



WANUME FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

"Transforming communities"

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A word from our chair

In 2024, we've seen remarkable resilience, growth, and impact. Despite challenges in Mafubira and Budondo, our inclusive programs and community-driven initiatives have made a tangible difference. From empowering 250 women economically to restoring dignity among vulnerable girls and transforming classrooms through Learn and Play, we've witnessed lives transformed and hope rekindled. suggested rephrase, or find a way of removing that wether word.

I am particularly proud of our strides in integrating awareness and advocacy into our education system. Over 1,200 learners were engaged in SRHR, self-esteem, and child protection sessions, proving that young people thrive when we create safe and supportive spaces.

Thank you to every community leader, parent, teacher, and donor who trusted us and walked this journey with us. Your unwavering support has been the fuel behind every milestone.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on sustainability, scalability, and deepening our partnerships. Together, let's continue building a future where no child or woman is left behind.



Ronald Mufuwa

A word from our Director – Partnerships & Community Engagement



Justine Nabulya



This year, we listened more, collaborated better, and served deeper. Our foundation's work is rooted in community, and 2024 reminded us that transformation happens when we place people at the center of every program.

In both Budondo and Mafubira, we encountered untold stories of strength, young girls returning to school after facing violence, mothers starting businesses with confidence, and teachers finding new joy in playful learning. These stories are the heartbeat of our work.

But none of this would have been possible without our partners. From the local councils and schools to our national and international supporters, thank you for believing in our mission.

As we step into a new year, our commitment grows stronger. We are investing in more inclusive engagement models, better learning tools, and deeper community ownership. The journey is long, but together, we are walking it with purpose.

who we are

Wanume Foundation for Child & Woman Protection, founded in 2023, is a non-profit organization dedicated to transforming the lives of Uganda's most disadvantaged children and women facing social and economic hardships.

Our mission is clear: to uplift and empower those who need it most, providing essential support and fostering positive, lasting change within their lives and communities.

Through carefully designed programs, we create a nurturing social, cultural, and educational environment that is uniquely tailored to meet the urgent needs of the communities we serve.

Our initiatives are built on the pillars of rights protection, safety, self-confidence, and informed decision-making, promoting each beneficiary's physical, psychological, and intellectual growth.

At Wanume Foundation, we believe that empowering a child or a woman has a ripple effect, bringing lasting change that extends to families and communities. With support from our funders, we preserve the rights of these individuals, enhance their sense of belonging, and enable them to contribute meaningfully to society. Together, we can create a future where every child and woman feel safe, valued, and capable of realizing their full potential.

Our Vision

To build a gender-equal community through uplifting marginalized groups from conditions of vulnerability and dependency to self-sufficiency and well-being.



Our Mission

Empowering vulnerable children and women in Uganda through education, health, economic empowerment, and social welfare.

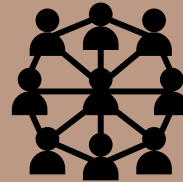


Areas of focus – SDG



SDG 1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere



SDG 3:

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all age



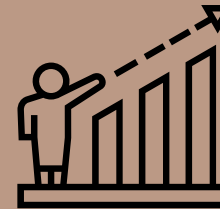
SDG 4:

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



SDG 5:

