

LET'S WALK UGANDA

ANNUAL REPORT



WITH SUPPORT FROM



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german
cooperation

DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by:
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH





ANNUAL REPORT

ABOUT LET'S WALK UGANDA.

Let's Walk Uganda (LWU) is a voluntary youth-led organization. Let's Walk Uganda aims to improve the standards of living of gay and bisexual young men in Uganda and ensure that they sustain their lives in the homophobic environment in which they live through providing them with shelter, entrepreneurial, employable and adolescent life skills.

Legal Status:

Let's Walk Uganda is incorporated under the Laws of Uganda as a company Limited by guarantee.

Vision:

To develop an accepting and safe space for all young MSM in Uganda treated with respect and dignity, free from stigma and discrimination and above all an HIV/AIDS free generation.

COAL.

Social equality and safe spaces for all Young MSM in Uganda.

MISSION.

To improve the standards of living of Young MSM in Uganda and ensure that they sustain their lives in the homophobic environment through providing them with shelter, entrepreneurial, employable and adolescent life skills.

LWU'S OBJECTIVES

- a) To improve access to income generating opportunities for the jobless Young MSM.
- b) To promote welfare of Young MSM by providing shelter and other welfare services to those that have been rejected by their families
- c) To provide legal aid to Young MSM.
- d) To promote MSM advocacy and visibility.
- e) To promote friendly relations with any other companies, institutions, societies or associations having objectives altogether or in part similar to those of the organization.
- f) To advocate for inclusive laws and Policies
- g) To create awareness of HIV/AIDS and prevention measures.

To make research and document MSM violations in Uganda.

CORE VALUES.

- Dignity
- Efficiency
- Equality
- Inclusiveness
- Advocacy
- Honesty
- Love
- Transparency
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Accountability.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS :

It would have been impossible for Let's Walk Uganda to resiliently carry on with the work we do of continuously provide shelter to challenged gay and bisexual youths or constant online advocacy in Uganda. had it not been the support of our partners in Uganda and beyond. We owe our resilience of the past 6 years at various organization. communities and individuals.

We grateful to those who pulled out their finances when we were faced with a crisis in October 2019 through the Go-fund me campaign, HRAPF for standing tall with us even through that turmoil. training of staff in Advocacy and the Law and the financial support rendered for our recovery, SMUG for the continued support for the shelter. mentoring and capacity building, GIZ for making this event happening and accepting to help us build our structures.

In a special way, we wish to thank UGANET. TASO, MJAP. Frontline Aids. Defend Defenders. Safeplace International and All Out. We grateful of your support rendered to us.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Now is a time of exciting growth and opportunity for **let's walk Uganda**. especially as we welcome the new management.

Over the year. we have seen the greatest advancements in let's walk Uganda organization in the programming especially the shelter program where many had been offered shelter a place they can call home for some time and where they have been able to express themselves without fear of being discriminated and stigmatized. Your generous support to Let's Walk Uganda played a role in this success. and there is so much more to do.

What is so unique about let's walk Uganda is that we truly are trying to not leave anyone behind. We design our programs hand-in-hand with communities to meet their special challenges in culturally appropriate ways so that the impact lasts for generations to come. We are empowering communities to provide for themselves and control their own destinies. and I am proud to say we reached over 143 MSM youth since 2016.

Whether we are working with other organizations to human rights violations in Uganda. serving more than 42,000 MSM youth online. 323 reached with HTC in Uganda. and also providing economic Empowerment. mental health counseling and relocation of shelter members into individual for their safety and sustainable development. let's walk Uganda is creating solutions for MSM youth to lift themselves out of poverty and lead healthier lives.

On behalf of the Board of Directors. thank you for your partnership and support this year. and we look forward to working with you to have an even greater impact in the years to come.

Regards
Herbert Ayesiga

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE Director



The year 2021 has tested the resilience of the civil society community at large, it marks Let's Walk Uganda's existence for 5 years. this is an achievement itself for a local organization boldly fighting for rights of men having sex with other men in a highly political. religious and conservative environment.

