



PROGRESS REVIEW

JULY 14, 2023

At UPWDs, we believe that investing in the future of people with disabilities unlocks limitless potential and creates a more inclusive and prosperous society for all.

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Mission Statement

To empower individuals with disabilities through **business, finance, and employability training, resource assistance, and mentorship**, fostering self-transformation, self-sufficiency, and purposeful living.

Cover Photo: Brenda Asasira and Denis Ouma, members of our steering committee, conducting a member verification exercise.

Side Photo: A yam plant from one of our gardens, cultivated and nurtured by the our members, showcasing the success of our social enterprises.



BWEYOGERERE WELLSRING ZONE L.C.1
BWEYOGERERE TOWN COUNCIL KIRA MUNICIPALITY WAKISO DISTRICT



Emerida Kusemererwa
L.C.1 CHAIRPERSON
KAKAJJO WELLSRING CELL
BWEYOGERERE WARD
BWEYOGERERE DIVISION
KIRA MUNICIPALITY

Over the past two years, United Persons with Disabilities (UPWDs) has played a vital role in empowering individuals with disabilities in our community through various economic activities. As the Chairperson of this area, I am truly impressed by the positive impact that UPWDs has had on the lives of people with disabilities in our area.

United Persons with Disabilities has created a supportive environment where individuals with disabilities are equipped with the necessary skills, resources, and mentorship to establish and expand their businesses, thereby preserving small business jobs in our community. This approach not only enhances their economic well-being but also fosters a sense of dignity and inclusion.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the individuals with disabilities who have embraced this opportunity, showcasing their remarkable resilience, determination, and entrepreneurial spirit. Their achievements serve as a powerful inspiration to others, breaking down barriers and challenging any misconceptions about the capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

As we celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of United Persons with Disabilities in our community, we take pride in our association with you. We strongly encourage continued support and collaboration to sustain and expand their initiatives.

Sincerely,



Emerida Kusemererwa
L.C.1 Chairperson, kakajjo Wellspring cell
Bweyogerere Ward, Bweyogerere Division
Kira Municipality



Wendy Parent-Johnson, PhD
Professional Fellows Program on
Inclusive Civic Engagement
Mentor and Outbound Fellow
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH
UNIVERSITY, DCC AFFILIATE,
SONORAN CENTER FOR
EXCELLENCE IN DISABILITIES

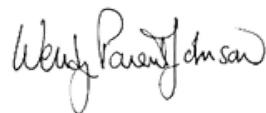
I have had the privilege of mentoring Harunah Damba, a fellow of the Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement, who is deeply committed to empowering people with disabilities in Uganda. It has been an incredible experience to witness the transformative impact of the project that we collaboratively designed during our time at the University of Arizona, Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities.

Harunah has created a platform that not only assists people with disabilities with starting their own businesses but also provides a social support system where they can recover from setbacks, build camaraderie, and brainstorm ideas.

I have mentored many fellows across Africa, supporting them in expanding their social projects, but the dedication and drive exhibited by Harunah is truly unmatched. He has shown exceptional leadership in mobilizing resources, building a team of exceptional individuals, and steering the project to support individuals with disabilities in establishing and growing their businesses.

I am particularly impressed by the impact his project has had on employment opportunities for people with disabilities in Uganda. Through his efforts, nearly 50 graduates with disabilities have been assisted in securing meaningful employment, which has not only improved their financial well-being but also boosted their self-esteem and overall quality of life.

Working with Harunah has been an absolute joy, and I couldn't be happier to see his success. It has been an honor to support him along this journey, and I am immensely proud of the recognition we received together, winning the Outbound Award. I have no doubt that he will continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of people with disabilities in Uganda and beyond, and I am excited to witness the positive impact he will create in the future. I look forward to and treasure our on-going partnership and work together.



Wendy Parent-Johnson, PhD



Harunah Damba
Professional Fellows Program
on Inclusive Civic Engagement
CHAIRPERSON, UNITED
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The United Persons with Disabilities

Our commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities has yielded significant results, evident in our new programs that not only enrich the lives of people with disabilities but also contribute to inclusion within our community.

