

2022 Annual Report



Resilient
Women's
ORGANIZATION



NOTE FROM THE Executive Director

Resilient Women's Organization was founded in 2016 with the vision of enabling equal access to services, opportunities and resources to girls and women.

Now, six years after the opening of our temporary shelter for at-risk girls and teenage mothers, our women's socioeconomic programs have evolved into more inclusive gender transformative approach, not only focusing on the girl child and women but intentionally creating opportunities for all stakeholders and community players to actively challenge gender norms, promote women's rights and address power inequalities and imbalances that drive Gender Based Violence.

Resilient Women's Organization (RWO) has reached 1350 people from 3 villages with holistic, community-driven programs that pair social change with long term economic development.

Our innovative team has transformed the way community-led interventions are executed by engaging a Community Support Team from amongst our Rights Holders to join us to focus efforts and customize programs to meet each community and family's unique needs.

And today, as I share our 2022 Annual Report, I'm proud to say - the results have been transformative.

In 2022, RWO reached an additional village making it 4 villages, 5 schools, 180 women and 55 men, and empowered 68 households to address the challenges of ultra poverty, gender inequalities and inadequate access to Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) information and services. For RWO's community and In-school efforts, 4 official and independent women's groups were formed and officially registered with Wakiso District for socioeconomic peer-to-peer support, 26 Local leaders, 25 peer educators and mentor parents were trained in Gender Based Violence (GBV), SRHR, and the legal framework around GBV, creating the foundation to our Community Response and Support mechanism to Violence Against Women and Girls.

The independent women's groups launched their own community development projects with RWO as Patrons and ultimately improved their well being and have started investing in their futures - an important step towards sustainability.

At Resilient Women's Organization, we know this is just the beginning.

Our team continues to track, analyze and adjust our programs to maximize impact and best respond to the dynamic challenges of poverty, inequality, deeply rooted social norms, power imbalances and after effects of COVID-19. By focusing on key stakeholder partnerships, we are strengthening our presence in Katabi. With each and every training, family engagement, and project, we are recommitting ourselves to our vision of a society where adolescent girls and young women have equal access to resources and opportunities.

All of this growth, innovation and success is made possible through the ongoing support of our generous partners and our dedicated team, who inspire us each and every day. We look forward to continuing the journey with you, and are so grateful for your support.

With thanks,

**Hope Lydia Ndagire
Co-founder and ED**



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hope Lydia Ndagire'.

OUR RESILIENT RESPONSE TO CHILD MARRIAGES & TEENAGE PREGNANCIES PROJECT, THREE YEARS LATER.

A Resilient Response

Three years ago, Resilient Women's Organization with support from the Girls First Fund (GFF) launched a responsive project to the status of child marriage and teenage pregnancies in Katabi, Wakiso District.

Taking the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) approach to address the glaring lack of access to age appropriate & comprehensive SRHR information and services as identified by the girls, women and the communities of Katabi, RWO adopted 3 key strategies;

Our Goal was;

1. Strengthening adult-youth partnerships through dialogue to enable youth friendly communities & challenge traditional & harmful norms that hinder young people from making informed choices for themselves.
2. Building the capacity of peers to use the peer educator & mentor parent model where peers provide comprehensive SRHR information to fellow young people and families.
3. Bridging the gap between Rights Bearers and Rights Holders for more transparent and survivor centered service provision through capacity building training and dialogue between these two key stakeholders.

INPUTS:

- **Formation and strengthening of community and in-school clubs to act as safe spaces for SRHR services & information**
- **Community Dialogues to bridge gaps between parents, local leaders, police and young people**
- **Capacity building for chosen peer educators & mentor parents**
- **Family/Parenting sessions**

OUTPUTS/GOALS:

- **More young people especially adolescent girls and young women seeking youth-friendly SRHR services**
- **An improved socio-cultural environment in the community that respects the rights of girls and women and views child marriage and teenage pregnancies as a huge problem**
- **A community that embodies collaboration between young people, parents and local leaders**
- **A reduction in the number of teenage pregnancies and child marriages in the villages of Kitale and Nalugala**

