



GUFASHA GIRLS FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2023



What a year this has been for us!

From having successfully held our very first annual gala on 6th October 2023 to participation in the Women Deliver Conference in Kigali Rwanda in July 2023 and COP28 in Dubai UAE in November to December 2023, we bring to you an exciting year for Gufasha Girls foundation.

As we look forward to 2024, we maintain the momentum towards our goals and look forward to engaging you more to impact the life of the Girl Child in Uganda.



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MESSAGE FROM JOAN

FOUNDER & TEAM LEAD



The impact contained within this report are not just numbers and figures, **they represent lives touched, communities uplifted, and futures transformed.**

I extend my deepest gratitude to my incredible team whose passion and hard work have continued to drive our mission forward. I also express heartfelt appreciation to partners and individuals that have supported us in this year together with the trust placed in us by the communities we serve. It's through this collaborative spirit that we've been able to create meaningful change, one girl at a time.

The impact contained within this report are not just numbers and figures, they represent lives touched, communities uplifted, and futures transformed. They encapsulate the spirit of Gufasha Girls Foundation, the unwavering dedication of educating, supporting, and empowering every girl to achieve her fullest potential and contribute to all aspects of life. While we celebrate our accomplishments this year, we are reminded that our mission is far from complete. There are still barriers to break, ceilings to shatter, and systemic inequalities to dismantle. Yet, as I look ahead, I'm filled with optimism and determination. The potential and resilience of adolescent girls continue to inspire us all to push boundaries, innovate, and advocate fiercely for their rights and opportunities.

Gufasha Girls Foundation will continue to be devoted to championing for gender equality, girls' education, amplify girls' voices as we break barriers that hinder their potential. Together, let's continue this transformative journey, breaking barriers and empowering adolescent girls to create a future where equality, opportunity, and empowerment are the birthright of every girl.



MESSAGE FROM JAMIL

PROJECTS MANAGER



My major highlight is the impact that our [#ReturnMyFuture](#) campaign had on the lives of adolescent girls

I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of our initiatives and the profound impact they've had on the lives of young girls this year. My major highlight is the impact that our [#ReturnMyFuture](#) campaign had on the lives of adolescent girls. From girls trusting us and openly sharing their stories to educating them about their rights to empowering them to be confident change-agents in their communities. This is a very huge impact for me.

However, the impact we've made this year wouldn't have been possible without the collaborative efforts of our passionate team, committed partners and the communities we serve. Your support, trust, and tireless commitment have been instrumental in driving these initiatives forward and transforming lives.

ABOUT GUFASHA GIRLS FOUNDATION

Gufasha Girls Foundation is a non-profit community-based organization established in 2016 in Uganda, Africa that is committed to advocating for gender equality and empowerment of all girls and women through advocacy, capacity building and psycho-social and legal support.

Gufasha Girls Foundation's history traces back to the founder Joan Kembabazi's loss of her childhood best friend, Gufasha Moureen who was married off at the age of 13, who had to leave her education behind, experienced a difficult marriage and lost her life during child birth.

And on realization that so many girls in her community are facing the tragedy of child marriage due to lack of access to education opportunities, poverty, negative social and cultural norms, lack of economic opportunities, lack of awareness of girls rights and laws against child marriage.

It is from here that Joan founded Gufasha Girls Foundation in memory of her late friend to empower and change lives of girls in her community and Africa as a whole.

Since inception, Gufasha Girls Foundation has championed for the rights of girls and women to live free from violence and discrimination, to benefit from free quality education, to access clean water, good health care, and to thrive in economic and social justice.



Gufasha Girls Foundation works with a team of 20 youth volunteers that are passionate about changing lives of girls and women and transforming communities in Uganda.

Gufasha Girls Foundation has participated in both National and International Advocacy efforts for the realization and achievement of Gender Equality and the UN Sustainable Development Goals related to it such as Quality Education, Climate Action, Good health and well-being, Affordable and Clean energy and Clean Water and Sanitation.



Our Mission

To end child marriage and empower girls and young women in Uganda through Advocacy, Capacity building and Education support.



Our Vision

A world in which every girl achieves her fullest potential and contributes to all aspects of life.



We create awareness of girls' rights and values in communities of Uganda through community-based programs and initiatives

OUR WORK / THEMATIC PROGRAMS

*We are committed
to reaching the
most vulnerable girl
child to change
their lives, give
them hope, and
build a generation
of empowered girls
and women.*

01

End Child Marriage:

Gufasha girls Foundation works closely with communities to change negative traditional and cultural norms and beliefs that force girls into marriage before 18 years

02

Promote Girls' Education:

Gufasha girls Foundation works towards sensitizing parents and teachers on the importance of girls' education, sponsoring girls, and advocating for gender transformative education

03

Menstrual Health & Management:

We train girls to make reusable pads as well as provide reusable sanitary pads to adolescent girls and young women in Uganda.

06

Climate Action:

Gufasha Girls Foundation promotes climate action through advocacy and justice through community led initiatives both at national and global levels.

05

Promote Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights & Education:

We provide accurate and age-friendly sexual health and education, and friendly health services to adolescent girls and young women

04

Women Economic Empowerment:

Gufasha girls Foundation believes that empowering women economically is a pathway towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth

END CHILD MARRIAGE

In response to curb the 34% of girls being married as children, Gufasha girls Foundation works closely with communities to change negative traditional and cultural norms and beliefs that force girls into marriage before 18 years.

