



Footmarks
Initiative Uganda
Leaving a Mark

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

www.footmarksinitiativeuganda.com



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FOREWORD



Mutesi Hope

Programs Coordinator

I am pleased to present the Footmarks Initiative Uganda's Annual Report of 2022. In the pages that follow, we update you on the progress we have made in implementing the different projects in our different areas of operation. It was generally a productive year in terms of reaching out to more beneficiaries and also galvanizing our partnerships with CSOs and KCCA Division authorities.

The report will highlight the work done to realize FIU Vision And Mission. While also highlighting our contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is through different projects implemented to improved the welfare but also to empower youth, working closely with a wide range of partners to realize their rights and build resilience at community level.

Our most sincere gratitude goes to Network for Active Citizens (NAC), Youth Advocacy Development Network (YADNET) and Civil Society Strengthening Network (CSSN) for the continued support and the partnership during 2022. More so the other Ghetto Go Green Project, NIYETU project and Civil society strengthening project partners for mutual and technical support. FIU pledges to continue to strengthen and nourish these partnerships.

Underpinning these various initiatives, work has begun on our registration with NGO Board and reviewing of different organization policies. These are key elements in meeting our goals of creating a more agile organisation with a culture that supports innovation and continuous improvement. We will keep this purpose in the forefront of our minds as we step up our response to current challenges.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts made by all our staff members. Our services and support for our partners, beneficiaries, and for the broader community in our area of operation, have depended in full measure on their resourcefulness, flexibility and engagement over the past year. Together with our partners, FIU will continue to deliver for youths in Uganda on both the premise and promise of the 2030 Agenda inclusive of the youth Agenda and its global goals, seeking equality for all.



ORGANISATION BACKGROUND

Footmarks Initiative Uganda (FIU) is Non-Governmental Organization founded by a group of young people in 2018 to make the transition from youth to adult life seamless and interesting. Mindful of the challenges they equally faced growing up in Uganda, the founders of FIU sought to redress several challenges of young people including Unmet needs for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), other health rights and education, unemployment, low income and limited empowerment. The organization was founded after the realization that most of the Ugandan population are youth aged 12 to 30 years constituted 70% of the Ugandan population according to the 2016 National Census. Despite being the majority, Ugandan youth do not live to their full potential due to the above unmet needs. FIU works with different youth groups to empower them, strengthen their capacities, and link them to different opportunities. FIU also empowers youth using the rights-based and gender-responsive approach to hold duty bearers accountable for the delivery of equitable, quality, and sustainable services. More still, FIU links grass root issues identified during the community meetings and interventions to the national level policy making discussions in Ministry of Finance, Health, Education, Agriculture And Environment as well as the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda.

VISION & MISSION



Vision

A World of healthy and empowered young people happily transitioning to adulthood



Mission

To strengthen young people's agency for self-help and influence on service delivery decisions that affect their wellbeing.





OUR CORE VALUES



Innovation

- FIU will encourage innovation from staff and stakeholders.

Non-Discrimination

- We shall not discriminate based on gender or religion or any other difference.

Transparency

- we commit to promote transparency in all our operations.

Accountability

- we offer to account effectively for all financial and non-financial resources.



Teamwork

- Our staff members, board members and youth groups will always work as a team.

Working in partnership

- our work will involve teaming up with likeminded organizations and institutions.

Difference in Opinion

- FIU recognizes difference in thought and ideas of staff, partners and beneficiaries and will be continuously respected.

