



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



40daysover40smiles.org



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TEAM LEADER'S MESSAGE

As I write this, my heart is filled with immense gratitude. Coming to the end of 2022 after the worst years of the pandemic is a win in itself.

We have been inspired and held by the support of our volunteers, supporters, partners and donors. This has enabled us to keep going during the most challenging periods.

In January, 2022, schools in Uganda reopened after a two year closure, as a result of Covid -19. With community schools as our primary beneficiaries, navigating the new reality took collective effort.

During the closure, 40 Days over 40 Smiles Foundation (4040) was able to distribute food stuffs and educational material to the children and their families. Educational content was also shared online for our wider network. The intervention was not nearly enough to fulfil the needs. Nonetheless, it gave us some comfort to play a small part in attempting to maintain a semblance of normalcy during a particularly difficult time.

Our fundraising is greatly hinged on the use of social media, fundraising events and all round crowdfunding which had been stalled by lockdowns, alongside the uncertainty and minimal disposable income. We maintained contact in minimal but effective ways, while planning to rebuild - without much knowledge of what was in store.

We recognise the resilience of the community and celebrate the volunteers and supporters who maintained presence, albeit virtually.

This year we were excited to reunite, in person. This allowed us to recruit new volunteers, organise multiple fundraising events and training sessions and most importantly, return to the learners in their schools! The reunion was everything.

I invite you to learn more about our commitment to improving access to quality education for children in underserved communities through this report.

I am proud of the strides that we have continued to make, even in the face of adversity.

ESTHER KALENZI

Founder & Team Leader



WHO WE ARE

40 Days Over 40 Smiles Foundation (4040) is a volunteer-based non-profit organisation founded in 2012, to provide literacy and learning resources to vulnerable children as a means of increasing enrolment, retention and improving access to quality learning for all children.

Vision: To be the epicentre of youth mobilisation for community service towards holistic education of children in underserved communities.

Mission: Inspiring Ugandans to engage in philanthropic activities towards improving quality of learning for underprivileged children and communities.

WHAT WE DO

Our work is focused on providing human resource support to under-resourced schools and at-risk communities through volunteer placement; increasing equitable access to essential scholastic materials; establishing learning spaces for children in under-resourced communities such as slums, rural areas and providing complementary educational tools and resources such as computers, storybooks and other instructional material.

Our intervention dubbed Angaza is derived from the Swahili word "Shine." It is the flagship program through which we fulfill our mandate. The Angaza Program has two approaches that enable us support children both in school and out-of-school by providing the relevant learning and educational resources.

Angaza Outreach Program

The outreach program primarily targets children in under-resourced schools. By partnering with under-resourced primary schools in vulnerable and underserved communities, we provide access to essential scholastic materials and human resource support through volunteer placement.

Angaza Resource Centres (ARC)

The Angaza Resource Centres (ARC) are child-friendly safe spaces within underserved communities. Through these spaces, we provide complementary educational tools and resources such as computers, storybooks, learning aids and instructional materials to children in under-resourced schools as well as learning sessions for those who have dropped out. We also train teachers, equipping them with skills for learner-centred education, resource making and leadership.



OUR OPERATING CONTEXT

The Covid-19 pandemic and School Closure

The covid 19 pandemic had devastating effects on all sectors across the world. In Uganda, the education sector was heavily affected with schools facing a 2-year lockdown (one of the longest on schools in the world), with over 15 million pupils out of school.

In spite of the fact that the pandemic triggered innovation in education where some learners attended school online, it was not inclusive as pupils from poor families who attend 'poor schools' were left behind. This was due to the inaccessibility of the technology and gadgets required for online classes. This further widened the inequality gap in Uganda's education sector.

