



LEADING CHANGE UGANDA
2024 ANNUAL REPORT



P.O BOX 11548

KAMPALA

Phone: +256 779196023

Email: leadingchangeuganda@gmail.com

Website: <https://leadingchangeuganda.wixsite.com/home>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LeadingChangeUganda/>



Table of Contents

A.	INTRODUCTION	4
B.	ABOUT US	5
	Leading Change Uganda	5
	Mission	5
	Vision	5
	Main objectives	6
	Other objectives	6
	Thematic areas of focus	6
	Our team	6
C.	OUR PROGRAMS	6
D.	WANGARI WOMEN PROJECT UPDATE	7
E.	CLIMATE CHANGE	14
F.	SMILE OF A CHILD PROJECT	14
	Education for All Program	15
	Menstruation Hygiene	15
G.	LCU ON THE FARM	17
H.	WANGARI WOMEN REVOLVING MICROFINANCE SCHEME	18
I.	COMMUNITY READING CLUB	20
J.	FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING	21
K.	GIFTS AND DONATIONS	22
L.	CONGRATULATIONS	23
M.	FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY	24
N.	FUNDRAISING AND VOLUNTEERING	25
	Giving Way Platform	25
	Online volunteers	25
	Fundraising drives	25
O.	SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS	26
P.	CONCLUSION	26

A. INTRODUCTION

The Purpose of this Annual Report is to review the work of Leading Change Uganda (LCU) throughout 2024. Over that year, LCU experienced great success and a few challenges in pursuing its passion to contribute to changing the world, working with five communities in Wakiso and Kampala districts of Central Uganda. As a result, the women and children of Buwaali (Buso and Banga), Nsekwa, Nvumba, Nansana and Kawaala villages have been seeing their lives transformed through empowerment and training in how to use the little resources they have to change their lives and their communities at large.



Fig 1 - Celebrating the end of year 2024 with Vumba Women Group under the Wangari Women's Project

B. ABOUT US

Leading Change Uganda

LCU is a non-for-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization, based in Wakiso district in Uganda. It was formed in January 2013 by a group of young people who hoped to create the change they wanted to see in the world, particularly for women and children. LCU is inspired by the idea that the world should be a better place for everyone, regardless of their sex, age, religion, color or nationality. The organization was registered as a company limited by guarantee without shares; it was incorporated on 7th December 2016 (certificate of registration number 8002000007536) and registered with the National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organizations on 7th August 2019 (certificate of registration number 3090). The mandate of the organization is to create positive change in the lives of women and children. LCU strives to empower them to effectively engage in social and economic development through training, access to education, information and other basic needs to improve their standard and quality of living.

Mission

Our mission is to build and strengthen individuals, families, institutions and community initiatives for poverty eradication, education and development through partnerships at all levels.

Vision

“An informed, educated, empowered and just society”.



Main objectives

1. To contribute towards poverty alleviation in Uganda.
2. To promote access to education and improvement in basic needs while imparting life and entrepreneurial skills.
3. To promote sustainable development while strengthening and empowering our communities.

Other objectives

1. To provide education support to underprivileged children through scholarships, building and running schools and orphanages.
2. To enhance livelihoods among the urban poor and providing agri-business and advisory services
3. To operate a revolving micro-finance scheme for poverty eradication among the population in its area of operation.
4. To achieve sustainability by undertaking income-generating activities aimed at funding the activities of the organization and to equip communities with entrepreneurial skills.

Thematic areas of focus

- Economic empowerment for women and girls
- Education
- Climate justice
- Poverty
- Microfinance

Our team

LCU is made up of a dynamic team with a vast knowledge and a passion to change the world. The team is composed of 19 individuals from different parts of the world who work hard to see that LCU achieves its objectives. They diverse team invests different kinds of resources in the organization to make a contribution so that the underprivileged get a chance to live a better life, creating the change that it envisions seeing in the world.

“Our team is passionate about putting a smile on another person’s face”.