During my fellowship in the United States, I designed an inclusive "Twezimbe Uganda" project with my mentor, Prof. Wendy Parent-Johnson which focuses on training graduates with disabilities in business, finance, and employability skills. Following the training, participants are engaged in a Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) that empowers them with financial, social and intellectual support, enabling them to achieve success in their businesses. This project has been honored with the Professional Fellows Program Outbound award, which supports my U.S. host mentor to travel to Uganda and provide additional technical assistance.

We have also embarked on the mission of uniting the alumni of U.S funded programs who share a common interest in advancing disability inclusion. In collaboration with the Alumni office at the American Embassy in Kampala, we have embarked on a journey to establish the Disability Inclusion U.S Alumni Network. This groundbreaking initiative aims to foster a sense of togetherness and solidarity among alumni while championing the cause of disability inclusion in Uganda.

I invite you to explore this report, which encapsulates our journey, milestones, and the stories of empowerment that inspire us every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harunah Damba', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Harunah Damba

"A society that does not value its disabled citizens is a society that loses its humanity."
- Nelson Mandela

The Disability Inclusion U.S Alumni Network



Gorretti Byomire

Mandela Washington Fellow

PRESIDENT, DISABILITY
INCLUSION U.S ALUMNI NETWORK
DIRECTOR, DISABILITY RESOURCE
CENTRE, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY
BUSINESS SCHOOL

The remarkable achievements in our disability inclusion work reflect the collective efforts of passionate individuals, organizations, and communities dedicated to building an inclusive world in Africa.

The Disability Inclusion Alumni Network is a network of alumni of the U.S Exchange Programs with a passion for Disability Inclusion, including Mandela Washington Fellows (MWF), YALI RLC Fellows, Professional Fellows Program (PFP), the Wheelchair Basketball Team and other US-Based Exchange Programs fellows who are working within Disability Inclusion, Disability Movement or Disability Industry etc. This network is about building capacity and a strong network of leaders in the disability movement and spaces at grassroots, national and global levels to increase and improve the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in all spheres of life in Uganda, Africa and beyond.

The group has a great network of persons with exciting portfolios and work done by fellows in disability inclusion. From advocacy and awareness campaigns to infrastructure improvements, education, employment, and the arts, Disability Inclusion Network work has transformed countless lives and shattered barriers. However, there is still much work to be done to achieve full equality and inclusivity. By celebrating these accomplishments and promoting ongoing efforts, we can continue to pave the way towards a future that embraces the diversity and abilities of all individuals, fostering a society where disability inclusion is the norm, not the exception.

Gorretti Byomire

About United Persons with Disabilities

United Persons with Disabilities (UPWDs) is a community-based organization (CBO) working at the nexus of three United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Ending Poverty, Eradicating Hunger, and Combating Inequalities. Our vision is to create a future where every individual with a disability can uncover their ideal role, and where companies have the opportunity to unearth the world's most exceptional yet often overlooked talents.

Founded by Harunah Damba, a deaf graduate of laboratory medicine and an alumna of the U.S. Department of State Professional Fellows Program, UPWDs collaborates with exceptional individuals with disabilities startups, Disabled Peoples' Organizations, and local and international institutions of higher learning to help our participants build businesses and reach their next level of success. Our participants are mentored by some of the world's top experts in the field of disability employment and economic transformation, such as Wendy Parent-Johnson from Virginia Commonwealth University, also a DCC Affiliate, University of Arizona; Amanda Kraus from the University of Arizona, Nicholas Love from the World Institute on Disability, and Prof. Augustus Nuwagaba, an international consultant on economic transformation.

UPWDs is driven to continually evolve and offer best solutions to champion the economic hardships and marginalization faced by people with disabilities in Uganda through interdisciplinary training and resource assistance, model services, research, and information dissemination. Our goal is to position UPWDs as a benchmark for contemporary disability organizations, characterized not by our weaknesses, but by our commitment to empower and support individuals we serve, enabling them to succeed.