The theme for this AGM today encourages us to live an anti-fragile life as young activists and we should always think of qualities of strength and robustness to be able to withstand and bounce back from major setbacks. What does this mean for LGBTQ young activists to thrive in a country that is conservative and uncertain. We should learn to live an anti-fragile life.

Allow me to profoundly proud present to you this report. which summarizes the organization's activities and accomplishments.

Let's Walk Uganda has continued to do its work reaching out the vulnerable MSM youths in Uganda through online advocacy where our organic reach is over 42,000 people and 3,600 permanent followers. The shelter has housed over 143 persons since its inception in 2016 with 35 in this year alone. 32 of these have successfully been relocated into personal homes and have been economically empowered to sustain themselves.

We have also partnered with different service providers to increase accessibility of HIV services to MSM youths in Kampala with emphasis on those living in urban slums and through 40 outreaches we managed to reach out to 323 MSM youth. with our new dedicated partners MJAP we hope to increase the Prep uptake and treatment enrollment next year.

In the bid to advocate better for our target group, we joined the Uganda Minorities Shelters Consortium with the main aim of ensuring that all LGBTQ shelter in Uganda have a unified voice and can advocate and fund-raise together.

We also officially became members of the Pan-Africa ILGA where we joined a pool of resourceful organizations that are part of the ILGA family to advocate for the LGBTQ person's rights internationally.

Two paralegals managed to be trained by HRAPF and they handle cases or refer to Lawyers for more interventions where need be.

We carried out an Organizational Capacity Assessment with GIZ and capacity development gaps were discovered and am proud to inform you that GIZ is fully on board to assist us in building our structures and ensuring our sustainability through an independent developed Let's Walk Uganda.

2021 marks a year or challenging times with open doors for us as a team to improve. adapt and develop our services and the organization structures at Large.

As I conclude my message to you is. the excess energy released from overreaction to set backs is what innovates in other words. it is growth because of and not in spite of. our challenges. As Let's Walk Uganda we stronger. unstoppable and destined for even greater as we serve you again next year.
Thank you.

ERIC NDAWULA
ED - LETS WALK UGANDA

Projects, Programs & Events

ADDRESSING MSM HOMELESSNESS

Since its inception, Let's Walk Uganda has fought to address the challenge of homelessness among the MSM Community by providing a shelter which serves as a platform for their growth and transformation.

The hands of hope shelter (Est. 2016) offers distressed homeless MSMs a safe, supportive, empowering and nonjudgmental environment with meaningful skills development that will help them reverse the cycle of homelessness.

Through various partners, Lets Walk Uganda has boosted its resettlement program for MSMs who have had challenges with relocation and finding safe secure places where they can stay. The program aims at provision of individual support to be able to find an apartment for rent depending on the situation at hand, the programs approach is through a proven need for relocation from the status quo of the client which can be described as an insecurity or threat and in need for new location to ensure their safety. The program seeks also to address the issue of homelessness by providing the up-front rent of the new place of this individual for a better chance at self-development.

The family reconciliation program seeks to develop family education materials to help families support their MSM children to avoid homelessness.

As of November 2021, over 100 MSMs have been housed at the Hands of Hope Shelter, 10 have been relocated and facilitated 5 family reconciliations.



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HIV/AIDS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

Let's Walk Uganda has continuously strived and add to existing efforts to create awareness about HIV/AIDS and its prevention, support Young MSM to exercise their rights and receive quality services free from stigma, discrimination or judgement.

The PEP and PREP education program has created awareness of and experiences with PEP and PrEP in communities of young MSM especially those living in urban slums. Unlike previous approaches, the program targets the men engaging in recent condom-less anal sex and would therefore meet the current guidelines to be considered for PrEP use.

Furthermore, we have eased access to condoms and lubricants for Young MSM by providing them in convenient and safe spaces like our DIC supported by Makerere Joint Aids Program (MJAP).

