



GUFASHA GIRLS FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT
2024



THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR THE GIRLS WE SERVE, AND WITH YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, WE WILL BUILD A GENERATION OF EMPOWERED GIRLS.

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FOREWORD

This year was nothing short of incredibly amazing, celebrating the 2024 Women Empowerment Champion Award to welcoming our first-ever visitors and friends, Becky and Ralph from the United Kingdom to celebrating both our National and International advocacy efforts together with the impact that we have made in the lives of girls and communities that we work for and with.

This year, Gufasha Girls Foundation had the honor and privilege of witnessing firsthand the resilience, courage, and limitless potential of the girls we serve. Every day through our grassroots work, we have been reminded of the profound difference that support and empowerment can make in shaping girls' lives and futures. Today, as we reflect on our 2024 journey, we are deeply moved by the collective impact of those who have walked alongside us including our dedicated team, our supporters, and most importantly, the girls who inspire us to continue the work we do.

At Gufasha Girls Foundation, we are unwavering in our commitment to championing the rights of girls at grassroots. Our mission is clear, to end child marriage and empower girls and young women in Uganda from providing access to education to the right to live free from violence and discrimination, our work is rooted in the belief that every girl deserves an equal opportunity to lead, learn, and to live without limits and that when we empower one girl, she will empower more than 10 fellow girls.

As we reflect on our progress and successes, we cannot do so without acknowledging the incredible generosity of our donors and sponsors. Your unwavering support and belief in our mission has and continues to allow us to innovate and expand our programs to meet the ever-evolving needs of the girls we serve in the communities of Uganda. Thank you for standing alongside us as champions of change and proving a powerful statement that together, we can create a world where every girl is valued, supported, and heard.

However, as much as we celebrate what we have accomplished in 2024, the road ahead is long, and our work is far from finished. There are still millions of girls



in Uganda who are being forced into marriage before the age of 18, denied access to education and who continue to struggle to exercise their fundamental rights including the right to health care. The challenges are great, but so are the opportunities. I believe that together, we can build a future where all girls have the chance to be educated, empowered, live with dignity and equality.

As we move forward, our focus remains on continuing to advocate for girls' rights while working directly with them and their communities, providing safe spaces where girls can just be girls, learn, be empowered, grow and lead. We will continue to amplify the voices of girls and ensure that their rights are not just protected but celebrated.

The future is bright for the girls we serve, and with your continued support, we will build a generation of empowered girls

With deep gratitude and hope for what lies ahead.

JOAN KEMBAZI
FOUNDER & TEAM LEAD



I am delighted to acknowledge the significant and positive transformations that have occurred within our community, which stand as a testament to the tireless and collective efforts of the dedicated team at the Gufasha Girls Foundation, along with local leaders, religious authorities, Teachers, the police, and health care workers.

This year, we have successfully rescued and supported ten girls who were at the verge of being married as children. Among these brave girls, seven have completed their primary education, which marks a crucial step towards their empowerment and future opportunities. I am convinced that one of the most impactful strategies for eradicating child marriage in our communities is ensuring that every girl has access to high-quality education. In this regard, The Gufasha Girls Foundation has been instrumental this year in raising awareness and empowering not only the girls themselves but also their parents and the wider community about the significance of educating and upholding girls' rights.

One of the most fulfilling projects I spearheaded this year was the "My Menstruation is My Dignity" initiative. Through this program, we trained over 300 girls on how to make reusable sanitary pads, utilizing sewing machines, needles, cotton, and other essential materials. This was not just a training; it was a platform to empower girls and break down the stigma around menstruation.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our partners, supporters, and donors, whose unwavering commitment and generosity have been fundamental to our mission of championing and safeguarding the rights of girls. Your contributions have made a tangible difference in the lives of girls, and together, we look forward to continuing making strides towards a brighter and more equitable future for all girls.

KIGENYI JAMIL
CO- FOUNDER & PROGRAMS DIRECTOR



It is with great pride that I share our work, vision but most importantly our impact this year. At the heart of our mission is a commitment to advancing girls' rights and empowering them to own their voices and agency and ensuring that they have the opportunity to live free from child marriage.

This year, I was pleased to lead the team in organizing and mobilizing communities for the second edition of the Gufasha Girls Annual Gala and as a moderator for a great panel of different stakeholders at the gala event, I was so much moved by the stories, voices, and experiences of the girls and victims of child marriage. It is their resilience, courage, and potential that inspire everything we do as Gufasha Girls Foundation.

Thank you everyone for your support and for helping us amplify the voices of girls everywhere and working with grassroots communities in Uganda.

We invite you to learn more about our efforts, join us in our mission, and stand with us as we continue to protect girls from child marriage, break down barriers and build a brighter future for every girl.

NAMULONDO FAITH
COMMUNICATIONS/ADVOCACY MANAGER



OUR IMPACT

ANNUAL GALA

This year, we organized and hosted the second edition of the Gufasha Girls Annual Gala on the 04th of October 2024 in Bbaale East Community, Kayunga district. This gala not different from the first uses sports as a tool of advocacy and aimed at bringing together different community stakeholders to work together to end child marriage, empower and support adolescent girls.