Who's building United Persons with Disabilities?

We are a team of passionate problem solvers, driven by the joy of creating new solutions and ensuring the utmost satisfaction of those we serve. Our team comprises motivated and diligent individuals bound together by a shared commitment to constant learning, advocacy, and continuous improvement.

Our partners



Our Board of Advisors/ Mentors



Wendy Parent-Johnson

*Virginia Commonwealth University,
DCC Affiliate, Sonoran Center for
Excellence in Disabilities*



Naluyima Concepta Katende

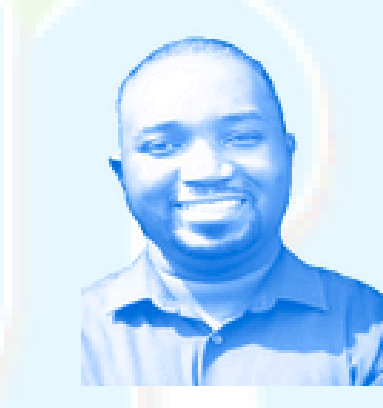
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Uganda Spina Bifida and
Hydrocephalus Network
(CU-SBH-Net)*



Allan Kabaale

PFP IDE

Executive Director, Disability
Empowerment and Rights
Initiative (DERI)



Hassan Wadimba

PFP IDE

Executive Director,
Grassroots Strategies Africa
(GRSA)



Gorretti Byomire

MWF

Executive Director, Disability
Resource Centre, Makerere
University Business School
(MUBS)



Denis Ouma
Chevening Scholar
Head of Training Programs



Kakungulu Brenda Asasira
Agribusiness
Apprenticeship Program at
Michigan State University
Ass. training Coordinator



Elizabeth Rwabu
International Leaders in
Education Program (ILEP)
**Innovations and Sustainability
Lead**



Ashar Namatovu
PFP-IDE Alumnae
**Resource Mobilization &
Strategic Partnership
Engagement**

Our Steering team

Our steering team is composed of highly qualified individuals who bring diverse expertise and strengths to drive our organization's work.

Denis Ouma, our Head of Training Programs, holds a Bachelor's degree in Commerce and a postgraduate diploma in Business. His impressive academic background is complemented by his recognition as a Chevening scholar, demonstrating his commitment to continuous learning and professional development.

Kakungulu Brenda Assaria serves as our Assistant Training Coordinator. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Agribusiness Management and is currently pursuing a master's in Agribusiness Management at Makerere University. Brenda is an alumnus of the Agribusiness Apprenticeship Program, third cohort of the Michigan Fellows Agribusiness Initiative (MFAI). Her expertise in training, and her strong agricultural background brings valuable perspectives to our organization.

Elizabeth Rwabu, with a Master's degree in Instructional Designs and Technology, leads our Innovation and Sustainability efforts. Her exceptional qualifications and passion for education have earned her the distinction of being a U.S. Mission Uganda Alumni Impact Award winner in education. Elizabeth is also an alumnus of the prestigious International Leader in Education Program (ILEP).

Ashar Namatovu is a qualified Chartered Accountant with double certifications from ACCA (UK) in 2014 and CPA (U) in 2014. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Quantitative Economics from Makerere University. Ashar serves as our Resource Mobilization and Strategic Partnership Engagement Lead, bringing her wealth of experience as a national transformer, determined to make meaningful changes in her family, workplace, and community by shifting perceptions around people with disabilities. Asher is an alumna of the PFP IDE program.



United Persons with
Disabilities

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF OUR PROJECTS

Experience the awe-inspiring transformative power of our projects as we empower individuals with disabilities and bridge the inclusion gap.



