



**Footmarks**  
Initiative Uganda  
Leaving a Mark

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I am pleased to present the FIU Annual Report 2023. In the pages that follow, we update you on the progress we have made in implementing our different programs as we work towards empowering young people in vulnerable communities. We also outline the steps we took to expand our community development initiatives during the past year, despite the enormous challenges faced during the course of implementation.

I am proud to present all the key milestones collectively achieved through the year. To list a few; empowered young people in Kirombe ghetto community to speak out and take action on climate change issues, supported different households in setting up urban gardens, enhanced livelihood sources of different young people through urban farming, increased climate change awareness, empowered young girls and women with menstrual health management information and skills among others.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts made by all our staff members and partners. Our services and support for all our stakeholders and support from partners (**Network For Active Citizens, Girlup, YADNET, HADE**) have depended in full measure on their resourcefulness, flexibility and engagement over the past year. Taking lessons from 2023, I am confident that we can rely on our dedicated partners, staff and allies to get closer to our objectives and vision of a world of healthy and empowered young people seamlessly transitioning to adulthood.

### **Mutesi Hope**

**Programs Coordinator**

Footmarks Initiative Uganda.



## A Brief Story About The Organisation



# HISTORY AND 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

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.

## GOAL

To improve the quality of life of youth through the integration of empowerment and sustainable development initiatives.



## OUR CORE VALUES

01

### Innovation

FIU will encourage innovation from staff and stakeholders.

02

### Non-Discrimination

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

03

### Transparency

we commit to promote transparency in all our operations.

04

### Accountability

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

05

### Teamwork

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

06

### Working in partnership

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

07

### Difference in Opinion

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



## FIU STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Engaged youth utilize the acquired entrepreneurial capabilities to increase their production and productivity.

Supported youth generate and use research evidence to influence government decisions affecting young people's health, education and livelihood.

Targeted young people increasingly utilize existing and new platforms to enhance good governance and accountability.

To increase the influence of youth in shaping national policies, tax regimes and budgets in Uganda

# CORE PROGRAMS

## Research, Policy, And Budget Advocacy

FIU uses comprehensive strategies to raise profiles and visibility of youth issues in Uganda to ensure their needs and priorities are met in annual planning and budgeting process. Research is done on topical areas around youth issues to be used as evidence in the advocacy process. This is through engaging with various communities and stakeholder to identify issues. Through lobbying and campaigns, the organization ensures the advocacy are addressed by relevant duty bearers and other stakeholders.

## Health and Wellness

Health is a critical component towards achieving the Human Capital Development Programme goal of increasing the population's productivity through strategic investment. Since March 2020, health has taken up a prominent role in the development discourse due to the coronavirus pandemic. Among the youth, Peer pressure, insufficient sexual and reproductive health education to make informed decisions and some cultural norms are leading drivers to premarital sex and consequently teenage pregnancy. FIU implements comprehensive trainings, uses a unique peer to peer sensitization approach and tailored awareness raising sessions to the needs of youth in Uganda to provide knowledge on dangers of teenage pregnancy, dangers of premarital sex and requisite sexual and reproductive health information. This is to equip them with knowledge to ensure better youth protection through improved personal capacities and familiarity with handling situations of crisis and threat.

## Education and School Welfare

Uganda, like many sub-Saharan African countries, faces major challenges in providing quality and accessible basic education to children and adolescents. To support an inclusive, relevant and accessible education system and keep children learning. FIU initiatives supports different initiatives to ensure school going adolescents and youth go to school and those who are in school stay in school and learning to attain their different learning outcomes.



## Youth Enterprise Development

Most youth are vulnerable economically. FIU empowers youth both individually and in groups through equipment of practical life skills to enable them start up income generating projects. The organization currently empowers teenage mothers with knowledge and practical skills to become economically self-reliant and support them live healthily, dignified lives. Currently FIU supports youth with vocational skills and practical skills to make; liquid soap, baked products like cakes, bread and bands among others, reusable sanitary pads, craft materials like paper beads, mats, necklaces, earrings, bags and bangles among others. FIU also organizes youth in groups to participate in Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA) and supporting them to offer credit services to youth for their business expansion.

## Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

FIU believes youth need to be empowered on climate change and how their different activities are contributing to climate change. More still they need to be empowered on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Therefore, the program supports climate smart social enterprise development and mentorship to ensure that all youth are economically empowered while ensuring their economic activities are climate sensitive.

## Target groups

Our primary target group are the youth. These are young, active and are future active citizens and leaders of our nation therefore, it's our mandate to help to shape, identify and enhance their potential towards national development.

## FIU ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE AND CAPACITY

FIU has a robust organization structure. At the top is the **Annual General Assembly** and the **Board of Trustees** who provide oversight over the secretariat. The board is the policy making organ of FIU and oversees the implementation of FIU policies and strategic plans. The Board of trustees meets quarterly to review performance reports and approve quarterly work plans and budgets. The Board is comprising experienced individuals in the fields of human rights, social accountability, governance, finance and other areas.

FIU Uganda secretariat currently has four staff members headed by a **Program Coordinator**, with experience and competence in the fields of health and education, livelihood and enterprise development, climate change programming and governance and citizen empowerment. The team members include a **Programs Coordinator, Accountant, Accounts Assistant** and a **Support staff** and these possess experience and hands-on expertise in working with and empowering young people through advocacy and service delivery approaches.





## GHETTOGO GREEN (GGG2) 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 (Kirombe, Katwe, Kunya, 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 Kirombe community, Nakawa division, Kampala. The project activities are circled around creating a cleaner and greener Kampala. During the reporting period, the project was renewed and transformed to a climate community based Adaptation modality which was extended for another three years till 2026. Project achievements during the reporting period include:

## 1. Growth of the Youth led Agro Input Bank (YLAB)

Supporting the youth to embrace urban farming in their small pieces of land is an endeavor FIU has adopted towards curbing climate change effects in Kirombe ghetto community. There has been tremendous growth of the Youth Led Agro Input Bank (seed bank) in Kirombe community. The setting up of the Youth Led Agro Input Bank (YLAB) was intended to set up nursery bed structures and also 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 project beneficiaries in Kirombe and also motivated the young people to engage in urban farming by providing them with startup in form of quality seedlings. The existence of a youth led agro input bank resulted into production of more than 10,000 seedlings from certified organic seeds by green city champions in Kirombe and this has greatly influenced the establishment of more than 10 urban gardens in the community.



## 2. Increased usage of the Kirombe Green space.

The climate crisis continues to worsen each passing day, causing adverse effects like flooding, drought, famine which thus result into poor living conditions for people living in vulnerable communities like Kirombe. This crisis is being worsened by the lack of knowledge and information by both the young and old about the different climate adaptation strategies. It is therefore in this regard that a youth green space was established in Kirombe by FIU with support from Network For Active Citizens, for purposes of extending a demonstration urban garden closer to the community and also provide a safe space for young people to meet and share knowledge on different aspects especially climate change. The green space has hosted more than 180 young people as they are empowered with hands on knowledge and skills in urban farming as both a food and livelihood source thus motivating them to start their own urban gardens.



The youth green space was and is still the first of its kind in Kirombe community. This is not only because of its unique nature of providing climate change knowledge but also its cost free accessibility by all community members, free wifi for the young people and the fact different community members can harvest vegetables to supplement their family meals. Our demonstration garden has equipped the young people with urban farming skills because the green space illustrates a variety of alternative urban garden design concepts for small space gardens. The purpose of this demonstration garden is to instill the idea climate adaptation skills and information among the community through urban farming, thus reaching durable solutions to reduce food insecurity among vulnerable households in Kirombe.



