



FREEDOM AND ROAM UGANDA-FARUG



ANNUAL REPORT

2019



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

UFF	Uganda Feminist Forum
LBQ	Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Queer
IPV	Intimate partner violence
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
HRAPF	Human Rights Awareness and Promotion forum
HIV	Human Immune Virus
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
DIC	Drop-in-Center
KPs	Key Populations
HTC	HIV Testing and Counseling
IEC	Information, Education and Communication materials

FORWARD

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

On behalf of the FARUG board of Directors and on my own behalf, it is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to write this message to you our esteemed partners, friends and readers for whom we have annually produced this report.

FARUG has grown from strength to strength over the last year and so did our efforts to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms with emphasis on rights of the LBQ community in Uganda.

Since inception in 2003, we find ourselves confident and more experienced now in contributing to the improvement of the environment in which LBQ women operate in Uganda.

The success we have attained over the years could not be possible without the dedicated effort of the FARUG team and partners. It is therefore my pertinent duty to salute and recognize contributions made by FARUG partners and friends, Board, Management, and staff for these accomplishments narrated by this report.

Wishing you a successful year 2020.

.....

Dorothy Amuron

Chairperson Board of Directors

FARUG

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

Welcome to Freedom and Roam Uganda (FARUG).

Thank you for your continued support and partnership towards furthering the mandate of FARUG .The year 2019 came and went so fast but as an organization, we take time in this report to reflect on what we were able to achieve in line with our program areas and targets vis-à-vis the challenges that we encountered.

I thank dear Friends of FARUG, Partners and Members for their commitment to promote the FARUG mandate.

The 2019 journey was made possible through support from partnerships with individuals and institutions Particularly, OSIEA,SLF, Frontline AIDS,CHAU,ALIVE Medical services ,CIVI Source Africa ,SMUG, Global fund for Women, Elton John Foundation, Woman Kind Worldwide GIZ, Women International Peace Center (WIPC),MEMPROW, Akina MaMa Wa Afrika (AMWA), Lady Mermaids Beareu (LMB),Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF),Coalition of African Lesbians (CAL),Defenders Protection Initiative (DPI),CEHURD, Defend Defenders, Reach out Mbuya, TASO Mulago, Women Human Rights Defenders Network, Global Interfaith network for rainbow Catholics, Uganda Feminist Forum ,LBQ organizations across the country and support from various individuals whose insurmountable financial and moral support made 2019 a year full of great milestones . You will thus be able to read about our activities for 2019 and we hope that you will continue partnering with us.

I would like to thank the FARUG team for their continued commitment and hard work; together we made tremendous progress in 2019 in many critical areas. We have a vision and we are willing to take whatever action the context allows to make the vision real, however disempowering the environment is. As we do this, we will continue to learn, share knowledge, catalyze innovation, and mobilize others across the country and the continent.

I wish you a productive year 2020.

.....
Ssenfuka Joanita

Executive Director -FARUG

1.0 ABOUT FREEDOM AND ROAM UGANDA- FARUG

WHO WE ARE



Meet our organization, Freedom and Roam–FARUG. We are the first Uganda Lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women’s membership organization. We bring a fierce, longstanding commitment and see ourselves as an organization that generates alternatives and creates transformative changes. Our organization is a place which feeds minds, bodies and souls and where the struggle for human rights and dignity intentionally collide. We fiercely promote, demand and protect the rights and wellbeing of LBQ women; most of whom are excluded, marginalized and exploited just because they exercise their right to choose whom to love.

Although we are a small organization, as small as the hummingbird, we are effective risk takers, we love what we do and we work each minute, every day, to put a smile on the faces of our constituency. It is not just any smile, a certain kind of smile where we hold on to the fact that every human being matters as a principle; that it is not just every human being, but every moment; everything we do that matters. This is the core of our work.