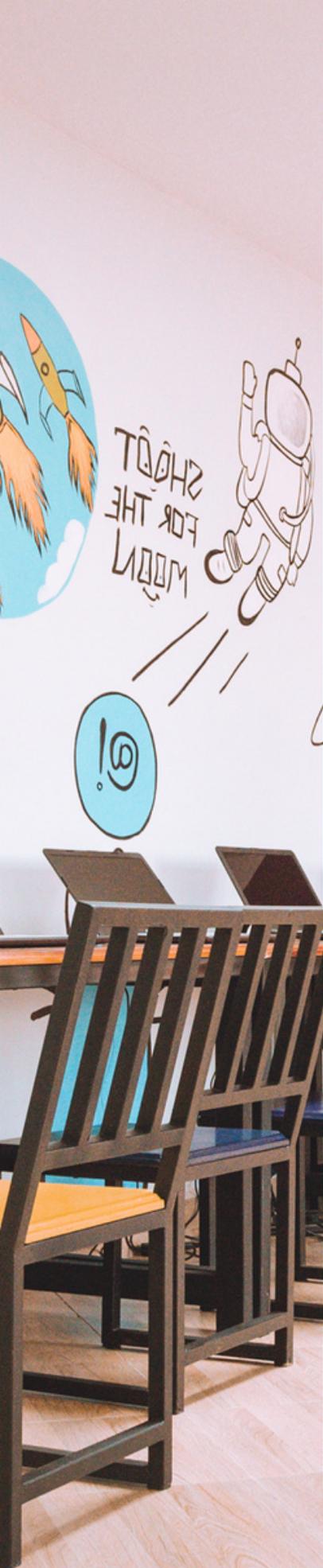
In the same light, the pandemic also affected 40 Days over 40 Smiles' Angaza Programme which is largely implemented in schools. The Foundation was able to redesign the Angaza toolkit to enable learners to take sessions on their own. The toolkit was also availed online to enable learners to access it from home, with the help of their families.

Although the lockdown on schools was lifted at the beginning of 2022, it left devastating effects on the education sector. It was reported by the National Planning Authority that 30% of the students were not expected to return to school due to teenage pregnancies, exacerbated poverty, child labour, and early marriage. Teachers as well switched their careers to be able to provide for their families, as their jobs were at a standstill. With the Angaza Resource Centre, 4040 hopes to extend support to children who dropped out of school as a result of the pandemic.

The New School Curriculum

To achieve learning recovery after the two years of school lockdown, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in partnership with the National Development Centre (NCDC) launched the abridged curriculum for primary and lower secondary schools with a focus on select concepts and competencies alongside psycho-social support for learners.

This was followed by the introduction of a learner-centred curriculum, with a focus on the needs and the development of key life skills for learners. Additionally, the government has integrated technology into education by introducing basic ICT in schools. However, the education sector is also strained with resources to support the implementation of these changes.



The Foundation's Angaza Programme and Resource Centre bridges the gaps in the Kibuli community by offering capacity building for teachers in learner-centered education, availing educational resources such as computers and teaching children life skills such as self-awareness, community agency and resourcefulness



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

The Angaza Programme

In 2022, we continued to implement our Angaza Programme in underserved schools that have inadequate learning facilities, aids and teachers that match the number of pupils.

The Programme focuses on building children's skills such as self-awareness, community agency and resourcefulness, alongside literacy. It was implemented at Merowa and Quentin Junior Schools in Kibuli, Makindye Division. Throughout the year, our volunteers delivered weekly sessions to the children across the three terms of the year, guided by the Angaza Toolkit.

The Foundation was able to reach over 350 children by enhancing their life skills such as self-esteem, confidence, leadership and problem-solving. Soft hands-on skills were also taught to the children to enable them to utilise resources within their midst to solve contemporary issues. This included hand making dustbins for their classrooms.

To support their literacy, over 600 storybooks were donated to the schools we support, as well as other communities for example, children in Kasese, in Western Uganda. Our approach ensures that learners' minds are opened outside of the curriculum, thereby enabling them to think critically and discover who they are.

In 2023, the Foundation plans to support schools to establish Angaza clubs to foster continuity and sustainability of the programme; extend the programme to other underserved schools in Makindye division; donate more books; train teachers in learner-centred educational approaches and launch the Angaza Resource Centre to provide other learning materials such as computers, textbooks and a safe space for children to read.



