



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**GIRL
POTENTIAL**
CARE CENTRE
...in your best interest

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WORD FROM THE TEAM LEADER

Since 2016 to date Girl Potential Care Centre has been on the frontline of solving Rwenzori Region challenges amongst youth, women and girls.

Through raising up trator mational young women and girls willing to walk the talk of gender inclusion and equality, innovating ideas of social change right from early development.

We have set paths and legacies that emulate putpose, virtue and women empowerment in a society where girls and women have less to contribute.



The thing women have yet to learn is nobody gives you power. You just take it

//////Roseanne Barr

Through improving SRHR advocacy and awareness, outcomes are so far creating female friendly environments at work, school and home.

Fighting period poverty and closing menstrual health and hygiene management gaps with training, pad production and implementation of MH

policies.

Exploitation of talents and digital platform to add a voice to existing fight in areas of SRHR, 16 days of activism access to safe abortion hence contributing to eradication of GBV

We believe lasting change and bold ideas come from communities when we access education, health and employment.

We pledge to continue holding the torch of gender inclusion and equality through our programs while championing the society, all girls and women need. Thank you

**Kaligirwa
Bridget Kigambo**

**Founder & Executive
Director**



WORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON BOARD

Reflecting on the achievement of our team at GPCC this last year especially 2022 will be selfish and ungrateful without acknowledge the contributions of broader community association, network and development partners that joined us.

We continue to appreciate and acknowledge the continuous support that fuels our impact and achievements over the past years to date.

We continue to operate our programs with compassion and integrity with tremendous support from partnerships established in local community of Rwenzori, government, businesses, civil society plus national and international donors/partners.

We pledge to continue to elevate young women and girls in spaces of change action and impact with pride and your support

For God and my Country
Service Above Self

**Rtn Kemigisa
Lillian**



Who We Are

Girl Potential Care Centre is a female founded not for profit group that was founded in 2016 as Brita Kigambo Foundation by 3 committed young female friends to give support to fellow young people in their communities and schools.

And later registered as Girl Power Connect GPC Community Based Organization under registration number CD/GRP/394 in 2020 and changed name to Girl Power Connect and advanced to an NGO after registration as Girl Potential Care Centre under Registration NO 80020003378448 at national level, and with Fort-Portal City CD/NGO/169 as a platform for young female adults that are (have) suffering tragic situations like early pregnancies and marriages. Abortions, school dropouts, sexual and gender-based abuses and violence.

Girl Potential care Centre nurtures, mentors and empowers (skills) young female adults between the age of 9 years

and 30 years in maximizing their full potentials in fields of social work and charity, arts and craft, entrepreneurship and urban farming to directly and indirectly impact their lives, families and communities to contribute to eradication of poverty, the spread of HIV/AIDS and advocate for human rights for all among youth and the country at large.

We work together with GPC members, beneficiaries, communities, partners and well-wishers to bridge gaps between young people affected/living with HIV/AIDS, disabilities and poverty to access skills, resources, connections and knowledge to contribute to the enhancement of social justice, gender

priority, social inclusion and participation of minority groups through networking, promoting exchange of information and best practices through training, research, vocational skilling and strategic partnerships within and outside Uganda.

Our purpose is to build strength, stability and self-reliance among female young adults with fighting gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS, discrimination of people with special needs (PWDs) in our communities by enhancing their social, health and economic capacity and living conditions through access to basic hands-on skills and knowledge, health care and meaningful employment inclusion for all for sustainable independent livelihoods.



Our Vision, Mission and Goal



VISION: Women and girls that are self-sustainable financially independent and are aware of their rights.



MISSION: To build strength and self-reliance of women and girls by fighting poverty and gender-based violence.



GOAL: To strengthen knowledge and skills of young women and girls in Rwenzori region in areas of poverty, abuse and vulnerability.

Priority Areas



Sexual Reproduction Health Rights (SRHR)



Social Enterprise



Scholarships/Education

As Girl Potential Care centre we were honoured and gretaful for the year 2022.