OUR STRATEGY

Our three-year strategic plan concluded at the end of the year 2019. In particular, the strategic plan geared towards enhancing the focus and coherence of FARUG’s work in addressing ongoing oppressions based on class, sexuality, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity/expression. It focused FARUG’s work on the lived realities of Lesbian, Bisexual women and Queer women.

OUR strategic objectives

- i. To advocate for an environment where the rights of LBQ women are respected and protected
- ii. To promote and advocate for equal access to friendly, non-discriminatory and inclusive services to LBQ women
- iii. To promote socio-economic rights and empowerment of LBQ women in Uganda
- iv. To strengthen FARUG’s institutional capacity to be a more accountable and effective organization.

2.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES ACCOMPLISHED IN 2019

This section covers all activities that FARUG implemented in 2019 in fulfillment of each of its strategic objectives and what was accomplished. The activities in question include workshops, advocacy initiatives, research engaged in and consultative meetings whose key results areas are highlighted.

2.1 OBJECTIVE 1: TO ADVOCATE FOR AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE THE RIGHTS OF LBQ WOMEN ARE RESPECTED AND PROTECTED.

Key interventions under this strategy targeted policy makers and law enforcement officers and created awareness about the rights of LBQ women. This was done through sharing research and other information, amongst them about key violations of LBQ rights, including IPV, and other forms of SGBV like corrective rape. In addition, FARUG built on its work with other human rights organizations, particularly those working on LGBTI rights, to advocate for greater respect and protection of their rights.

2.1.0 RESEARCH ACTIVITY ABOUT THE LIVED REALITIES OF LBQ IN UGANDA



In the photo above FARUG launched report findings on lived realities of LBQ Women in Uganda.

Purpose of Research activity:

FARUG conducted this research work throughout different regions in Uganda in order to:

- To assess the extent of violence against LBQ women in Uganda.
- Document facts about the lives lived by LBQ Women in Uganda.
- Collect facts that can inform stakeholders on the LBQ realities and create evidence base to be utilized in advocacy, policy and practice.

Key results

- Re-politicized the movement; LBQ advocacy has been strengthened by the fact that more LBQ women spoke up and shared their experiences.
- Promoted LBQ women's urgency through using media (both video and audio) to document the lived realities of LBQ women across the country.
- Research has institutionalized the feminist principle of sisterhood through ensuring that LBQ women work together across generations, regions and organizing.

2.1.2 UGANDA LESBIAN FORUM –UGALEF 2019

Purpose of the Forum;

The major purpose of this activity was to give an opportunity to LBQ women to celebrate gains and map strategies for collective organizing going forward.

- To enhance knowledge and capacity of LBQ women for effective Queer activism.
- To bring together LBQ Women for collective organizing and strengthening of the LBQ movement in Uganda.
- To provide a safe space for LBQ Women to network, mentor each other, share experiences and information necessary for movement strengthening.
- To shape policy and practice through launching research findings of the lived realities of LBQ women in Uganda.



Some of the FARUG members, allies and partners during the UGALEF 2019 gathering in Kampala.



Participants in one of the sessions at UGALEF 2019.

Key Results:

- Lesbian Visibility: Sexual Citizenship and Space; this was the first ever Lesbian Forum in Uganda.
- Participants confirmed galvanizing unity and solidarity among LBQ women leaders in Uganda.
- Fostered Partnerships and network strengthening for the LBQ movement in Uganda

2.1.3 UFF-SOGIE PANEL



One of the sessions at the UFF SOGIE Panel

PURPOSE OF THE PANEL:

- To create an opportunity for LBQ leaders to discuss further about SOGIE rights in Uganda.
- Bring together Lesbian organizations to advocate for LBQ rights
- Share information and knowledge on key strategies to further SOGIE rights in Uganda.

Key Results.

- LBQ leaders had a robust discussion on SOGIE Rights and status of women's rights in Uganda.
- Key strategies were laid to further SOGIE rights in Uganda
- Participants shared relevant information with each other to further their work and protection of LBQ rights in Uganda.