### 3. Establishment of urban gardens in schools.

In a bid to foster climate resilience among young people especially those still in school, FIU sort to empower students with climate change information as well as hands on skilling in urban farming as a climate change adaption strategy in urban communities. FIU has so far empowered more than 100 students with climate change information and urban farming skills. A case in point is Bbina secondary school where students are trained in urban farming during their DIT (Directorate of Industrial Training) classes. This approach has resulted into the establishment of 2 urban gardens in two schools located in Kirombe ghetto community. Therefore, the students have been equipped with general knowledge about agronomy with more emphasis on positive mindset change about urban farming as a whole so as to inculcate climate adaptation strategies in these young people. This has therefore yielded great results as these young people are replicating the knowledge obtained in their respective homes.



#### 4. Improved Young people's livelihoods through urban farming

With an aim to improve young people's climate resilience in the past year, FIU has boosted the support extended to young people in Kirombe community through agriprenuership. This was a climate action strategy that was aimed at creating climate resilience among young people through climate smart agriculture (urban farming). The trainings have empowered more than 15 young people with not only urban farming skills but also entrepreneurship skills as they start their journey of making urban farming a livelihood source. From the knowledge and skills acquired, the trainees have established their own urban gardens that are in turn supporting their households with vegetables and also income from the produce sold.



The drive to engage more community members into urban farming has touched lives of some youths from Kirombe , a case in point is Lule Amir Joshua. Being a youth leader in the community, Joshua sort out how he could change his community as well as inspire a great number of his peers and this pushed him to individually engage in agribusiness enterprise through urban farming. Lule is a 24 year old self-employed youth chairperson who ventured into urban farming as a result of his participation in the agriprenuership bootcamp with an aim of not only creating a source of income for himself but also ensuring adoption of climate change adaptation activities in the community. Currently, Lule grows different vegetables for sale such as sukuma, spinach, tomatoes, spring onions, carrots and red pepper. After harvesting, the vegetables are then sold to the local market in Kirombe and some nearby schools.



## 5. Empowered more than 300 young people to speak out and take action towards climate change

There has been advancement of youth advocacy on climate change in Kirombe community. This was realized through the 4 community youth parliaments that during the past year. It should be noted that a Community Youth Parliament is a youth engagement which aims at fostering Youth-led advocacy on policies and budget prioritization to address negative impacts of climate change and strengthening climate action in Kampala ghetto communities (K-zones). This engagement has further motivated 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 related issues. The community youth parliaments have further brought the community leaders closer to the young people as they continually advocate for the change they want to see in their community.



## 6. Community Climate change awareness through community caravans

With an aim to bridge the existing climate change information gap among the people in Kirombe, FIU conducted community climate change caravans in a bid to avail climate change information to the local community members.

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 also ably influence green city champion volunteers to participate in meaningful strategies to mitigate climate change. Through the caravan, we were able to reach over 200 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 distribution of approximately 300 seedlings to community members that were geared to support them to start as expand their own urban gardens.





## HER CITY PROJECT.

In the past year, FIU had the opportunity to contribute to the empowerment of more than 80 young women in urban planning under the HER CITY project as part of the technical working group (TWG). Her city project was a nine months (April – December) project with 3 phases Assessment, design and implementation. This project was a pathway to overcome the unequal access to urban space, which consists of supporting urban citizens especially young girls and women as well as, civil society structures to take lead and inspire formal planning actors to include more diverse perspectives in decision making. With a focus on including young women and girls from informal settlements, we will re-think, co-plan and design the sustainable city together. The project was based in Kampala, in the community of Kamwanyi. It was implemented by Dreamtown, in collaboration with the women-led community-based organisation Holistic Action for Development and Empowerment (HADE), using the Her City toolbox developed by UN-Habitat and Global Utmaning.

The project implementation in Kamwanyi ghetto community resulted into promotion of female led inclusive urban planning and design in Kampala, Strengthened awareness among young women, as well as the larger community, about female perspectives, and priorities in the city, Strengthened capacity among young women to design urban interventions that reflect and respond to female needs, as well as influence establishment of Urban interventions by young women in Kamwanyi which reflect and respond to female needs and are supported by community actors. The HER CITY project has further culminated into the establish of a safe public space in Kamwanyi. The space is deemed to provide child space for children, community library, space for community engagements as well as host and provide a safe space to young people.

