☐	☐	☐	☐
D29	Criminal cases are concluded with judgment	☐	☐	☐	☐
D30	Victims are informed about court hearing dates	☐	☐	☐	☐
D31	Justice requires payment of money	☐	☐	☐	☐
D32	Cases are received but not followed up	☐	☐	☐	☐
D33	Delayed cases amount to denial of justice	☐	☐	☐	☐
D34	Legal aid entities support girls with disabilities	☐	☐	☐	☐
D35	Reasonable accommodation is provided	☐	☐	☐	☐
D36	Affirmative action is provided	☐	☐	☐	☐
D37	JLOS facilities are physically accessible	☐	☐	☐	☐
D38	I know of a case that was concluded	☐	☐	☐	☐

SECTION E: CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

D39. What are the 3 biggest challenges in how cases of girls with disabilities are handled by the JLOS?

1. ☐ Paying for recording/hearing cases

2. ☐ Not being received well
3. ☐ No immediate help
4. ☐ Referring cases to future dates
5. ☐ Throwing out cases without consulting victims
6. ☐ Suspects being left at large
7. ☐ Parents/guardians compromised
8. ☐ Other (specify): _____

D40. Suggest 3 ways of overcoming these challenges:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

D41. What referral pathways exist at community level to support girls with disabilities?

1. ☐ Para-legals
2. ☐ Peer educators
3. ☐ Self-help groups
4. ☐ Legal aid entities
5. ☐ Other (specify): _____
6. ☐ I don't know of any

D42. Are these referral mechanisms useful? How?

_____

(Skip if respondent does not know any)

D43. How can girls with disabilities get justice on time whenever their rights are violated? (Recommendations)

_____

PARTICIPANTS' CONSENT

I _____ of _____ agree to provide information for this baseline survey conducted by LUDDWA.

Signature: _____
Date: _____

ANNEX 3

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JLOS

SECTION A: IDENTIFICATION PARTICULARS

Questionnaire No.: ……

A01. LUWERO DISTRICT

1. Urban ☐
2. Peri-urban ☐
3. Rural ☐

A02. COUNTY / SUB-COUNTY: _____

A03. NAME: _____

A04. JLOS DEPARTMENT / SECTOR: _____

A05. POSITION AT THE STATION / OFFICE: _____

A06. DATE OF INTERVIEW:
Day …… Month …… Year ……

SECTION B: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENT

B05. Sex of Respondent: ☐ Male ☐ Female

B06. Age (write actual age): _____

B07. What is your highest education level?

1. ☐ O level
2. ☐ A level
3. ☐ Certificate PTC (Grade III teachers)
4. ☐ Diploma NTC (Grade V teachers)
5. ☐ Bachelor's Degree and other training
6. ☐ Graduate degree (Masters and other post graduate trainings)

B08. How long have you been in this position?
…… years / months

B09. What sections/categories of people are your direct mandate in this role?

1. ☐ All children
2. ☐ Orphans and vulnerable children including those with disability
3. ☐ Persons with Disabilities (PWD)
4. ☐ All adults
5. ☐ Only women
6. ☐ Women with disabilities
7. ☐ Youth
8. ☐ Only men
9. ☐ Everybody
10. ☐ Others (specify): _____

SECTION C: KNOWLEDGE ON ABUSE / RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN COMMUNITIES

C10. How often do you get cases involving rights violations for women and girls with disabilities?

1. ☐ Once a month
2. ☐ At least one or two cases in 3 months
3. ☐ One or two cases in 6 months
4. ☐ One or two cases in a year
5. ☐ I have never handled any
6. ☐Other (specify): _____

C11. Is there any special legal consideration when handling cases for PWD / women and girls with disabilities?: Yes ☐ No ☐

C12. Which are these special legal considerations?
(If NO in C11, skip this question)

C13. Is someone's disability status included on the forms / case files?: Yes ☐ No ☐

C14. How long does it take for a file/case of a woman with disability to move from one level/department/sector to another?

C15. Why do you think women and girls' rights are violated?

What is the most reported case of violation/abuse?

C16. Who are the majority perpetrators of violence against women and girls with disabilities?