2.1 OBJECTIVE 2: TO PROMOTE AND ADVOCATE FOR EQUAL ACCESS TO FRIENDLY, NON-DISCRIMINATIVE AND INCLUSIVE SERVICES TO LBQ WOMEN

FARUG built on its existing Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) work to improve the health and wellbeing of LGBTI persons in the different regions of the country. We continue to provide health services for LBQ women in our mini-clinic and drop in center, and also work with the friendly health service providers to ensure that the attention and treatment provided to LBQ women is appropriate.

2.1.1 ANNUAL HEALTH CAMP

The Annual health camp worked at ensuring that LBQ Women and girls fully enjoy their right to health with a specific attention to answering their SRHR needs that are so difficult to meet in mainstream health care units. The camp fostered dialogue on SRHR needs and services for LBQ women as well as availed SRHR consumables and services like gynecology, menstrual kits, reproductive health and menstrual and vaginal health and management.

2.1.2 FARUG HCT OUTREACHES

Services offered by our Drop in Center in 2019 included Health talks, HIV counseling and testing, for the clients who test HIV Positive they are referred to the LBQ/WSW friendly centers for care or any other center of their convenience, condom distribution and education (female condoms), Lubricant education etc. The outreach activities are organized with the help of staff members, and peer educators, and focal persons.

The graph below shows the number of LBQ/WSW clients reached in the last 9 months of 2019

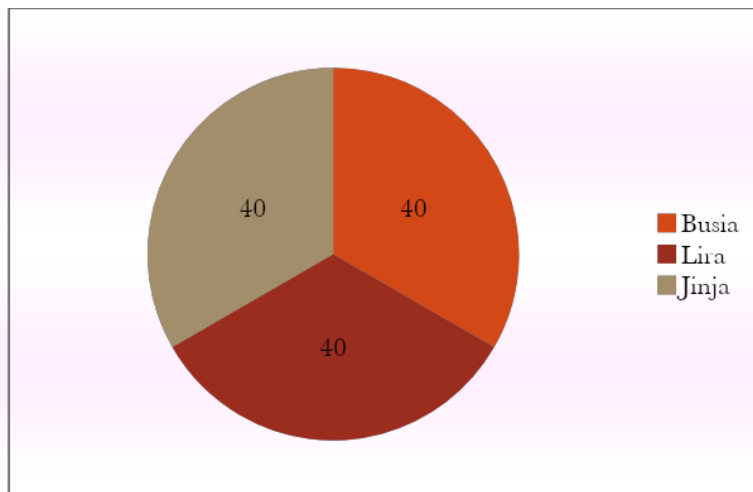


Figure 1 Graph showing the number of clients reached in the three districts of Uganda, Busia, Lira and Jinja with HIV counseling and testing, health dialogue (basic HIV information), and distribution of IEC materials, Condoms and lubricants. Among 120 clients reached 19 clients tested HIV positive and were able to be referred to the nearby friendly hospital and health centers.

Key Results:

- FARUG was able to reach out to 120 LBQ women and among the 120, 19 were HIV positive
- LBTQ positive clients were able to be given counseling and guidance for a health living.
- FARUG reached out to the country sides of Eastern Uganda to further health support to LBQ women
- A tailor made LBQ women's health outreach was extended in the target communities.

