

Education & Development Opportunity - Uganda



2009-2019: 10 Years of Transforming Lives



From the Executive Director



Dear Friend,

I am excited to share with you what we have put our hands to in the last 10 years. Education & Development Opportunity – Uganda was born in 2009. It’s been such a pleasure serving our community for 10 full years, what an honour!

We provided leadership and made strategic investments with tremendous impact in our country and had opportunity to utilize global spaces to engage and contribute to working out relevant solutions to some of the most critical issues affecting the youth, girls and women in education, health, and economic empowerment of the most marginalized in our communities.

Our work involved meeting key national and world leaders and impressed upon them issues that matter most for our generation.

As we celebrate 10 years of transforming lives, we look forward to the next decade with optimism. We trust that the glory of the latter house shall be greater than the former.

I hope you enjoy reading our story, and look forward to hearing from you and transforming lives together.

Thank you.

BRIAN MUTEBI,
Executive Director.



INTRODUCTION

About EDOU

Education & Development Opportunity – Uganda (EDOU) is a charity organisation incorporated in Uganda with mission to transform lives. We provide access to education to orphaned and vulnerable young people mainly girls through education scholarships, improve the health and wellbeing of the youth through access to information, training and capacity building; and empower and advocate for the rights of girls and women. The charity was founded by award-winning women’s rights and social justice campaigner, Brian Mutebi aged 26 who harboured a dream – a joyful burden on his heart – to transform lives in his community and country.

Conceiving the Dream: My Real-life Experience

“The Vision for EDOU was born out of my real-life experiences. Orphaned at 10 to HIV/AIDS and brought up by my peasant grandmother, I nearly dropped out of school when she could afford no more my education. Along this difficult journey, however, I met Good Samaritans who held my hand up. Thanks to their support through school, I became the first graduate in my village in 2007! I wanted to do something that would make a real difference in the lives of people. My journey of grace had made me understand everyone needs a hand extended to them so they could realise their dreams. I conceived a Dream. It was a joyful burden (<http://bit.ly/20usSxO>) on my heart – joyful because the thought of transforming lives of people was pleasant to the mind yet a burden because I didn’t know how it would turn into a life-transforming reality. A pen and paper, however, I had; I wrote down my dream. EDOU was born,” Brian Mutebi.

Management and Governance

The charity is governed by a Board of Directors, the top decision-making body composed of experienced professionals in management and development work. The Board supervises the Management Team headed by the Executive Director.

Vision

Transforming Lives

Mission statement

We shall transform lives by touching hearts of orphaned and vulnerable persons through mobilizing and committing resources to high-impact education and development programmes.





EDOU Strategic Objectives

1. Education scholarships for orphaned and vulnerable young people
2. Advocacy for improved maternal and reproductive health
3. Governance, skilling and social entrepreneurship for the youth
4. Economic empowerment and advocacy for women's rights
5. Networking and building partnerships

Core Values

-  Integrity
-  Innovation
-  Dignity

EDOU STRATEGIC PROGRAMME AREAS

Access to Education

We provide scholarships to orphaned children, girls at-risk, GBV survivors and teenage mothers. In Uganda, 1 in 4 girls between 15-19 years of age, according to the Uganda Health Demographic Survey, is either pregnant or had a baby. With only one in 10 able to return to school after giving birth. GBV survivors suffer physical and emotional pain. The scholarships, covering tuition, accommodation, and a stipend, bestow upon them a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.



Advocacy and Empowerment of Girls and Women



We invest in the economic empowerment of women and girls for such creates ripple effects for families, communities and the country, and use multimedia platforms to advocate for their rights. We raise awareness on sexual and gender-based violence, advocate for investing in preventing child marriage and teenage pregnancy, and access to age-appropriate reproductive health information.



Youth Empowerment

Uganda has one of the world's youngest population, with over 78% below 30 years and 52% below 15 years. 6.5 million Ugandans are between 18-30 years, constituting 21.3% of the population. Unemployment among the youth is at 83%. Investing in Uganda's youth will yield a demographic bonus as more productive and healthy youth join the workforce and the dependency ratio is at its lowest. Our Youth Empowerment Program focuses on livelihood support, governance, skilling and social entrepreneurship.