CORE PROGRAMS

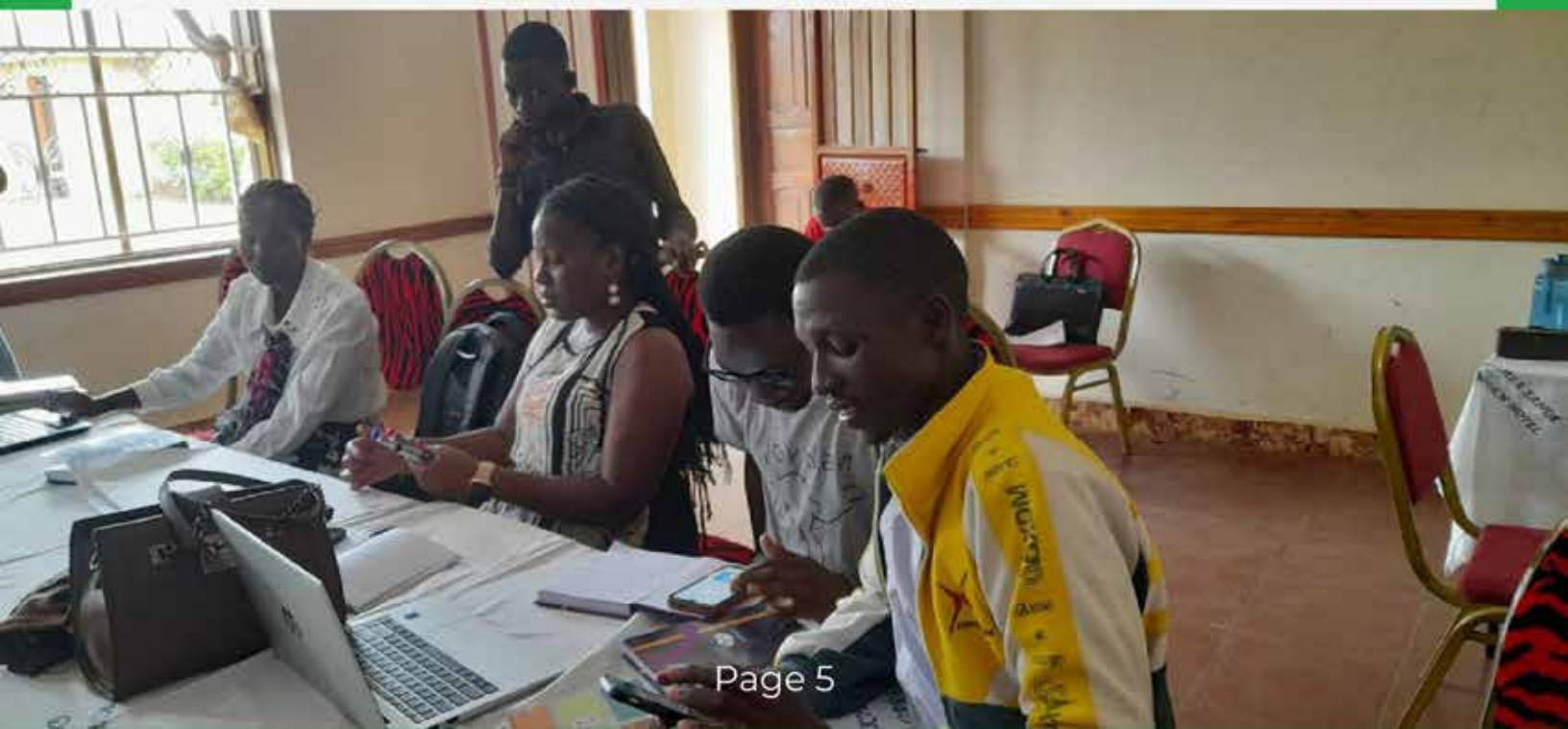
**1. Research, Policy,
And Budget Advocacy**

2. Health and Wellness

**3. Education and
School Welfare**

**4. Youth Enterprise
Development**

**5. Climate Change Mitigation
and Adaptation**



2022 PROJECTS

GHETTO GO GREEN Project.

The Ghetto Go Green project (GGG2) is a climate smart strategy whose sole aim is to create climate change adaptation and mitigation in ghetto communities of Kampala city. It is a three year climate smart project which started in 2021, intended to increase the resilience and well-being of young people in 7 Kampala ghetto communities (Kironde, Katwe, Kuna, Kamwanyi, Kintintale, Kyebando and Kinawattaka) through sustainable, innovative and youth led climate change adaptation strategies. FIU is an implementing partner in the GGG2 Project in Kironde community, Nakawa division, Kampala. The project activities are circled around creating a cleaner and greener Kampala.

SLOGBAA (Strengthening structures for Local Government, Budgeting, Advocacy & Accountability) Project.