2.1.3 THE FARUG DROP IN HEALTH CENTRE (DIC)

The graph below shows the number of LBQ/WSW clients reached at the DIC

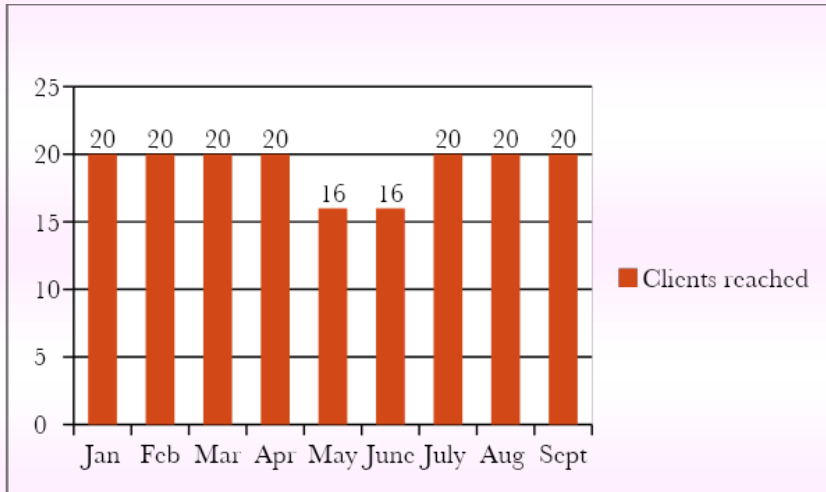


Figure 2, Graph showing the number of clients reached at the dropping centre in the last 9 months with different health services. In the month of Jan we reached 20, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 20, May 16, June 16, July 20, Aug 20 and 20 September 2019. Among the 172 clients, 54 were repeated clients at the DIC. Services offered at the DIC were general treatment, STI treatment, one on one counseling, distribution of IEC materials, condoms and lubrication, and providing SRHR information.

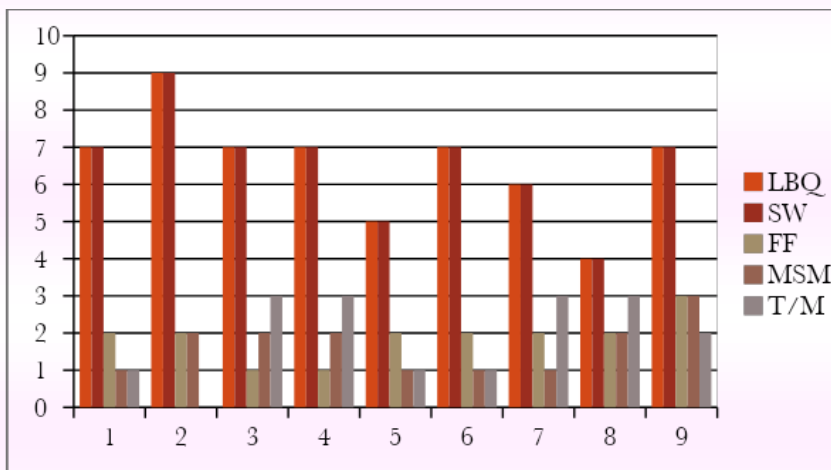


Figure 3, Graph showing the category reached in the 9 months, 59 LBQ, 59SW, 17 FF, 15MSM and 17 Transgender men. This shows that LBQ are the highest number of clients reached at the DIC than Transgender men.

Key Results:

- Many LBQ women were reached with SRHR services like cervical cancer screening and menstrual hygiene management.
- FARUG conducted Mass HIV and STI screening and management.
- Over 20 LBQ women were trained as trainers.
- HRAPF training of Peers
- Orientation **5** new peers under the KPIF grant on how to execute their roles as peers and have managed to receive **70** referrals within the DIC and outside however, the emerging issues where drugs during that quarter and lubricants not in stock in the DIC.
- Distribution of 2167 Male condoms and **14** Female condoms by the Drop-in-Center.



Figure 1 In the photo, FARUG Staff and peers tending LBQ women at her DIC.

2.2 OBJECTIVE 3: TO PROMOTE SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT OF LBQ WOMEN IN UGANDA

Under this, FARUG built on lessons from ongoing activities that were implemented to build capacity of LBQ women for personal development and economic empowerment. We envisaged activities including, but not limited to, personal development, leadership and skills training in a number of areas. We would also continue to organize more events/activities to facilitate greater social interaction amongst members.