Networks and Partnerships



Given the scope of our social action in the communities and the magnitude of challenges in providing access to education, empowering and transforming lives of the youth, girls and women, we know we cannot do such singlehandedly but collectively. Networking is thus central in our work. In networks, we acquire partnerships, share resources, adapt best practices, mobilize resources and carry out joint projects for greater impact.



1. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN WELFARE

a. The Brian Mutebi Dream Scholarship Fund

In 2012, Brian sold my land worth \$1,500 and started the Brian Mutebi Dream Scholarship Fund (<http://bit.ly/1t6upiA>) for girls at-risk, GBV survivors, teenage mothers and HIV/AIDS orphans. The Fund has benefited 30 in primary (<http://bit.ly/1VRY1MY>) and secondary schools and at university. One such girl is Lisa, 24 (<http://bit.ly/29QJBZw>), a GBV survivor who graduated in January 2020 from Makerere University with a Bachelor of Laws. Scholarships bestow upon such girls a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.



b. Published with Partnership for Global Education

In our goal to increase visibility on the situation of access to education for children of the poor and, rally the international community, we established a non-formal partnership with Partnership for Global Education (GPE), a global education advocacy organisation, and published an article in which we called for more commitment to education mobility between Europe and Africa and funding for education worldwide especially for the poor living in Europe and Africa's remote and hard-to-reach areas. Here is the link <http://bit.ly/2kMIGPy> and extraction from the article:

“...Sub-Saharan Africa on the other hand has the highest rates of education exclusion on the globe. Over one-fifth of children between the ages of about 6 and 11 are out of school, according to UNESCO. If this is the situation in the 21st century, shouldn't Africa and EU leaders act, and act fast on the proposals the youth presented?”

c. Built a House for orphans

We fundraised and built a house for helpless orphans (<http://bit.ly/1JSNvL1>). Livingstone Ssempebwa and Francis Ssekatawa had been abandoned by their father after the death of their mother. She was pregnant and her husband battered her after a domestic misunderstanding. She had a miscarriage and consequently died from her injuries. After her death, the man got married to another woman leaving the boys helpless in a dilapidated house. The house was soon collapsing on them. We amplified their voice and secured a partnership with Standard Chartered Bank, one of the British major banks operating in Uganda, and built a house for them. We did not only provide them with a shelter over their heads, but supported their economic livelihoods.



2. ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF GIRLS AND WOMEN

a. My Skill, My Education Project

We started the project “My Skill, My Education Project” involving training girls in making beads and other hand crafts. The project assisted girls acquire life skills while their products fetch an income that support their livelihoods.



b. HerWallet Project



In 2017, we launched HerWallet Project, a social business enterprise providing microloans to urban poor women. The women call themselves “Widows of the living” because they are married but to absent husbands and thus the economic weight of running their families rests on their shoulders. “We also got tired of asking

for money from our ‘dead’ husbands, which may earn you a slap,” one woman said. Discouraged by a rigorous banking system, they turned to individual money lenders for loans. But money lenders charge very exorbitant interest rates beside sexually harassing them. This is in country where GBV is at 63% among women with the lowest of economic status. That’s how unbalanced economic power perpetuates violence against women! HerWallet is a multipurpose project that is economically empowering women by giving them financial boost and helping curb GBV in homes. The women own market stalls, retail shops art and craft businesses among others. Investing in girls and women creates the ripple effects that yield multiple benefits, not only for individual women, but for families, communities and countries. 30 households benefited from the project.



c. Access to Clean and Safe Water

In Kyankwanzi district, a rural district located 150km West of Kampala, lying in the dry belt of Uganda also known as the Cattle Corridor, accelerated climate changes in the area characterized by unpredictable rainfall patterns resulted into water stress affecting the population of both crop farmers and cattle keepers. The people in the area depended on muddy, algae filled open wells and ponds left behind by sand mining in the area for water. The lack of access to clean and safe water led people to collect water for domestic consumption from the very sources where cattle drink. Lack of portable water compromised sanitation and hygiene in homes and in schools resulting into increased occurrence of water borne diseases like diarrhoea. Women and children walked over 5 kilometres to collect water from the community contaminated ponds. Vulnerable persons like the elderly and physically the handicapped found it hard to have access to clean and safe water and proper sanitation. In conjunction with Kyankwanzi District Local Government through The Kyankwanzi Water Project, we constructed 25 boreholes and shallow wells in the district, mobilized, trained and sensitized communities on proper sanitation and hygiene practices, and operation and maintenance of point water sources.





