



Gift Women Link Foundation

KIDODO CELL, RAILWAY WARD, KASESE, KAMPALA UGANDA

Tel: +256777749267/+256702208525

Website: www.giftwomenlink.org Email: info@giftwomenlink.org

PIC: 884701693

OID: E10332396

PADORCODE: UG-2018-FDD-0202026660

NGO REG: 80020001116976

13/02/2024

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

BACKGROUND

Gift Women Link Foundation (GWLF) a community, women based, charity registration (80020001116976) was founded by a nationally known community activist, Kabugho Everless, in 2008. Headquartered in Kasese, GWLF's **mission** to *support vulnerable people, especially women in rural communities with education and technology, involving them in an active and catalysing participation.*

In furtherance of its mission, GWLF directs its efforts, energies, and resources toward Sustainable Development Goals by educational and developmental programming and related research projects with and for at-risk individuals and their families. GWLF employs **12 individuals and supervises more than 16 community volunteers** — professional and entry-level. GWLF's **purpose** is to *“Empower women and girls in rural communities from grass root through active participation for sustainable development by developing self-sufficiency and life-empowering programs and services for disadvantaged rural community residents in the Kasese service areas.* Since its founding, GWLF has managed 7 grants and contract awards impacting (900+ direct beneficiaries) including community-based programming for youth and adults in correctional facilities. Currently, GWLF has ongoing (**Wake, Hevuku and WITH) projects and services** for high-risk residents who are economically, educationally, and socially disadvantaged.

GWLF, a competent, accountable, reliable, result-oriented, confidentiality, and committed organization to its vision and mission, with clear and transparent systems, and practices fairness and justice and respect for human dignity while maintaining equality, integrity and good relations.

Main target population

- Women
- People With Disabilities
- Orphans and Vulnerable Children
- People Living With HIV/AIDS
- Farmers
- Youth and children.

Central to GWLF's philosophy is the concept of client advocacy.

LEADERSHIP

Foundation Board

The organization was started in 2008 by 5 women member's *Mrs Kabugho Everless (founder), Mrs Kabugho Juliet (co-founder), Mrs Nyangoma Hellen (member), Mrs Mbambu Martha (member) and Mrs Masika Dorcus (member)* with the aim of improving living standard for women through education, poverty alleviation and dissemination of good practices. It holds legal *responsibility* for a foundation's compliance with federal, state and local regulations.

Executive Committee

Our 5 Board of Directors consists of Mrs Nyakato Annita as president(F), Mrs Biira Jemima as Vice Chairperson(F), Mr Bwambale Rwamanyonyi as Secretary(M), Mrs Tusiime Jennipher as treasurer(F) and Mrs Limbali Roset as technical advisor(F). As ***decision makers***, board members are the *fiduciaries* who steer the organization towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies, as well as by making sure the non-profit has adequate resources to advance its mission.

Secretariat

Our self-motivated, professional, operational staff that follows and develops projects include: Mrs Mbambu Mirieri, Mr Thembo Festo, Ms Biira Joyce, Mrs Ithungu Jozinet, Mr Muhindo Nafutali, Mr Bwambale Rwamanyonyi, Dr. Alexandra Florin and Dr David Fuschi. Mrs Sunny Lilliane and Mrs Agaba Cylus. The team carries out all substantive and administration tasks as directed by board.

SDG FOCUS

SDG1: Poverty

In Uganda, 41% of people live in poverty, and almost half of Uganda's population is under the age of 15, representing one of the youngest populations in the world. Uganda, with a population of about 41.3 million of which 51% are women, is now characterized by the World Bank as one of the poorest countries in the world with per capita income of \$220. (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/uganda/overview#1>). The root causes include high inflation, covid19, unemployment, education systems, inequalities and low economic growth. The inflation in Uganda has constantly increased hence affecting productivity, investments and purchasing power.

SDG3: Good Health and Wellbeing

Health takes into account widening economic and social inequalities, rapid urbanization, threats to the climate and the environment, the continuing burden of HIV and other infectious diseases, and emerging challenges such as non-communicable diseases. Universal health coverage will be integral to achieving SDG 3, ending poverty and reducing inequalities. Emerging global health priorities not explicitly included in the SDGs, including antimicrobial resistance, also demand action.