Facts since 2020

Investing in the Future of People with Disabilities

100+ people with disabilities mentored and/or trained

50 jobs created

25 business start-ups

Over **UGX 10million**
in physical and financial capital formation

50+ alumni of the U.S government-funded global programs engaged

70+ community members reached, taught sign language, promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion

07 collaborations/partnerships established

ALUMNI IMPACTS | TRANSFORMING LIVES | FOSTERING INCLUSION

"We continue to pave the path of empowerment, fostering entrepreneurship among individuals with disabilities, unlocking possibilities, sparking innovation, and building a future where disability is not a barrier to success," - Denis Ouma, Head of training programs.



A snapshot of some of the social enterprises that form the cornerstone of our inclusive civic engagement activities

Our social entrepreneurship project weaves the threads of positive and sustainable change. Through equipping individuals with disabilities with essential skills, resources, and support, we sow the seeds of their entrepreneurial potential, nurturing their journey towards resolute economic independence.

Through poultry rearing, mushroom growing, bead making, and sugarcane cultivation, we actively champion Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, and 10. Our social enterprises go beyond mere income generation, as they foster a strong sense of community, create valuable small business jobs, and facilitate capital formation.

Our social enterprises have established a supportive network where knowledge is shared, ideas are exchanged, and collaboration thrives. As a result, individuals with disabilities engaged in these enterprises experience personal growth, enhanced self-confidence, and a profound sense of belonging. Together, these participants have uplifted and inspired one another, breaking down societal barriers and reshaping perceptions about disability while building valuable social connections.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROJECT

50

Individuals with
Disabilities positively
impacted

Facts at a Glance



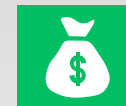
Project
Began: **2020**



Participants
at Start-up: **25**



Current
Number of
Participants: **50**



Capital
Formation:

UGX10,630,000



First Year
Revenue: **UGX2,220,800**



2023
Revenue: **UGX8,220,000**

**TWEZIMBE
PROJECT FOR
INCLUSION**

50
graduates with
disabilities enrolled and
positively impacted


"Through integration into a SACCO, we foster their growth, provide financial support, and connect them with a network of experts and like-minded peers," - Harunah Damba, Principal lead




Left: Participants of the Twezimbe project pose during the inaugural project orientation meeting. **Right:** Naume in her tailoring shop, exemplifying one of the many initiatives our project strives to enhance.

Facts at a Glance

 **Project Began:** **2022**

 **Participants at Start-up:** **50**

 **Self-employed Individuals:** **25**

 **jobs initiated:** **20**

 **Number of Internships:** **15**

 **Professional Development:** **05**

The Twezimbe project for inclusion was designed to equip graduates with disabilities with essential business, finance, and employability skills. Following the training, participants are integrated into a Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) - a social support system that enables networking with experts, resource pooling, and social support. Through the SACCO, participants not only acquire vital skills but also become an integral part of a supportive community that uplifts and empowers one another. This inclusive environment not only opens doors to financial inclusion but also fosters a sense of ownership and agency over their economic journey.

Among the 50 inspiring individuals who joined our project, 25 have made the courageous choice to pursue self-employment, resulting in the creation of approximately 20 small business jobs. Their remarkable achievements have not only transformed their own lives but also sparked a ripple effect of empowerment within our community. Through our network, we have successfully secured internships for 15 of our participants, providing them with invaluable real-world experience.

Additionally, 5 (10%) of our participants have been accepted into prestigious US government-funded global exchange programs, opening up extraordinary prospects for their further professional development.

At UPWDs, we bear witness to the power of determination, resilience, and unwavering commitment to success.

TWEZIMBE UGANDA GRADUATES WITH DISABILITIES SAVING AND CREDIT COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED (TUGAD-SACCO) COMMITTEE TEAMS

Executive committee



Mulo Ausi
Executive member



Elizabeth Rukundo
Vice Chairperson



Harunah Damba
CHAIRPERSON



Aminah Nassali
General Secretary



Moureen Karungi
Treasurer

Supervisory committee



Joshua Byansi
Vice Chairperson



Adongo Naume
CHAIRPERSON



Abbu Tenywa
Executive member



Alex Ogwal
Executive member

Vetting committee



Ronald Kamusiime



Twalib Ayub Ali



Stuart Higenyi

Loans committee



Umayear Sekyanzi



Rogers Manishiimwe

"We embarked on our Sign Language For All project with a deep sense of purpose and a burning desire to promote inclusivity and bridge the communication gap for the deaf community,"- Alex Ogwal, project coordinator.