Since we were able to get our own address or office. It was a very big achievement since we were working from YAWE for the past years ,we are now

located along Kiboga Road Fort Portal. We had our office warming party with a theme of Ekichooli Norwali which was meaning come a snack "maize and stories" different organizations,well wishers,individuals and friends attended the party and we were able to fundraise and raise an amout of money which was to buy office acquirements like tables,chairs,shelves among others.



Education /Scholarshps

GPCC has been able to pay school fees for two children one who is called Komuhimbo Christine at Bishop Magambo primary school in primary seven and another one is called Murungi Richard from Kiguma Primary school in primary three and we have also been able to support Kyomukama Hellen who is studying tailoring at Rwenzori Special needs in Booma Fort Portal.

We visited the parents of Christine and Richard discussed with them the need to support them with school fees as they provide scholastic materials as well visited Hellen's home too.



Kyomukama Hellen during her tailoring classes



Kemigisa Christine after receiving her packets of re-usable sanitaris from GPCC.

Green Sheros

Green Shero is a project that helps in environmental conservation where there is also recycling and reselling of plastic wastes.

The cleaning campaign was conducted with AFREYEA on 2nd December 2022 and GPCC worked with them to clean around town as an act of conserving the environment.

GPCC team leader Bridget Kaligirwa Kigambo attended and shared about gender-based violence where cases of people being killed by their partners, loved ones, friends and people close to them are on an increase in the different around the region which needs the youth to also speak out about such issues

and take the responsibility of creating awareness about gender-based violence and gender equality.

The team leader AFREYEA also shared with the youth who took part in the cleaning campaign about AID/HIV where he said that as youth we can use sports to cause awareness amongst people in communities, schools and institutions.

It being a cleaning campaign to keep Fort portal clean but it was also an opportunity for people to get the awareness about gender-based

violence, gender equality and also about HIV/AIDS since people don't normally get chance to attend gatherings where such issues are always being discussed at.

There was also tree planting which is to encourage people to plant more trees and keep Fort portal city green. We have planted 1000 trees in 20 primary schools, and 10 degraded hotspots of river Mpanga, the most important thing of involving women and girls is to actively remind them that protecting future generations from climate change.



GPCC team leader Ms. Kaligirwa Bridget Kigambo sharing with the youth during the cleaning campaign.

Camp Mwandara

Camp Mwandara is a gathering/project where different people with different working experiences and school experiences meet up to share their experiences, ideas and also socialize with different people from people and learn from each other.

On 2nd July 2022, camp mwandara in partnership with UTC-Kicwamba organized a camp at Amabere caves for two days and 57 members attended the camp. There were psycho social support sessions, training session, touring and fun activities where everyone had a chance to participate.

Purpose of the camp

GPCC public relation to community
Focus group discussion on sexual harassment in education and work system.



Impact Market

Impact market is a digital platform for eradicating poverty and it is beneficial to people with smart phones.

We have also got an opportunity with impact market which gives 5 dollars per week and this money goes direct to the beneficiaries not the organization. We have 29 members that are benefiting from this program and they all have got the amount of money they have been claiming for. This program is to support women and girls that are being affected by poverty in their communities.

It has helped women/girls to learn to save since you are not allowed to withdraw money less than 50,00ugx.

