



# RURAL FOCUS INITIATIVE – (U)

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## 2016 Annual Report

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

**RUFI-U** has undertaken a number of developments for the period of January 2016 to December 2016 and would wish to acknowledge sincerely the support received from members of the community, staff and the following agencies: -

Directorate of Education and prevention of corruption under Inspectorate of Government of Uganda (IG), Act for Africa, Kasese Chapter, National Youth organization for Development (NAYODE), Senior Expert services (SES) Germany, Rwenzori Rural Foundation for Skills Development, and lastly the community development office Nyamwamba Division and Kasese Local government.

We also extend our thanks to the management of Kasese Municipal council Health centre III, Foundation for community development and empowerment (FCDE) for their timely and kind support towards the implementation of our program activities during the year end 2016.

Special thanks to **Mr. Claus Oellerking RuFI-U Patron** who worked tirelessly towards seeing the success of the years set targets achieved. More thanks go to **local leaders from the Local Governments in our geographical areas of operation and the Community members** who were supportive throughout the year in the course of the implementation of program activities.

The list is non exhaustive but we extend our sincere thanks to everyone who have supported us in one way or the other during the year.



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## RUFI-U OVERVIEW

Rural Focus Initiative - Uganda (RUFI - U) a community based organization located in Nyamwamba division, Kasese municipality, Kasese District, western Uganda is a non-profit, non-denominational, political and non-sectarian organization that was formed in 2011.

Rural focus initiative-Uganda was founded by community welfare minded -people with an aim of empowering the community in the fight against poverty, address human rights related abuses and revive positive cultural/traditional norms or values in society, unemployment, Teenage marriages and pregnancies, diseases spread through information and training. The Organization is run by competent staff members under the stewardship of a board of trustees.

### VISION:

A health, empowered and self sustaining community aware of its rights and defend those of children for immediate and long term development.

### MISSION:

Empowering rural communities in fighting poverty, disease and defending the rights of young people through information accessibility and training services provision

This report is a narrative of the January 2016- December 2016 programmes and activities implemented by Rural Focus Initiative Uganda.

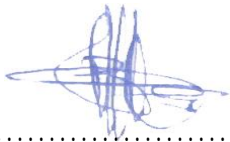
We wish to extend our sincere thanks to our supporters; well wishers and donors for the kind support they extended to us in this one year period that made it easy for us to implement the set program activities. We hope for your continued cooperation and support in the future.

As a way for effective work, RUFI-U continued to strengthen its networking system as well as creating more links with other organizations as a strategy which has promoted performance through effective programs implementation and joint advocacy.

We sincerely extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you.

***“Amplifying Rural Voices”***

Yours sincerely



.....  
**BALUKU JAMES,**  
**Executive Director, RuFI-U**



.....  
**Md. KALANZI ZAMUULA**  
**C/Person BoT- RUFI-U**

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## **REPORT CONTEXT:**

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This report is divided into two main Chapters namely:-

### **Chapter One**

This chapter describes the major developments that have taken place in the organisation by the period of January 2016 to December 2016 that in one way or the other has had an impact on the organisational activities, changes in the organisation as well the situation of the organisation with her external relations and networking during the year.

The Chapter as well spell out the Extent of the Social- Economic and Political Environment during the reporting period.

### **Chapter Two:**

This chapter basically looks at the Program context with specific concern to the activities conducted during the year, the implementation methodologies, achievements, impacts/influences of the programs to the community and the respective way forward in every program.

It also presents key lessons learnt and the suggested way forward in each of the program areas.



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# CHAPTER 1: ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

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## A. The Context Of The Political, Social And Economic Environment

2016 has yet come to pass and has left RUFU-U explicitly becoming more and more relevant in its social environments especially in virtue of its continued relationships with the communities.

Generally, 2016 has been a turning point for Rural Focus Initiative Uganda in its development as an organization and, many activities shot up in 2016.

However, implementation of some activities hit a deadlock especially approaching the end of the year. These were affected by the political situation in the region and scarcity of resources.

Rwenzori region Kasese in particular, experienced conflicts that resulted from the 2016 general elections. At the end of the same year, another clash was witnessed between the Rwenzururu kingdom and the security operatives. This claimed lives of people and affected others in the region. Currently, the region registers a high number of widows and orphans. Above all, work of organizations was hindered as movements were restricted from one place to another for almost a month. Some targets were not achieved in that last month of the year. We thank the peace building agencies and organizations for the series of meetings that are aiming at restoring peace in the region.