C. OUR PROGRAMS

LCU continued operations on its core seven projects in 2024:

1. The Wangari Women’s project
2. The Climate Change project
3. The Smile of a Child Project
4. The Education for All Project
5. LCU on the Farm
6. The Wangari Women Revolving Micro-Finance Scheme
7. The Community Reading Club
8. The Volunteering project.

In a nutshell, a number of activities were carried out to improve the lives of the women and children in Buwaali (Banga and Buso), Nsekwa, Nvumba, Nansana and Kawaala villages including fundraising, trainings, celebrations and sharing the little we had. In the year 2024, LCU was able to reach 300 women and 100 children both directly and indirectly.

D. WANGARI WOMEN PROJECT UPDATE

The Wangari Women’s Group meet regularly to discuss a number of issues on how to improve their children’s class work and stay focused in school, and on how to make their groups better by empowering one another financially and becoming peer mentors to each other. The women discussed how to support the Smile of the Child Project and LCU on the Farm Project which mainly focuses on agricultural projects. They are five groups, whose details are illustrated in the table below;

No.	Name of group	No. of Women Members
1	Buwaali (Buso and Banga) Women group	100
2	Vumba women group	150
3	Kawaala women group	30
4	Nansana women group	10
5	Nsekwa women group	10
	TOTAL	300

It is important to note the project has created togetherness among the women as they work together on various projects such as; the Kawaala women who are involved in the Charcoal business, Vumba women who are involved in tailoring, Buwaali women who are involved in soap making and the Nsekwa women who are involved in the revolving animal farming project where women share piglets on rotation basis.



Fig 2& 3 - Vumba Women group Tailoring Program and Buwaali Women's group members in the meeting



Fig 4 - Vumba Women Group after a meeting

Celebrating International Women's Day on 8th March 2024

International Women's Day was celebrated on 8th March 2024 by women all over the world and was recognized by LCU who acknowledged that it is a great day for all the women who work so hard to make the world a better place.

On this day, a peer-to-peer meeting was organized by the women of Buwaali and the nearby villages of Buso and Banga to encourage and empower one another by sharing their stories on how they have been able to succeed in their businesses, loan handling and saving. The women gladly shared their stories on how the loans have uplifted their lives, improving their standard of living and enabling them to start their own businesses where they can now employ other women. They went on to tell each other how important it is to save for rainy days and also to start a business. *One of the ladies confirmed that she can now discuss money matters with her husband which was not the case before!* Thus confirming that the women of these villages can now make decisions in their homes and communities.

During the celebrations, 20 re-usable sanitary pads made by the Wangari Women through the tailoring program were sold at 500/= per pad to the members.



Fig 5-Women's day celebrations and sharing testimonies with the women of Buwaali, Buso, Banga villages

Easter Celebrations

Easter season celebrations with the women and their children happened on Good Friday. The celebrations included training and a lot of fun activities such as indoor games, football, dance and drama and sharing gifts. During the celebrations, they were able to learn together, sing together, dance together, have lunch together, play together and enjoy their time together. The women were taught how to manage their loans as well as how to continue saving so that the Wangari Women Revolving Micro Finance Scheme can continue to grow and get in position to serve them better. The children shared stories, art, dance and drama which were organized as part of the Community Reading Club with the help of some of the older students being sponsored by LCU. The day was crowned with Easter gifts to the women and the children which were donated by the friends and partners of LCU.



Fig 6 -Meeting with the women of the Wangari Women's Project and their children of the Smile of a Child Project

Independence Day on 9 October 2024

We celebrated Uganda's Independence on 9th October 2024; Uganda achieved 62 years of being independent. On this day, LCU met with 100 children of the Smile of a Child Project and 100 women of the Wangari Women Project. The women were empowered with financial management, climate change and personal development skills. Mrs. Ziribagwa Hellen Apedel, the Chief Executive Officer of Pass it on Trust Uganda trained the women in Personal Development, Gavin Kimuli trained the women and children on how to handle Climate change issues and protection of their environment, Victoria Nattabi who studying a Certificate of Early Child Development sponsored by LCU helped the children with reading and games. Over time LCU has focused to making a difference in the lives of the children and women in Buwaali, Nsekwa, Vumba, Nansana and Kawaala villages.