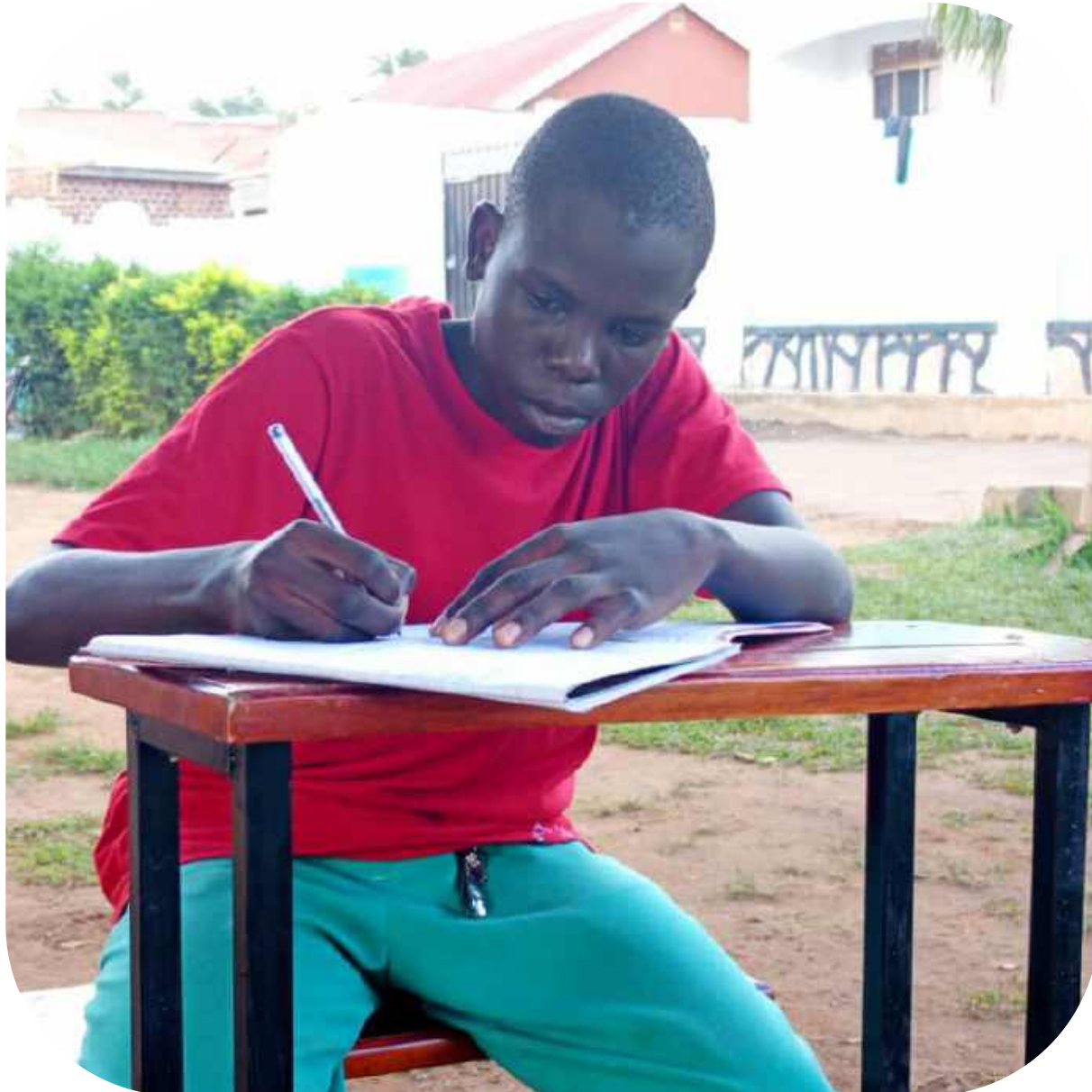
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and Girls



SDG 8:

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all

Our core values



P: Partnership.



R: Resilience.



I: Integrity.



C: Cultural Sensitivity.



E: Empathy.



E: Excellence.

what we do

Economic Empowerment for Women

The foundation recognizes the critical role women play in their families and communities. Our initiatives aim to:

- Provide economic empowerment opportunities for women through entrepreneurship training and microfinance initiatives.
- Promote women's leadership and participation in the decision-making process.
- Address gender-based violence and promote women's rights.



Awareness and advocacy programs

We successfully conducted over 100 awareness sessions across 5 schools, engaging more than 1,200 students in transformative programs that empowered self-esteem, enriched teacher-learner relationships, integrated play-based learning, and created safe spaces for cultural and reproductive health discussions.



Education and Social Protection

We believe education is key to unlocking the potential of vulnerable children and women. Our initiatives focus on:

- Providing access to quality education for disadvantaged children.
- Offering vocational skills training for young mothers and women.

why we do it

At the heart of our work lies a deep understanding of the challenges faced by women, children, and schools in our communities. We design and implement programs that respond directly to those needs because the evidence is clear, investing in education, women's economic empowerment, and adolescent health creates ripple effects that uplift entire families and societies.



Women in Uganda make up 51% of the population, and nearly 80% of them work in agriculture and informal sectors, often without financial security or opportunities for advancement (UBOS, 2022). Yet, according to the World Bank, when women are economically empowered, household incomes increase, children's education improves, and communities become more resilient.

Through our vocational training and microfinance initiatives, we aim to close this gap. When a woman earns an income, she invests 90% of it back into her family, compared to 30–40% for men (UN Women, 2020).