The SLOGBAA project was developed due to the presence of capacity gaps especially at grassroots level that need to be filled in order to empower the youth leaders and young people in general from Mayuge, Yumbe and Kampala district to take up leadership roles at both district and national level. FIU was an implementing partner in Mayuge district in the eastern region of Uganda. The project was intended to benefit 35 youth leaders, 480 community youths 160 institutional actors' representatives and 40 Local Government officials. The project empowered the young people through mobilizing and capacitating the community and local government leaders with knowledge, skills and methods on how to use their positions to present the issues arising in their communities, how to influence and also get the youth to actively get involved in participating in their local government leadership and development issues.



NI-YETU Project.

FIU in partnership with Youth Advocacy Development Network (YADNET) implemented specific activities of the NIYETU project centering around advocacy against gender-based violence in Kampala. The NIYETU project is a five project which aims at empowering the marginalized groups from 5 different district, these include the persons with disability, most at risk population i.e the sexually exploited, survivors of GBV (sexual violence) and child headed families as well as those with different sexual orientation among others. The project is anchored on youth engagement at different levels of project implementation, who are working closely with the local government authorities' right from the sub counties to the districts to factor in youth in the decision making processes, policy formulation, and budgeting. The young people are part of the community development activities that demonstrate citizen involvement in the whole value chain of the planning cycle. This has provided an appropriate framework for enabling youth to develop social, economic, cultural and political skills so as to enhance their participation in the overall development process and improve their quality of life.

Rebuilding/Maintaining Civil Society Space project in Uganda

Civil Society Strengthening Network (CSSN) in partnership with Public Policy Institute (PPI) with financial support from Civil Connections Community Foundation is implementing a project titled “Rebuilding/Maintaining Civil Society Space in Uganda through capacity building, gaps reduction and government – CSOs constructive dialogue in Kampala Metropolitan. Footmarks Initiative Uganda has benefited from this project through the Youth advocacy and development network Uganda organization which is implementing this project focusing on Rebuilding/Maintaining Civil Society Space in Uganda.

The Project is aimed at providing an alternative processes for restoring the operational space of the affected CSOs, as well as others that could be in danger over the months and years to come.



Achievements of 2022

GhettoGoGreen Project (GGG2)

- **Community Climate Change Awareness Caravan**

As climate change continues to impact both the countryside and cities, the ghetto communities like Kirombe still remain the most vulnerable. The rapid expansion of cities is also threatening our environment through unsustainable settlement patterns, inefficient resource use, and unsustainable transport modes. Our cities are therefore part of the problem and part of the solution. Kampala should lead in sustainable and innovative solutions for adaptation and enhanced resilience that can be replicated in other parts of the country. However, the available information gap about climate change remains a challenge.

In the same regard, Footmarks Initiative Uganda organized and carried out a climate change awareness caravan that was aimed at bridging the existing climate change information gap among the people in Kirombe.

The community climate awareness caravan is a climate action strategy that was intended to increase community climate change awareness among the youths as well as other community members and ably influence green city champion volunteers to participate in meaningful strategies to mitigate climate change. Through the caravan, we were able to reach over 40 Kirombe community members as we engaged in knowledge sharing on climate change and urban farming which thus helped the young people in Kirombe to expand their understanding of their environment and how best can this knowledge acquired change their behavior towards the environment. There was also the distribution of approximately 200 seedlings to community members enabled the participants to start their own urban gardens.

GhettoGoGreen Project (GGG2)

·Community Youth Parliaments

There has been an advancement of youth advocacy on climate change in the Kirombe community. This was realized through the 3 community youth parliaments that were held in the first 3 quarters of the year. It should be noted that a Community Youth Parliament is a youth engagement that aims at fostering Youth-led advocacy on policies and budget prioritization to address the negative impacts of climate change and strengthening climate action in Kampala ghetto communities (K-zones). This engagement is intended to motivate young people to recognize and take their chances in intervening and meaningfully participating in the shaping of policies and thus making their voices heard on climate change issues. This engagement has brought together over 60 youths and community leaders in different capacities to discuss the different climate change effects impacting them and how these can be tackled at grassroots level. The different engagements between the youth and the community leaders have resulted into community clean ups organized by the young people and the construction of temporary drainage channels as a means of mitigating flooding and poor waste disposal.