Some of the participants who took part in the inaugural sign language debate, aimed at raising awareness about sign language issues and promoting inclusivity.

People with hearing impairments face numerous barriers, including limited access to communication, societal stigma, and discrimination. Sadly, the negative perception surrounding sign language is prevalent and deeply rooted in misconceptions. 80% of individuals hold unfounded beliefs about sign language which creates barriers and inhibits their willingness to embrace sign language as a legitimate means of communication.¹

Recognizing the fundamental importance of communication in uniting communities and fostering inclusion, we implemented the Sign Language For All project. Our commitment lies in identifying and implementing effective strategies to teach sign language to community members, enabling them to engage and interact with deaf individuals, thereby promoting mutual understanding and inclusivity.

Our Sign Language For All project has exceeded all our expectations, blossoming into a remarkable success. We successfully organized the first Sign Language Debate, conducted entirely in sign language and centered around the theme 'Adopting technology is the only way to improve education of deaf learners.' Furthermore, we have forged new partnerships and established new learning centers in multiple locations to expand our reach. With thriving centers in Makerere, Ntinda, Entebbe, and Jinja, we have successfully trained over 70 community members in sign language, fostering a deep understanding of diversity and promoting inclusion.

¹Smith, J., Johnson, A., & Davis, R. (2004). Misconceptions Surrounding Sign Language: A Comprehensive Study. *Journal of Communication and Inclusion*, 10(2), 45-60

SIGN LANGUAGE FOR ALL PROJECT

70

community members engaged and positively impacted

Facts at a Glance



Project Began: 2022



Participants at Start-up: 15



Current Number of Participants: 70



Number of established centres: 04

"I do believe it's the strength of the network where HI can really help to support, rather than having to listen to everyone's intervention," - Ryan Duly.

At this pivotal moment in history, the need for disability inclusion has never been more pressing. People with disabilities face numerous barriers and challenges, ranging from limited access to education, employment, and healthcare, to social exclusion and stigmatization. By bringing together the diverse talents, experiences, and expertise of alumni who have been part of U.S funded programs, we can collectively work towards dismantling these barriers and creating a more inclusive society.

The Disability Inclusion U.S Alumni Network serves as a platform for alumni to connect, share knowledge, and collaborate on innovative projects and initiatives that promote disability inclusion. Through this network, alumni can tap into a vast pool of resources, including mentorship opportunities, career development support, and access to best practices in disability inclusion. By harnessing the power of our collective knowledge and experiences, we can drive positive change and contribute to a more equitable and inclusive Uganda for people with disabilities.

Moreover, the network serves as a catalyst for meaningful advocacy efforts. By amplifying the voices of alumni who have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of U.S funded programs, we can advocate for policy changes and raise awareness about the importance of disability inclusion at local, national, and international levels. Together, we can become a powerful force for change, empowering individuals with disabilities and ensuring their rights and needs are recognized and met.



Some of the members of the Disability Inclusion U.S Alumni Network, along with Ryan Duly (left) and Evan Dean Borisinkoff (right) during an alumni convention held at the American Centre in Kampala



Project Began: 2022



Number of Alumni: 50+

My Journey From being a Job seeker to an Employer

My name is Umayear Sekyanzi. In 2020, I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Microfinance from Kyambogo university in Uganda. I had high hopes when I landed an internship at the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), but then the unforeseen fate of COVID-19 pandemic struck. The pandemic left me jobless, and as the months turned into a year, I felt lost and uncertain, especially with the responsibilities of my family weighing heavily on my shoulders.