We do this through community sensitizations where we work with community leaders, health workers, parents, religious leaders, and different stakeholders of the community, media engagement, policy advocacy and following up on government commitments to end child marriage, formation of school clubs that provide safe spaces for girls to share their challenges and be provided with effective solutions, empowering girls to stay in schools through our advocacy campaigns and annual gala events.



Child marriage is a form of gender-based violence that **robs girls** of their childhood, education and future.



MENSTRUAL HEALTH & MANAGEMENT

Tackling period poverty and stigma is key to ensure that girls menstruate healthy with pride and dignity and can stay in school.

We train girls to make reusable pads as well as provide reusable sanitary pads to adolescent girls and young women in Uganda.

We carry out community awareness to dismantle taboos and shame around menstruation.



Poor menstruation is a barrier to girls' education and their overall health and wellbeing



PROMOTE GIRLS' EDUCATION

Our contribution to ensuring that every girl is in school, learning and thriving involves sponsoring marginalized girls to access free quality education for at least 12 years, providing counseling and guidance to school going girls, sensitizing parents and teachers on the importance of girls' education, advocating for gender transformative education in order for schools to be free from any forms of violence and discrimination against girls and advocating for positive discipline instead of corporal punishments



**Education is not only a fundamental human right
but also a protective factor against child marriage**



WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Gufasha Girls Foundation believes that empowering women economically is a pathway towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth. We provide training and capacity building programs to develop women's entrepreneurial and financial skills.

We provide microcredits to women to start their own small-scale businesses or boost their businesses to be able to support their families and children as well as foster their leadership development.



When women gain economic empowerment, the effects spread across families and communities.



PROMOTE SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS & EDUCATION

We provide accurate and age-sensitive sex education and friendly health services for example provision of contraceptives and family planning to adolescent girls and young women to empower them to make informed decision for their lives and bodies and keep themselves healthy and safe from teenage pregnancies and HIV/AIDs.



Every adolescent girl and young woman is entitled to full access to reproductive health services and information to protect them.



CLIMATE ACTION

Gufasha Girls Foundation promotes climate action through advocacy for climate justice both at national and global levels.

We provide climate education both in schools and communities to create awareness on climate change, environmental protection, conservation and sustainability, engage communities in tree planting ,charcoal briquette making and biogas plants installations for clean cooking and promote local water provision solutions in communities of Uganda.



OUR IMPACT

The #SheThrives Girls' Education Sponsorship program has sponsored 10 girls and impacted 8 schools through gender transformative education advocacy.

01

#SheThrives Girls'

Education Sponsorship program has sponsored 10 girls and impacted 8 schools through gender transformative education advocacy.

The challenge faced is that sponsorships provided to girls are for only two years. Gufasha Girls Foundation is fundraising to ensure continuity of girls education and have more girls access education.

02

Community Empowerment Project

Our Community Empowerment Project To End Child Marriage (CEPTECM) trained 68 community stakeholders on GBV prevention and response and this holistic model has created transformative changes in perceptions and practices around child marriage in Uganda.

03

Her Menstruation is Her Pride

Our "Her Menstruation is Her Pride" project has impacted 340 adolescent girls and young women with reusable sanitary pads and menstrual health and Management information.

04

#ReturnMyFuture campaign

The #ReturnMyFuture campaign has empowered and trained 821 school-going girls from 7 schools to be girls' rights defenders and peer educators to end child marriage in their communities under the theme of "Building a movement of empowered girls to end child marriage".

The challenge faced is the lack of adolescent empowerment clubs and school women teachers to provide safe spaces. Gufasha Girls Foundation continuously institutes Girl Empowerment Clubs in schools.

OUR IMPACT

05

Climate Action

We have supported 6 homes in 2 communities impacted by climate change in Uganda to install domestic rainwater harvesting systems to meet their water needs and requirements. We have provided climate education to 425 school going children, planted 106 trees, and provided training to 10 rural women in making charcoal briquettes.

06

Gufasha Girls Annual Gala

Our first ever Gufasha Girls Annual Gala, an event aimed at using sports to bring a wider community together to create awareness on the end of child marriage and empower communities to fully respond and support the end of this harmful practice as well as advance gender equality happened on the 6th October 2023 impacted 1024 adolescent girls, community leaders, law enforcers, policy makers, health workers, teachers, religious leaders and traditional leaders through awareness creation and information dissemination.

Challenges faced include:

01. Ignorance of community members about girls' rights
02. Inadequate law enforcement by the police
03. Insufficient information on GBV elimination and referral pathways
04. Lack of community responsibility in the fight to end child marriage

Gufasha Girls Foundation and different community stakeholders signed a 12-year commitment to work together to implement community awareness and communication strategies to create awareness about ending child marriage.



MOTTO: CROWING COCKS WERE ONCE

#ReturnMyFuture



FUTURE PROSPECTS:

Gufasha Girls Foundation looks forward to expanding our projects, impact and transform as many lives and communities as possible in 2024 and beyond.

Building a movement



*Thank you, we look
forward to achieving our mission and vision
with you*

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