2.2.0 SOCIAL FRIDAY EVENTS

Purpose:

The weekly Social Fridays were held at FARUG Offices as one of the unique social events that bring LBQ girls to promote their Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment.

Key Results:

- Socio-Economic counsel and empowerment of LBQ women was done through the year
- Participants confessed benefiting from these social gatherings by improving on their social and financial management skills.



Participants talk to each during some the Social Fridays organized by FARUG in 2019.

2.3 OBJECTIVE 4: TO STRENGTHEN FARUG'S INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO BE A MORE ACCOUNTABLE AND EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION.

We were to establish and implement systems and processes that would result in FARUG being a more professionally run organization.

2.3.0 DIRECTORS' FORUM

Purpose:

- This was a two day workshop held in Kampala to strengthen capacity of program directors of LBQ organizations.
- This training was purposed at equipping LBQ Women leaders with skills and knowledge to be able to develop Personal Strategic plans in order to address main stream strategic plans of LBQ organizations.
- To strengthen the LBQ fraternity in Uganda.

Key Results:

- Program Directors of LBQ organizations obtained knowledge for both personal and organization strategic planning.
- Participants gained knowledge and skills in solidarity and collective institutional growth.
- Participants strengthened network and partnerships with different organizations.



Participants of the TORs of movement building in one of the sessions during the training at ARCH Apartment in Kampala

2.3.1 MOVEMENT BUILDING TRAININGS (TOT) AND ENGAGEMENTS

In particular, these Training were a Training of Trainers for women and Youth organizers of the LBQ Community.



Participants in some of the movement building engagements conducted by FARUG in 2019.



Participants discuss about setting goals in one of the sessions during the Program Directors' training in 2019.

The purposes of these trainings were:

- Training trainers of trainers of the LBQ organizations in movement building.
- Providing a learning space for LBQ leaders on strengthening engagements for movement building in their organizations.
- Enhance knowledge and capacity of LBQ organizers to be able to work together and build a more united movement.
- To create space for laying strategies for firming the LBQ fraternity in Uganda.

Key Results.

- Movement building engagements increased participants' understanding of FARUG and empowered them to perform their work.
- FARUG was able to reach over 58 LBQ Leaders for these trainings and from the evaluations, participants generally confirmed that their understanding of LBQ work was greatly improved and that they were more empowered to work together with others as a movement.
- FARUG was able to train TORs in movement building.
- Participants gained a space to work together and solidarity strengthened.
- Increased awareness of the LBQ challenges and strategies to counter.

2.3.2 INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2.3.2.0 STRATEGIC PLAN

Purpose:

- To set a plan for FARUG's strategic direction.
- To address how FARUG would tackle ongoing oppressions and violence against LBQ rights.

Key Results:

- FARUG developed her three year strategic plan(2020-2022)
- Key interventions for the promotion of LBQ rights were conducted as per plan in 2019.

2.3.2.1 BOARD MEETINGS

Purpose:

- To ensure an over sight role of the organization
- Stream line operations of the secretariat, set policies and working guidelines.

Key results:

- FARUG organized two quarterly board meetings
- The board of directors set working guidelines for the organization

2.3.2.2 THE HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES PROGRAM

Purpose:

Key results:

3.0 ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2019

This section summarized the successes that FARUG achieved in the period under review. It covers the acquisition of successful audits, improved staff welfare, stronger partnerships, and social media coverage and membership growth.

3.1 SUCCESSFUL AUDITS

FARUG undergoes the auditing processes by different auditors depending on the project under consideration. Over the years, FARUG had successful audits and in 2019, the processes were conducted successfully. All accounts and financial records were up-to-date and all necessary information as required by auditors was in place. FARUG'S financial reports are clean and the organization has clear and working financial systems.

3.2 IMPROVED STAFF WELFARE

By the end of 2019, FARUG had a total ofstaff members and ...volunteers who played different roles in contributing to the achievement of the organization's goals and objectives. FARUG ensured that staff welfare was met to achieve efficiency and effectiveness. FARUG is confident that the staff worked with morale and positive energy.