As of November 2021, 241 MSMs have received HIV prevention services at Let's Walk Uganda and 40 Outreach activities have been conducted.



M:JAP carries out an HIV outreach with Let's Walk Uganda

ADVOCACY FOR POLICY CHANGE AND INCLUSION OF MSMS IN NATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Our main goal in addressing Stigma & discrimination against Young MSM is to ensure a free a just environment, safe space and access to health and justice services for all.

We have consistently leveraged social media to create an advocacy platform to Inform and Influence attitudes towards Young MSM through online campaigns on our social media and website.

We have managed to establish further our online presence by building our website which has continuously shared the weekly newsletter aiming at keeping the information momentum about the Key Population Community.

Challenges for 2022 and Beyond

INNOVATION OPENS DOORS FOR GROWTH

Throughout 2021, we have been trying to adapt with the current situation. Because of the pandemic, most in person events were canceled and we had to carry them out virtually. Outreaches and dialogues became harder to conduct due to the difficulty in observing Standard Operating Procedures. It was during this year that we received record high numbers of prospective shelter members as well.

We have had to adapt to all these challenges head on. Our online platforms have helped when a message needed to be disseminated to the wider community, our peers have been availed with bicycles to reach the community right where they are while at the same time observing the COVID 19 guidelines. Our referral system is now more expansive than it was a year back to bring services closer to communities.

We have partnered with friends and well-wishers to beef up the security of our offices and the shelter so that the members are not only safe but are able to pursue their lives peacefully.

While the pandemic loomed large on the year 2021, our work at Let's Walk Uganda loomed even larger. Our dedicated team of volunteers, peers and partners have made these successes possible and visible to the wider community.

PARTNERING PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES

Countless Organizations and individuals have stood with Let's Walk Uganda for the last 365 days and more. With everything from providing advice and admonishment. to providing financial resources. providing free health care to shelter members. providing food, providing finances for utilities and providing free legal aid and advice.

We cannot thank them enough. It's hard to imagine how 2021 would have gone without partners. It is even harder to imagine where Let's Walk would be right now without your love and support.

Looking ahead, the era of going at it alone is obsolete. And as an Organization. we intend to grow partnerships and relationships within and outside the community.



VOLUNTEERS



Eric Ndawula
Executive Director



John Grace Tenywa
General Manager



Baker Howell Male
Asst. General Manager



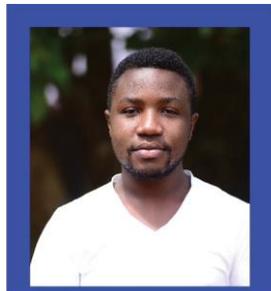
Peter Odoi
Programs Officer



Sana Mwesige
Data Officer



Hakim Lukwago
Finance Officer



Raymond Gukiina
Communications Officer



Darrian Yiga
Office Administrator



Eddie Niwamanya
Shelter Administrator

First LWU Annual General Meeting Agenda

1. Arrival, Registration and Logging in (8:00am-9:00am)
2. Call to Order - Moderator (9:00am to 9:10am)
3. Establish Quorum (9:10am to 9:15am)
4. Comments and Introductions - Moderator (9:15am to 9:30am)
5. Adoption of the Agenda (9:30am to 9:45am)
(Review agenda, make corrections, add items and then approve)
6. Break Tea (9:45am to 10:00am)
7. Annual Report (10:00am to 10:40am)
8. Financial Report (10:40am to 11:00am)
Annual financial report - interim Board
Treasurer and Finance Officer
9. Special Business (11:00am to 11:30am)
Input to the Strategic Plan
10. Election of New Board Members (11:30 to 12:20pm)
11. Executive Director's Report (12:20am to 1:00am)
12. Lunch (1:00am to 2:00pm)
13. Hand over and Appreciation of the interim
board members (2:00pm to 2:20pm)
14. Key Note Speaker (2:20pm to 2:40pm)
15. Logistics (2:40pm)



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