Empowering women with skills in bakery, tailoring, and hairdressing, and linking them to financial services, is not just about self-sufficiency, it's about transforming communities from the ground up.

why we do it

WIn Uganda, nearly 1 in 4 children drops out of school before completing primary education (UNICEF, 2022). The reasons include poverty, lack of materials, and for girls in particular, menstruation and early pregnancy. In rural areas like Budondo and Mafubira, this reality is even more pronounced.

Our Essential Learning Materials (ELM) and Personal Hygiene and Dignity (PHD) programs aim to eliminate these barriers. According to UNESCO, each additional year of schooling increases a girl's future income by 10–20%. Providing school fees, scholastic materials, and sanitary products does more than improve academic performance, it gives girls the dignity and confidence to stay in school and dream bigger.



A 2020 study by the Uganda Ministry of Education found that low self-esteem and poor student-teacher relationships were contributing factors to high dropout rates and mental health issues among adolescents.

Our awareness and advocacy programs respond directly to this. By fostering teacher-learner trust, introducing play-based learning, and creating safe spaces for discussion around Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), we are helping to redefine the classroom as a place of empowerment.

Women Empowerment Initiative

In 2024/2025, Wanume Foundation launched a skills-based economic empowerment program targeting women in Budondo and Mafubira sub county.

Through structured training in tailoring, bakery, and hairdressing, the program enrolled and trained 250 women.

After graduation, 100 of these women received startup capital through our microfinance initiative. As a result, 94 women successfully established small-scale businesses — 32 in tailoring, 50 in hairdressing, and 12 in bakery.

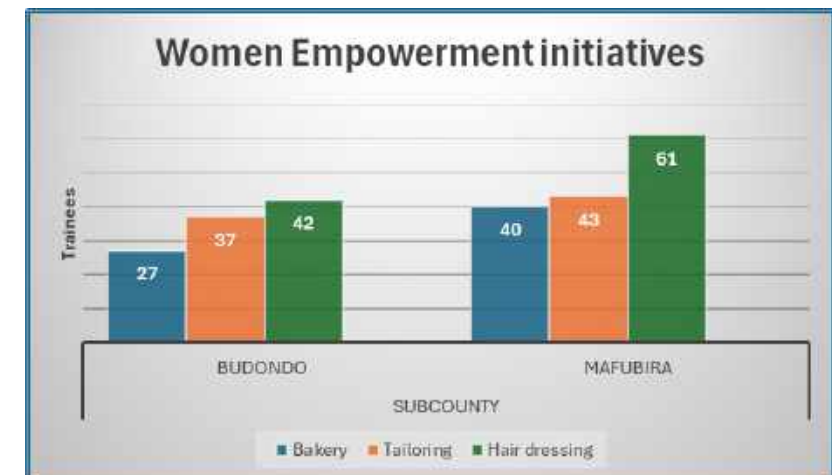
This initiative is designed not only to improve household incomes but also to promote long-term self-reliance and economic resilience among women in rural communities.

The program is ongoing, with a target to train over 500 women and provide financial support to at least 80% of them by 2026.



SUMMARY

Trained 250 women in:
Tailoring (32 launched businesses)
Hairdressing (50 launched businesses)
Bakery (12 launched businesses)



Challenges & Lessons Learnt

25% women in Budondo and Mafubira struggled with reading and writing, which slowed down training in entrepreneurship and bookkeeping.

Even after training, **60%** of the the women couldn't practice their skills due to the absence of basic tools like sewing machines and baking kits.

Limited Digital Access - Follow-up communication using phones or SMS didn't reach many beneficiaries due to lack of mobile devices or poor network coverage.

2 out **5** women faced resistance from spouses or community members regarding participation in the programs.

Household obligations - **About 45% of the 250 women** trained cited challenges balancing training hours with domestic responsibilities.



To address the challenges faced by women during training, we plan to introduce a **tool-sharing** or **loan-to-own model** for essential equipment, establish localized communication hubs and radio outreach, adjust training schedules to be more flexible and family-friendly, and engage community leaders and male champions through targeted sensitization forums to build wider support for women's participation.