3.3 STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

In 2019, FARUG strengthened its collaboration and links with her development and other partners who have always contributed to the fulfillment of her mandate. Stronger partnerships were achieved with both national and international actors such as OSIEA,SLF,FRONTLINE AIDS,CHAU,ALIVE MEDICAL SERVICES,CIVI SOURCE,SMUG, Global fund for Women, Elton John Foundation, Woman Kind Worldwide, GIZ, WIPC, MEMPROW, AMWA, LMB, HRAPF, CAL, Global Interfaith network for rainbow Catholics, Uganda Feminist Forum among others.

3.4 MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

The membership coordinator reported to have registered **6 new members and 20 members** who fully paid up.

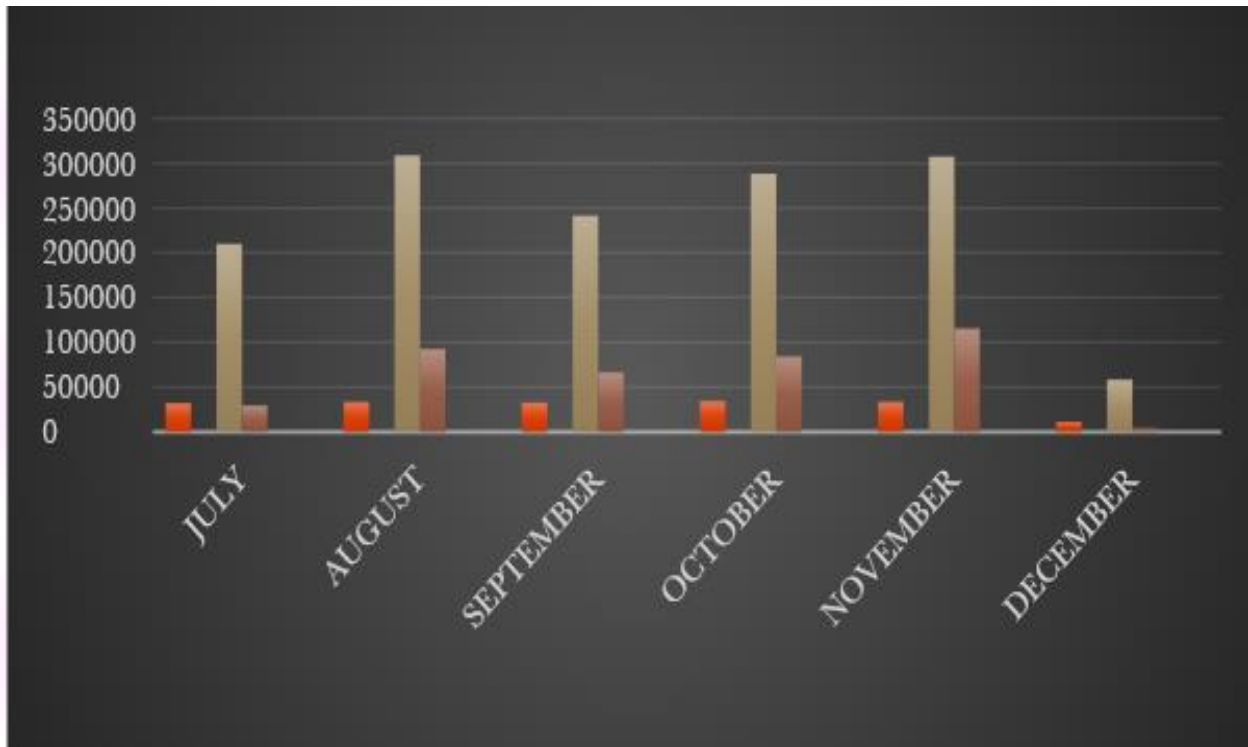
3.5 SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE

FARUG Worked with effectively on the media management (Social media) and in 2019, viewers on FARUG pages increase and also on the website through the information disseminated each day. This played a great advocacy role to keep followers and viewers informed by what the organization disseminates.