3. GIRLS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCACY

a) Unmasking the ghost of GBV among refugees

In June 2019, we undertook a study and published the report “Unmasking the ghost of GBV among refugee girls and women” that documented forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV) among South Sudan refugee girls and women in Bibi bidi refugee settlement. GBV is one of the vices affecting girls and women in refugee settlements yet disguised and oftentimes goes unreported and undocumented. The project leveraged on the power of storytelling to document the impact of GBV among refugee girls and women in Bidi bidi Refugee Settlement. This contributed to building of knowledge on GBV among refugees and enhanced interpretation of the problem and the underlying causes and impact to inform local, national and international processes for effective intervention.

b) Facebook Live chat at the European Union Commission, Brussels, Belgium.



Brussels, Belgium; Brian was featured in the Facebook Live chat at the European Union Commission where he shared with the world our story of transforming lives of vulnerable girls and boys. At the event that received over 6,000 views, Brian strongly advocated for strong commitment and funding for access to education for vulnerable young people and women empowerment. <http://bit.ly/2DBLLNz>. The event was hosted by EU Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development.

While on a month-long (November 2017) AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative in

We then published an article calling on EU/EU leaders to prioritize the right to education for young people. Here is the link <http://bit.ly/2F7bhY7> to the article:

c) Girls Flourish Initiative

In 2019, EDOU was one of the three principal promoters of Girls Flourish (GF), a non-profit that worked with UN Women Uganda and Ministries of Gender and Education to developed, implement top-of-the-mind awareness campaigns on the empowerment of the girl child and organised the Girls Flourish Awards, the first national awards in Uganda that identified, recognised and celebrated communities, brands, organisations and individuals that have not only transformed yesterday's girl child into today's great woman but tirelessly working towards ensuring that today's girl child becomes tomorrow's woman of influence. GF brings a unique approach to promoting the girl child empowerment.



d) The first National Girls Summit to End Child Marriage



In 2016, we joined Girls Not Brides Uganda (GNBU), a National Partnership of 89 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) committed to ending child marriage in Uganda. The Partnership aims at maximizing synergies with the core objective of bringing child marriage to national attention, and taking proactive interventions to end child marriage through programming and advocacy for stronger legislation and enforcement of laws meant to protect girls. The Partnership contributed to the development of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage. In 2019, we were elected to the National Steering Committee of the Partnership.

Relatedly, we participated in discussions at the Post Girls Not Brides Global Meeting that took place in Malaysia in June 2018 on ending child marriages. We shared lessons on community led initiatives to end child marriages and FGM, engaging faith and cultural leaders, teenage pregnancy and sexual and reproductive health, engaging boys and men and social media for advocacy, and working with multisector collaborations to end child marriages.

e) Global Discussions on Health at the University of Iowa

In November 2018, we were invited by the University of Iowa, U.S. to address students of global health on our work to improve the health and wellbeing of girls and women. It was a great platform to share our work to a global audience on advocacy for investing in preventing teenage pregnancy, ending child marriage and access to affordable maternal and reproductive health services for the poor and those in remote and hard-to-reach areas of the country. We did not only contribute to building of knowledge on the

subjects of discussion for the global scholars, we were able to fundraise for the girls' education scholarships program.



f) East Africa's Big Men Project



We were part of the team of British journalists, film makers and East African gender activists who won a \$20,000 grant from the European Journalism Centre for the “East Africa’s Big Men” project. We used multimedia platforms to tell stories of men in Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda defying gender stereotypes and advancing women empowerment. Comparing and contrasting Rwanda, Uganda & Kenya, the project examined masculinity and its effect on gender development in the region. We published in the UK <http://bbc.in/2rynW4z>, France and across East Africa <http://bit.ly/2D9JSIV> as well as through various social media platforms.