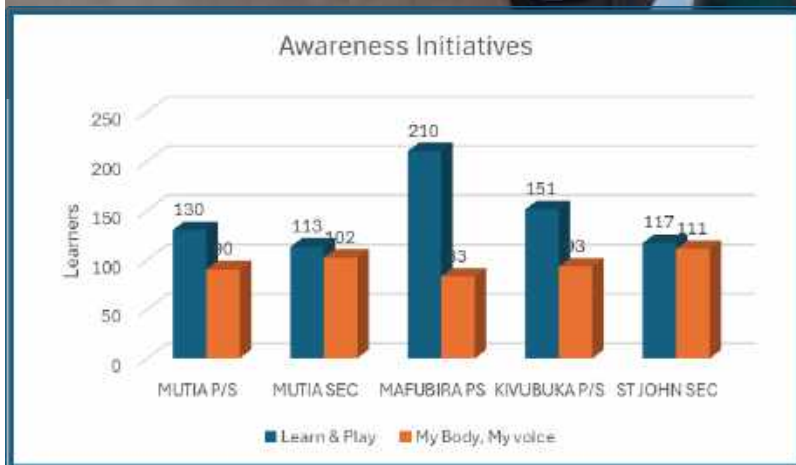
Awareness and advocacy program



As part of our advocacy and community outreach, Wanume Foundation rolled out targeted awareness initiative:

My Body, My Voice which was conducted in 5 schools across Jinja District. This initiative empowers adolescent girls to build self-esteem, understand their bodies, and make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. The sessions reached **over 1,200 students** through interactive workshops, group discussions, and mentorship engagements

Learn & Play initiative which equips teachers with tools and methodologies for incorporating games and interactive activities into the teaching of core subjects about **20 teachers** were trained on how to design and deliver lessons using low-cost, play-based strategies that align with Uganda's curriculum



Challenges & Lessons Learnt

Cultural taboos remain strong: **35% of students (approx. 420 out of 1,200)** hesitated to participate fully in SRHR discussions due to cultural shame.

Parental resistance: In Budondo, **25% of parents (estimated 75 out of 300 surveyed)** expressed concerns about exposing children to reproductive health topics.

Resistance from teachers unfamiliar with play-based learning methods. In 3 out of 5 schools, over **40%** of teachers expressed discomfort with shifting from traditional methods.

Limited access to teaching materials for playful learning reported by **60%** of participating teachers.



To address cultural taboos and parental resistance to SRHR education, we will implement **culturally sensitive engagement strategies**, including community dialogues, parent-teacher forums, and involvement of respected local leaders to promote open, age-appropriate discussions.

To improve teacher participation in play-based learning, we will provide continuous mentorship, hands-on workshops, and peer learning sessions to build confidence and competence.

In addition, we plan to collaborate with educational partners and local artisans to develop **low-cost, context-appropriate teaching materials**, ensuring that all participating schools have access to tools needed for effective, playful learning.

Education & Social Support

The Foundation aims to reduce barriers to education for vulnerable children, especially those in candidate classes preparing for national examinations.

In 2024/2025, the foundation supported over **120 learners** in two critical areas:

- **ELM (Essential Learning Materials):** Provided school fees and distributed scholastic materials such as books, pens, and geometry sets to enable uninterrupted learning.
- **PHD (Personal Hygiene and Dignity):** Offered sanitary and basic health support, especially to adolescent girls.

This approach ensured comprehensive support for learners' academic success and personal well-being. The project will continue in 2025 with an annual target of **assisting 100 candidates** with fees and over **200 students** with learning and health essentials.



SUMMARY

- 120 students (60% girls) received school fees support, scholastic materials and sanitary pads in Budondo and Mafubira Sub counties.
- 100 girls received monthly sanitary kits, reducing period-related absenteeism by 40%.
- 85% of beneficiaries maintained consistent school attendance over two terms.
- Target 2025/2026: Reach 300 students with materials and fees.

Challenges & Lessons Learnt

In both Mafubira and Budondo, **18% (around 36 out of 200)** of students supported had either repeated a class or dropped out temporarily due to home-related burdens.

Over **25% of girls who received dignity kits** reported facing mockery or shaming from peers prior to intervention.

Irregular supplies - Sanitary pads and materials not consistently stocked or replenished, limiting the target number of beneficiaries.

Inconsistent attendance - about **10%** of beneficiary Students miss class due to domestic work or lack of meals.



To mitigate class repetition, dropout, and inconsistent attendance among students—particularly girls—we will collaborate with school authorities and community leaders to provide **targeted home visits** for high-risk learners.

To combat peer stigma, we will continue delivering life skills sessions that **promote empathy and dignity**, while expanding **peer support clubs** in schools.