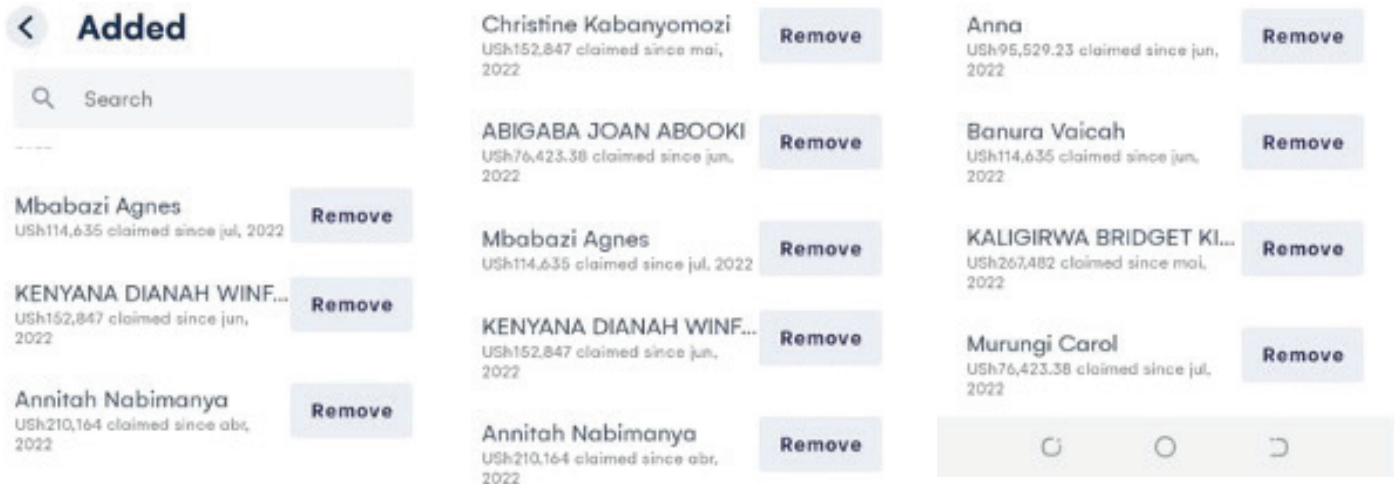
Purposes of this fund

- Help to eradicate poverty in communities
- Help women to save
- Using this money to start up a small business that could earn women

some money.

Challenges faced

- Some women are still finding difficulties to use the application
- Some women forget to claim every week
- Since it only benefits people with smart phones most women affected by poverty are unable to access smart phones.



Screenshots of some women who are benefiting from the impact market fund.

Cross-Boarder Event Participation

Two members from GPCC attended a two days community workshop in Kenya with Light up impact which was organized to strengthen the sustainable development of Community Based Organizations and local NGOs in Gender and health in East Africa, there was also peer to peer engagement with East African change makers in Nairobi.

The training constituted many organizations working with grassroots from around East Africa on topics around organizational development, project proposal writing and leadership.



Team leader GPCC Ms. Kaligiwa Bridget Kigambo sharing her views during the workshop.



14 Hugs| 40 Hugs

Girl potential donated two-wheel chairs and 12 walkers in commemoration of “AFRICAN CHILD” day to a family in Kasisi to help the disabled girls and women to move and do exercises as well.

This initiative was done in pattern ship with Rotary club of Kabarole. In the fundraising campaign we were able to get 300ugx which we used to buy a mattress,blanket,sanitarines and food and we also donated a wheel chair to Maria Komukyeya in Futi-butangwa .Maria is a 14 years old girl who has been staying with her grandmother since she was born ,her mother left her when she was young and when the grandmother visited GPCC offices and shared with us her story we responded positively and she was happy

and appreciated the work of GPCC.

Purposes of this outreach

- Support people with disabilities
- Donate wheel chairs/Walkers to people with disabilities
- Provide food to people affected by hunger
- Support women/girls with skills or startup businesses for them so as to help them earn a living

Future Plans

GPCC is planning to start a water selling business

for Maria’s grandmother so that she can be able to provide for the family.

Challenges faced

- Most times we fail to collect our target amount of funds during the fundraising and as well as the target number of families to visit.
- Some parents/care takers of these disabled children fail to co-operate when trying to inquire information about the children.
- The demand is high while the resources are few or less.



Maria in her wheel chair donated by GPCC

We also went to Kijura and Kamengo village where we donated food to five households, three from Kijura and two from Kamengo. Since people were just resuming from the Covid 19 break it was hard for some families to provide food for their families so we were able to reach out and offer support and also inquire about the children in the home if they are studying and their health status. This was under the project of 14 Hugs.



Grace in her wheel chair and the grandmother with a walker donated by GPCC and the Rotary Club of Kabarole.