Fig 7 - Celebrating Uganda's Independence Day with children from the Smile of a Child Project and women of the Wangari Women's Project

Christmas Celebrations

Christmas celebrations were held at Buso village with representation from each of the villages LCU supports. The event achieved attendance of 500 people of which 300 were women, 50 were men and 150 children from the villages of Buwaali, Vumba, Nsekwa, Nansana and Kawaala. During the celebrations, the women were urged to keep saving, empower one another and keep families together while the children were urged to stay in school and men to stop gender based violence which is happening a lot in their homes. Gifts were given to the best individuals among the women and children who worked hard towards seeing that LCU achieved its objectives in 2024. The gifts were given in the categories of; best savers, consistent savers, and best students, among others.





Fig 8 - End of year and Christmas celebrations with the women and their children supported by LCU

E. CLIMATE CHANGE

Environment Challenge One-Pick-One Trash a Day

Imagine: if each one of 1000 citizens removed one piece of trash in their space each day, a lot would change in only the space of a few days. The environment would be clean and there would be proper hygiene around our homes. And the impact on the environment could be a decrease in 6.0 ppm of carbon dioxide and a decrease in 15.0 kg of waste. This challenge was spear-headed by Kimuli Gavin with other youth from his community in Kawaala, one of the suburbs of Kampala, and it lasted for five days.



Fig 9 - Gavin Kimuli (left) with other young people picking trash from the community

F. SMILE OF A CHILD PROJECT



Fig 10 - Miremebe Annet (Middle) Senior Two at Stella Maris College Nsumbe with her Friends

Education for All Program

The program has sponsored 55 children in Nursery, Primary, Secondary Schools and Tertiary Institutions. These children are children of the women supported by LCU under the Wangari Women's project.

LCU supported 50 children with tuition fees for the whole of year 2024 to acquire school fees and other school materials. The 50 children supported by the program included; 2 from Kawaala village, 9 from Vumba village, 1 from Nansana village, 3 from Nsekwa village and 35 from Buwaali village. Of which 2 girls attended Nursery School, 19 girls and 8 boys attended Primary Schools, 11 girls and 6 boys attended Secondary Schools and lastly 3 students attended tertiary institutions. During the year, LCU noticed that children who are part of the Saturday lessons tremendously improved in their studies. However, LCU is looking for a good teachers to help children who are slow learners improve in their studies. We would like to get feedback from our dear sponsors on how to help these children who love school and are putting in a lot of effort to see that they improve in their studies, but still getting poor results.

LCU continuously monitored children by visiting them at both school and home for support. During the visits, LCU realized that each child has been affected by his or her environment differently and have different dreams and different visions of life. The profiles will be updated regularly based on ongoing information received for each child. The sponsored children were profiled with details of each child thus a getting a deeper understanding of their lives at a personal level. The profiles will be updated regularly based on ongoing information received for each child.

We appreciate every individual working hard to see that every child can access education and be able to fight poverty in this part of the world, thus working towards fulfilling Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 4 (No Poverty and Quality Education).

Menstruation Hygiene

During Term One of 2024, the girls of Primary Four to Primary Seven of Hope Nursery and Primary School in Buwaali village were trained by the Wangari Women on how to keep clean during their menstruation period, thus menstruation hygiene, and were provided with reusable sanitary pads which were donated by Linda Mitchell and made by the Wangari Women as part of their Tailoring Project. The girls were urged to stay in school during their periods thus protecting them from men who would want to sexually abuse them with an excuse of providing them with sanitary pads, hence reducing early child marriages. We conducted discussions on how the girls could stay in school during their menstruation period and how to find solutions to some of the challenges faced by those girls during that period. The girls opened up about how they struggle to keep safe during their periods. Some testified that during their period, they do not want to attend school. Others use banana fibers as a replacement for sanitary pads, while others have been lured into sexual activities during their search for money to buy sanitary pads which are expensive: a pack can cost up to Ugx 3000.