But the world is off-track to achieve the health-related SDGs. Progress has been uneven, both between and within countries. There's a 31-year gap between the countries with the shortest and longest life expectancies. And while some countries have made impressive gains, national averages hide that many are being left behind. Multisectoral, rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches are essential to address inequalities and to build good health for all.

SDG4: Quality Education

In Uganda, Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. This goal ensures that all girls and boys complete free primary and secondary schooling by 2030. We focus on access to affordable vocational training, to eliminate gender and wealth disparities, and achieve universal access to a quality higher education. 103 million youth worldwide lack basic literacy skills, and more than 60% are women.

SDG5: Gender Equality

Ending all discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, it's crucial for sustainable future; it's proven that empowering women and girls helps economic growth and development. There are still large inequalities in Uganda, with women systematically denied the same work rights as men. Sexual violence and exploitation, the unequal division of unpaid care and domestic work, and discrimination in public office all remain huge barriers. Climate change and disasters continue to have a disproportionate effect on women and children, as do conflict and migration. It is vital to give women equal rights land and property, sexual and reproductive health, and to technology and the internet. Today there are more women in public office than ever before, but encouraging more women leaders will help achieve greater gender equality. 1 in 3 percent of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence.

SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Water scarcity affects more than 47.9 percent of people in Uganda, an alarming figure that is projected to rise as temperatures do. Dwindling drinking water supplies are affecting every district. More and more districts are experiencing water stress, and increasing drought and desertification is already worsening these trends. Safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires we invest in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene. **Protecting** and **restoring** water-related **ecosystems** is essential. Ensuring universal safe and affordable drinking water involves reaching over 11.4 million people in Uganda who lack basic services and improving accessibility and safety of services.

SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

Over half of the world's population live in urban areas, The cities generate more than 80% of global GDP, Social problems and environmental degradation in cities, Air and pollution waste are increasing problems in cities, Crucial role in tackling climate change, Vulnerable to disasters and Need for smart urban planning **now GWLF** will Jointly develop and/or participate in a sustainable community through using technological expertise, collaborate with cities and governments to find solutions to future mobility needs, reform private sector finance investment strategies to support integrated and sustainable urban development and invest in safe and sustainable infrastructure in the community.

SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Achieving economic growth and sustainable development requires that we urgently reduce our ecological footprint by changing the way we produce and consume goods and resources. Agriculture is the biggest user of water worldwide, and irrigation now claims close to 70 percent of all freshwater for human use. The efficient management of our shared natural resources, and the way we dispose of toxic waste and pollutants, are important targets to achieve this goal. Encouraging industries, businesses and consumers to recycle and reduce waste is equally important, as is supporting developing countries to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption by 2030.

A large share of the world population is still consuming far too little to meet even their basic needs. Halving the per capita of global food waste at the retailer and consumer levels is also important for creating more efficient production and supply chains. This can help with food security, and shift us towards a more resource efficient economy. The food sector accounts

for around 22% of total greenhouse gas emissions, largely from the conversion of forests into farmland.

SDG 15 Life on Land

The risk of extinction, genetic diversity in agriculture is key to resilience against risks such as disease and droughts, forests are bio diverse ecosystems, which comprise vital habitats for over four-fifths of all terrestrial species, as well as being sources of clean air and water, desertification and land degradation affects over half of the land used for agriculture globally therefore GWLF will focus on conservation and restoration of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, protect biodiversity and natural habitats, eliminate poaching and trafficking of protected species and prevent invasive alien species on land and in water ecosystems

SDG17: Partnerships for the goals

Current network

GWLF Fully registered with European Commission (**PIC** 884701693), PADOR CODE UG-2018-FDD-0202026660 an active member of The Global Partnership on Marine Litter at **UNEP**, a member of East African Work Camps Ass. Network (**EAWANET**), a members of Euro-Mediterranean network, a member of Long Term Economy Network (**LTEconomy**), a member of **EU-Africa Consortiums** which submitted Horizon 2020 proposals aiming at rural non-agricultural revenue diversification in Africa to carried out 3 internationally funded projects to help Uganda women to manufacture objects in its workshops. There are 12 Trade Centers and tourism developing coordinated by **ADEMED**, Romania.