Right Here Right Now Project (SRHR Training)

GPCCC participated in two workshops with Reproductive Health Uganda on a project called Right here Right now which was sharing about menstrual health and reproductive health and since GPCCC has a project under menstrual health it was an opportunity to share our progress and ideas with RHU where there was peer to peer and everyone picked a leaf from the different discussions.



One of the trainers sharing about Sexual Reproductive Health



Group discussions

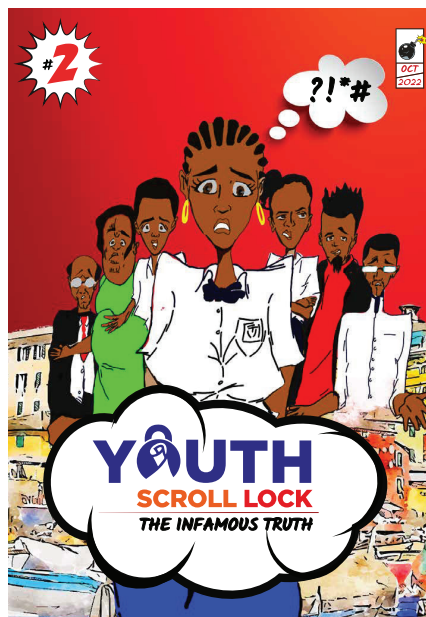
Youth Scroll Magazine

GPCCC in partnership with Inroads for youth scroll magazine under the Artists bursting abortion, stigma project and festival which is running from August to October.

Which is to help put information in comics by artists to communicate to a target number of people about bursting abortion stigma in communities.

The youth scroll magazine can be

accessed both in a soft copy or in a hard copy form and it communicates to both primary, secondary and everyone else with clear information in stories by different artists which teaches and advices school going children and the youth.



The second edition of the youth scroll lock(the infamous truth)



Artists part of the bursting abortion stigma project

Topics of the edition

- Gender and rights
- The infamous truth

Purposes

- Create awareness on sensitive issues that people don't talk about for example safe abortions
- Sensitize school going children to stay in school
- Awareness on dangers of early pregnancy
- Awareness of rights