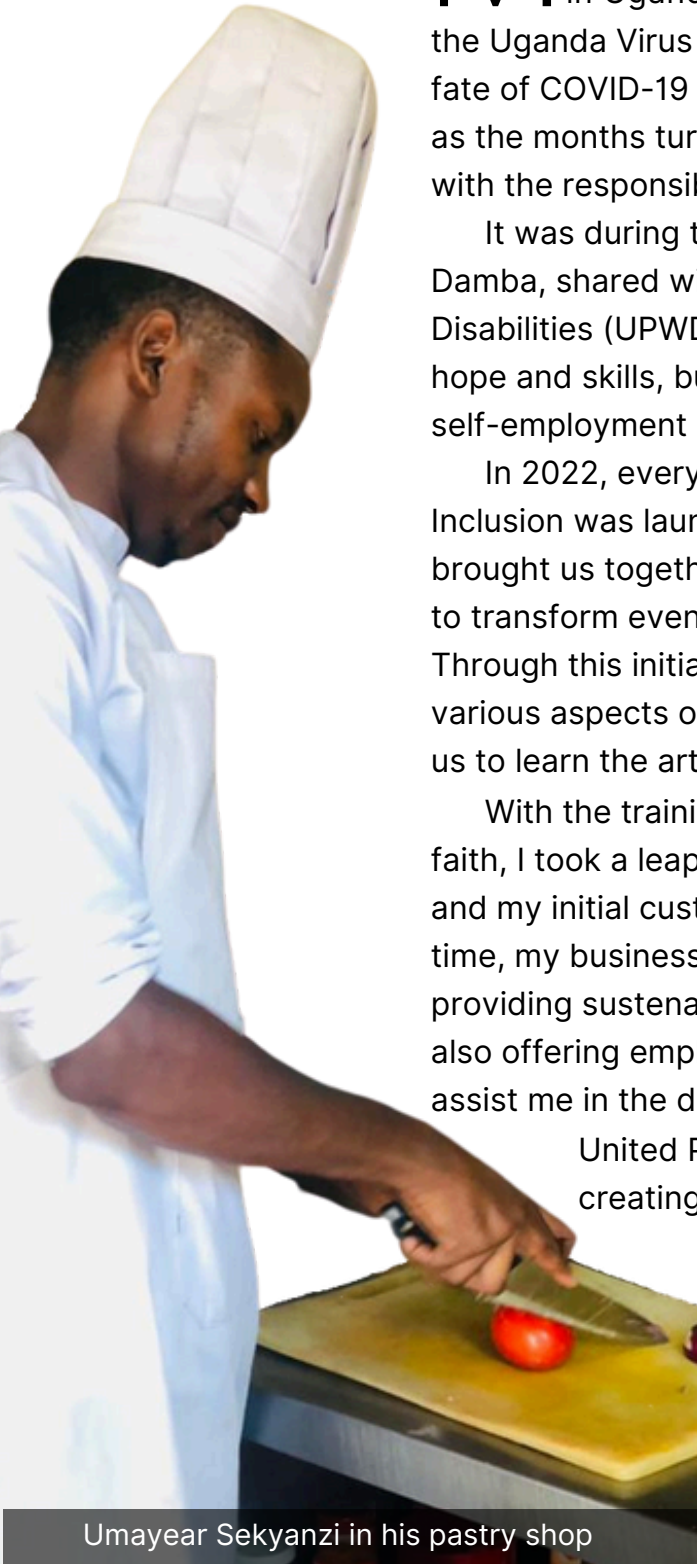
It was during this challenging time that my colleague, Harunah Damba, shared with me the incredible work of the United Persons with Disabilities (UPWDs). UPWDs filled me with a renewed sense of energy, hope and skills, but I lacked the financial means to embark on my own self-employment venture.

In 2022, everything changed when the Twezimbe Project for Inclusion was launched. It was a ray of light in my life. The project brought us together as a cooperative, providing us with the opportunity to transform even the smallest savings into meaningful contributions. Through this initiative, we underwent intensive training and mentoring in various aspects of business, finance, and employability. It empowered us to learn the art of saving, borrowing, and investing wisely.