g) Raising Awareness on Rights of Refugees

On the 2017 International Day for Refugees, we published with Knowledge for Health (K4Health) an article highlighting the plight of refugee girls and women and measures that should be taken to tackle the problem. K4Health is based at Johns Hopkins University, Maryland U.S. We recommended access to voluntary family planning services in fragile environments to avert unwanted pregnancies in addition to innovative approaches at the local level to tackle girls and women’s rights rights in fragile environments <http://bit.ly/2tImGZS>. Through the article, EDOU strengthened its position as one of CSOs from the global South that brings to international attention issues that affect women and girls. To mark World Refugee Day 2018, we had an online campaign to raise awareness on the rights of refugees. We engaged key stakeholders including the UN and the International Refugee Institute.

h) Capacity building for Girls Not Brides Alliance members, Kampala, Uganda.



EDOU participated in the workshop that developed advocacy messages for Girls Not Brides Uganda (GNBU) National Alliance members that implemented the CSO Led Advocacy Campaign to End Child Marriages. The project was funded by Amplify Change and coordinated by GNBU National Secretariat. At the workshop, we developed Data collection tools, M&E tools and Tailor-made advocacy messages to aid implementation of the project.

i) Networking and coalition building Workshop



We participated in the Capacity building workshop on building institutional support, networking and coalition building for effective advocacy. The workshop was organized under the Girl Advocacy Alliance Project funded by Plan International and Terres des Hommes Netherlands through GNBU National Secretariat. We shared our experience of using the media to advocate for and promote the rights of girls and women, building international partnerships and strategic positioning to promote the rights of girls and women.

j) Advocacy-for-Cure Academy

28–30 May 2018. We took part in the Advocacy-for-Cure Academy for talented advocates who are working in the HIV field in resource-limited settings doing HIV cure-related advocacy. Our work on HIV/AIDS focuses on awarding scholarships to HIV/AIDS orphans. The three-day training involved workshops and sessions, and networking opportunities with leading researchers and advocates. It also provided opportunity for training and skills building on current HIV cure research strategies, barriers to a cure, and communicating scientific results accurately, especially to communities. The Academy was organised by the International AIDS Society (IAS) Towards an HIV Cure initiative and AVAC.

j) International Day of the Girl Child 2018

As part of the activities to mark the International Day of the Girl Child 2018, we facilitated a TV talk show on the role of the media in ending child marriage on Channel 44. We highlighted the importance of skilling the girl child. This was in line with the year's theme "With Her, A Skilled Girl Force."

k) Reproductive Health July of Experts

Our director, Brian was named Member to the International Jury of Experts on Family Planning and Reproductive Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health for selection of the “120 Under 40” 2017 winners. In addition, under the leadership of Hopkins and Bayer, participated in the development of a concept note for a proposal for 80 winners (2016 and 2017 cohorts) to attend and participate in the International Conference on Family Planning in Kigali, Rwanda November, 2018, and for Grant opportunities for winners, individually or in collaboration with other winners. 14-16 November, 2018, we were in Kigali, Rwanda for the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) to contribute to shaping the future of reproductive health. This is important for women and girls to avoid unwanted pregnancies that lead to child marriages that we work to end in our communities in Uganda.



l) TuweZeshe Fellowship

Janet Namayengo, one of our directors took part in the TuWezeshe Fellowship leadership training organized by the under the TuWezeshe Akina Dada project run by Akina Mama wa Afrika. It was a great training on leadership and advocacy for women’s rights and networking with fellow women activists and feminists in Uganda and beyond. Janet also participated in the training on Get Moving! training on sexual harassment at workplace (SHEA). Get moving! is a powerful internal organizational change process designed to support humanitarian agencies working to prevent SHEA. The training was designed to address the lack of progress on prevention of Sexual harassment, Exploitation and Abuse.