Currently, a member of **EU-Africa Consortiums** Boosting Women Entrepreneurship Education In Tourism and Hospitality in Sub-Saharan Africa (WITH www.withproject.eu) coordinated by **Chamber of Commerce, Seville** Spain.

A member of Kasese District HIV/AIDS awareness network by educating and rise up awareness about e**MTCT** risks and mitigation in most affected Kasese district communities aiming at building capacity of its own and of local community to deal with risks of MTCT relying on its partner, Kasese Art Clinics of several Health centres, in schools, mushrooming trading centres and landing sites (HEVUKU https://youtu.be/e_nbFxr3AF0?si=Qci-h4OInzMRH1DS).

“Any woman who understands the problems of running a home will be nearer to understanding the problems of running a country” (Margaret Thatcher).

Guiding Principles:

- a) Ensuring that women influence policies and actively contribute to the decision making process.
- b) Create safe and welcoming environments which offer time and space for women and children.
- c) Challenging stigma, discrimination and prejudice associated with poor health, promote equal opportunities and speak up for social justice.
- d) Use the rights based approach program and intervention

List of Partners

Partner Name	Country	Year of Partnership
European Commission	Brussels	2022
The Mercury Phoenix Trust	UK	2022
Marie-Schlei Verein e.V	Germany	2020
East African Work Camps Ass. Network	Uganda	2020
ADEMED	Romania	2019
Asociacion Cultural Candela	Spain	2018
International Development Consultations Limited	UK	2017
Compago	Italy	2017
International Telecommunication Union	Switzerland	2017
Aspirit Education Consultancy and Migration Services	Nepal	2017
Amma Resonance Healing Foundation	Netherlands	2017
Kyanya Women's Trust	Uganda	2015
Tools with a Mission (TWAM)	UK	2014
Mubale Umoja Women's Trust	Uganda	2013
African Ark College of Management Sciences	Uganda	2012
Kasese Municipality	Uganda	2012