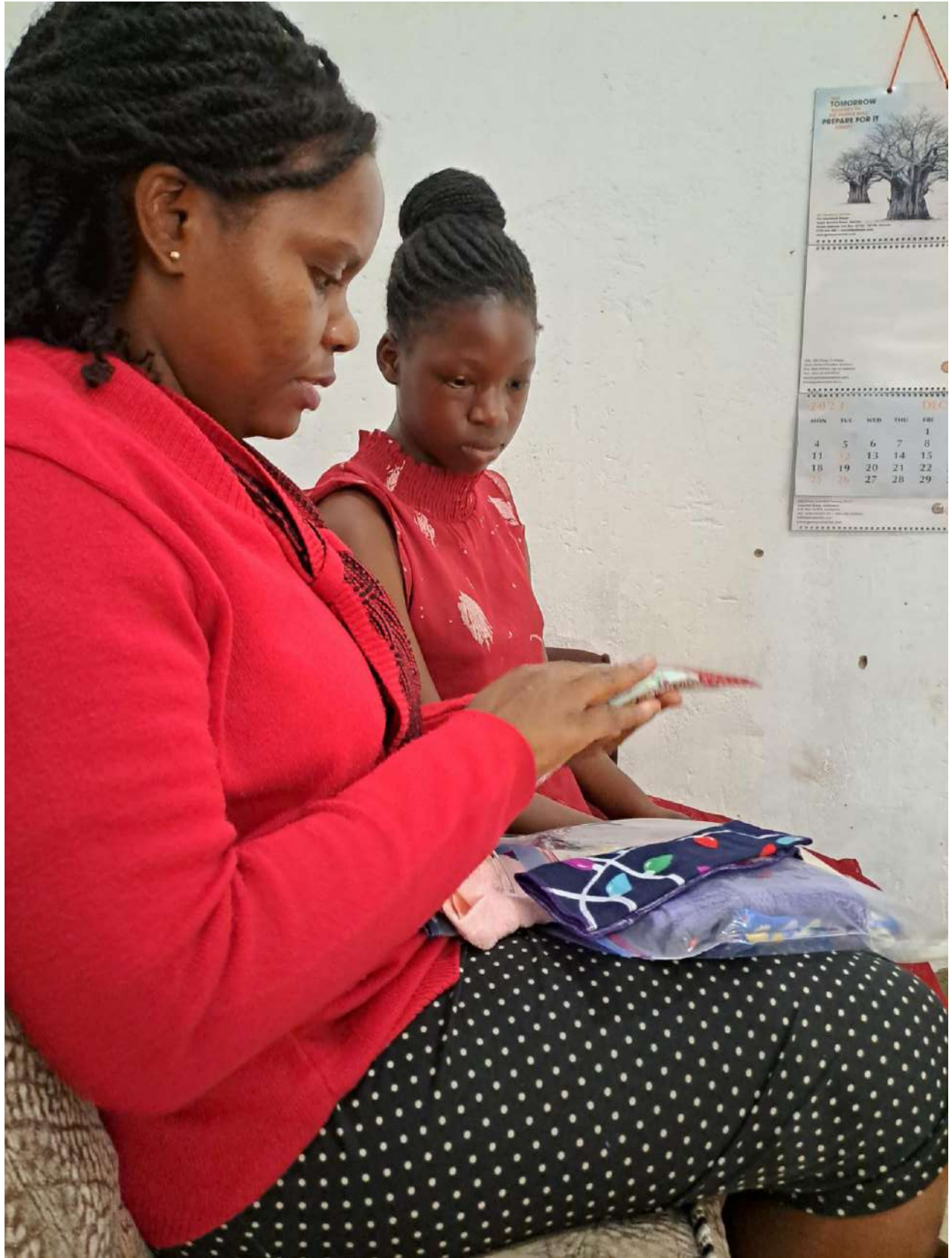


Fig 10 - LCU's CEO Lillian Nanteza training one of the pupils part of the Education for All on how to use reusable pads

