



# Gift Women Link Foundation

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## PROFILE

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 **11 individuals and supervises more than 15 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 5 grants and contract awards impacting (800+ direct beneficiaries) including community-based programming for youth and adults in correctional facilities. Currently, GWLF has ongoing (**Wake**) **project and its 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. 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, Mrs Biira Jemima as Vice Chairperson, Mr Bwambale Rwamanyonyi as Secretary, Mrs Tusiime Jennipher as treasurer and Mrs Limbali Roset as technical advisor. 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.

### **Programmes:**

- ✓ Youth assistance
- ✓ Care for Women
- ✓ Volunteer net
- ✓ Health education and knowledge
- ✓ Environmental conservation
- ✓ Educational Programs
- ✓ Research and participation in funded projects.

### ***Previous and ongoing activities and projects (Projects reports are available)***

<b>SN</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>YEAR</b>
001	Wake Project	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.  <b>Project results</b>	2020

		<p>R1 Established the necessary capacity of literate women to use and manage basic IT elements, including Internet basic applications</p> <p>R2 Assessed the necessary ability of illiterate women to write, read at a basic level and to do simple mathematic calculations.</p> <p>R3 Organized 2 mother groups for literate and illiterate women.</p> <p>R4 Organised 5 computer training centres for 50 women.</p>	
002	Community health care services promotion and education project.	<p>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 social transformation in Rwenzori region especially to the areas around the national parks.</p> <p><b>Results</b></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>	2013 to date
003	Youth in ICT	<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><b>Results</b></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
004	Eco crafting local waste for sustainable environment	<p>The project collected wastes across Kasese district for 6 months. The waste was recycled into eco-friendly products for 12 months. 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><b>Results</b></p>	2017

		<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>	
005	Youth Vocational skills empowerment project for economic independence	<p>Youth vocational empowerment programs are key for self-sustainability and job creation. The project where <b>70</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>Promoted and integrated professional training skills with other training courses for a group of women and OVC.</p> <p>The foundations are laid for a reduction in female unemployment which is very high in Uganda.</p>	2015

### **Main target population**

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

### **Areas of operation**

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

## Partnerships

**GWLF** has the mandate and capacity for partnership with any development partner to implement any program that lies within its programs. This is justified by existence of well trained staff, evidences of successfully implemented projects, well laid administration structure, and a strategic Plan which gives us directions in undertakings. *“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**

<b>Partner Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Year of Partnership</b>
Marie-Schlei Verein e.V	Germany	2020
International Development Consultations Limited	UK	2017
Compago	Italy	2019
Kasese Municipality	Uganda	2008
Asociacion Cultural Candela	Spain	2018
Kyanya Women’s Trust	Uganda	2015
International Telecommunication Union	Switzerland	2017
Medi-Safe Kasese	Uganda	2020
Mubale Umoja Women’s Trust	Uganda	2013
African Ark College of Management Sciences	Uganda	2012
Aspirit Education Consultancy and Migration Services	Nepal	2017
Amma Resonance Healing Foundation	Netherlands	2017
Tools with a Mission (TWAM)	UK	2014
East African Work Camps Ass. Network	Uganda	2020

## 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.

## District Demographics

The FY 2021, GWLF strategic Programs will serve atleast 100 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.

# Kasese District