C17. Have you in recent times recorded any case of violence against women and girls with disabilities?: Yes ☐ No ☐

C18. When and where did this occur? (Tick where appropriate)

Place of Occurrence	You	WWD	GWD
At home during the day	☐	☐	☐
At home during the night	☐	☐	☐
In the field while working (community)	☐	☐	☐
At the neighbors' home	☐	☐	☐
At school	☐	☐	☐
At an event	☐	☐	☐
At a relative's home	☐	☐	☐

C19. What type of violence/abuse was reported?

C20a. Did you / the woman / girl report that case?: Yes ☐ No ☐
b. If NO, why?

c. If YES, where did you / the woman / girl report?

C21a. Was justice served?: Yes ☐ No ☐
b. If YES, how was it served and what was the outcome?

c. If NO, why do you think it wasn't?

What would be the normal period for handling the different types of cases?

1. Civil: _____

2. Criminal: _____

SECTION D: KNOWN REDRESS CHANNELS / PATHWAYS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Tick whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree.

S/N	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
D22	Local council courts/leaders and police give timely support	☐	☐	☐	☐
D23	Files are forwarded on time and followed up	☐	☐	☐	☐
D24	Offenders are apprehended/remanded	☐	☐	☐	☐
D25	Perpetrators are committed to courts till judgment	☐	☐	☐	☐
D26	Information on court hearings is relayed to victims	☐	☐	☐	☐
D27	Justice requires paying money at some level	☐	☐	☐	☐
D28	Cases are received but no guidance is given	☐	☐	☐	☐
D29	Delayed cases amount to denial of justice	☐	☐	☐	☐
D30	Legal aid entities play a key role	☐	☐	☐	☐
D31	Cases are often resolved outside court	☐	☐	☐	☐
D32	Courts are only for the rich	☐	☐	☐	☐

D33. What do you perceive as the 3 biggest challenges that hamper women and girls with disabilities from accessing justice from the JLOS?
(Select up to 3)

1. Paying for recording/hearing cases
2. Not being received well
3. No immediate help
4. Referring cases to future dates
5. Throwing out cases without consulting victims
6. Suspects being left at large
7. Parents/guardians compromised
8. Others (specify): _____

D34. Suggest 3 ways of overcoming these challenges

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

D35. What other referral pathways has your department instituted at community level?

1. ☐ Para legals trained to support PWD
2. ☐ Peer educators
3. ☐ Self-help groups for PWD
4. ☐ Volunteers from legal aid entities
5. ☐ Other (specify): _____

D36a. Are these community referral pathways useful?: Yes ☐ No ☐
b. How are they useful?

D37. How can they be improved if not useful?

D38. Do you know any legal frameworks that uphold the rights and dignity of PWD and women with disabilities?: Yes ☐ No ☐

D39. Which legal frameworks do you know?

1. ☐ Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
2. ☐ National Disability Act, 2006
3. ☐ Equal Opportunities Act, 2006
4. ☐ UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
5. ☐ Universal Declaration of Human Rights
6. ☐ African Disability Protocol
7. ☐ Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) as amended
8. ☐ Employment Act

D40. How can women and girls with disabilities get justice on time whenever their rights are violated?
(Recommendations)

PARTICIPANTS' CONSENT

I _____ of _____ agree to provide information for this baseline survey conducted by LUDDWA.

Signature: _____
Date: _____

ANNEX 4

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR DISTRICT OFFICIALS

SECTION A: IDENTIFICATION PARTICULARS

A01. Location of respondent (Luwero District)

Urban ☐ Peri-urban ☐ Rural ☐

A02. County / Municipality: _____

A03. Name of respondent: _____

A04. Department / Office: _____

Date of Interview: Day …… Month …… Year ……

SECTION B: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENT

B05. Sex of respondent: Male ☐ Female ☐

B06. Age (actual age in years): _____

B07. Highest level of education attained:

O' level ☐ A' level ☐ Certificate (PTC / Grade III or equivalent) ☐ Diploma (NTC / Grade V or equivalent) ☐ Bachelor's degree or other professional training ☐ Postgraduate degree (Masters or above) ☐

B08. Duration in current position: _____ years

B09. Which categories of people fall under your direct mandate?
(Multiple responses allowed)

All children ☐ Orphans and vulnerable children (including those with disabilities) ☐ Persons with disabilities ☐ All adults ☐ Women only ☐ Women and girls with disabilities ☐ Youth ☐ Men only ☐ Everyone ☐ Others (specify): _____

SECTION C: KNOWLEDGE ON ABUSE / RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

C10. How often do you receive information on rights violations affecting women and girls with disabilities?

Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Occasionally ☐ Rarely / not easily ☐

C11. Is there an established mechanism for receiving such information?

Yes ☐ No ☐

C12. What are the most common forms of abuse reported by women and girls with disabilities?
(Multiple responses allowed)

Neglect ☐ Sexual abuse ☐ Verbal abuse / labelling ☐ Denial of property or inheritance ☐
Isolation or exclusion ☐ Physical abuse ☐ Other (specify): _____

C13. In your view, what are the main causes of abuse against women and girls with disabilities?
……

C14. What measures can be taken to protect women and girls with disabilities from abuse?
……

C15. Who are the most commonly reported perpetrators of abuse against women and girls with disabilities?
……

C16. Have you handled or recorded any case involving rights violations against women or girls with disabilities recently? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes:

- Type of case handled and location:
  ……
  ……
- Age of the victim: _____ years

C17. What immediate response or action did you take in that case?
……

C18. Was the case reported to another authority? Yes ☐ No ☐

b) If no, why?
……
c) If yes, where was it reported?
……
C19. In your opinion, was justice served in that case?
(Probe how and outcome; if not, explain why)
……
……

SECTION D: CHALLENGES, REFERRALS & LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

D31. What are the three biggest challenges hindering access to justice for women and girls with disabilities?
(Select up to three)

Informal fees ☐ Rude or dismissive officials ☐ Delayed response ☐ Repeated adjournments ☐ Cases dismissed without victim consultation ☐ Suspects left at large ☐ Compromised guardians ☐ Other (specify): _____

D32. Suggest three ways to overcome these challenges:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

D33. What community-level referral mechanisms does your department support?
(Multiple responses allowed)

Trained paralegals ☐ Peer educators ☐ Self-help groups of PWDs ☐ Legal aid organizations ☐ Other (specify): _____

D34. Are these referral mechanisms useful?: Yes ☐ No ☐

b) How are they useful?

……

D35. How can they be improved?

……

D36. Are you aware of legal frameworks protecting the rights of persons with disabilities?

Yes ☐ No ☐

D37. Which ones do you know?
(Multiple responses allowed)

CEDAW ☐ National Disability Act (2006) ☐ Equal Opportunities Act (2006) ☐ UNCRPD ☐ Universal Declaration of Human Rights ☐ African Disability Protocol ☐ Constitution of Uganda (1995) ☐ Employment Act ☐

D38. What recommendations would you make to ensure timely justice for women and girls with disabilities?

……

PARTICIPANTS' CONSENT

I _____ of _____ agree to provide information for this baseline survey conducted by LUDDWA.

Signature: _____
Date: _____

ANNEX 5

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PARENTS / CARETAKERS OF CHILDREN / PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (FGD)

TABLE 1: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

SECTION A (Respondents characteristics to be captured on the attendance and as the interview progresses)

SECTION B: KNOWLEDGE ON ABUSE / RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN COMMUNITIES

B04. Whose rights are most violated in your community:

Females with disabilities ☐ Males with disabilities ☐

B05. What are the most common forms of abuse women and girls with disabilities encounter?

B06. What challenges do you get while taking care of the PWD / girls with disabilities?

B07. Why do you think women and girls with disabilities are abused? (CAUSES)

B08. What can be done to protect them?

B09. Who in your view are the most reported perpetrators of abuse to women and girls with disabilities?

B10. When women and girls with disabilities are abused/violated, do they report the cases? Where do they report?

SECTION C: KNOWN REDRESS CHANNELS / PATHWAYS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

C11. How easy or difficult is it to report cases of abuse committed against the PWD you take care of?

