INTRODUCTION

It is our pleasure to share with you this Annual Projects report about Rural Focus Initiative Uganda during the year 2018. We are grateful to note that 2018 was such a fruitful year for RUFI-U with remarkable successes registered in the various areas of our work.

Rural Focus Initiative Uganda implemented successfully one project in 2018 and staff annual mentorship by the SES Experts which the organization noted as an achievement and include;

- The vocational skills training that involved training the young mothers and the out of school girls in tailoring and weaving intending to have this vulnerable group self sustaining.
- Staff Training and Capacity Building by the SES experts who included Claus oellerking and Susanne Doebler who worked on capacity building of staff. The staffs were able to got new skills of making some other products like hair ribbons, belts and ear rings using local materials. Also staffs were able to learn more knowledge in regards to fundraising, accountability, partnerships and marketing. They were able to identify goals to be achieved in 2019.

RUFI-U OVERVIEW

Rural Focus Initiative - Uganda (RUFI - U) a community based organization located in Nyamwamba division, Kasese municipality, Kasese District, western Uganda is a non-profit, non-denominational, political and non-sectarian organization that was formed in 2011.

Rural focus initiative-Uganda was founded by community welfare minded - people with an aim of empowering the community in the fight against poverty, address human rights related abuses and revive positive cultural/traditional norms or values in society, unemployment, Teenage marriages and pregnancies, diseases spread through information and training. The
Organization is run by competent staff members under the stewardship of a board of trustees.

VISION:
A healthy, empowered and self sustaining community aware of its rights for development.

MISSION:
Empowering rural communities in fighting poverty, disease and defending people’s rights through information accessibility and training.

This report presents a narrative of the 2018 programmes and activities implemented by Rural Focus Initiative Uganda. We wish to extend our sincere thanks to our supporters, well wishers and donors for the kind support they extended to us in this one year period that made it easy for us to implement the activities. We hope for your continued cooperation and support in the future.

As a way for effective work, RUFI-U continued to strengthen its networking as well as creating more links with other organizations.

We sincerely extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you who supported during the year 2018 and continue asking you for your support in the coming year 2019 to have our set goals achieved.

Yours sincerely

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BALUKU JAMES,
Executive Director, RuFI-U
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REPORT CONTEXT:

Section 1: ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

A. Organization Information:

Core values

RUFI – (U) seeks to be a competent, accountable, reliable, result-oriented, confidentiality, and committed organization to its vision and mission, with clear and transparent systems, and practices fairness and justice and respect for human dignity while maintaining equality, integrity and good relations.

Strategic Focus Areas (SFAs):

RUFI – (U) seeks to strategically implement activities under the following thematic areas in line with policies of the Republic of Uganda. We focus on vocational skills training, education, child protection and health, environmental conservation.

SFA1 Vocational Skills & Entrepreneurship training;

Result 1: Improved community livelihoods and reduced poverty levels among young mothers & fathers and other vulnerable populations through provision of vocational & Entrepreneurship trainings, establishment of a well equipped and organized training centre for sustained and strengthened economic transformation and development.

SFA2 Promoting Education;

Result 2: Improved and provide information to teachers, parents and children on the benefits of educating children and its general role in community development through career guidance in schools, radio talk shows and in community meetings and gatherings.
SFA 3: Children Protection & Human Rights;

**Result 3:** Increasing community participation and involvement to promoting human rights awareness and defend children rights such as rights to education services, health, food, and increase access to quality welfare of both children and adolescents, particularly those affected by domestic violence, early child marriage, HIV/AIDs and other community conflicts.

RUFI – (U) provides a platform for engagement of government law enforcement departments such as Police, local judiciary courts through community sensitization, reporting children abuse cases such as; defilement, child labor, rape in rural communities for investigation and action.

SFA 4 Environmental Conservation;

**Result 4:** Conserving the environment and creating a self sustaining mechanism for nature to remain alive by advocating for modern farming practices through community mobilization, preserving water sources, and reducing plastic circulation in communities.