## 7. Contributed to cleaner communities in Nakawa division

Throughout the past year, FIU together with other partners have intensively engaged in quarterly community clean ups as a climate action under the HER CITY project. The clean ups were carried out in different ghetto communities of Nakawa division, especially Kamwanyi and Kirombe. The community cleanups fostered community solidarity as both young and old people, together with leaders and government institutions like KCCA joined forces for a common cause of enhancing proper waste management which is vital in the realization of SDG 13 (climate action).

Furthermore, the community cleanups were coupled with a climate awareness caravan conducted by both Nakawa youth CSO partners and community members. The young people developed posters with insightful messages like "CLIMATE ACTION NOW" which they carried along during the community cleanup. The climate change caravan did not only support the community members to understand their environment better but also to realize how their human behavior is intensifying climate change.



## 8. Youth Empowerment through hands on skilling in different initiatives.

Provided entrepreneurship and business skills: Women and youth were supported to engage in income generating activities as a result of the different HER city initiatives implemented by Holistic Action For Development and Empowerment with support from the technical working group which FIU was part. Overall, 109 (51 F & 58 M) women and youth engaged in urban farming, paper mash or reuse, bamboo products making and micro businesses realized increase in their incomes. Through the different engagements, for example more than 20 young people are earning from urban farming through joint urban garden establishment and marketing. Furthermore youth have started new or grown existing businesses following the entrepreneurship and business skills training. As a result, the farmers and youth entrepreneurs have brought their products to the market. With these businesses started, and engagements in Farming as a business the youth and women have reported increased income levels which helps them meet their livelihood needs



## 9. Girls and Women empowerment on Menstrual hygiene and health

It is important to note that Reusable pads are a great option for anyone who wants to reduce their carbon footprint and take steps towards a more sustainable periods. Reusable sanitary pads are made up from layers of fabric. It can be cleaned and reused multiple times. It is a sustainable and eco-friendly alternative to disposable pads which are made up from plastic, pulp and adhesives and take centuries to decompose.

It is therefore in this regard that FIU and HADE, together with other partner CSO at the Nakawa CSO Hub conducted a series of trainings on hands on skilling in making sanitary pads as a climate action initiative as well as an alternative to the non reusable pads that are not environment friendly. The young people were empowered with hands on skills in making reusable pad. These participants especially girls and women were taught from scratch how to make the reusable sanitary towel by hand from stitching, cutting right through to the packaging of the product. The reusable pads are 100% safe and sustainable, not only for girls but for our environment too. The adoption of reusable sanitary pads making trainings have not only empowered young girls with menstrual hygiene knowledge but also kept young girls from vulnerable households in school as well as empower women to upskill themselves.



The trainings empowered more than 50 young people both male and female in making reusable pads as a climate action initiative. These trainees were able to produce finished products of their made sanitary pads. ***"I am glad that i was able to participate in this training. I have acquired knowledge on sustainable development goals and how we can contribute to them and also skills in making reusable pads, i can now train others to hand-make pads,"*** said Akello Elizabeth, from Kirombe.