With the training, pooled contributions from peers, and renewed faith, I took a leap of courage and opened my very own pastry shop, and my initial customers were my fellow colleagues in the project. Over time, my business found its niche in the market, steadily flourishing and providing sustenance for both myself and my family. Not only that, but also offering employment to two individuals from the project, who now assist me in the day-to-day operations of the pastry shop.

United Persons with Disabilities continues to forge ahead, creating a brighter future for ourselves and our loved ones.

The writer is one of the participants who have experienced a transformative impact through our projects. Sekyanzi.umayear256@gmail.com



Umayear Sekyanzi in his pastry shop



Rogers Manishiimwe in his vegetable garden

From Struggles to Triumphs: My journey to independent living.

My name is Rogers Manishiimwe, and in 2018, I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from Makerere University. As someone who had faced countless setbacks in securing employment, I had always harbored the dream of starting my own business. Yet, as a social science graduate, I encountered numerous barriers, particularly in understanding microfinance. I struggled with limited financial literacy and a lack of knowledge about various financial products. This hindered my ability to qualify for loans, potentially depriving me of the opportunity to kick-start my entrepreneurial journey.

Joining the Twezimbe project for Inclusion proved to be a turning point in my life. Through expert-facilitated training sessions, I gained invaluable knowledge in financial literacy including vetting lenders and developing responsible financial habits. Motivated by the valuable lessons I learned and the constant encouragement from my peers, I embarked on my entrepreneurial dream. Through the launch of the Twezimbe project, which organized us into a cooperative, I secured a microcredit that I utilized to establish my own vegetable garden on an unused piece of family land. Specializing in high-demand crops such as tomatoes and greens, my business not only caters to my personal needs but also paves the way for advancing my studies and supporting my siblings.

Looking back, I am indebted to my comrade, Mr. Harunah Damba, whose unwavering dedication swiftly mobilized us to join the project. His persuasive communication skills, emphasizing the profound benefits of joining UPWDs and its pivotal role in our development and empowerment, inspired me to become a member, a decision I will never regret.

The writer is one of the participants who have experienced a transformative impact through our projects.

manishimwerogers@gmail.com

UPWDs, a vibrant community for meaningful connections and friendships

As a support person for individuals with disabilities, I was deeply drawn to join Twezimbe project, where I could embrace and uplift people with disabilities. Serving as a sign language interpreter, I have been providing pro bono interpretation services to participants with hearing impairments.

The project has had a remarkable impact in strengthening the social bonds among persons with disabilities and their peers. Through our collective gatherings and discussions, we not only experience warm companionship, but we also share support and valuable experiences. These interactions encompass a wide range of topics, including academics, work-related matters, and other subjects that naturally arise.

UPWDs has broadened our network, connecting us to a global community. We now have the opportunity to engage with friends from around the world and benefit from their expertise in disability-related matters. Whether through virtual interactions or in-person meetings, we have been able to embark on a journey of self-discovery.

The project has been a constant source of support, enabling us to unlock our individual potentials and abilities. Through invaluable training and the sharing of experiences, our members have acquired essential knowledge, greatly enhancing their capacity to thrive.

Many individuals with disabilities have faced long-standing challenges in accessing financial services. They have encountered obstacles when trying to secure loans to enhance their income-generating activities and fulfill their basic needs. Given these circumstances, I firmly believe that the Twezimbe project is arriving at a timely moment, as graduates with disabilities are actively seeking opportunities to leverage their skills and talents.

Micheal Emong is a project participant & sign language Interpreter
emongmicheal@gmail.com



Micheal Emong

REMARKS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

Selected remarks from our stakeholders

From our stakeholders, in their own heartfelt words, they share their joy, gratitude, and life-changing experiences.

As the Program Director of Professional Fellows Program (PFP) on Inclusive Civic Engagement at the University of Massachusetts Boston, I am impressed by Harunah Damba's exceptional participation and alumni contributions. He completed a Fellowship at the University of Arizona, Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities in Fall 2022 and continues to inspire as a guest speaker, mentor, and role model for incoming Fellows. Harunah's dedication to social entrepreneurship for persons with disabilities is evident in his active engagement, showcasing his passion for fostering inclusivity. His contributions have strengthened our program and participants as well as the disability community in Uganda.

