



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



40daysover40smiles.org



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TEAM LEADER'S MESSAGE

2024 has been a remarkable year for 40 Days Over 40 Smiles Foundation (4040). I am honoured to share our journey with you—one filled with resilience, the spirit of community, and meaningful impact. This year, we continued to champion the power of education and collaboration, creating opportunities for underserved children and fostering partnerships that amplified our reach.

As you know, we largely work with children in Primary schools and like everything else, this was severely affected by Covid-19. While our learners stayed home and the parents and educators struggled, our community of givers also suffered setbacks too. Their challenges included layoffs, shorter working hours and less disposable income

Schools only reopened in January 2022 and our community is still in the process of rebuilding, as are we. It is on that same note that I acknowledge how challenging this year has been for many, across the world. From conflicts, to displacement, diseases, climate disasters, political and economic turmoil, it has been overwhelming.

Despite witnessing issues that are often out of our control even in our very own backyard, we have been held by our community and done our part in pouring into them too. With our work being rooted in care and collective action, we remain steadfast in keeping the hope alive and rising up to the challenge, as best we can.

We celebrate even the smallest wins, with the knowledge that we have each other, even amidst the chaos - a feat we do not take for granted. This year, we celebrated the first anniversary of the Angaza Resource Centre, a long held dream that finally came to fruition. We experienced its impact while recognising the immense responsibility it comes with. We learnt several lessons not only from this new program but also the other components of the Foundation.

We have the incomparable support of individuals who continue to show up; to give of their time, skills and resources for the betterment of their community. I am incredibly proud of our team and constantly in awe of how much they achieve with whatever resources are availed, small or plenty.. Sometimes the adversity may persist but so do they.

When I think of them, I am reminded of the quote by Margaret Mead. **“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”**

This report offers a glance into what your support helped us achieve in 2024. Your unwavering support made every milestone possible, and together, we continue to be the change we want to see.

ESTHER KALENZI

Founder & Team Leader



OUR NORTH STAR

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.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS





ANGAZA OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Angaza Outreach Program stands as a cornerstone of our mission to empower underserved communities by improving access to education. This initiative focuses on primary school-going children in resource-constrained environments, equipping them with the tools to enhance literacy, build self-awareness, and foster resourcefulness within their communities.

At the core of the program is the **Angaza Toolkit** — structured around three key themes:

- **Self-Awareness** – Encouraging children to understand and value their identity and potential.
- **Community Agency** – Cultivating skills to effectively engage with and contribute to their surroundings.
- **Resourcefulness** – Enhancing problem-solving and adaptive thinking.

These themes are delivered through dynamic and interactive sessions which include reading stories, writing, expression through art and role play.

2024 MILESTONES:

This year, the Angaza Outreach Program reached the following milestones:

- **Recruitment of Facilitators:** Successfully onboarded 26 facilitators at the start of the year, enabling the program to run smoothly from Term 1 to Term 3.
- **Completion of Sessions:** Conducted 18 sessions across the year (6 per term), ensuring consistent engagement with students.
- **Enhanced Literacy:** Fostered improvement in literacy and participation through activities such as read aloud sessions, spelling bees and quizzes. Teachers noted an improvement in writing, comprehension and confidence
- **End of Year Celebration:** Concluded the year with a vibrant Christmas party that brought joy to the children and teachers and reflected on the year's wins.

The Angaza Outreach Program made significant strides in reaching underserved communities, impacting children across two primary schools: **Merowa Junior School** and **Quentin Junior School**. The program recorded an average weekly attendance of **128 children**, with **88 children** per week at Quentin Junior and **40 children** per week at Merowa Junior.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

26 Facilitators onboarded
18 Sessions Conducted
128 Children Taught Weekly

To ensure effective delivery, the program maintained consistent facilitators who provided dedicated support and guidance to the learners. Their relationship with the facilitators opened up deep conversations where they shared about challenges at school and at home.

The Foundation relayed the findings to the administration of the schools. One of the notable gaps identified was the absence of guidance counselors. The Foundation will support the schools to set up systems which will ensure the emotional wellbeing of the pupils.





ANGAZA RESOURCE CENTRE (ARC)

The Angaza Resource Centre (ARC), launched in July 2023 in Kibuli, Uganda, is our flagship educational initiative that specifically targets out-of-school children. ARC was established to bridge educational gaps for underprivileged children by providing a safe, resource-rich environment. It offers access to literacy, numeracy, ICT, and life skills programs, fostering critical thinking and empowering children and youth to thrive.