To address the irregular supply of dignity kits, we plan to strengthen partnerships with local suppliers and explore **reusable sanitary** options for sustainability.

Additionally, we will advocate for school-based feeding initiatives and adjust support to include food relief for the most vulnerable students, reducing absenteeism caused by hunger and household responsibilities.

M & E Impact Statement (2024/2025)

In 2024/2025, Wanume Foundation implemented community-based interventions across Budondo and Mafubira sub-counties, reaching over 1,500 individuals with impactful programs in education, women's economic empowerment, and sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Our monitoring and evaluation framework emphasized beneficiary feedback, quantitative performance tracking, and adaptive learning. Program teams collected data through session logs, attendance records, surveys, and field visits. Here's what the evidence shows:

Key Results Across Programs

Economic Empowerment:

Out of 250 women trained in tailoring, hairdressing, and baking, 94 successfully launched micro-enterprises. Post training follow-up revealed a 38% increase in household income among these women. However, 60% lacked startup tools, leading to the introduction of a loan-to-own equipment model in our 2025 plan.

SRHR Awareness & Education:

Through My Body, My Voice, over 1,200 students were reached in 5 schools. Despite cultural resistance from 35% of participants, feedback showed a 70% increase in SRHR knowledge and confidence, measured through post-session evaluations.

Teacher Engagement through Learn & Play:

20 teachers received training in play-based learning. In post-training classroom observations, 70% applied interactive methods at least once a week. Limited access to teaching aids was flagged by 60% of participants, prompting a new partnership with local artisans to develop low-cost materials.

Education & Social Protection:

120 students received school support, with 85% maintaining consistent attendance across two terms. Dignity kit distribution reduced menstruation-related absenteeism by 40%. However, 10% of learners still missed school due to food insecurity, prompting advocacy for school-based feeding in 2025.



*Rolland Tagaba
Programs Manager*

Monitoring Tools Used

- Attendance tracking sheets
- Beneficiary feedback forms
- Household visits and case follow-ups
- Mid line evaluations of training application
- Stakeholder reflection meetings

Our Impact



At just 15 years old, Amina's life changed when she became pregnant as a result of sexual violence. Isolated and afraid, she dropped out of school.

Through the support of the foundation's programs, Amina received counseling, health services, and the assurance that her education still mattered.

Today, Amina is back in school, performing well in her studies and mentoring other girls facing similar challenges.. (name changed for privacy)



"They helped me believe I could still have a future. I was given school supplies, childcare support, and most importantly, confidence."

Our Impact



I was forced into marriage by my father after my mother passed away. He was always drunk, and I was given to a man three times my age. When I became pregnant, he abandoned me without warning. I was left alone, broken, and with a baby on the way.

Everything changed when a friend told me about the women's training in Budondo. I hesitated, but she encouraged me to try. I joined the tailoring class, and for the first time, I felt seen and valued. The team didn't just teach me how to sew—they helped me set up a small shop.

Now I make clothes, earn my own money, and my little boy never goes hungry. I've even started saving a little to help my siblings stay in school. I am no longer a victim. I am a provider.