-Heike Boeltzig-Brown

The impacts of United Persons with Disabilities have transcended the boundaries of individual lives. With every step they take towards their dreams, they illuminate the path for others who once felt trapped by societal barriers. As they forge their own paths, they create employment opportunities and ignite a ripple effect of empowerment that resonates throughout our communities. As the Executive Director of Central Uganda Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Network and mentor, I am deeply moved by their unwavering resilience and determination. Their success stories serve as a powerful reminder that empowerment is not merely an abstract concept, but a tangible force capable of dismantling barriers and transforming lives. It is a profound honor for me to be a part of their journey, to bear witness to their growth, and to celebrate their progress.

-Concepta Naluyima

Prior to joining UPWDs, I encountered various challenges in managing my poultry project. Specifically, I struggled with budgeting, expense management, accurately calculating profits and losses, maintaining proper accounting records, and determining the required reinvestment for business expansion. However, through the Twezimbe project, I have had the opportunity to learn from experts who have equipped me with valuable skills. I have learned how to create a feasible budget, maintain comprehensive farm records, accurately calculate profits and losses, and assess the financial standing of my business. Moreover, being part of a community of like-minded peers has fostered camaraderie and enhanced my social capital.

-Bruce Muzoora

Summary of progress to date

"Amidst the many setbacks, we stand resolute, undeterred in our pursuit. Every participant in this project is unwavering in their determination to seize the opportunity, combining our own endeavors with your support to fulfill our ambitions." - **Harunah Damba**



Social Entrepreneurship Project

Our diverse range of social projects, including poultry rearing, mushroom growing, beadmaking, and sugarcane plantation have not only resulted in an impressive capital formation of over 10 million shillings but have also created over 50 employment opportunities, empowering more than 100 individuals to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

Twezimbe Project For Inclusion

The **TUGAD-SACCO** serves as a nurturing social support hub, providing invaluable social and financial capital, empowering individuals to pursue their dreams while promoting resource pooling, cultivating a savings culture, making sound investments, and fostering prudent spending habits.



Disability Inclusion U.S Alumni Network

The Disability Inclusion U.S Alumni Network unites alumni of U.S government-funded programs who are passionate about advocating for disability inclusion. Together, we harness the lessons learned during our time in the U.S to collectively drive positive change and create a more inclusive society that embraces and empowers individuals with disabilities.

The Year 2022-23 in Pictures

The Youthful Friday

23RD JUNE

"Damba establishes the United Persons with Disabilities (UPWDs), a community based organization to transform people with disabilities."



Host: Daniel Tusiimukye



Guest: Harunah Damba



Journeys of Inclusion Advocacy Series

Join us in our Journeys of Inclusion advocacy series featuring disability advocate Amanda Kraus

Don't miss out on this inspiring series that will enrich our understanding of disability advocacy and foster meaningful connections within and outside your community.

July 10, 2023
7:00pm - 8:00pm EAT

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Amanda Kraus

Executive Director & ADA/504 Compliance Officer,
Disability Resource Center
Associate Professor of Practice, Higher Education
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



UPDS
Journeys of Inclusion Advocacy Series
with **Nicholas Love**
Community Inclusion Director,
WORLD INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY

Don't miss out on this inspiring series that will enrich our understanding of disability advocacy and foster meaningful connections and enduring bonds within and outside our community.



Acknowledgements

EDITORS

Harunah Damba
Hanifah Nalwoga

CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS

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Gorret Byomwire
Wendy Parent-Johnson
Emerida Kusemererwa
Denis Ouma
Heike Boeltzig-Brown
Alex Ogwal

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Elizabeth Rwabu
Asasira Brenda Kakungulu

PICTURES

Umayear Sekyanzi
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2022-23 Progress Review



United Persons with Disabilities

*Alone, we can
do so little;
together, we can
do so much.”
- Helen Keller*