C12. What do you perceive as the 3 biggest challenges that hamper women and girls with disabilities from accessing justice from the JLOS?

1. ☐ Paying for recording cases / a fee for hearing cases
2. ☐ Not being received well (care free / rude officers)
3. ☐ No immediate help at the police, Local Council
4. ☐ Referring cases to future dates
5. ☐ Throwing out cases without consulting the victims
6. ☐ Suspects being left at large
7. ☐ Parents / guardians compromised by the perpetrators
8. ☐ Others (specify) .....

C13. Suggest 3 ways of overcoming these challenges.

C14. What referral pathways are instituted at community level to support case handling / management for women and girls with disabilities?
(Structures / individuals / groups resident in the communities, trained to record, forward or report abuse perpetrated on women and girls with disabilities and PWD in general; usually known by the leaders and most people.)

SECTION D: OPINIONS / PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THE JLOS

D15. Do local council courts / leaders and police give timely support by receiving and recording cases, giving advice on next steps when there's a case concerning a woman or girl with disability?

D16. How do you get information whether the file was forwarded to the next level from police?

D17. Are the offenders apprehended / remanded till they are produced in court? If no, why?

D18. How is information relayed to the victim / victim's family about when the case will be heard in court?

D19. What in your view stalls cases and hampers expedition of justice to the women and girls with disabilities?

D20. What role do the legal aid entities play in facilitating women and girls with disabilities access justice?

D21. How can women and girls with disabilities get justice on time whenever their rights are violated?
(Give recommendations)

ANNEX 6

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SUB-COUNTY AND LOCAL COUNCIL ONE (L.C.1/VILLAGE) LEADERS

SECTION A: IDENTIFICATION PARTICULARS

A01. Sub-county / Town Council: _____
A02. Parish: _____
(Other identification particulars to be captured on the attendance list)

SECTION B: CHARACTERISTICS AND MANDATE OF THE RESPONDENT

B09. What sections/categories of people are your direct mandate in this role? (tick all that apply)

SECTION C: KNOWLEDGE ON ABUSE / RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN COMMUNITIES

C10. How often do you get information about rights violations for women and girls with disabilities?

1. ☐ Weekly
2. ☐ Monthly
3. ☐ Quarterly
4. ☐ Whenever I want to
5. ☐ It is not easy

C11. Is there an established reporting mechanism that you use to get this information? ☐ Yes ☐ No

C12. What are the most common forms of abuse women and girls with disabilities report?

C13. Why do you think women and girls with disabilities are abused? (Causes)

C14. What can be done to protect women and girls with disabilities?

C15. Who in your view are the most reported perpetrators of abuse to women and girls with disabilities?

C16. Have you recorded any case of rights violations against women and girls with disabilities in recent times? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes:

- Which case did you handle and where was it?

- How old was the victim? _____ years

C17. What first response/action did you offer to the woman/girl with disability whose rights were violated?

C18a. Did you / the woman / girl report that case? ☐ Yes ☐ No

C18b. If no, why?

C18c. If yes, where did you / the woman / girl report?

C19. Was justice served? (If yes, probe how and outcome; if no, why?)

SECTION D: CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

D32. What do you perceive as the three (3) biggest challenges that hamper women and girls with disabilities from accessing justice? (tick and specify)

D33. Suggest three (3) ways of overcoming these challenges:

SECTION E: REFERRAL PATHWAYS AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

D34. What referral pathways has your office instituted at community level to support case handling for women and girls with disabilities? (tick all)

1. ☐ Para-legals trained to support PWDs
2. ☐ Peer educators/home outreach
3. ☐ Self-help groups for PWDs
4. ☐ Volunteers from legal aid entities
5. ☐ Other (specify): _____

D35a. Are these community referral mechanisms useful? ☐ Yes ☐ No

D35b. How are they useful?

D37. Do you know any legal frameworks that uphold the rights and dignity of PWDs and women with disabilities in particular? ☐ Yes ☐ No

D38. Mention the legal frameworks you know (probe if necessary):

D39. How can women and girls with disabilities get justice on time whenever their rights are violated? (Recommendations)