m) Social Development Sector Position Paper review

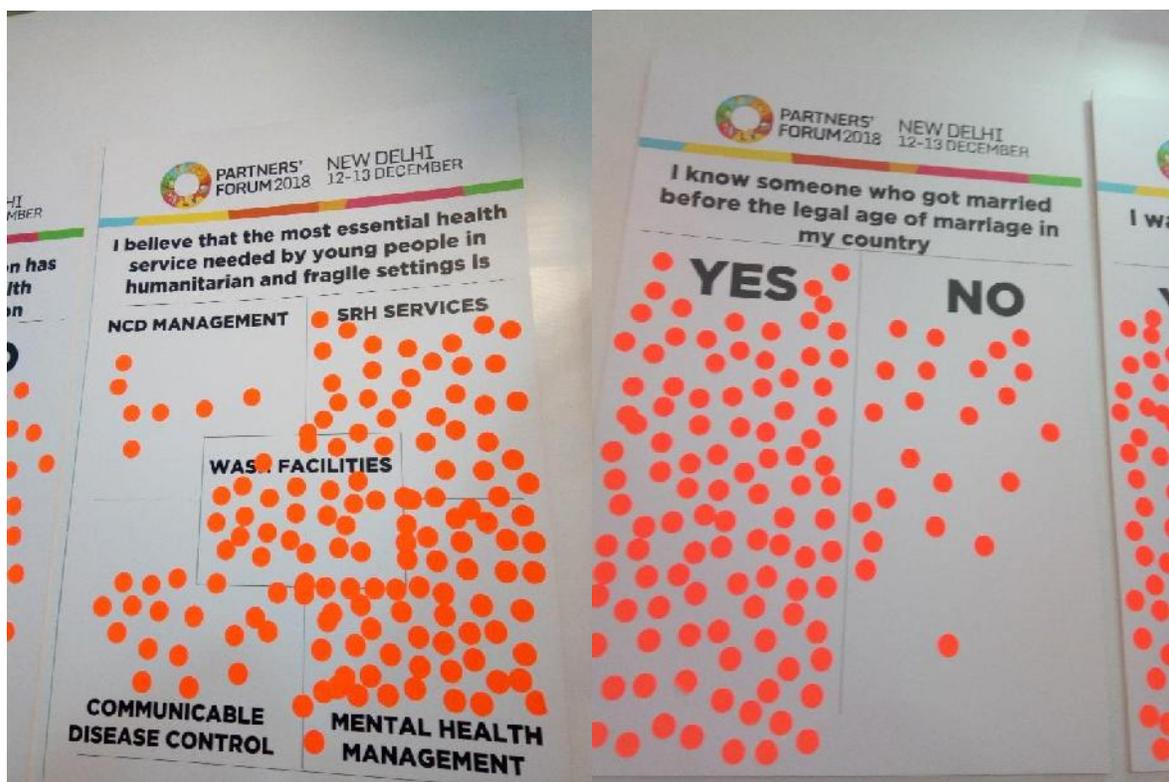
Participated in the review of the Social Development Sector Position Paper on the National Budget Framework Paper FY2018/19 with partner organisations led by World Vision Uganda. The issues discussed included child protection including ending teenage pregnancy, sexual and gender based violence, Youth Livelihood Programme, disability and social protection.



n) The Partners Forum 2018

The Partners Forum was organized by the Partnership for Maternal New Born and Child Health (PMNCH). The Forum brought together 1,200 partners dedicated to the Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) movement and the achievement of the UN Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (Global Strategy) on 12 and 13 December, 2018, in New Delhi, India. The 2018 Forum, hosted by the Government of India centred on improving multisectoral action for results, sharing country solutions and capturing the best practices and knowledge within and among the health sector and related sectors. It emphasized the importance of people-centred accountability bringing forward the voices and lived realities of women, children and adolescents through innovative programming and creative projects.

The Forum aimed at accelerating greater political momentum, sustaining attention to the "Survive-Thrive-Transform" agenda of the Global Strategy, and its contribution to driving the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). We shared our experience of bringing local knowledge of working with women and adolescents in Uganda to national and international processes at the African Union, European Union Commission, Women Deliver Global Conference and the U.S. Senate advocating for improving the health and wellbeing of women, children and adolescents.