World Children's Day 2024

LCU celebrated World Children's Day 2024. LCU took the opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed towards a positive change in the lives of children all over the world. They are indeed doing a great job at making this world a better place for children and their mothers. On that day, the girls were taught how to use reusable sanitary pads while the boys were taught lessons on personal hygiene.



*Fig 11-Training on menstruation
On World Children's Day 2024*



Fig 12 - Enjoying food and drinks

G. LCU ON THE FARM

This project provided learning opportunities to the children and women of Buwaali, Banga, Buso and Nsekwa villages on animal rearing and farming. The project has equipped women and children with animal rearing skills. It has provided an opportunity for LCU to create a model animal farm where children, Wangari Women and other community members come to learn and share experiences. The Nansana Women group was able to secure land in Balita-Gayaza in Wakiso district and planted 100 coffee trees. The Revolving animal method practiced by the Nsekwa, Buwaali and Vumba Women groups saw 30 women receive either a piglet or a kid among others to look after. And when the animal gave birth, the women shared with LCU the piglets therefore, LCU share was given to other members of the group.



Fig 13 - Jamirah and Jane of Nsekwa Women group part of the animal revolving project

H. WANGARI WOMEN REVOLVING MICROFINANCE SCHEME

The Wangari Women Revolving Microfinance Scheme started with 50 members in 2019. This year the scheme has a total of 300 rural women, uneducated, socially and economically deprived in the villages of Vumba, Kawaala, Nansana, Nsekwa, Buwaali (Buso and Banga) in Wakiso district and Slums of Kampala district. The scheme is fully managed by the Wangari women groups with the help of LCU. This year the women were able to save Ugx 50,000,000 and borrowed Ugx 5,000,000. The loans facilitated the scheme to gain interest of Ugx 600,000. The members savings, interest on loans and through collective income generating projects done by the Wangari women groups such as revolving animal farming, tailoring, soap making, charcoal business among others support the existence of the scheme. The Interest made was shared among the members and also supported in the expansion of the scheme hence improvement in their welfare and that of their families. Through the scheme members were empowered through peer to peer mentoring, seeing is believing program and small loans to start small; individual business projects, take their children to school, nutrition among others hence improvement in the standards of living. Gavin Kimuli, the CEO Finshares, on several occasions through a number of meetings organized by LCU, taught the members how to make the Scheme better for everyone and how to solve the current challenges faced by the women as they focused on saving and getting loans to help them change their lives.



Fig 14-Women during the loan and saving scheme meeting at Vumba



Fig 15 -Meeting of the members of the Wangari Women Revolving Microfinance scheme at Vumba

I. COMMUNITY READING CLUB

The Community Reading Club located in Buwali village helped 50 children and 15 women to learn how to read, count and write in year 2024. The club is managed by a qualified teacher facilitated by LCU. She taught both children out of school and in school thus seeing a tremendous improvement in their class performances. The children and their teacher met every Saturday to read, play and write. However, the club lacks furniture, teachers and teaching materials yet it provided an opportunity to the children who are not going to school to have an opportunity to learn, to read, write and count. Every Wednesday of the week, the teacher met with the women and taught them how to read and write. The club used storytelling to improve children and women 's listening and concentration skills hence the ability to understand, listen and express themselves in English. The club used a qualified nurse to carryout counseling sessions through the sessions, LCU learned that one of the students part of the Education for All program was mentally unwell. Thus discovering that the children and their mothers needed a lot of psychological and social support if they are to stay in school and be part of the engagements in their communities.