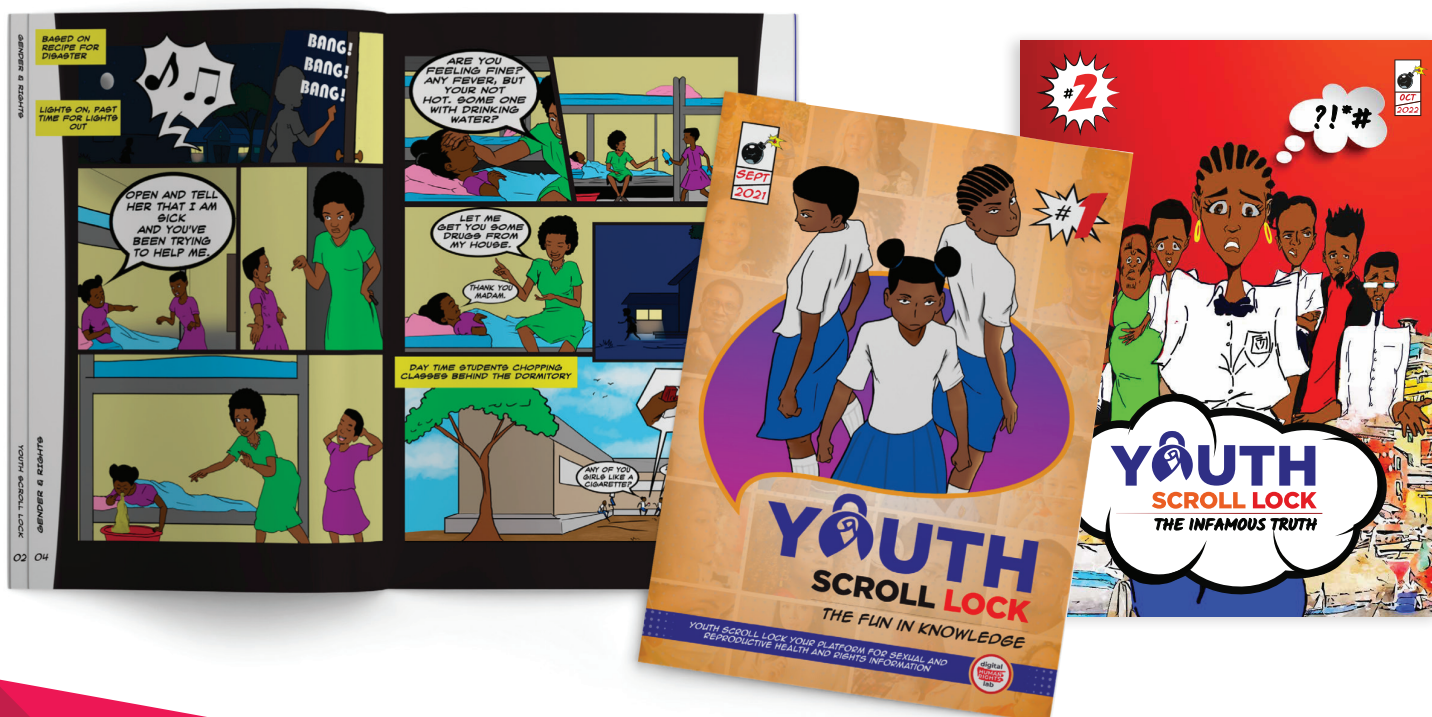
- Gender equality

Recommendations

- Parents should let children access such information
- Schools should have these magazines put in school libraries for students to access the information
- An immediate action to students who carry drugs to schools
- Visit our website for more information and different editions of the youth scroll magazine.

Next step

- Distributing the youth scroll magazine in both secondary and primary schools
- Printing more hard copies since most people in communities cannot access smart phones and other accessories to read the book online
- Translate the book in other languages for example rutooro, rukonjo among others.
- Writing different editions every after three months.



Bahara Pride Project in Partnership with IRISE International (Schools and Community Outreaches)

GPCC worked on Bahara Pride which was carried out in schools and communities.

We worked with four secondary schools and four primary schools which are Kitumba secondary school, Kamengo secondary school, Smaling Peas High school Kahinju secondary school, Green Circle primary school, Kiguma primary school, Butebe Primary school and Butebe Primary school which are eight schools in total.

We carried out carrier guidance, menstrual health hygiene where we shared with them the experiences of menstruation where they shared with us what they know about menstruation. During the menstrual hygiene session girls were asked to share what materials they use when they are in their periods and they mentioned disposable pads,

cotton and clean pieces of cloth ,GPCC facilitators shared with them other possible materials they can use where we mentioned menstrual cups, reusable pads tampons among others where by one of the facilitators also shared with the girls how women in Karamoja use sand when they are in their periods since it is not easy to access water in their area. We also shared about reproductive health and also did pad making training where every girl had a chance to make her own sanitary towel. We also distributed a packet of disposable pads and one reusable pads to each student to help them during their periods.

Purposes of the project in schools

- Students and teachers' engagements in

- menstrual hygiene awareness
- Teaching students about sexual reproductive health
- Awareness on sexual transmitted diseases
- Teaching students on how to use other menstruation objects like menstrual cups and reusable pads since most of them are only familiar with disposable pads
- Train girls how to make disposable pads
- Create or start up clubs in schools where girls can make pads in their free time and sell them
- Socialize with students and teachers through carrying out girl talks where girls can ask different questions and also share experiences and seek guidance or help.



Students of Kiguma primary school and Green circle school.

In the community outreach, we went to Harugongo village where we did menstrual hygiene, reproductive health and also donated clothes to the women and men of Harugongo and we were able to associate with both women and men of Harugongo. Engaging men in menstrual health is an advantage since we are all responsible and concerned about the girl child since these girls are our sisters, daughters, wives and mothers therefore it is necessary for men to learn about menstrual health as well.

Purposes of the outreach in communities

- Engaging both men and women in menstrual health hygiene
- Training men and women how to make reusable pads
- Sexual reproductive health and menstrual hygiene awareness



Bahara Festival

In commemoration of the world Girl child's we celebrate it as Bahara Festival.

