



KIRUHURA WOMEN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

K-WIDE

Presentation during Kiruhura District budget conference

16th October 2025



Founders

We, the five founders of Kiruhura Women Development Agency, started this journey after witnessing how child marriage, violence, and inequality were limiting the lives of women and girls in our community.

Our motivation has always been to create safe spaces and opportunities for girls to learn, grow, and realize their full potential.

We envision a future where every girl completes her education, every woman is empowered, and gender equality is a lived reality.

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 almost six years now, 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.

Implementation Approaches

Approach 1. Community Engagement & Social Norms Change

- The approach focuses on transforming harmful social norms and practices that perpetuate child marriage and gender inequality. Key strategies include:
- **Community dialogues & participatory workshops:** where we engage parents, youth, religious and political leaders in discussions about the consequences of child marriage and benefits of gender equality.
- **Role models & champions:** Here we identify and empower local influencers (men and women, boys and girls) to advocate for girls' education, women empowerment, positive masculinity and delayed marriage.
- **Education & media campaigns:** We hold radio talk shows, social media, and community theatre (music, dance and dram), poetry to challenge harmful norms, promote harmony and positive relationships
- **School & peer programs:** We equip young people with life skills, SRHR/I, leadership training, and information about their rights.
- **Engagement of men & boys:** We hold dialogue sessions to foster positive masculinities and encourage male allies to support girls' education and gender equality.

Community dialogues & participatory workshops

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Community Sensitizations



Education & media campaigns

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Radio talk shows

Kiruhura FM with OC Station



Radio 5 with students from Sedes SS



School & peer programs:

We equip young people with life skills, SRHR/I, leadership training, and information about their rights.



Implementation Approaches Continued.....

2. a). Education support and skills training : This approach focuses on empowering girls through education and skills development to reduce early marriage, SGBV and promote gender equality. Key strategies that we are implementing include:

- **Scholarships & Financial Support:** We provide school fees, uniforms, and learning materials to vulnerable girls at risk of dropping out.
- **Vocational & Life Skills Training:** We support girls, and young mothers attend skills training in areas like tailoring, ICT, entrepreneurship, and crafts to increase their economic opportunities.
- **Mentorship & peer support:** We connect girls with mentors and peer groups to encourage school attendance, motivation, self esteem and personal development.
- **Community Sensitization:** We are also engaging, school leaders, parents and guardians to support girls' education, provide a conducive environment, report any abuse cases and guide young boys and girls to delay marriage.

Education support –graduation of girls in tailoring



Provision of scholarstic materials to pupils at Kashwa PS



School based outreaches at Sedes



Vocational & Life Skills Training

We support girls, and young mothers attend skills training in areas like tailoring, bakery entrepreneurship, and crafts to increase their economic opportunities.



Girls and young women in baking and weaving



Implementation Approaches Continued

3). Economic Empowerment

- This approach aims to equip women and girls with financial independence and income-generating skills, reducing vulnerability to child marriage and promoting gender equality. Key interventions being done here include:
- **Vocational & entrepreneurship training:** We support beneficiaries access skills in tailoring, crafts, agribusiness, ICT, and other market-relevant trades.
- **Access to microfinance & savings groups:** We facilitate participation in savings and loan groups to support small businesses., promote internal saving and lending as well as individual participation in government empowerment programs.
- **Business mentorship & coaching:** We connect women and girls with mentors to help them start, manage, and grow enterprises, and support access to markets to sell their products.
- **Financial Literacy:** We have connected our beneficiaries to the LG commercial Officer to train them in budgeting, savings, and financial planning to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

Girls receive IGAs



Women in value addition



Inclusiveness of special persons



Implementation approaches Continued

4). Policy & legal advocacy

- This approach focuses on strengthening legal frameworks and policies to protect girls from child marriage and promote gender equality. Key interventions being undertaken include:
- Collaboration with local government authorities, and police to strengthen, and implement laws on child protection and gender equality.
- Community awareness sensitization campaigns to educate communities about existing laws, rights, and legal remedies related to child marriage, gender-based violence, and girls' education.
- Capacity building and training of community leaders, local government officials, and law enforcement on legal provisions and their roles in protecting girls.

Meeting student Leaders

St. Peters' SS Prefectorial body



Kashongi I, P/S



Implementation Approaches Continued

5). Health & Protection Services

- This approach focuses on ensuring the physical, mental, and social well-being of girls and women, while protecting them from abuse, early marriage, and gender-based violence. To achieve the above, we carry out the following;
- Provide adolescent-friendly health services, counseling, and education on SRH, contraception, and maternal health.
- We offer trauma-informed counseling and safe spaces for survivors of abuse, early marriage, or gender-based violence.
- We conduct community sensitization campaigns on nutrition, hygiene, mental health, and reproductive rights.
- We facilitate access to medical, legal, and protective services for victims of abuse or early marriage.

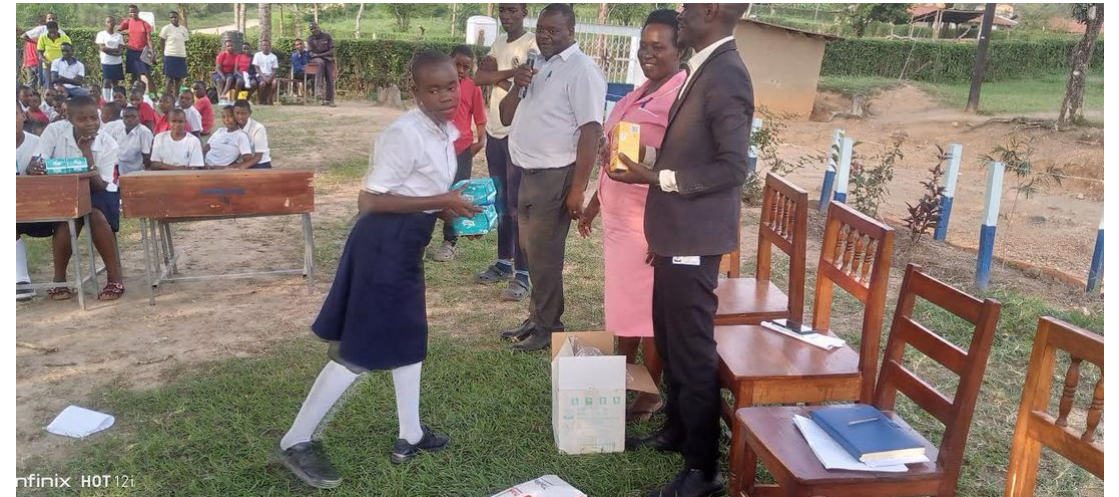
Supporting girls to make reusable pads



Making reusable pads



Provision of sanitary pads to girls –Kashwa and Kashongi HS



Implementation approaches continued

6). Partnerships & Collaboration

- This approach focuses on collaborating with stakeholders at multiple levels to amplify impact, share resources, and sustain interventions aimed at ending child marriage and promoting gender equality. Key strategies include:
- Engaging with other NGOs, government agencies, community-based organizations, schools, and faith-based institutions to coordinate efforts.

Kashwa SS



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