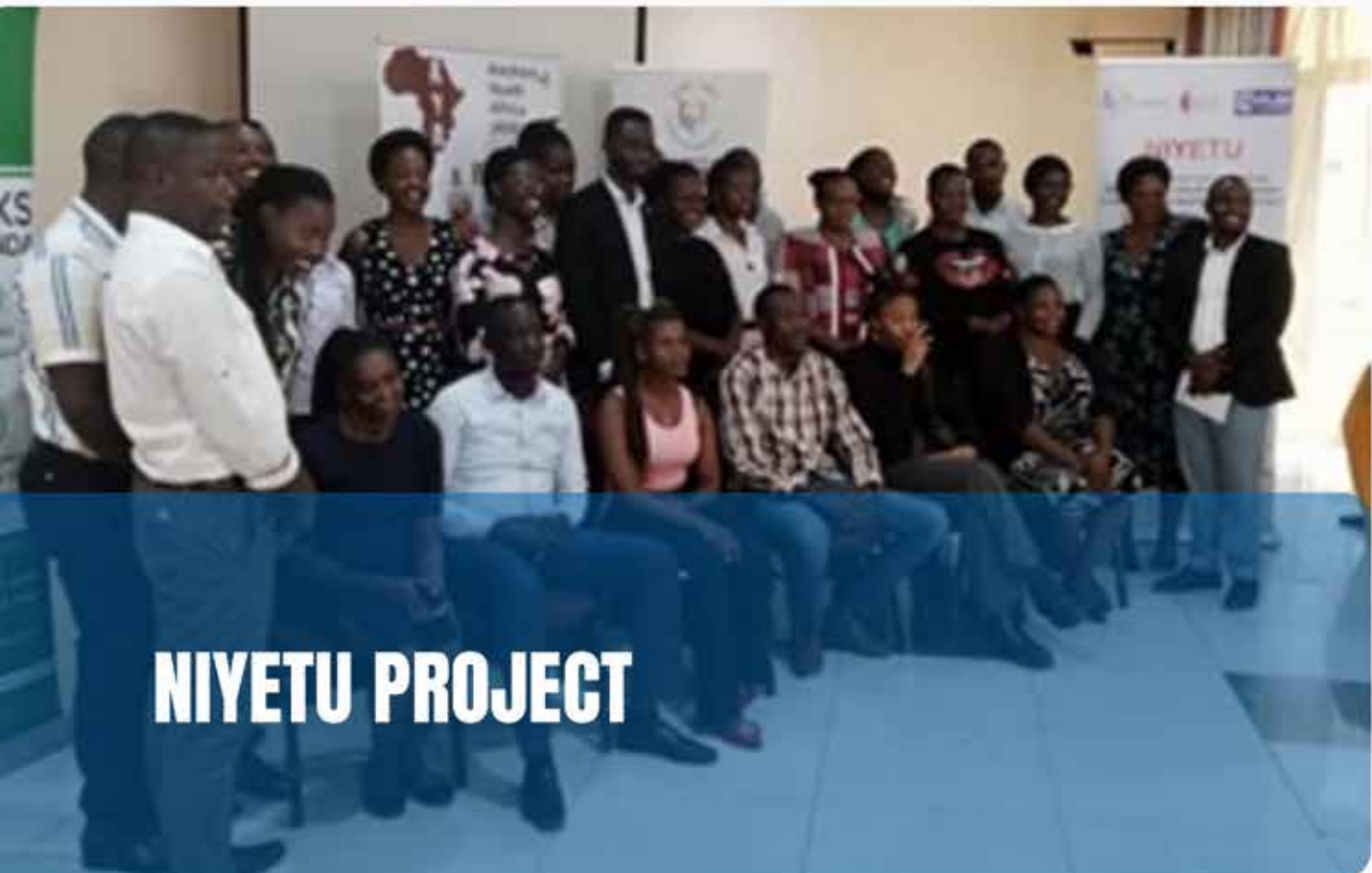


## YOUNG, URBAN AND ENGAGED PROJECT

In a bid to foster SDGs awareness among young people global, the Young, Urban and Engaged project came to life. The project works towards ensuring that young people world over are globally connected and are working towards the realization of the sustainable development goals in their local communities. Last year, FIU had the opportunity to contribute to the expansion of young people's knowledge about SDGs in ghetto communities like Kirombe, Kitintale, Kinawattaka among others. The project brought together young people from KVUC, Denmark and those from Kampala ghetto communities to network and create lasting relationships as they work towards the realization of the SDG goals in their communities. A digital approach was incorporated in the project implementation where the young people in Denmark had online interfaces with young people in Uganda via whatsapp groups as they engaged in different discussions on SDGs especially SDG 13, SDG 1, SDG 2 and SDG 5. The young people were assigned different SDGs where they came up with workable project ideas to solve some of the underlying challenges faced in their local communities.

