



ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31ST DECEMBER 2024

Message from the Board Chairperson

Dear Partners, Supporters, and Community Members,

As we reflect on 2024, I am proud to present the annual report for the Kiruhura Women Development Agency (K-WIDE). This year has been one of growth, resilience, and impactful change. Through the dedication of our team and the support from our partners, we have made significant strides in empowering women and girls in Kiruhura, Uganda. We were also delighted to have been joined by a new donor “the Haella Stinching foundation” which is coming on board to support us deliver to our community.

Throughout the year, we have focused on key areas such as advocacy, economic empowerment, education, and mindset change. Our programs have reached thousands of community members, providing them with the tools and knowledge to improve their lives and those of their families. We have also faced challenges, particularly in securing adequate funding and overcoming cultural barriers, but these have only strengthened our resolve to continue our mission.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited about the opportunities to expand our programs and deepen our impact. We remain committed to fostering a sustainable and inclusive society where women and girls can thrive.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can create lasting change and empower the women and girls of Kiruhura.

Sincerely,

Twinobusingye Jovanice
Chairperson Board of Directors

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Organizational background information

Kiruhura Women Development Agency (K-WIDE) is a registered indigenous Non-Government Organization that was formed in 2014 by a group of 05 women touched by the unfair conditions in which women and girls live in Uganda and Kiruhura in particular.

The organization has evolved from a small Community Based Organization to a National NGO registered with the NGO bureau of Uganda. The organization has a Board of Trustees, (07 members) whose role is to provide oversight, approve work plans, policies and budget and mobilize resources for the organization.

For the past four years, we are grateful to Girls First Fund for the financial and technical capacity extended to us which has helped us reach over '000s vulnerable persons in Kiruhura district.

We work with girls and women as our primary focus while men and boys and community leaders are our secondary beneficiaries.

We are also grateful to other partners for the financial support..

Mission

To enhance social-economic empowerment of women and girls for self-dependency and sustainability

Vision

Improving the livelihoods of women and girls

Goal

A world where every woman is free from violence, and able to participate in decisions that affect her life

Organization core Values

Our work is hinged on; transparency and accountability, do no harm, honesty and integrity, non-discrimination, inclusiveness, participation, respect to privacy and confidentiality. Recently, we have become cognizant of the need to integrate cross cutting issues such as disability, HIV, environment and gender into our programs.

Strategic Objectives

- To strengthen existing community based structures to effectively prevent, report and respond to violence against women and girls
- To scale up prevention efforts that address unequal gender power relations as a root cause of gender based violence
- To enhance access to SRHR services and information by women and girls
- To strengthen the capacity of women and girls for self reliance and dependency
- To advocate for inclusiveness of crosscutting issues such as gender, disability, environment and HIV in programs and projects
- To improve coordination, networking and collaboration amongst actors within the district

Implementation strategies

- ✓ Advancing Women's leadership by working directly with women and girls
- ✓ Mobilizing families, communities, and influencers to cause change in the community
- ✓ Providing direct services to at-risk, married, and formerly married girls and women
- ✓ Advocating for the establishment and implementation of effective laws and policies

Implementation approaches

Our work is hinged on social behavior change and communication (SBCC), sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and promotion of girls' leadership.

Theories of work

We are guided by a mixture of theories of behavioral change, i.e social ecological theory and the social learning theory. These guide our program designs in general

Introduction

The year 2024 was a transformative period for the Kiruhura Women Development Agency. Our efforts focused on empowering women and girls through various socio-economic programs, advocacy initiatives, and capacity-building activities. This narrative report outlines the key activities, achievements, challenges, and lessons learned throughout the year.

Existing programs to end child marriage and empower communities

- **Community Dialogues and Workshops:** we conduct regular dialogues and workshops with parents, community leaders, and youths to discuss the negative impacts of child marriage and promote the value of educating girls.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** we do community awareness campaigns using mega phones, posters, and radio to spread messages about the importance of delaying marriage and supporting girls' education. We also celebrate International Day of the Girl Child and other relevant days to draw public attention to the issue.
- **Education Support:** Provide support to girls at risk of dropping out of school due to economic reasons. We support girls with school materials, uniforms, and transportation to reduce barriers to education.
- **Economic Empowerment:** we support girls and young women to enhance their economic opportunities and reduce the financial incentives for early marriage by supporting them enroll for training in different skills such as tailoring, weaving and

baking. We also support the establishment of income-generating activities for families to improve their economic stability and reduce the pressure to marry off their daughters.