Fig 16 - Saturday classes

J. FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING

This training is part of the training provided to the members of the Wangari Women groups. The training focused on how women could manage their finances through savings, loans management and investment opportunities hence improvement in their standard of living. Feedback received during the meetings of the Wangari women, a number of women who attended the training shared their success stories.



Fig 17 - The LCU CEO during a Financial Literacy training

K. GIFTS AND DONATIONS



Fig 18 - Some of the gifts donated by Linda Mitchell and friends in Scotland for LCU projects

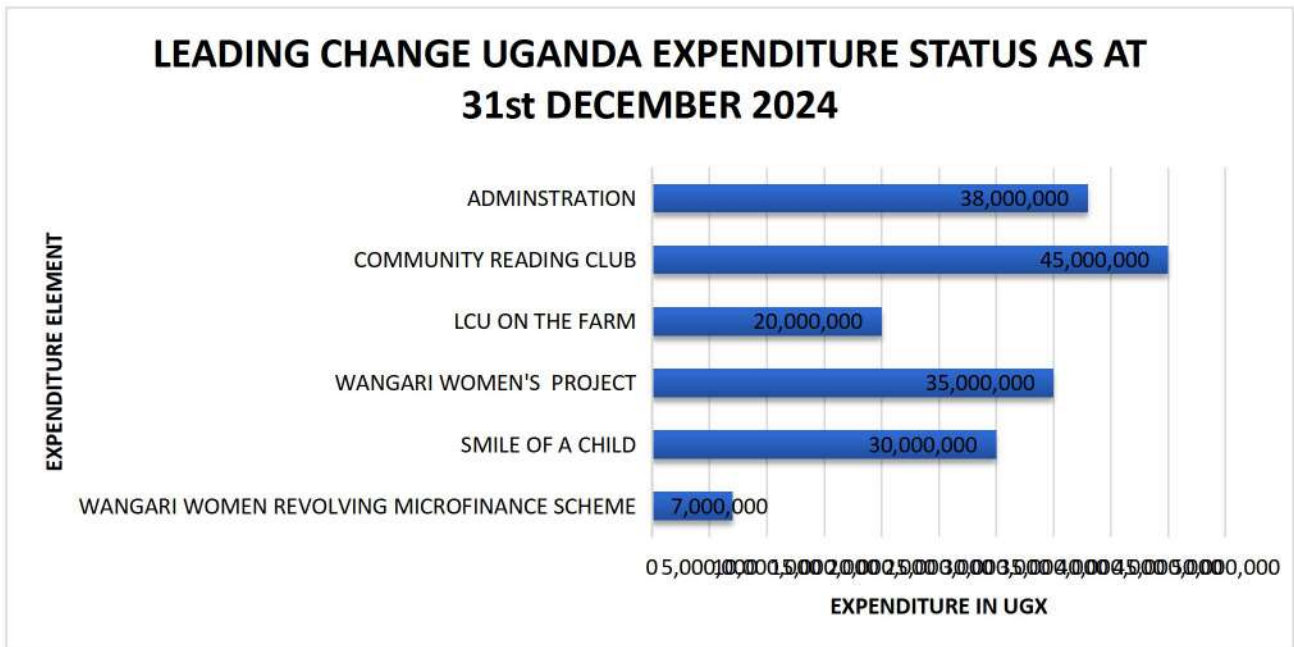
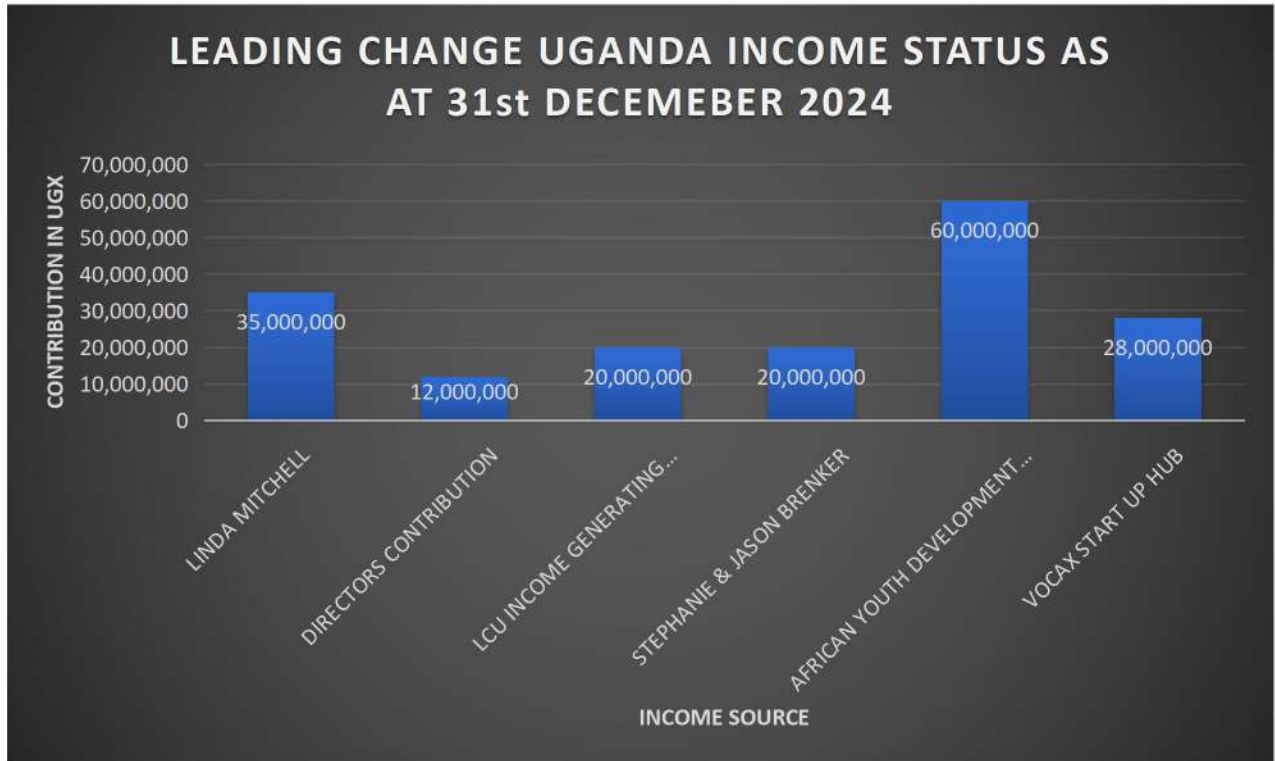
L. CONGRATULATIONS