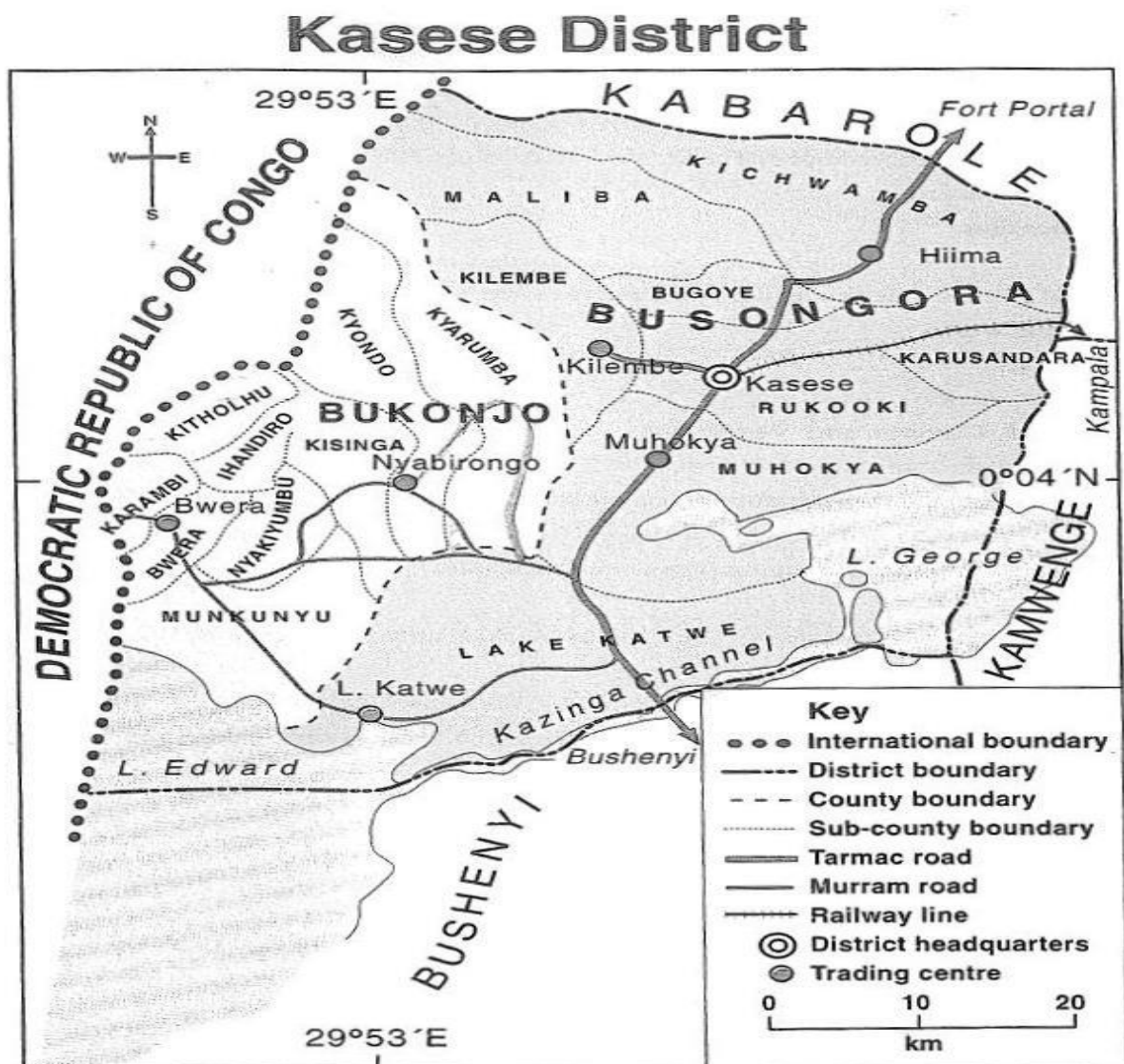
Resources

Gift Women Link Foundation (GWLF) has survived multiple financial ups and downs over its 12 years of operation; however, a savvy board of directors, partners and dedicated volunteers and long-time staff members have always been able to identify and secure the

critically needed resources to keep our doors open. Participants and clients are our greatest assets! Today, GWLF operates fully a health facility in Kabonero sub-county offering patients pre-admission, admission, and post-admission health care options. The Wake Project has 20 computers, photocopiers and other IT equipment's worth 50,000,000 million with average training income generated of 1,000,000ugx quarterly in Kasese facility.

Areas of operation

GWLF is currently committed to empower, support and providing information in Kasese District and Rwenzori region with a hope of covering whole country by 2025.



District Demographics

The FY 2022, GWLF strategic Programs will serve atleast 300 women and youth ages 16 to 24 years old. **Multiple risk indicators demonstrate the toxic—and often hostile—environment that these youth face on a daily basis.** Some of these indicators represent generational disparities among the targeted population. District total population 793,200 with 166,600 households.

a. Unemployment Rate – Using the Kasese Community Survey results for the GWLF, the average of the two age range rates is **23.75%** (31.9% for 16–19 year olds and 15.6% for 20–24 year olds using one-year 2019 estimates). The comparable national unemployment rate for the same period of time was **18.35%** (23.4% for 16–19 year olds and 13.3% for 20–24 year olds) **The unemployment rate was greater than the national rate.**

b. Poverty Rate – The Fura Uganda Survey poverty rate for Kasese is **54.3%** (percentage living below the poverty level based on a four-year estimate, 2015–2020). **The region-wide average poverty rate exceeds 45% or more.**

c. Graduation Rate –The District Education survey 2019 geographic map shows the High School District’s average graduation rate is **61.8%**. In January 2019, the Ministry of Education reported that Rwenzori region, including the Kasese, has one of the **lowest high school graduation rates and the highest dropout rate in the country.** Youth Build dropout prevention strategies, coupled with previous performance outcome data, are chipping away at the number of residents aged 16+ without a diploma.