Beyond its direct impact on children, the ARC collaborates with local schools and organizations to amplify its reach through teacher training, holiday programs, and community outreach initiatives—all at no cost to participants.

2024 MILESTONES:

- **One-Year Anniversary:** On July 1st, the Angaza Resource Centre (ARC) celebrated its first anniversary, marking a year of impactful educational support and meaningful community engagement in Kibuli. This milestone highlights ARC's role as a safe and resourceful learning hub for children and youth in underserved communities.

- **Expanded Partnerships:** The ARC welcomed **2 new partner schools** this year, Hope Shammah Junior School and Vallerian Primary School, increasing the total number of schools benefiting from its services to 4. Additionally, the ARC partnered with Booked! Mobile Library, an organization delivering books to underserved communities. As a liaison between Booked! and partner schools, the ARC broadened access to essential reading materials, significantly enhancing literacy resources for students.
- **Holiday Programs:** The ARC conducted three successful school holiday programs, serving over **30 teenagers and young adults**. These programs focused on ICT, literacy, games and life skills training, fostering critical thinking, building confidence, and improving literacy among participants. The participants acquired computer skills which were useful for their secondary school projects. One student also participated in a Chess competition and emerged winner after learning from the ARC.
- **Teacher Training:** Three professional development workshops were hosted for **35 teachers** from the ARC's partner schools. These workshops focused on enhancing phonics and early reading assessment techniques, creating effective teaching aids, and improving library management. Teachers also gained insights into improving letter-sound correspondence and writing skills, equipping them to better support their students' learning journeys.
- **D.E.A.R. Day (Drop Everything and Read):** The ARC marked its inaugural D.E.A.R. Day in March, a nationwide celebration of reading, by extending the festivities into a week-long event. Children immersed themselves in storybooks, participating in guided reading sessions, playful explorations, and moments of quiet reflection, fostering a deeper love for reading.
- **Participant Impact:** Over **220 children** attended the ARC weekly, engaging in structured literacy, numeracy, and ICT classes. Spanning Primary 1 to Primary 6, these sessions leveraged innovative teaching methods to enhance critical academic skills. Through these efforts, ARC achieved notable improvements in literacy and numeracy levels among its participants. Their test scores showed improvement in understanding and application of knowledge.

We celebrated the successes while simultaneously recognizing the challenges. The biggest of these was the inconsistency in attendance by pupils. This was due to late term enrolments and drop outs.

We also had resource constraints with few computers compared to the number of pupils served and inadequate textbooks which are borrowed by different schools.

The ARC management is working with school administration and parents to address absenteeism and high drop out rates. Short and long term solutions will be implemented in order to serve more learners.

Our fundraising and partnership efforts shall be geared towards acquiring more laptops, chairs and books in order to meet the increasing demand.

ARC KEY HIGHLIGHTS

2 New Partners
30 Youth Taught ICT
220 Children Attended Weekly
35 Teachers Trained





OUR PEOPLE



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers remain the backbone of 4040. This year, **42 volunteers** supported key departments like communications, fundraising and the program areas. Internal and external training and mentorships unlocked incredible opportunities for personal growth amongst them.

VOLUNTEER HANGOUTS

The 4040 Hangout is an initiative set out to create a safe space for young people to talk about life and career realities with experts in different fields. It is a deliberate effort for the Foundation to support volunteers in their personal growth and career development.

The event also aims to inspire, motivate and educate young people on topics that are relevant and timely. It is primarily for volunteers but doors are opened to all individuals who are interested.

This year, we successfully hosted 2 engaging hangout sessions. On 18th May, our first conversation was on “Navigating Passion and Career Choices.” It was facilitated by Benjamin Rukwengye, the Founder of Boundless Minds.

Attendees shared that the session had given them new perspectives on how to approach their career paths and confidence to pursue their passions more deliberately.

On 13th July, we hosted Justin Nakitende, a Clinical Psychologist at Safe Places to speak about Mental health. Conversations on wellness are prioritised annually.

Juliet emphasized the difference between mental health challenges and illnesses to the audience of 21 curious minds. She explained that the failure to recognise and understand the difference has increased stigma and hindered people from seeking help. This rang true for many in the room.

While the Foundation offers paid therapy for its volunteers, it is not always a decision that they find easy to make. The attendees asked several questions during this session and 3 volunteers sought psychological support as a direct result of the conversation. Others made the decision later in the year which was a highlight for us as we aim to support the overall wellness of our community.