Finally, LCU congratulates its Administrator, Micheal Nkalubo, who successfully obtained his Certificate in Accounting from YMCA Institute. It is a great achievement, a milestone to the organization because he is one of the initial beneficiaries of the LCU Sponsorship Program. He is now pursuing a Diploma in Accountancy.



Fig 19 - Mr. Nkalubo Micheal, Administrator of LCU, on his big day after receiving his Certificate in Accounting from YMCA Institute.

M. FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY



N. FUNDRAISING AND VOLUNTEERING

Giving Way Platform

Online volunteers

LCU has worked with online volunteers who do a lot of work from their respective countries, such as reviewing documents, updating the website and social media platforms, creating videos to showcase our work, and connecting the organization to like-minded individuals and organizations. They have supported the organization in its administrative work by drafting documents and have enhanced the visibility of the work LCU is doing. Online meetings have been organized via WhatsApp, email and Facebook.

For any individuals interested in joining our team, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Fundraising drives

(i) Wangari Women Revolving Microfinance Scheme -Micro Loan

Through this program, LCU has been able to raise funds through the small interest charged on the micro loans made to the participating Wangari Women. This interest has helped with the management of the scheme catering for costs such as bank charges, and supporting the Field Coordinator, Group leaders and the Loan Programs Coordinators.