STAFF MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

GWLF got another opportunity to receive experts from Team University Uganda to mentor the GWLF staff. GWLF got two Local experts namely Mande Mathew and Muhindo Jackson (Community Development Officer) for assignments at GWLF-Uganda training the staff.

The assignment was on 20th – 30th June 2022 at GWLF offices focusing on training business skills, community development, financial analysis that intended to have the organizational sustainable.

During the same assignment our expert connected us to some other friends Like Chris Aelberts from Scotland and Mrs Irma Koster, Province of Gelderland, Department Finance/ EU affairs, Netherlands by origin and all have committed themselves towards supporting us 2023 set goals achievements.

PREVIOUS, ONGOING ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

(Detailed projects reports are available)

SN	PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	YEAR
001	WITH financed by The European Commission, Brussels	<i>Boosting Women Entrepreneurship Education In Tourism and Hospitality in Sub-Saharan Africa.</i> WITH aims at reinforcing the personal and social competences and the entrepreneurial mindset of young women, thus contributing to skill a new generation of climate and sustainability conscious women intrapreneurs, entrepreneurs and business owners operating in sustainable tourism and hospitality in Sub-Saharan African countries.	Ongoing
02	HEVUKU financed by The Mercury Phoenix Trust, London, UK	<i>Hiv Education for VUlnerable people in Kasese Uganda</i> GWLF set up a basic Mobile HIV Testing and Education Unit (MHTEU), consisting in: i. box of HIV oral tests and condoms, ii. HIV education printed material in cartoons (to overcome illiteracy), iii. a Puppets stage with 4 characters (show will increase the attendance rate) and iv. a tent to shelter the event. The Unit is a small box to be transported by bike. This is a small-scale version of the Mobile Unit used only to test HIV in Rwanda, the proposed one having a puppet show capability.	Ongoing
003	Wake Project financed by Marie-Schlei Verein Association, Germany	Enriched knowledge of 50 rural women from Kasese and opened up opportunities on demanding issues, such as livelihood, finances, health care and preparation for natural, not uncommon disasters in Uganda. Poor women, the single and young mothers and the women deprived from schooling and from the information benefited. Project results R1 Established the necessary capacity of literate women to use and manage basic IT elements, including Internet basic applications R2 Assessed the necessary ability of illiterate women to write, read at a basic level and to do simple mathematic calculations. R3 Organized 2 mother groups for literate and illiterate women. R4 Organised 5 computer training centres for 50 women for income generation.	2020 to date
004	Community health care services promotion and education project	It focuses on contribution for the overall efforts of ensuring Health, promotion of hygiene and sanitation, food, livelihood and environmental security that realizes sustainable development and	2013 to date

	<p>funded by International Development Consultations Limited, UK and Amma Resonance Healing Foundation, Netherlands</p>	<p>social transformation in Rwenzori region especially to the areas around the national parks.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>A full operational life linking clinic offering laboratory services, HIV/AIDS prevention programs, immunization, emergency cases, and general medication for rural poor population.</p> <p>Our health outreach programs managed to cover two sub-counties in the district with 411 beneficiaries followed for various pathologies. The foundation has recruited 5 volunteers working on community now. These volunteers look for patients, and monitor them daily.</p>	
005	<p>Youth in ICT funded by International Telecommunications Union, Switzerland, Asociacion Cultural Candela, Spain and Monica Mejia De Uriarte, Spain</p>	<p>The project focused on providing basic computer skills including internet operation for Youth, produce and broadcast radio program on Youth and women empowerment on weekly basis through local Radio Station.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>100 Youth between the ages of 14 and 25 and women in rural area deprived from information and communication technology trained for quality production in order to get employment and development among themselves.</p>	2018
006	<p>Eco crafting local waste for sustainable environment funded by Kasese Municipal Council, Uganda</p>	<p>The project collected wastes across Kasese district for 6 months. The waste was recycled into eco-friendly products for 12 months.</p> <p>Participants were trained how to recycle the collected waste (papers, CDs, metal wires, plastic bottles, bottles tops, polythene, avocado seeds, etc) into eco-friendly products for tourism.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>The project trained and empowered a group of 20 participants directly as a trainee trainer and more-than 5,000 community members indirectly. These participants were divided into 5 groups and distributed in different communities to increase awareness and awareness of climate change and the formation of community members.</p> <p>The training has focused on women who poach firewood as their source of livelihood. The training wanted to create a secure and safe income generating social enterprises for sustainable livelihood and sustainable environmental and climate change adaptation, especially for women.</p>	2017