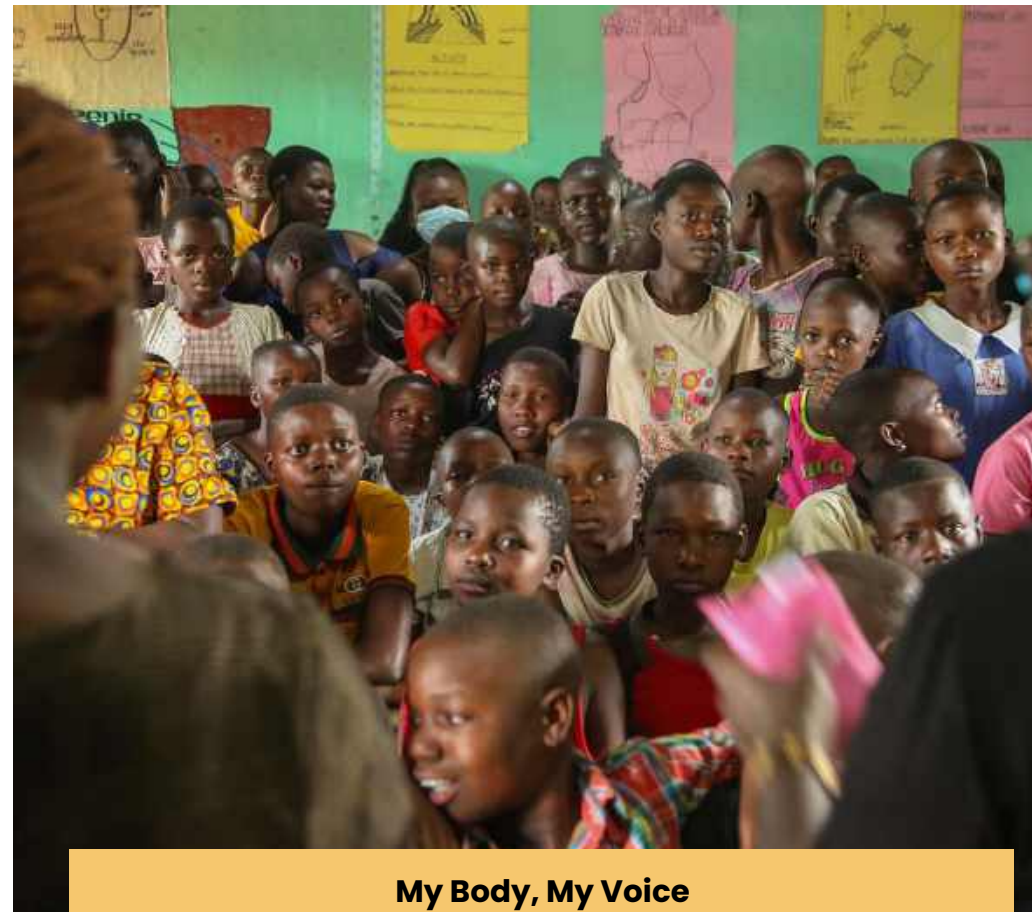


Journey Ahead

As we look to the year ahead, our vision is clear—to deepen our impact, scale up proven interventions, and reach even more vulnerable women, children, and communities across Mafubira, Budondo, and beyond. Building on the foundation laid in 2024, we are excited to introduce several expanded and new initiatives that respond to the evolving needs of our beneficiaries:

Enhanced Women's Economic Empowerment Program

We plan to scale the vocational training program to include additional trades such as liquid soap making, and business literacy. A dedicated **Women's Resource Hub** is also set to be launched to provide access to shared equipment, mentorship, and digital skills.



My Body, My Voice

With cultural resistance still a barrier, the SRHR initiative will evolve into a community-wide movement involving parents, religious leaders, and youth clubs, coupled with **peer-led training** and radio dialogues to normalize conversations around reproductive health and consent.



Learn and Play Initiative Expansion

Following the success of the Learn and Play model, we aim to reach **10 additional schools**, providing training to at least **50 more teachers** and directly benefiting over **2,000 learners**. The program will introduce new play kits and structured games.

Back-to-School Support Program

Recognizing the link between poverty and school dropouts, we will roll out an expanded school retention support package **covering fees, meals, and psychosocial support** for at least **300 at-risk learners**, especially girls affected by early pregnancy and child headed households.



Word from our team



Twine Ahmed : *Projects
Coordinator – Education & Social
Protection*

Seeing children smile as they receive school supplies, or watching girls attend class with dignity after receiving hygiene kits that's the heart of my work. We're removing silent barriers, one child at a time, and giving them reasons to stay in school and believe in



Nabirye Christine : *Program
Coordinator – Women's
Empowerment*

It's been inspiring to witness women walk into our training centers uncertain, and walk out confident, skilled, and ready to build their futures. Every sewing machine placed, every business opened, and every income earned is a win for the entire community. We are not just training women, we are transforming generations.



Brenda : *Advocacy & SRHR
Facilitator*

At first, many students are shy or hesitant. But by the end of our sessions, they're asking questions, sharing stories, and leading discussions. That's the power of safe spaces. 'My Body, My Voice' is not just a program, it's a movement of young people finding their strength..

Our partners



**CHRIST'S HANDS
SKILLS TRAINING AND
CHILD DEVELOPMENT
CENTRE**



**Internet
for
Humanity**



Christ's Cathedral Bugembe



Address

**P.O. BOX 900310 Jinja (U)
MAFUBIRA
BUDONDO SUB-COUNTY
KIVUBUKA VILLAGE**

Website: www.wanumefoundation.org

Email: info@wanumefoundation.org

Tel: (+256)779409812

(+256)703661344