Which happens every 11th October where we celebrate a girl child through holding events where girls show case their hard work, perform and also take part in different activities.

This festival is meant to appreciate girls the way they are, share ideas, learn new things and also celebrate them. Girls in communities and schools need to associate with more experienced and exposed women or people in the outside world to talk to them and also give career guidance that will help them learn new things and help them chase and fulfil their future dreams. Through pad making we will be able to give a skill to the girls that can help them when they are out of school or they can use the skill to provide reusable pads for themselves and other

girls in their families and also out there.

This year's theme for the international day of the girl child is "Our time is now-our rights, our future" we celebrated the day with students of Bishop Magambo primary school in Saaka where we were targeting 400 students (both boys and girls) from primary four to primary seven. Boys were fully engaged in the session where they shared what they know about menstrual health and also took part in demonstrations of how to put a sanitary on a knicker.

Since we had carried a pad making training with them before, everyone was familiar with reusable pads and the boys also got a chance to see how they look like.



A boy demonstrating how to put a pad on a knicker



One of the girls sharing about their rights.

As the theme was about rights, the girls were able to share about their rights and also share with us if there are away how their rights have been denied to them. We also carried out carrier guidance where different facilitators shared with the student's ways of being successful and how to make their holidays developmental since it they were going in a long holiday.

One of the students called Raymond Tumwesige in primary seven was asked where he wants to go after primary seven and he said "I want to learn mechanics" where he said he wants to be a mechanic we asked him if he is not interested in

joining secondary school and he told us that "my mother has no money to take me to secondary school and my father does not help us" where GPCC promised to support him if he performs well in his examinations.

Objectives towards the Bahara Festival

- Making sure girls know their rights and responsibilities
- Ensuring equality among the girls
- Career guidance
- Helping girls understand their future goals and how to achieve them
- Motivating girls to aim higher and utilizing the available opportunities

Activities

- Menstrual health and hygiene awareness
- Pads making
- Motivation speaking

Future plans of Bahara Pride Project

- Reaching out to all areas/communities in Rwenzori Region
- Visiting atleast 10 schools in every district in Rwenzori region
- Setting up a skilling area for women and girls to learn making pads from
- Selling our pads to a bigger number of people
- Doing more sensitizations about menstrual hygiene

Partership with the Tooro Kingdom

We were honoured to visit the Tooro kingdom Youth minister who agreed to partner with Girl Potential , team leader Ms Kaligirwa Bridget and other two staff members signed a memorandum of understanding with the Youth Minister to agree on the terms and conditions that were put in place by the kingdom management .This initiative is meant to help young women and girls learn how o make their own sanitary towels which are for their personal use as well as selling to earn them a living.

The Tooro kingdom Youth minister gave Girl Potential a space and 20 sewing machines in Mucwa where girls can always access them and do their activities like tailoring as well as embroidery.



GPCC team and the kingdom representative at the training centre looking at the electronic sewing machines.

Women in Business

It was a great honor being part of the “women in Business” showcase with Y-Factor in Fort-portal in commemoration of womens day.

An amazing opportunity to listen, learn and share about women businesses and innovation ideas where we show cased our products that we make and also offered menstrual hygiene awareness talk. We were able to interact with other organizations and business groups.

An amazing group of women who are boda boda riders or women who shared with us the experience of being a female boda boda rider and also the challenges they face.

We were able to sell our pads to women and men and we also put GPCC on the map for people to know about it and what we do as an Organization.

Purpose of the commemoration

- Appreciating women who are doing business or women in business
- Giving platform to women to show case their products/work
- Opportunity to different business groups to share ,market,learn and socialize with different womenorganizations.



Show casing gpcc products.



Women boda boda riders

DIGITAL ADVOCACY

This was done through twitter spaces, radio programs where we worked with three radio stations which include VOT fm, Jubilee radio and Mountains Of the Moon radio.