2024 MILESTONES

- Prioritised team well being by availing psychotherapy support with a licensed institution. A total of **95 therapy sessions** were facilitated and medication provided where necessary. Positive changes were observed and volunteers shared success stories privately and during meetings.
- Partnered with Boundless Minds to enable 5 outstanding volunteers to receive training and mentorship under the second cohort of Boundless Corps.
- Supported volunteers' applications and skill development that resulted in a fully paid Master's Scholarship, joining the YALI Africa leadership program and a photography award for 3 individuals, respectively.
- Provided general training and support in CV writing, digital marketing, event planning and resource mobilisation
- Connected 7 volunteers to job opportunities through internal networks.
- Connected 6 interested volunteers to potential employers through a partnership with Flip Africa, an employment agency.



- Organised and coordinated 11 monthly meetings and a team building session. Not only are the meetings used to update one another on the Foundation’s activities, they also provide an avenue for training, connecting, bonding and having fun.
- Recognised and awarded outstanding volunteers which boosted morale and created healthy competition.

Despite the milestones, the program was faced with challenges including a drop in numbers especially in the middle of the year. Most of the exit interviews identified new jobs and busier schedules and the reason for leaving. The Foundation intends to carry out more regular appraisals and review the volunteer schedules and program delivery to tackle this.

“I would like to share a highlight from 2024. Around July, I found myself struggling and unable to juggle school, work and the situation at home. I reached out and was connected to a therapist. My mental health greatly improved and I am indebted to 4040.”

Volunteer Testimonial

“When Esther asked me to stand up for recognition during the monthly meeting, I felt proud. I had only written an article but she made it sound so special. It changed my life.”

Volunteer Feedback (During Appraisal)





BUILDING COMMUNITY





EVENTS

4040 events serve as an opportunity for people from different communities to come together. These include creatives, philanthropists, feminists, leaders, students, activists, corporates and so many more.

It is a safe space for the attendees to have fun, connect, commune and give back. We also interact with our supporters face to face, get updates on their lives and share about work. These gatherings fill up our tanks. We hosted events throughout the year with the last one being Thankful Thursday hosted on Thanksgiving Day.

4040 NIGHT

The 4040 Night is a fun event which brings people together for an evening of games, quiz and karaoke. It is always a good time no matter how small or big it gets.

In October we hosted 220 guests at Tales Lounge, Bukoto, alongside 15 partners. It was the first time at this particular location and we were overwhelmed by the love and support. It was quite spacious and offered the perfect garden to either mingle or sit in a corner and people watch.

Attendees paid an entrance fee of Ugx 20,000 and also bought merchandise and raffle tickets which came with great prizes to be won.

Most of them excitedly participated in all of the night's activities including a highly competitive dance competition. We raised Ugx 6,656,700 from the event.

THANKFUL THURSDAY

This event is hosted bi-annually in partnership with Endiro Coffee.

