

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Registering an unprecedented Decline in Defilement Cases




The child and family protection unit of Amudat district has registered a decline in the number of defilement cases recorded over a period of six months. In the past, the district registered many cases of defilement, but the Make Happiness and Not Violence Campaign championed by Communication for Development Foundation Uganda (CDFU) has played a key role in seeing the case reduce.


Micheal Ewadu is the officer in charge of the child and family protection unit at Amudat police station, which also doubles as the district police headquarters. Michael, together with the community activists and police officers were trained by CDFU to sensitize locals on the need to end violence against women and girls. Their work has since paid off with the district recording a downward trend in the year 2020. The statistics show nine cases of defilement in January, six in February, six in March, four in April, two in May, three in June, two in July, and two in August. There is a clear reduction, but the goal is a complete erasure of this practice from the community.



EDWARD MICHEAL
O.C CFPU Amudat district



Michael attributes the decline to continued sensitization through the media, community meetings, and community activists who continue to mediate between couples and sensitize the community about supporting women and girls and ending violence.



Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down the campaign because it is very hard to hold bigger gatherings at this time. It would be useful to have more dialogues within the community and to train local clan leaders and elders on ending violence against women. For example, Female Genital Mutilation is still prevalent in the district, and while some families have decided to abandon the practice, more must be done to educate the locals on the dangers of violence against women and girls.