- **Health and Reproductive Rights;** we conduct sexuality education programs in schools and communities to educate girls and boys about their reproductive health and rights, including the risks associated with early marriage and early pregnancy. We train girls on , menstrual hygiene, and how to make reusable pads.
- **Legal Literacy and Support;** we conduct legal literacy programs to inform communities about the laws and policies against child marriage and the legal age of marriage, and link girls at risk of or affected by early marriage to the judicial system.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Supported over 150 women through vocational training and entrepreneurship programs, leading to increased household incomes.
- **Education:** Provided scholarships and educational materials to 50 girls, enabling them to continue their education.
- **Health and Well-being:** Conducted 20 community outreaches focusing on sexual and reproductive health, benefiting over 1,000 community members.
- **Advocacy:** Successfully campaigned for the implementation of gender-responsive governance policies in 3 local schools.

Financial Overview

Funds received

SN	SOURCE OF FUNDS	DATE	AMOUNT- UGX
	Balance C/d as at 31 st Dec 2023	31/12/2023	21,520
	Girls First Fund	16/01/2024	31,031,385
	Haella Stichting	24/6/2024	11,165,000
	Girls First Fund	11/7/2024	85,373,500
	Total		127,438,905

Expenditure as at 31st December 2024

SN	Expenditure line	Amount spent
1.	Staff	11,400,000
2.	Program activities	25,500,250

3.	Grant Participation	500,000
4.	Staff wellness	912,500
5.	Others	18,131,250
	Total	56,444,000

Partnerships and Collaborations

K-WIDE's achievements were made possible through collaborations with various partners, including:

- **Haella Stichting:** This new partnership has been instrumental in providing financial support and resources for our vocational training programs and community outreach initiatives towards gender equity. Their commitment to empowering women aligns perfectly with our mission, and we look forward to deepening this collaboration in the years to come.

We have also worked closely with other partners including;

- JLO actors (Police, DPP and court)
- Enterprise Uganda
- Local Government Authorities
- Community-Based Organizations

Challenges

- ✓ Despite the generous support from our partners, we faced challenges in securing adequate funding for some of our programs. This has limited our ability to expand certain initiatives and reach more beneficiaries.
- ✓ The lack of adequate infrastructure, such as training facilities and equipment, posed a challenge in delivering our vocational training programs effectively.
- ✓ Cultural norms and practices continue to be a significant barrier to the full participation of women and girls in our programs. Overcoming these barriers requires continuous community sensitization and engagement.
- ✓ For our social enterprises, particularly the ghee cottage industry, and other products made by girls accessing broader markets remains a challenge. This has impacted the scale and profitability of these initiatives.

Recommendations

- Intensify community mobilization and awareness raising about child marriage and teenage pregnancies

- Improve coordination between stakeholders and duty bearers for effective prevention and response
- Build capacity for local leaders, religious leaders, parents, health workers to respond to the problems of teenage pregnancies
- Organize TV, Local radios, drama, Churches and other places of worship, school clubs such as health clubs, domestic violence clubs, debate clubs and patriotism clubs to intensify community awareness raising
- Police and local councils to stop corruption

Success

Sarah (Pseudo name) completed her Senior Two last year and will be joining Senior Three this year 2024. She is a child marriage survivor whose family had planned to give her away in marriage during the second term school holidays. Sarah was at school, and she did not know that her family had finished all the marriage arrangements including receiving the dowry and setting the ceremony date. On reaching home for holidays, her grandfather told her everything the family had planned and that her future husband was on his way coming to pick her so that they go for HIV testing. Sarah broke down, and she immediately ran away from home to a neighbor's place where she borrowed a phone and called our organization for rescue. We immediately swung into action to save her future. We worked with her Head Teacher, Police and the RDC and the marriage was blocked, and dowry returned. Today she is an inspiration to other young girls who are dying in silence. Her dream is to become a lawyer and defend other vulnerable girls and women undergoing suffering due to negative social cultural practices. Sarah's school administration was also supportive and gave her a bursary. Our organization has continued to engage the family, leaders and the general public to appreciate the value of girls' education in comparison to dowry.