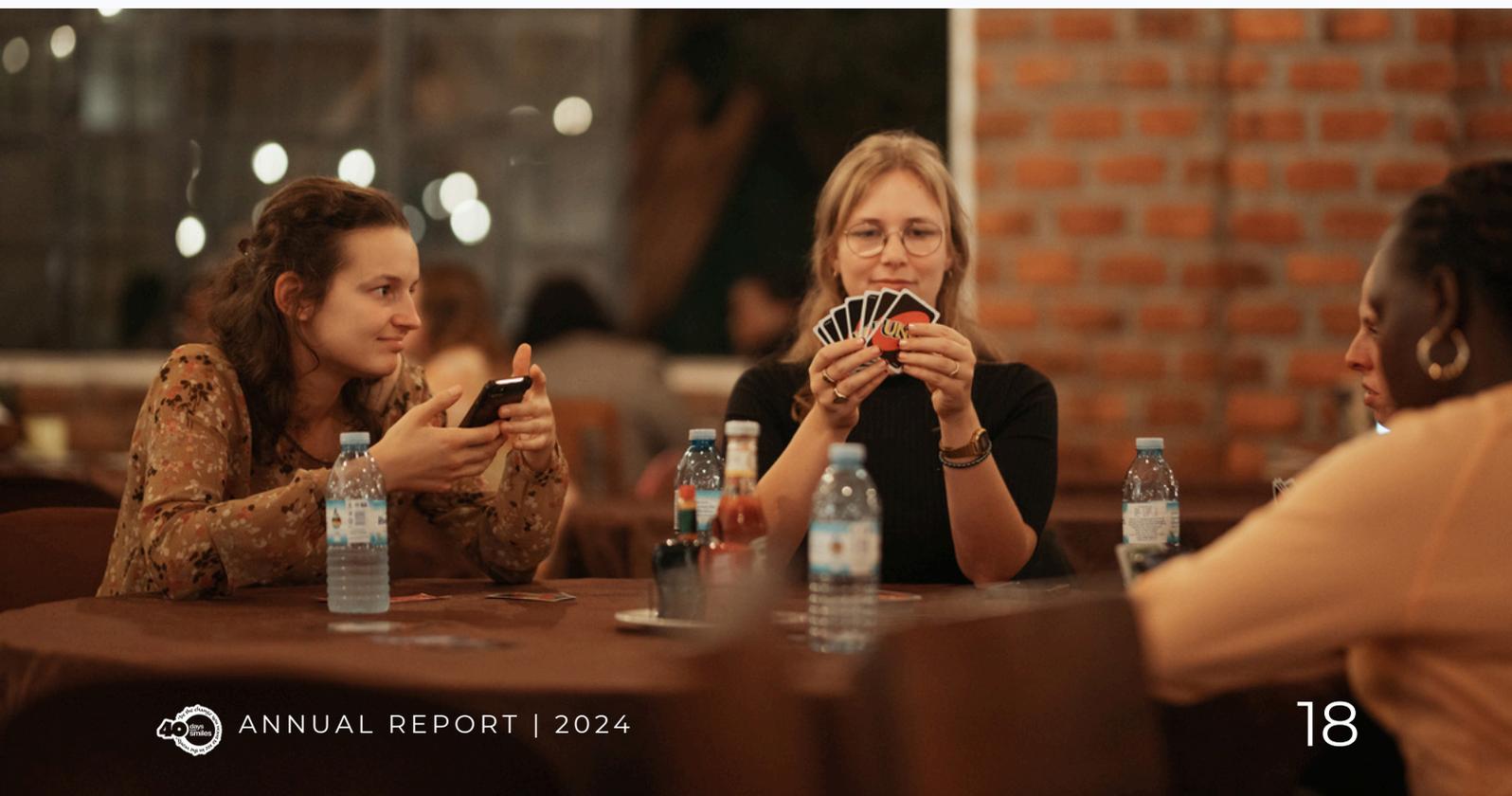
The intention is to bring our community together and intentionally give thanks for the small and big things alike while having some fun together.

In order to bring more oomph to the event, 4040 usually brings an act like a musician or poet. This year, we decided to spice the evening up with a game night. It ended up being a hit both times!

The first one was hosted on 11th April and the second and last one was hosted on 28th November. The events raised 2,765,150 collectively.

On this day, Endiro graciously offers 10% from the day's sales to 4040. They have been long standing partners of the Foundation.

Both events were not only intimate, but also harnessed the power of conversation and connection.



UGLY MEN CHARITY TOURNAMENT:

A member of “Ugly Men” reached out to host a fundraiser on our behalf and of course we asked for the inspiration behind the name- just like you are thinking! Unfortunately, we do not have clear answers for you, yet. We were, however, humbled by the gesture.

The Ugly Men Group began as a gathering of friends who shared a deep love for football, meeting regularly at the Kampala Futsal Arena in Kyambogo. What started as casual weekly games soon evolved into something deeper, a brotherhood grounded in mutual respect, trust, and a shared commitment to making a positive impact.

This bond has grown beyond the football pitch, fostering a community where each member supports the others in both personal and collective endeavours. United by their experiences and values, the Ugly Men have become more than just a football team, they are a force for good, channeling their passion for the game into initiatives that benefit the wider community. Their journey is a testament to how sports can serve as a powerful catalyst for social change.

4040 is privileged to have been selected as a recipient of their generosity at their tournament on 28th September. The event brought together people from different backgrounds, to have fun for a good in true 4040 fashion. Through this tournament, the Ugly Men raised Ugx. 1,707,000 for 4040.

One of our many highlights was the excellent goal from one of our own volunteers, Erika. Our team walked away with the only goal from a woman throughout the tournament. Our volunteers had a wonderful time and got to experience the joy of being guests as opposed to the event organisers they usually are. We were also in awe of how the community rallied together for 4040's work.

Some events, while impactful, do not always raise the projected surplus, as was the case this year. Although they also serve as fundraisers, our goal is to be able to continue organising them with or without the financial benefits. The role of these events in bringing people together who may not otherwise have converged in one space and their collective power cannot be overstated. As a result, we shall continue to host them with a focus on support from partnerships with shared values.