GhettoGoGreen Project (GGG2)

·Agriprenuership Boot camp Training

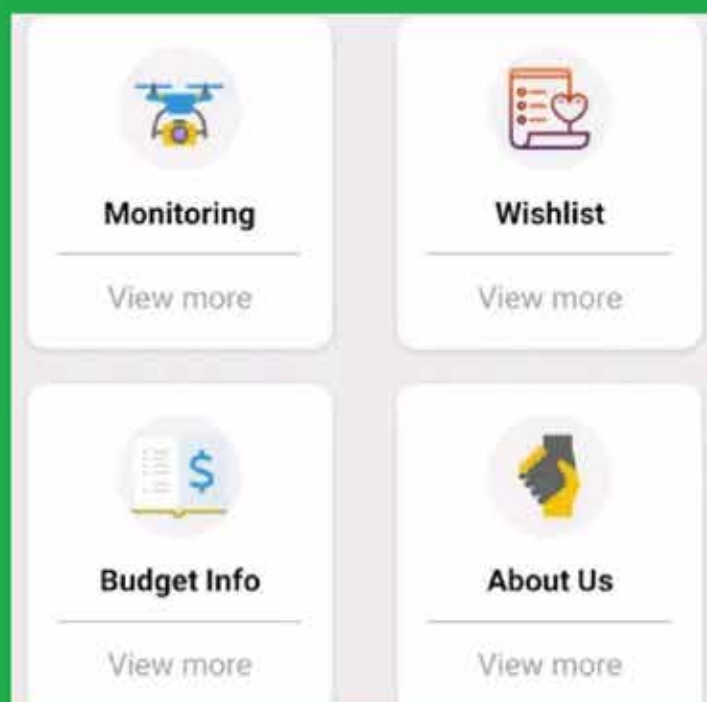
The agriprenuership boot camp training was organized by Footmarks Initiative Uganda (FIU) with the aim of equipping 7 youths (Green City Champions) from Kirombe with urban farming skills as well as agribusiness skills. The training took place at Kirombe Green Space from 23rd - 30th May, 2022. The training comprised two segments; agronomy and entrepreneurship and business management segment. The climate-smart agriprenuership boot camp equipped 7 youths from Kirombe with hands-on skills in urban farming and provide them with knowledge on entrepreneurship and business management. These young people were able to use the knowledge acquired to set up their own commercial urban gardens which has in turn increased their climate resilience and provided an income-generating venture for these young people.



GhettoGoGreen Project (GGG2)

•Youth Go Budget App (YGB)

Through the YGB app, a Network for Active Citizens Initiative, we have been able to involve more than 300 young people from Kirombe in the national budgeting process. The Youth Go Budget App data collection is an ongoing process carried out by FIU with an aim to increase youth participation in the budgeting process as they determine different climate change mitigation and adaptation processes that should be given priority in the budget allocation process at the national level. This therefore has resulted into increased climate change awareness and advocacy among youths from Kirombe, Nakawa division.



GhettoGoGreen Project (GGG2)

•Youth led Agro Input Bank (YLAB)

There has been establishment of a Youth Led Agro Input Bank (nursery bed structure) in Kirombe community. The setting up of the Youth Led Agro Input Bank (YLAB) was intended to set up nursery bed structures and produce quality seedlings for distribution to support project beneficiaries to establish and expand their urban gardens. This in turn increased access to quality seedlings to the beneficiaries in Kirombe and motivated the young people to engage in urban farming by providing them with startup capital in form of quality seedlings. The setup of a youth led agro input bank resulted into production of more 10,000 seedlings from certified organic seeds by green city champions in Kirombe. This has greatly benefitted approximately 200 households in the community.



GhettoGoGreen Project (GGG2)

•Mind shift Workshop using environmental psychology.

This engagement was aimed at expanding 20 young people's understanding of environmental psychological development and to help them understand how to apply these insights to climate advocacy and change work. This was focused on sharpening young people's emotional and psychological development towards the environment, to deepen their impact and empower them as positive change-makers. The workshop was highly informative and the participants were actively engaged in the different learning activities which helped them understand their relationship with the environment and how best they can interact with it more efficiently to prevent climate change. In this regard, the participants drafted 3 different social actions that have been adopted to positively impact the environment in Kirombe community. These include; engaging in urban farming, reusing and recycling plastics, and engaging in community clean-ups to mitigate the effects of poor waste disposal in Kirombe.