The Volunteer Programme

Our work largely benefits from the volunteer programme, which annually recruits young people to implement activities of the Foundation. In 2022, we recruited and trained 45 individuals to serve as volunteers in different departments such as communications, marketing and partnerships, fundraising and events, finance and operations, the Angaza programme and the resource centre.

4040 Hangouts were organised to link volunteers to different professionals, foster networking and create a space for young people to discuss important yet difficult issues that directly affect them. 45 volunteers gained work experience, learnt workplace ethics, and built networks. Several are completing their University degrees next year, to join the job market and we are excited to offer recommendations and support their placements.

We envision recruiting and training more than 40 young people in 2023.



FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

4040's work has largely depended on crowd fundraising over the years. Throughout the year, the Foundation organised different fundraising activities to raise funds for its causes. Even though fundraising was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic due to restrictions on gatherings between 2020 and early 2022, some of our friends and partners were able to attend our online events and donate remotely.

In 2022, 4040 returned to face to face interactions with a bang! We organised the iconic 4040 Nights which bring together groups of people for quiz, karaoke, board games and other fun activities, once every quarter.

In July 2022, we were able to bring back 5 Aside UG, a football event that had not been held for 5 years. It was amazing to reunite with our supporters from over the years while playing a well loved sport.

Additionally, our growing line of merchandise items saw us expand outlets to The Deli and Bungee Uganda in Jinja; on top of the existing Done Athletic stores which have three branches in Naalya, Lubowa and Kitende.



ON 15th September, we partnered with Endiro Coffee, Kisementi, where 10% from the restaurant's sales go towards 4040. This is a practice that occurs annually and we were happy to connect with their patrons as well as some long standing supporters.

A new partner, Merck Family Foundation, joined our portfolio close to the end of the year. This gave us a much needed boost as we continue to fundraise for the Angaza Resource Centre.





UGX 183,461,374

raised from Events, Merchandise sales, Subscriptions, Donor Support and Grants.

Through our events, merchandise, subscription and donor support, we were able to raise UGX 183,461,374. This enabled the smooth running of our programs. We are grateful to all our donors and supporters who continue to show up for us consistently.





CURRENT PROJECTS & FUTURE PLANS

Angaza Resource Centre (ARC)

On 1st July 2023, we officially opened the Angaza Resource Centre. Located at Merowa Junior School in Kibuli, Makindye Division, the Angaza Resource Centre will diversify the range of educational facilities and learning spaces in the area, particularly for children in primary schools, young adults and teachers.

The centre will avail resources such as textbooks, story books, games, computers and other materials that support and facilitate better learning outcomes for children while in school, as well as provide a safe space for children to play and interact with their peers. It will also give a chance to out-of-school children to learn hands-on skills that can contribute to their economic wellbeing in the future. Additionally, it is utilised to upskill teachers from community schools with training in learner-centered education, resource-making, inclusivity and leadership.

We are targeting at least 3,000 children and 200 teachers in Makindye division.

The resource centre presents a great opportunity for learners who attend schools that lack facilities such as libraries and computer laboratories, as well as those who dropped out and need remedial education.

Based on the progress of the centre and lessons learned, 4040 will embark on setting up similar establishments within Kampala and beyond.



Above is an image showing the interior of the computer laboratory and below is an image showing part of the ARC Library.







GRATITUDE

In the past year, we were engaged in various activities and we owe it to the support and contribution of our friends and partners. In a special way, we thank our partners in their various capacities for their continuous and consistent support, which was monetary and in kind.

Our partner schools, Merowa Junior and Quentin Junior Schools, together with the Makindye Division Local Council have been supportive and cooperative throughout our interventions.

In the same regard, we networked with initiatives implementing similar interventions such as the Jinja Educational Trust (JET) and Connect Education and Resource Centre in Wobulenzi, for benchmarking and cross-learning. The knowledge garnered from these networks has been instrumental in shaping our programmes, especially the Angaza Resource Centre. We appreciate all these initiatives for openly sharing their experience, knowledge and guidance with us.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the 4040 team of volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure the smooth implementation of all our programmes and activities. We are who we are because of all of their efforts.

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THANK YOU

**BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO
SEE IN THE WORLD**

40 Days Over 40 Smiles Foundation