Furthermore, there was an exchange visit of students from KVUC Denmark to Uganda. The KVUC students together with young people from Uganda, engaged in climate action activities like urban farming, climate change awareness creation through art, Dramas on information dissemination on gender based violence as well as sexual reproductive health and rights in the different K-zones in Kampala. On the other hand, youths from Uganda the opportunity to have an exchange visit to Nairobi, Kenya where they visited different public spaces in Marthare, a slum community in Nairobi. These different exchange visits fostered collaboration and partnerships between young people from different countries as well as fostered positive mindset change for sustainable growth of individuals as well as the different communities they hail from.





## NIYETU 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 ie 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.

Furthermore, FIU expanded her partnership base under the Niyetu project. With collaboration from YADNET, Footmarks Initiative Uganda fostered a partnership with GirlUp Initiative Uganda through a one year memorandum of understanding. The partnership has resulted into increased financial support towards fostering climate resilience among young people in Kirombe community. This has contributed to the increased number of young people engaged in urban farming in Kirombe ghetto community.



## HUMAN RESOURCE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the year, staff remained resilient, continuing to deliver at their jobs. Another area for celebration this year is the graduate internship program giving young professionals an opportunity to practice, learn and contribute to the organisation. FIU continues to tag interns to various units to nurture them for future placements within FIU or outside. Their placement enabled their learning but was very beneficial in supporting the day to day activities of the organization. Staff capacities were strengthened through the various pieces of training and refreshers organised by FIU and other partners within the various thematic areas. As an institution, we kept the feedback lines open, ensuring that there are avenues for staff to provide feedback. Importantly, we remained committed to the principles of safeguarding equity, diversity, and inclusion through our different community engagements.

### PARTNERSHIPS

We diversified our partnerships beyond NGOs to harness the power of diversity and create positive change in our local communities. Our partnerships range from like minded community based organizations, informal social movements, women led organizations, network organizations and international Organizations. We continued to pursue strategic partnerships with academic institutions, Government institutions and agencies and think tanks as we work towards creating evident positive transformation in different communities of operation. We are currently members of the Nakawa CSO hub located in portbell, Luzira, which has brought together more than 20 non government organisations to collaborate and network as we create a platform for young people to partake in fostering change in their communities.



As an institution, we have deepened our partnership and collaboration with our already existing partners which include: Network For Active Citizens, Days For Girls, Youth Advocacy Development Network, GirlUp Initiative Uganda, Civil Society Strengthening Network, Climate Smart Youth Action Network, Holistic Action For Development and Empowerment and Butabika Advocacy Structure.



## FOOTMARKS INITIATIVE UGANDA (FIU) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Total Income	Total Income	UGX	US Dollar (Current rate)	%
Funds from NAC, GHETTO GO GREEN 2	01a	15,893,767	4268	23.1
Funds from NAC, GHETTO GO GREEN 3	01b	15,893,767	1251	100
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>20,552,035</b>	<b>5519</b>	
Donor Funds	01c	20,552,035	5519	100
Other Funds		00		
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Programme Expenses	02a	10,559,000	2835.5	51.4
Administrative Expenses	02b	9,607,000	2579.8	51.4
Professional fees	02c	300,000	80.6	1.45
<b>Total Expenditure Before Depreciation</b>		<b>20,466,000</b>	<b>5495.8</b>	<b>99.6</b>
Surplus before depreciation	03	300,000	23.1	0.418
Depreciation charges		00	00	00
<b>Surplus after depreciation</b>		<b>86,035</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>0.418</b>

## OUR TEAM



**Mutesi Hope**  
Programs Co-ordinator



**Kooli David**  
Accountant



**Akrut Ritah Frances**  
Accountant Assistant



# THANK YOU

Our work is possible because of the communities we work with, the partners, staff, allies, supporters, Government and importantly, the various donors for their financial support. Thank you



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