GhettoGoGreen Project (GGG2)

- **Donor's visit (Dreamtown)**

On 15th February 2022, FIU had the opportunity to host the donors' team from Dreamtown at community green space and the beneficiaries' urban gardens in Kirombe ghetto community. During the visit, the Dreamtown team had an in-depth interaction with the FIU team as well as the project beneficiaries (youths) about aspects of modern urban farming and how this can be utilized to advance their climate change resilience and income generation. This was such a wonderful opportunity for the young people, as they were motivated to work harder for the betterment of their community.



GhettoGoGreen Project (GGG2)

- **SLOGBAA (Strengthening structures for Local Government, Budgeting, Advocacy & Accountability) Project.**

With the aim of inspiring, educating and empowering youths to engage with political leaders and technical staff on all matters pertaining to localized planning and proper implementation, a one day quarterly youth leaders mentorship session with 2 policy and leadership experts organized and implemented on 23th/03/2022 at Gilpine guest house by Footmarks Initiative Uganda (FIU). The activity aimed at bringing together Mayuge youth leaders, institutional actors and 2 Policy and Leadership experts together with an aim to improve the advocacy, accountability and budgeting skills of our youth leaders as they are mentored and motivated to work towards the sustainable development of their different communities. This one day training equipped 35 youth leaders from both the sub-county and district level in Mayuge, with advocacy, accountability and budgeting skills.



NI-YETU Project

- **Training of girls on formation of a girl led organization on movement building for advancing girls agenda**

This engagement was aimed at forming a girl led organization on movement building for advancing girls agenda with an aim to improve the programming and advocacy skills of young girls as they are mentored and motivated to work towards the sustainable development of their different communities. The training empowered 15 young from Nakawa division with organization building and management skills.

The training resulted into the formation of the Girl Above Limitations Alliance (GAL-Alliance) organization by the trained young women with an aim of advancing advocacy against gender-based violence against women.



NI-YETU Project

- **Training workshop of Youth councilors and officers on advancing the Youth Agenda.**

While all the government and non-government development initiatives are critical to youth development, more emphasis should be focused on advancing the youth agenda by prioritizing the areas of education and employment, gender based violence, sexual reproductive health, gender equality, good health, reducing inequality, combating poverty and hunger, and action on environmental issues and climate change. This can be attained only if youth leaders on all levels engage in SMART advocacy.

The active engagement of youth leaders in sustainable development efforts is central to achieving sustainable, inclusive and stable communities, and to averting the worst threats and challenges to sustainable development which include gender based violence, teenage pregnancies and early marriages, the impacts of climate change, unemployment, poverty, gender inequality, conflict, and migration. In this regard, YADNET in partnership with FIU organized a training workshop for Youth councillors and officers from all Kampala divisions, with an aim to equip them with tangible skills to further in advancing the Youth Agenda.

The training focused on the role of youth councilors and officers in advancing the Youth Agenda as well as enhancing youth development efforts and examine how evidence based youth policies can help accelerate youth-related objectives / goals. It explored the critical role of youth councilors and officers in the implementation of sustainable development efforts at all levels using SMART advocacy.

NI-YETU Project

• Youth Interactive Dialogue session

The youth interactive dialogue session was a youth engagement which aimed at fostering youth-led advocacy on policies and budget prioritization, to bridge the gap between government programming and youth social inclusion in the entire programming process. Whereas efforts have been invested to ensure youth inclusion, more has to be done to achieve the main goal.

Youth inclusion in the government programming process is intended to motivate young people to recognize and take their chances in intervening and meaningfully participating in the shaping of policies and thus making their voices heard on issues affecting their lives. The youth interactive dialogue took place on the 15th/03/2022 at the community Green Space in Mutungo - Bbina. The dialogue entailed 32 participants who included; youth representatives, youth councilors, and CSOs representatives. The Youth interactive session brought together youths from different communities, local government leaders from Nakawa division, institutional actors and CSOs representatives to discuss how youths can be integrated into local and national programming, with an aim to improve the programming and advocacy skills of youths as they are mentored and motivated to work towards the sustainable development of their different communities.