On women’s day we hosted a twitter space with an attendance of 50 participants. The theme topic shared was “youth involvement in creating safe and friendly communities”, the guest speaker was Ms.Bernadette Ojao with different speakers and the GPCC team leader being the moderator.



GPCC team at Jubilee radio



Deep Dive in Twitter space

6 Months capacity building for staff and board of directors (Change program in patternership with giz-cusp)

Civil society in Uganda support program. From April to September we have been carrying out capacity building under GIZ which have helped us grow and develop in our sectors of work they also provided us with a lap top and a bag to help us in Report writing.

On 26th April to 18th September, GIZ gave us an opportunity to hold capacity building workshops which were attended by both GPCC staff members and Board

members to help in the growth and development of the organization and also add skills to staff members in their different departments.

There were different facilitators for the different workshops we attended who were recommended by GIZ and the different workshops we held include; results based ,financial management, budgeting and planning, revisiting the constitution, public

relations, Board induction, fundraising and peer to peer with Great Lakes Peace Centre in Kasese.

Purposes of the workshop

- Capacity building
- How to run an organization
- Organization development
- Sustainability
- Financial management
- Learning from other organizations
- Networking



- Johannes from GPCC handing over the laptop to GPCC Team leader.
- Some of the Board and staff members of GPCC during the workshop Board members during the Board induction workshop

16 Days of Activism

Girls not Brides is a National alliance chaired by Joy for children and world vision Uganda with a membership of 106 Non-Government organizations working at community, district, regional and national level.

Committed to ending child marriages, gender-based violence and enabling children live freely to their potentials. It was an honor that we were invited to the girls' summit for 16 days of activism which was held in Kyenjojo district.

The guest speaker was Owek.Hon Kinyigi the prime minister Tooro kingdom whereby he was escorted by the officials from Kyenjojo district which included the woman member of parliament for kyenjojo district and many others.

There were so many organizations that participated or took part in the summit for example Asante, CARE, Reach a hand,

Baylor Uganda among others. Each organization had a chance to give in their presentations about child marriages and gender-based violence.

The chairperson LC 5 for kyenjojo district asked parents and leaders to be in charge and take control and also asked parents to make it a point to educate their children ,he also talked about the raising cases of AIDS/HIV which they are not talking about and it is killing a lot of people ,the chief guest the Prime Minister for Tooro kingdom also emphasized on parents taking their children to school and to also start working instead of seeing their

children(Girls) as a source of income which forces them to marry off their daughters when they are still young.

The Prime minister also asked institutions to allow girls who have given birth to go back to school and be able to attain skills in vocational schools and to continue studying in their previous classes if in primary or secondary schools. He also shared about violence where parents are violent and children grow up seeing these kinds of things which affect them and in the process of growing they think it is okay to beat your wife or your husband, he insisted that parents should act as a good example to their children as they say "Charity begins at home".



The band from Kyenjojo students

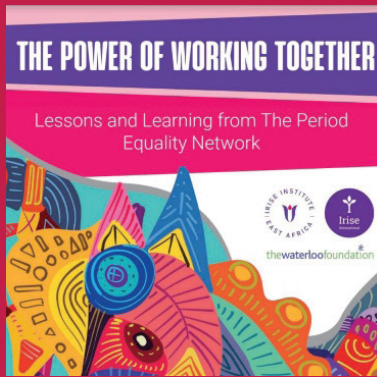


The chief guest planting a tree

TPEN “the power of working together”

On 30th November 2022, TPEN organized a virtual meeting where the topic was “The Power of working together” where a number of different members of different organizations attended and shared their ideas on how organizations should work together in order to achieve a desired common goal.

During the virtual meeting Girl Potential care Centre team leader was one of the panelists and she asked different organizations to partner with each other and also do recommendations as a form of networking and also having the willingness to learn from each other as organizations.



AIDS Day

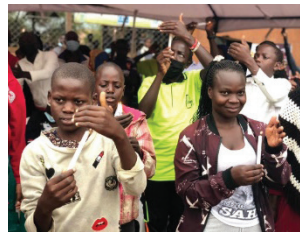
On 1st December 2022, Kabarole district in partnership with YAWE Foundation, Baylor Uganda and so many other Organizations celebrated the AIDS day commemoration.