With the theme “The Power of Unity against Child Marriage” this year’s gala emphasized that collective community action is necessary to dismantle harmful practices and create a safer, brighter future for girls everywhere. The Gufasha Girls Annual Gala brought together 1420 different stakeholders including local leaders, athletes, advocates for children’s rights, students, adolescent girls, teachers, youth leaders, victims and survivors of child marriage, religious leaders, Health officers, cultural leaders and the Police.



GIRL EMPOWERMENT / SAFE SPACES

Through safe spaces, Gufasha Girls Foundation empowered and impacted 124 adolescent girls to become peer girls' rights educators, powerful leaders and change agents in their communities to stand against child marriage and all forms of violence among girls.

GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION ADVOCACY

We empowered 25 teachers with information, educational and communication materials to enable them to become powerful champions of girls' rights, to identify inequalities in classrooms, and develop strategies and responses to ensure they provide an education that challenges and transforms negative norms and attitudes that hold girls behind.



#SHE THRIVES EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM.

This education sponsorship aims at providing education opportunities to girls who are at risk of violence and those whose families/backgrounds are unable to support their education. This year, the program has sponsored 20 girls between the age of 10 to 16 in Primary Schools.



“MY MENSTRUATION MY DIGNITY” PROGRAM.

The lack of access to sanitary products is one of the major challenges that many girls in the rural communities of Kayunga face. Through our program, ‘My Menstruation is My Dignity,’ we trained over 300 girls in 6 partner schools in June on how to make reusable pads using sewing machines, hand needles, cotton, and other materials. These Reusable pads have enabled girls to menstruate with pride and dignity and stay in school.



Find out more about our participation in these Global events.

68th Commission on the Status of Women:
[Gufasha Girls Foundation At The 68th Commission On The Status Of Women In New York \(CSW68\)](#)

79th United Nations General Assembly:
[Advancing Girls’ Rights And Leadership: Gufasha Girls Foundation At The U.N Summit Of The Future](#)

Find out about the Women Empowerment Award;
<https://gufashagirls.org/celebrating-a-milestone-winning-the-2024-women-empowerment-champion-award/>



CHALLENGES FACED

Limited funding and resources, which made it difficult to scale our programs and provide long-term support to girls.

Poor school Infrastructures and gender biases, most of our partner schools lack proper and well equipped school systems that are responsive to the specific needs of girls, such as menstruation hygiene, sexual health education and safe spaces for girls to express themselves.

Weak enforcement of laws, which continued to make legal protection of girls from child marriage less effective.

Deep-rooted traditions and widespread myths and misinformation about marriage, girls' education, and sexual health have continued to perpetuate child marriage.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

In 2025 and beyond, we look forward to engaging, involving and impacting as many girls and communities as possible and provide comprehensive support services including access to education, healthcare, safe spaces, leadership trainings, vocational trainings, financial literacy, and mentorship to empower them to make informed decisions for their lives, futures, become powerful agents of change and form strategic partnerships and joint initiatives with different stakeholders.



2024 IMPACT SNAPSHOT

20

Adolescent girls supported with education sponsorships.

1420

Community stakeholders empowered and equipped with knowledge around ending child marriage and promotion of girls' rights and education through the second edition of the Gufasha Girls Annual Gala.

124

Adolescent girls empowered through safe spaces to be girls' rights champions to end child marriage in their communities.

50%

Increase of girls' re-entry and intake into schools.

300

School-going girls provided with MHM information and trained to make reusable sanitary pads in order to menstruate with pride and dignity.

70%

Community stakeholders signed commitments to join the mission to end child marriage and support girls to realize their fullest potential.

65%


Drop rate of child marriage.

25

School administrators and teachers from 6 partner schools empowered with Information, Education and Communication materials to actively promote gender transformative education.








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**Wishes You
Success
In Your Exams**

Dear Candidates of
DIVINE EMBASSY KINDERGARTEN & PRI. SCH.
As you Approach your exams, we want to wish you the very best of luck.
Your Hardwork and dedication have brought you this far and
we believe in your ability to succeed.
May the Lord grant you the wisdom to remember: all you've learned,
stay calm, stay focused and stay prayed up.
Best Wishes.


KEMBARAJI JOAN
Executive Director


KIGENYI JAMIL
Co-Director / Program Manager

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HEAR FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES



Angel (13 years)

The Sponsorship changed my life. As a candidate, I can stay in school without worrying that I will be sent back home for school fees and miss classes.

Grace(14 years)

I used to miss out on so many things during my periods including skipping school. Now with these reusable pads, I can go to school, participate in activities, feel confident.

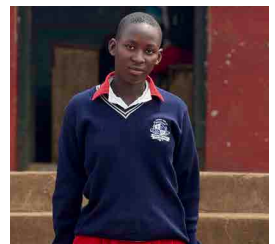


Daphine (13 years)

Learning how to make my own sanitary pads was amazing, I no longer have to worry about my parents not being able to buy me pads during my periods. I can go through my periods without feeling uncomfortable or embarrassed.

Margret (15 years)

I used to fear i would drop out of school, but the education sponsorship had made sure they never happened. In 2025, I will finishing my Primary Education and I am so sure my dream of becoming a nurse is a few steps closer to coming true.



Sarah(14 years)

Before I joined the safe spaces session, I was shy and I didn't know my voice mattered. The safe spaces have been empowering and life changing. I have gained confidence and freedom to speak my mind and use my voice for good without fear.





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Empowering girls

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