OUTCOME/RESULTS:1 DISTRICT

- **We delivered 185 Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights educate sessions to 5 schools and 4 community clubs, reaching 450 girls, 108 women and 150 boys.**
- **6 girls stayed in school under our Sponsorship program.**
- **55 women have started working (30 for themselves and 25 for other people after training)**
- **25 Families with Domestic Violence issues were counseled.**
- **15 Local Leaders were committed and fully engaged in Capacity Building Workshops, and joined the RWO team**
- **Partnered with 5 local school & created 5 safe space Resilient Clubs**

ENDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE, PROVIDING FREE CHOICES FOR WOMEN/GIRLS IN WAKISO (Uganda)

In September 2021, we embarked on a project with support from African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) titled Ending Gender Based Violence and Provide Free Choices for women and girls in Katabi, Wakiso district. The purpose of this project was to increase access to SRHR information and services and address the issues of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) by advocating for effective implementation of existing policies and strategies to end VAWG in Wakiso.

This project's activities build on our Response to Child Marriage and Teenage pregnancies project by allowing us to expand our focus to a more mature target group (women and local leaders).



INPUTS:

- Capacity building workshops and engagements with rights bearers and key stakeholders on the issues of policies and laws that advance women and girls rights
- Weekly SRHR & GBV educative advocacy messages on local village media
- Seeking WROs and signing MOUs and sharing best practices
- Strengthening village safe spaces and encouraging women to form independent groups for socioeconomic peer to peer support
- Empowering village women's committees to pass on the right messages of counseling and guidance for other women

OUTPUTS/GOALS:

- More women and girls aware of and can exercise their rights
- Partnerships between WROs
- Increased public support to promote women and girls' rights
- Increase in the extent to which policies and laws that support women and girls rights are acted upon by rights bearers.

OUTCOME/RESULTS:

6 VILLAGES

86 Local Media advocacy messages delivered in the villages of Kitale & Nalugala

68 HOUSEHOLDS

68 Family counselling sessions held

708 people

3 WROs engaged & partnered

- 3 Independent women's groups formed
- 60 trained & completed DIT exams in Tailoring and Hairdressing

SITTING FOR MY DIT EXAMINATIONS WAS JUST THE BEGINNING



My name is Amanige Sonia, a former housewife. I say former because I am no longer just a housewife but now a resilient woman.

In 2021, things were hard because of the Lockdown but I heard from my neighbour that there is a club of women where I could find someone to talk to, and learn some skills. I hurried to become a member of this club- we are the Sparklers' Mothers' Resilient Club of Kitale village in Katabi.

I have made friendships with women I did not know, I found my tribe.

In January 2022, we were trained in Financial Literacy and I learnt the importance of having SMART goals and saving. We also got trained in tailoring and I sat for DIT exams which I passed... not just a housewife!

Now I ran a tailoring business with my club members and also have one cow- I am a business woman. I know this is just the beginning of me becoming a better woman.

OUR VOLUNTEERS ADDED MAGICAL EFFORTS TO THE RWO TEAM

Right from January up until November 2022, we were fortunate to have 4 on-site Volunteers from different parts of the world join our small team.

When we look back on our journey since 2016, the role of International volunteers has clearly been pivotal to our steadfast growth as they pricelessly share themselves and their skills with RWO.

From remotely editing our website, Grant writing & Donor mapping, organizing and training our beneficiaries in Financial Literacy & Entrepreneurship, Field Data Collection & project Impact evaluations, Music, Dance & Drama Training, Organizational Administration support & Financial Management to helping us market our organization on social media and touring Uganda over the weekends... the contribution of volunteers to our journey can not be overshadowed. Even when they leave the country, they remain the unseen team members and indeed a magical addition to the Resilient Team.

“Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer”



We couldn't do this without our partners, friends & donors

Local & international partners, friends, donors and volunteers continue to show up for our work.

The Girls First Fund,

African Women's Development Fund,

Girls Not Brides

Girls Not Brides Uganda

&

Ayni Cooperazione

are some of the organizations that supported our work.