(ii) Wangari Project

LCU has raised funds for some of its activities through the tailoring projects undertaken by the women. The tailoring project by the women of Buwaali raised funds through the sale of dresses and reusable sanitary pads to the girls and women of nearby villages.

(iii) LCU on the Farm

LCU has raised funds for some of its activities through the project LCU On the Farm, where LCU has been able to sell some of the animals to raise funds.

(iv) Linda Mitchell



Linda fundraised for the Smile of the Child Project’s “Education for All” program and secured 50 sponsors for 50 children in year 2024. She has been doing this since 2017 when the program started with 15 children. She held a number of workshops for groups of ladies and church members about the work of LCU. LCU has received both in-kind contributions and funds as a result of her great fundraising drives. Linda taught ladies in different groups in Scotland how to make dresses and reusable sanitary pads which were later donated to the children of the Smile of a Child Project and to the Wangari Women’s Group.

(v) Stephanie and Jason Brenker

LCU has raised funds for some of its activities through funds donated by individual donors; Stephanie and Jason have committed to support LCU activities twice a year.

(vi) African Youth Development Link

LCU has raised funds for some of its activities through funds donated by organization; African Youth Development Link has committed to support LCU activities for two years (2025 & 2026).

(vii) Vocax Start UP Hub

LCU has raised funds for some of its activities through funds donated by organizations;Vocax Start Up Hub has committed to support LCU activities for two years (2025 & 2026).

(viii) Directors Contribution

LCU has raised funds for some of its activities through Directors contribution;LCU Directors have committed to support LCU activities every year with Ugx 12,000,000/-

We are grateful to all our fundraising partners for their contributions in 2024, which has helped LCU carry out all the programs listed in this Report. We look forward to working together in 2024.

O. SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

- ✓ LCU Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/LeadingChangeUganda/>
- ✓ LCU Twitter handle: https://twitter.com/LCU_Uganda
- ✓ LCU Instagram: @leading_change_uganda
- ✓ LCU Websites: <https://leadingchangeuganda.wixsite.com/home>

LCU is looking for a volunteer to manage its social media platforms. To create an impact in our local communities, we need to be able to showcase our work to the world.

P. CONCLUSION

Let's work together to be the change we want to see in world. Special thanks go to all the amazing individuals and organizations who have committed their time, ideas, money and in-kind donations to see that Leading Change Uganda achieves its objectives. The journey has not been a smooth one; the organization and the women faced a number of challenges but have also learned a number of lessons

which will make 2025 a better year. It is our right and obligation to work hard and change the world in the best way we can.



Managemnet team

1. Lillian Nanteza (CEO and Founder)
2. Nkalubo Micheal (Finance and Administration)
3. Florence Namubiru (Field Coordinator)
4. Bwowe Alexander (Program Coordinator and Founder)
5. Nakanwangi Margret (Leader Kawaala Group)
6. Nabukenya Margaret (Leader Vumba Group)
7. Nalubwama Jane (Leader Nsekwa Group)
8. Naluyange Angella (Leader Vumba Group)
9. Mirembe Annet (Leader Nansana Group and Children and Youth Coordinator)
10. Sebagala Jonathan Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
11. Mugisha James (Driver)

Board Members

1. Stephanie C. B. Brenker (Advisory Board Member, Australia)
2. Linda Mitchell (Advisory Board Member, Scotland)
3. Nazziwa Winfred (Board Treasurer, Uganda)
4. Kigozi Nicholas (Board Chairperson, Uganda)
5. Lillian Nanteza(Board Member, Uganda)
6. Nkalubo Micheal (Board Staff Representative, Uganda)
7. Bwowe Alexander (Board Secretary, Uganda)

Volunteers

1. Kayindo Pauline Vumba Group
2. Nandego Christine Buwaali Group
3. Nakisozi Gorret Buwaali Group
4. Namuleme Jemimah Nsekwa Group