NI-YETU Project

• High Level Dialogue with Policy makers on Adolescent Health (ADH) and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

At the national level, young people represent a focus across multiple sectors (e.g., youth, gender, health, education, and HIV/AIDS), but coordination and collaboration among these stakeholders remain weak. Youth-friendly health services are funded primarily by donors, leading to inequitable distribution of services and fragmented implementation. There are still substantial gaps across rhetoric and policies on the importance of youth and SRH, and the actual integration of youth and their perspectives in practice on ADH and SRHR.

In a bid to ensure accountability for the realization of ADH and SRHR policies, FIU in partnership with YADNET organized a high level dialogue meeting on the 08th/06/2022 at Silver Springs hotel. The dialogue meeting entailed Members of parliament and coalitions like NAWUMPU, Members of partner CSOs, Girl led movement members, YADNET staff, Young people, Invited guests who stakeholders in SRHR and SGBV field.

The meeting was intended to ensure meaningful participation and accountability by national level coalitions like Network of African Women Ministers and Parliamentarians – Uganda chapter (NAWUMP-U) and members of parliament on SRHR and ADH advocacy, we follow up on the actual realization of key commitments that were made earlier by parliamentarians in a similar forum which included;

- Amendment of the Public Health Amendment Act
- Dissemination of Policies and guidelines for sexuality education in schools.
- Enactment of the health insurance bill.



NI-YETU Project

- **Support the DANs to participate in the planning cycles at parish, sub-county, district and national levels: FY Budget 2022-23 Awareness for Youth and Budget planning cycles.**

FIU in partnership with YADNET organized a training workshop on 15/06/2022 at Silver Spring hotel to support the DANs to participate in the planning cycles at parish, sub-county, district and national levels through FY Budget 2022-23 Awareness creation for Youth and Budget planning cycles for Youth councilors and officers with an aim to equip them with tangible skills to further in advancing the Youth Agenda. Support the DANs to participate in the planning cycles at parish, sub county, district and national levels: This involved facilitating sub county level participation of young people and have their resolutions ploughed into the subsequent levels up to national levels through awareness creation of the national budget FY 2022-23. The activity is aimed at bringing together youth, local government leaders, institutional actors and CSOs together with an aim to improve the programming and advocacy skills of our youth as they are mentored and motivated to work towards the sustainable development of their different communities

The training focused on the role of youths, youth councillors and officers in the budgeting process as a means of enhancing youth development efforts and examined how evidence based youth advocacy on budget allocation can help accelerate youth-related objectives / goals. It explored the critical role of youths, youth councillors and officers in the creation, implementation and monitoring of the national budget to ensure sustainable development efforts at all levels using SMART advocacy.



14 DAYS TRAINING PROGRAM UNDER REBUILDING CIVIL SOCIETY SPACE IN UGANDA

Despite the fact that there are many CSOs that have been initiated by young people throughout Uganda and are having several interventions towards the different challenges that young people face, however, most of these young CSOs find difficulty in their respective organizational systems development and strengthening. This has therefore limited their operation scope and capacity to implement their targeted goals and achieving their organizational vision and mission, hence the need for more capacity building in institutional strengthening.

In this regard, FIU had the opportunity to participate in a 14 days training program under the Rebuilding Civil Society Space project organized by Civil Society Strengthening Network (CSSN) in partnership with Public Policy Institute (PPI) with financial support from Civil Connections Community Foundation. The training was intended to provide knowledge and support the partner CSOs address the capacity gaps identified during the Institutional Capacity Assessment done by PPI. Furthermore, it aimed at creating a platform for networking, experience sharing and unlearning and re-learning from each other.

FIU's capacity to comply with the key provisions of the NGO Policy (2012), the NGO Act (2016) and other CSOs regulatory provisions was strengthened, as well as being dynamic to react to any future changes and unpredictable trends of shrinking civic space for CSOs resilience. This was through various trainings, spaces for Peer – Peer learning, practices exchange, mobilizing a wider network to stand together as a unit, as well as long term mentoring and motivation



OUR TEAM



Hope Mutesi
Programs Coordinator



Kooli David
Accountant



Frances Rita Akurut
Assistant Accountant

OUR PARTNERS



Contact us:



+256 39 4851930



Ssesanga close, Portbell kampala



www.footmarksinitative.com



footmarksinitiative@gmail.com

Follow us:



Footmarks Initiative Uganda



@FootmarksU

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