Table 3.5.1 FARUG’s Social Media Analytics in 2019



Face book



4.0 FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2019, FARUG was privileged to have funding from a number of development partners and agencies which enabled her to conduct all the activities reported on. The funders and amount of funds that FARUG received in the financial year 2018/2019 are shown in the table below:

4.1 FARUG FUNDING

Table 4.1

Funding Organization	Project	Period	Amount
Womankind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wave • Documenting the lived reality 	Feb 2019-Jan 2020	44,306,151
			9,362,036
Stephen Lewis Foundation SLF	Creating awareness about HIV.	Jan-Dec 2019	55,463,495
OSIEA	Capacity building for voice leadership and movement building	Jan-Dec 2019	105,986,085
Key Population Grant	Scale of Key Population-led approaches to improve and enhance HIV prevention.	Oct 2019-Sept 2020	36,399,000
Global Fund for Women	SRHR	Sept 2019-Aug 2020	36,000,000
Elton John Aids Foundation	Universal Access to health for all	Jan –Dec 2019	50,107,005
Other internal Donors			19,232,900
TOTAL			369,311,672

5.0 CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CHALLENGES

FARUG encountered some challenges in the implementation of her mandate and the included and not limited to;

- Limited funding for core support which inhibits the sustainability of programmes in terms of country wide coverage that would have helped a wider number of LBQs.
- FARUG continues to grapple with the hostile operating environment. The hostility from government and non-state actors against LBQ organizing is still on the rise.
- High rental costs due to lack of a permanent home.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

As a way forward, FARUG has laid down strategies to enhance her achievements in her continued pursuit of contributing to the protection and promotion of LBQ rights in Uganda.

- To intensify TOT programmes for sustainability since the trainees will effectively pass on information to communities.
- Intensify movement building among LBQ members and organizations
- Implement a holistic legal aid program for LBQs who have been violated or abused.
- Address gaps in the LBQ movement.
- Increase engagements with state and non-state actors to kill hostility.
- From the FARUG Health team, there is need to reach out to more Transgender men within the community and need to have lab technician twice a week for HIV testing.
- Network and work with others to foster solidarity organizing.
- Continue fundraising

6.0 APPENDICES

TABLE 6.1 FARUG EXECUTIVE AND PROGRAM ADVOCACY MEETINGS ATTENDED.

Year	Month	Topic	Participant
		African Commission	
		Sexual offences bill engagement	
		European Development Days	
		GIZ webinar	
		AFWID-Johannesburg	
		Human rights advocates program	

TABLE 6.1 EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY FARUG STAFF MEMBERS

Year	Month	Topic	Benefit to FARUG
		MEETING AT ALIVE MEDICAL SERVICES (AMS)	Information for KPs organizations that implemented a one year project in Kampala, Wakiso, west Nile, eastern region and south western region.
		Alive Medical Services 10 th -October-2019,	To Increase knowledge about HIV, Safe sex, HIV testing and adherence to

			treatment, behavior change and how they impact on FSWs (Female sex worker) quality of life.
	IS HEALTH CONFERENCE	Brought together transgender activists from SADC countries to look through challenges and move forward	conference opened an opportunity to meet trans activists from different SADC countries to share work experiences.
	RARA OUTREACH	This was a follow up outreach after identifying a need for reaching more LBQ women with HCT services.	ingful inclusion of LBQs in the fight against HIV and reaching the 90/90 global fund target.
	da Feminist Forum	ork , learn and share more key information with other feminists	e inclusion, voice and participation of LBQs in solidarity gatherings.
	Global Fund 11 th and 12 th November-2019.	nal HIV and Tuberculosis stakeholder's consultation meeting.	ree on the priorities for the country's funding request to the global fund next
	PROW	nist/Human rights training	ge FARUG staff into feminist organizing.