007	Youth Vocational skills empowerment project for economic independence funded by Tools with A mission UK, Compago, Italy and Aspirit Education Consultancy and Migration Services	Youth vocational empowerment programs are key for self-sustainability and job creation. The project where 70 women and OVC children were supported with vocational skills training for economic independence in areas of knitting, welding, carpentry, secretarial services, motor mechanics and tailoring. Results Promoted and integrated professional training skills with other training courses for a group of women and OVC. The foundations are laid for a reduction in female unemployment which is very high in Uganda.	2015
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CHALLENGES FACED DURING IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD 2022

Covid-19 and Ebola

The changing, costly pandemic guidelines, lockdowns and requirements were awesome. The board addressed the pandemic by implementing new investments needed for full operations as stipulated by covid-19 taskforce.

The foundation also dedicated to **Wake** Project Mrs Nyakato Annita (Foundation Chair), Ithungu Jesca Charity (ICT Officer) and Mr Bwambale Rwamanyonyi (Manager) to take care of the training centre full time and only one group leader to manage each group centre as a means of adherence to guidelines, a means of transport (1 Motorcycle hired by GWLF) was deployed to deliver services to clients as suggested by local authority.

Women travels by foot looking for clients, secretarial services, data management, business opportunities to a group leader for processing.

We were also unfortunate that our trainees who enrolled for their respective courses didn't complete due to increasing cases of Covid-19, political tensions, inadequate project equipment and some were staying with their relatives and failed to cater for them.

Increased administrative costs

Staff welfare, expensive travels, inadequate space for spacing standards and Utility bills (Water and electricity) increased due to covid-19 rules, an increased hand washing, sanitation and hygiene and enough lighting for safety and security reasons.

The board of directors invested in some funds to meet the demands and maintenance costs for effective project management and success. There has been increased voluntary services and

community mobilisation efforts towards in-kind contributions in terms of item acquisitions and humanitarian efforts.

Smaller we are, office rent and training premises takes a lot of money that would have helped us implement some of these other projects.

SPECIAL APPRECIATION

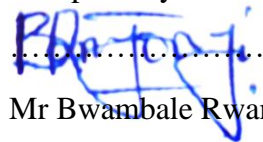
Our staff whole heartedly done their work assigned. With them, GWLF ably moved with our donors;

- ✓ Mrs Irma Koster-Gelderland, **Netherlands**
- ✓ Friederike Rosemann-MSV, **Germany**
- ✓ Prof. Gabriella Staicu, **Romania**
- ✓ Dr. Alexandra Florin, **Romania**
- ✓ Dr David Luigi Fuschi, **UK**
- ✓ Stefania Nicoleta Bratu, Tonato Graziella, **Italy**
- ✓ Shreshtha Verma, **UK**
- ✓ Dr. Geetha Plakal
- ✓ Monica Mejia de Uriarte, **Spain**

Their financial hands and time extended to GWLF activities creating 2022 success.

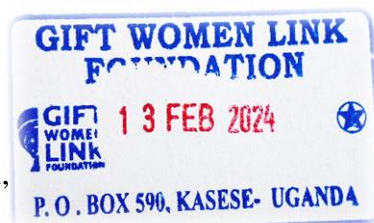
Divided we fall, United we stand 2023.

Compiled by



Mr Bwambale Rwamanyonyi,

Programmes Director



Approved By



Mrs Nyakato Annita

Foundation Chairperson

Wake participant with her certificate



Some Wake participants with certificates



Mother Group



Training space



Our Founders