4. YOUTH PROGRAMS

a. French-African Young Leaders Program

We participated in the French-African Young Leaders Program contributing to the emergence of the "next generation" of Franco-African leaders, who will be able, by their values and means of action, to meet the global challenges of our time. Getting on the Program was highly competitive. Over 2,000 applications were received and only 32 laureates were selected. Our founder, Brian Mutebi, was the only laureate selected from Uganda. Activities of the Program that took place in Paris in July 2019 included team-building, training, workshops, debates and high-level meetings with the French political leadership including the President, Emmanuel Macron and his cabinet ministers, diplomats, policymakers, business leaders and civil society.





b) Africa Talk Jobs Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

We participated in the Africa Talk Jobs Conference organized by the African Union and the Germany Government at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The conference explored ways of ensuring effective education and sustainable jobs for the youth in Africa. We actively participate in a session on “Girls and women in skills development, education and employment” where we formulated resolutions for the African Union member states to tackle hinderances to girls’ education specifically addressing the issue of teenage pregnancy and child marriages.

Two of the resolutions made:

- Commitment and financial contribution of all member states to a girls’ fund for education (formal and non-formal) and skilling
- Provide gender sensitive education for all through formal, non-formal and informal education



c) AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative

In 2017, we were one of the youth organisations in Africa that took part in the 4th AU-EU Youth Summit in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, that developed the Abidjan Youth Declaration and the consequent AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative (YPII) in Brussels, Belgium. The outcome of YPII was the Youth Agenda, which together with the Youth Summit Declaration was endorsed by Heads of State and Governments from Africa and Europe. The Agenda had 6 clusters of Education and skills; Business, job creation and entrepreneurship; Governance, political

and democratic inclusion and activism; Environmental and Climate change; Peace and security; and Culture, sports and arts.



d) National Youth Leadership Dialogue, Kampala, Uganda.

Following the reading of the 2017/2018 national budget, we participated in the National Youth Leadership Dialogue aimed at building capacity and developing strategies for youth to actively engage in budget advocacy. This was under the auspices of Youth Budget Advocacy Alliance, Uganda Youth Network and Open Space.

e) UN Youth Consultations on SDG 16

In May 2019, we participated in the UNDP led global Youth Consultation on SDG16, the Sustainable Development Goal on peace and justice, that was under review at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum. This provided opportunity to take stock of and promote support to peaceful, just and inclusive societies and meaningfully engage youth-led organizations under the UNDP's new '16x16' Initiative. The '16 x 16' Initiative's objective was to identify, recognize and support 16 youth-led organisations and several youth-led and service organisations, movements and networks who contribute to the implementation of SDG16 and who advocate for the needs and aspirations of young people in SDG review and follow-up processes.

f) SDGs and Youth Reflection Dialogue, Kampala, Uganda.



We participated in the SDGs and Youth Reflection Dialogue organised by partner organisation, Youth Equality Centre, focusing on SDG No.3-universal education

and No.5 – gender equality. Participants shared first-hand experiences of how the youth are affected by limited access to health information and services, showcased youth-led solutions in addressing these barriers and promoting health equity. Discussions were also on identifying concrete avenues for the youth to play meaningful roles in the implementation and review of SDG No.3 and No.5 and provide a networking space for the youth to develop partnerships for programs implementation.

g) International Youth Day Celebrations 2018

Friday 10 August, 2018. We participated in the International Youth Day Celebrations 2018 held in Kampala organised by the Design Hub Kampala and European Union. We participated in panel discussion on safe spaces for youth particularly Digital & Civic Spaces. Youth need safe spaces where they can come together, engage in activities related to their diverse needs and interests, participate in decision making processes and freely express themselves. While there are many types of spaces, safe spaces ensure the dignity and safety of youth. Similarly, without the existence of safe space, youth from different race/ethnicity, gender, religious affiliation or cultural background may feel intimidated to freely contribute to the community. When youth have safe spaces to engage, however, they can effectively contribute to development, including peace and social cohesion.