Achievements

Over the past years, we have made significant strides in our mission to improve the lives of women and girls in our community. Through our various programs and initiatives, we have provided education, skills training, and support to empower women to become agents of change in their families and communities.

Programs

- ❑ **Women's Empowerment:** K-WIDE continued to implement programs aimed at empowering girls and women economically, socially, and politically. This included

support to girls' education, skills training, entrepreneurship development, and leadership workshops.

- ☐ **Girl Child Education:** K-WIDE supported girls' education by providing scholarships, school supplies, and menstrual hygiene products. We also conducted awareness campaigns on the importance of girls' education. Education Support: K-WIDE awarded scholarships to 03 girls, enabling them to continue their education beyond primary school.
- ☐ **Health and Nutrition:** K-WIDE promoted health and nutrition among women and children through training on hygiene practices, nutrition education, and access to health services.
- ☐ **Gender-Based Violence Prevention:** K-WIDE worked to prevent gender-based violence through community sensitization, counseling services, and referral of survivors to support services.
- ☐ **Advocacy and Networking:** K-WIDE engaged in advocacy efforts to promote gender equality and women's rights at the local and national levels. We also collaborated with other organizations working on similar issues for example, TPO, CEDOVIP, Joy for Children, Compassion International and The Hunger Project Uganda.

Achievements during the year ending 2024

- ☐ Provided skills training to over 100 women in various income-generating activities.
- ☐ Distributed educational materials to 200 learners, enabling them to continue their education.
- ☐ Conducted health and nutrition workshops reaching 90 young women.
- ☐ Raised awareness about gender-based violence, reaching 1,000 community members.
- ☐ Successfully advocated for gender inclusiveness in the district budget

Future Plans

Looking ahead, K-WIDE aims to:

- Expand our economic empowerment training programs to include more topics.
- Launch a community fundraising campaign targeting 1,000 women and girls.
- Strengthen our advocacy efforts to end child marriage and promote girls' education.

- Implement targeted programs to educate communities on the harmful effects of child marriage and provide support for at-risk girls.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our partners, donors, and community members for their unwavering support.

Key activities during the year 2024

1). Economic empowerment and gender equality

Meet the Ntarama young mothers' group, Kashongi County, Kiruhura. The group is being supported to improve their household incomes through skilling. Today, they have learnt business skills, saving and marketing skills. They are role models and change agents in the community preaching against child marriage, teenage pregnancy and gender based violence. The group has accumulated about 2M from selling handcrafts which has enabled them to live decent independent lives.





2). Stakeholder engagement

We have held a number of stakeholder meetings, political and religious, parents and teachers as well as local government leadership to amplify our voice and gather support to fight child marriage. We have also engaged with children to hear their voice.



3). Staff wellness

K-WIDE appreciates the fact that work can be stressful and weary. Staff therefore needs to be given time to shed off the stress, chat and share a light moment off the desk. We were able to

host an evening for staff during the year, where they enjoyed eats drinks and even cut the cake. We thank GFF for this initiative and putting aside a budget to cater for this activity.



4). Children's' meeting

Children are key stakeholders in our efforts to end child marriage and other community harmful practices. However, their voices are normally unheard of once they do not have their safe space. During the year K-WDE was able to hold children's' meetings in different areas, across the district. Children were grouped accordingly, and we were able to learn and hear from them what pains they carried from home and school.



5). Donor visit /grantee convening

We were delighted to host our new donor, and also getting time to move her around the district and show her the work we are doing was such an amazing moment. We were also able to meet fellow grantees and share and learn more.



6). Graduation

Lastly, we were delighted to have some of our girls who have been doing tailoring course graduate. It was a moment of joy and reflection to some of the parents. It was also a whole long journey of two years. We are optimistic that the skills learnt are life to the girls and their families. We hope to secure sewing machines and other start up kits for the girls to move on independently.



Contact us

We are located at Nyakasharara Trading centre, Nyabushozi County, Kiruhura Town Council, Kiruhura District along Kiruhura- Ibanda Road, a few meters towards the Kiruhura district head quarters.

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