SFA5 Health;

RUFI – (U) is actively involved in enhancing health programs in the Communities by Creating awareness and advocacy in the communities to take lead in accessing health services during the, HIV/AIDs training and awareness creation in the communities through community meetings, drama and radio talk shows.

**Aims and Objectives**

i. To promote vocational skills training to the underserved communities and have help them self sustaining.
ii. To support and contribute to rural communities’ social welfare through mobilization, self sustaining and spread of information that is geared towards poverty reduction.

iii. To strengthen the voices of young people on the challenges of early child marriage, pregnancies and their rights.

iv. To improve the health of underserved communities by addressing issues that undermine their good health and creating awareness of disease and poor sanitation.

Our Target Group:
RuFi Uganda majorly work with women, and the vulnerable girls.

Our approach to Project Management and Implementation
- Participatory Learning and Action (PLA)
- Appreciative Inquiry (AI)
- Focus Group Discussion (FGDs)

RUFI-U Staff 2018:

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Baluku James</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Matsitsi Yonah</td>
<td>Projects Director</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Mbambu Miria</td>
<td>Administrator</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Biira Eliza</td>
<td>Trainer – Tailoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Biira Rosinah</td>
<td>Accountant</td>
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Section 2: Program Context

a. Detailed Activities, Implementation and Results

*Enhancing the economic status of young mothers and single mothers for self sustainability through vocational skills training (VST).* Women and girls were trained in tailoring and weaving in 2018 and some successfully completed the course.

**The Numbers**

In vocational skills training programme, we offer Tailoring, Basket weaving, handbag weaving and knitting.

- 20 Trainees enrolled for tailoring
- 08 Trained for at least half of the study period
- 08 Enrolled but dropped immediately due to family issues.
- 04 Successfully completed the course
- 14 Trained for weaving and knitting and successfully completed
- 24 The Total Number of trainees enrolled for VST for the reporting period
Annual Staff Training and Mentorship Programme

RuFi-u got another opportunity to receive experts from SES to mentor the RuFi-u staff. RuFi got two experts namely Claus oellerking and Susanne Doepler. The two had three weeks of assignment at RuFi-Uganda training the staff. The assignment was between 4th -23rd of December 2018. The training was more focused on training in weaving, organizational management, fundraising that intended to have the organizational sustainable. The training in weaving was basically in the new products that are earrings, belts and hair ribbons using local materials. By the end of the training, our staff were able to work on their own and producing products that were trained to them.
During the same assignment our expert connected us to some other friends Simon and Emma all of UK origin who supported us financially to support the registration of RUFI-U as an NGO one of the 2019 set goals.

**Challenges faced during the implementation period of the Projects**

- Most of our projects didn't receive funding/ support except the vocational skills training meaning that these projects were not implemented.
- We were also unfortunate that our trainees who enrolled for their respective courses didn't complete because of failure to get the little money that was asked them to pay. And also some were staying with their relatives and failed to cater for them. For theirs, being young mothers the failed to complete because their families that needed them more.
- Some however, dropped because of the distance between their homes and our training centre since we do not have accommodational facilities where they could rent cheaply.
- As an organisation, we still rent office and training premises and this takes a lot of money that would have helped us implement some other projects.

As an organisation, we appreciate those that have extended a hand of support towards RuFl Uganda work:

- As an organisation, we thank SES for the continuous support towards RuFl Uganda work through assigning to us and facilitating experts during their stay with us. These experts have done a lot of work and they have made the organisation to move very many steps.
- In a special way, we thank the experts Claus Oellerking and susane Doeblter for the job well done during their assignment at RuFl Uganda.
- We have to appreciate too our staff who have whole heartedly done their work supported RuFl Uganda ideally. With them, RUFI-U is able to move ahead.
We greatly thank our donors and supporters through Claus Oellerking for their continuous support towards our work. It is this support that the organisation is steadily growing.

2018 Activities pictorial presentation