At Kazingo primary school in North division Kabarole District which was attended by a big number of people. The function started with the band which was led by UPDF soldiers and YAWE Foundation beneficiaries. The guest of honor was the RCC North Division and other leaders also attended which include the Speaker Fort Portal City, the deputy speaker, mayor north division, the secretary Kabarole City, Speaker North Division among others.

There was an open dialogue about the causes of rising numbers of people having HIV/AIDS which was led by Emmanuel from Reach a Hand Uganda. Various People were given a chance to share what they think is the cause of rising HIV cases where they talked about carelessness of people, too much freedom, failure test and know how your status is,

mothers who do not seek medical attention when pregnant and they are positive among other reasons.

The Mayor North Division Hon. Mashuhuko asked parents to be responsible of their children and also being mindful of how they are raised and the kind of environment they grow up in, that is to say if parents don't mind about their children's behavior in one way or the other they are likely to engage themselves in peer groups where they end up learning to do drugs and in the process end up sleeping with which ever person they come across. He also asked bar tenders or owners and gamblers to not allow children below 18 years into their premises and failure to do so or if a child is found there they will be asked to close and stop operating.



Candle lighting GPCC representatives.

The speaker also asked parents to talk to their children about these issues instead of assuming that they know about them. Some people living with HIV under YAWE Foundation gave testimonies how they were born with the virus and they have taken their medications since a young age up to now and they have partners and children who are HIV negative.

In conclusion of the fort portal city speaker's speech he asked parents to be responsible for their children and also share with them about the factors of life so that they grow up aware. YAWE foundation led in the candle lighting ceremony which was a way of remembering people who died

Purpose of this day's commemoration

- Remember the people we lost due to HIV/AIDS
- Awareness about the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Sharing of stories from people who are HIV positive
- Measures on how we can fight and avoid the spreading of HIV in our region
- Safe and free HIV testing and counseling

We have also encountered a number of challenges as GPCC which are;

- Limited resources where we have several projects to work on but the resources are limited or they are purposely for one project which is a

challenge to the organization

- Short term partnerships or support from donors where they come in for a specific period of time which might be for maybe six months and after the contract is done it leaves the organization with the question of what next which is as well a challenge.
- Absence of networking where different NGOs would work together to reach their goals yet other NGOs see it as competition and others believe getting close to other NGOs or non-profit will make it a competition in terms of applying for grants.
- Lack of enough funds.

STAFF RETREAT

As staff of Girl Potential we went for a retreat at Nyaika Hotel where we shared our experiences working with GPCC, challenges we faced at a personal level, how to do better and different the coming year and there was also appreciation remarks for everyone to appreciate them for their good work or performance at work .

Besides the challenges faced on an individual basis, we shared the

challenges GPCC has faced since the year began in the different projects we have working on and the possible solutions to them.

For GPCC to do better the next year we are to do something different and Swabri suggested that we engage the communities more in our projects and we also keep constant in the communities which was seconded by all the other staff members.



Network and Communities Subscribed

GPCC has also been able to work, subscribe or network with the following;



Partners and Donors

With support from the Local communities and businesses of Fort-Portal



Summary of the year



Travelled to Kenya and Rwanda for cross boarder engagement, participation in the game changers broadcast



Green Shero project 1000 trees planted in 20 schools and 5 communities Participated in 5 cleaning campaign



Reached out to 20,000 girls and women, distributed 20,000 pkts of reusable pads and sold 700 pkts of reusable pads



Done SRHR awareness in 8 schools and 2 villages/ communities



Working with impact market to eradicate poverty in communities 30 women receiving weekly 5\$



3 twitter spaces, a youtube channel, twitter, Instagram and facebook posts and an online youth magazine



Got an office location P.O BOX 968, Kiboga road fort portal Uganda



Held 8 workshops under GIZ for capacity building



Relief aid Provided food for 6 families, donated 3 wheel chairs and 9 walkers



5 students on scholarship



10 staff members and 30 GPCC members