“When I come to a 4040 event, I forget my age and the responsibilities I carry. While here, I have fun and make beautiful memories.” - Sarah (An Attendee at one of our events)



A TRUE GATHERING OF GIVERS

September concluded with our Team Leader, Esther Kalenzi giving a powerful keynote speech at the Gathering of givers. This annual event brought together philanthropists, community leaders, and young change-makers in one room to foster celebration and derive inspiration for generosity.



She talked about how 4040 has benefitted from the generosity of Ugandans who give of their limited disposable income to impact the lives of children they may never meet. She shared how students have saved pocket money while at school in order to help a child in need, a testament to the spirit of Ubuntu which has no age limit.

It is a cause for celebration that a homegrown organisation has majorly been supported by the members of the community. This has enabled us to build a movement that we are proud of.

Esther encouraged attendees to start small, where they are with what they have. She cited her own story of how 4040, which started as one individual's personal mission to give back, has impacted over 3,000 underprivileged children over time.

She called upon everyone to harness the power of communities and pay it forward whenever they have the opportunity.

In true giving spirit, she had spent the same month raising funds for the Angaza Resource Centre in honour of her birthday. It concluded with her raising Ugx 6,650,000, a testament to the incredible power of individual givers.



UGA
4040

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

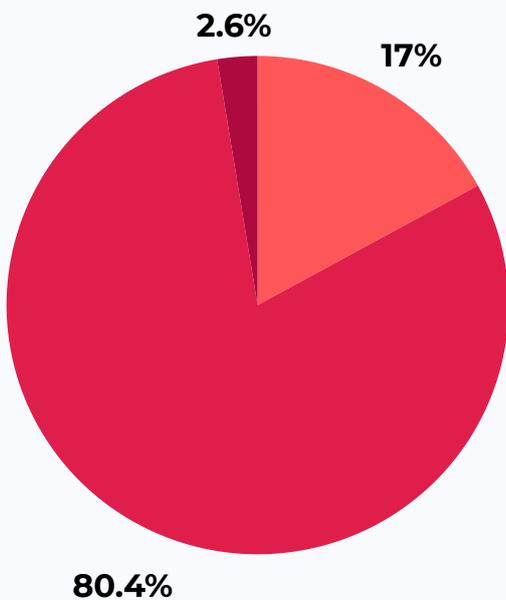


FUNDRAISING BRIEF

Our fundraising efforts have been more successful through local resource mobilisation over the years. Since our journey began through raising money on Facebook, our community continued to respond to crowdfunding as we also innovated around it. However, in recent years, both local and international organisations have made contributions too.

We raise funds through individual subscriptions, online campaigns, fundraising events, merchandise sales and grants and donations. This year's events were not held as often as before and the returns were also low. They are often unpredictable in nature with fluctuation coming from different uncontrollable aspects like if it rained that day, the traffic situation or which 'competing' events share a date. Regardless, the camaraderie makes it worth it.

This year, 75 consistent individual donors made contributions monthly or quarterly. While several others made one off contributions, this group was a constant. Together with the fundraising events, merchandise sales and donations, we raised a total of Ugx 118,296,252.



Grants & Donations
UGX95,088,477

Events
UGX20,154,944

Merchandise Sales
UGX3,052,831

In 2024, a total of **UGX 118,296,252** was raised through various sources, with Grants and Donations contributing the largest share at **UGX 95,088,477 (80.4%)**. Events raised **UGX 20,154,944 (17%)**, while Merchandise Sales accounted for **UGX 3,052,831 (2.6%)**.



THE FUTURE





FUTURE PLANS

In 2025, we aim to achieve the following objectives to further our mission:

- **Expand Access Through Mobile Libraries:** Introduce mobile libraries to reach more schools, teachers, and children, ensuring greater access to educational resources.
- **Share Expertise in Resource Mobilization and Volunteer Management:** Leverage our knowledge and experience to support individuals and organizations in developing effective strategies for local resource mobilization and volunteer engagement.
- **Engage Constituencies Through Focus Groups:** Host focus groups with our various stakeholders to actively listen, learn, and better understand their needs, enabling us to serve them more effectively.
- **Strengthen Strategic Partnerships:** Build and enhance partnerships to improve resource availability and program impact.
- **Enhance Program Monitoring & Evaluation:** Strengthen our Monitoring & Evaluation framework to conduct more comprehensive program assessments and improve outcomes.
- **Advance the Volunteer Program:** Develop tailored opportunities for mentorship and training, fostering deeper volunteer engagement and contributing to their personal and professional growth.

These initiatives will help us broaden our reach, improve our impact, and serve our communities more effectively.



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.

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.

Let's build on this momentum as we continue to centre our communities and drive change.

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