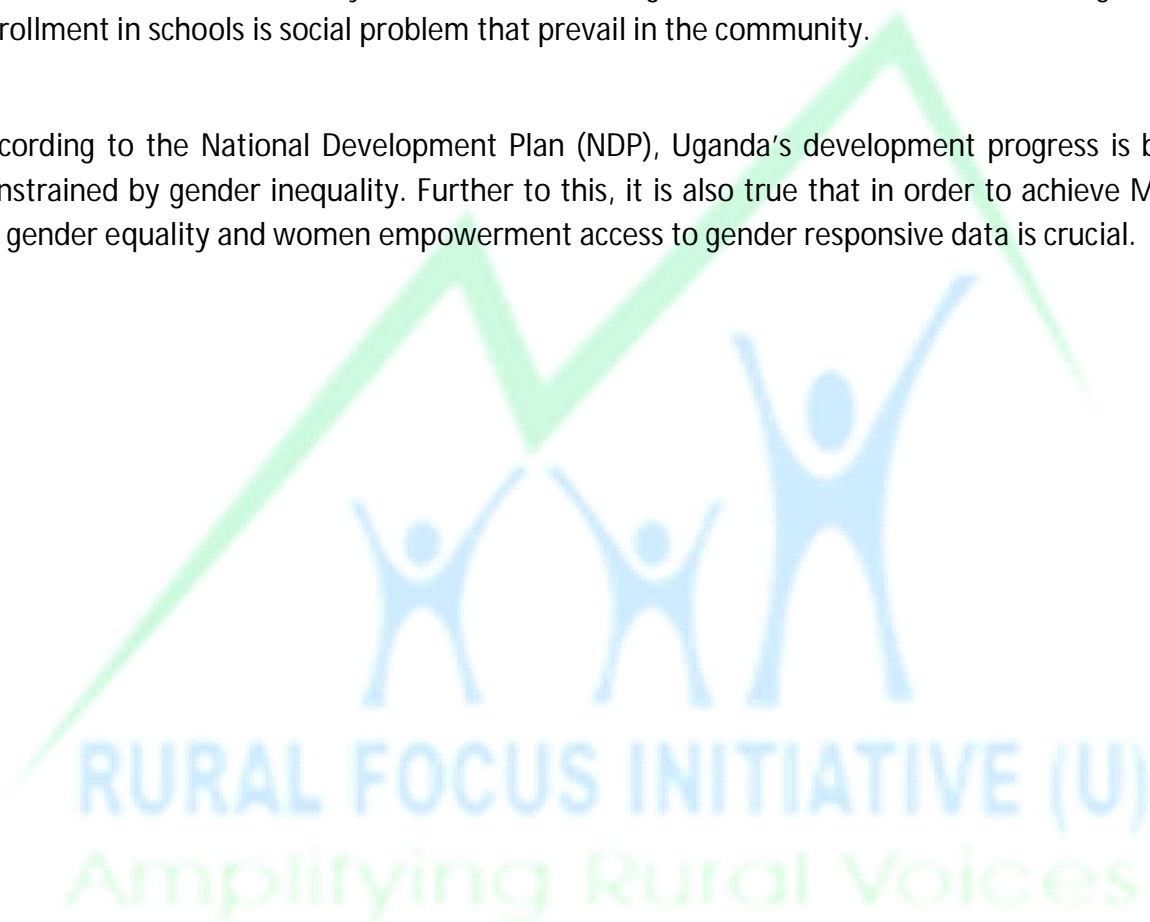
According to the regional population office, the region is one of the poorest regions In Uganda with per capital income of 50 dollars. Out of the total population of the region 46% are children, while 52 and 2% are adults and old respectively. From the whole population of the zone 92% live in rural areas engaged in agriculture as the dominant activity. This area is recurrently hit by food insecurity mainly because of famine and floods coupled with high population pressure, erratic nature of rainfall; land shortage, backward and poor methods of agriculture (lack of agriculture implements and input) and so on.

Education development in the region is not satisfactory; the gross enrollment rate is only 15.6% in secondary schools and 48.4% enrollment in primary schools which means more than half of the school going age children are out of school. Another problem in the sector is lack of schools. Although there are enormous child populations that are in need of schools, there are no enough school facilities. Even the existing schools are far apart from each other and lack capacity to accommodate and host the existing population of students. Absence of qualified teachers and high dropout rate are commonly existent in the region. These have been impediments to performance in the education sector.

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Women make up 51% of the population of the region; however the socio economic status of women is very bad. Women have very low income even though they labor more than other household members. They have low access to education. Education is central to all and especially to women in the fight against poverty and discrimination against women. This is because of several reasons: ranging from poverty in rural areas and due to this the parents wants their daughters to be engaged in household routines and activities such as petty trading that induce income for them. Besides they want their daughters to be married because during their marriage, money and grants can be obtained which can upgrade family income and because of these reasons they do not want to send girls to school. The other cause of girls' low enrollment in schools is social problem that prevail in the community.

According to the National Development Plan (NDP), Uganda's development progress is being constrained by gender inequality. Further to this, it is also true that in order to achieve MDG3 on gender equality and women empowerment access to gender responsive data is crucial.



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## **B. Organization Information:**

### **RUFI-U VISION:**

A health, empowered and self sustaining community aware of its rights and defend those of children for immediate and long term development.

### **RUFI-U MISSION:**

Empowering rural communities in fighting poverty, disease and defending the rights of young people through information accessibility and training services provision

### **Core values**

RUFI – (U) seeks to be a competent, accountable, reliable, result-oriented, confidentiality, and committed organization to its vision and mission, with clear and transparent systems, and practices fairness and justice and respect for human dignity while maintaining equality, integrity and good relations.

### **Strategic Focus Areas (SFAs):**

RUFI – (U) seeks to strategically implement activities under the following thematic areas in line with policies of the Republic of Uganda. We are involved in both emergency and development programs. In emergency we focus on human rights abuse and child protection for vulnerable communities while our long term strategic priorities (5SFAs)that supports emergencies and Development programs in Uganda are below;

#### **SFA1 Vocational Skills & Entrepreneurship training;**

**Result 1:** Improved community livelihoods and reduced poverty levels among young mothers & fathers and other vulnerable populations through provision of vocational & Entrepreneurship trainings, establishment of a well equipped and organized training centre for sustained and strengthened economic transformation and development.

#### **SFA2 Promoting Education;**

**Result 2:** Improved and provide information to teachers, parents and children on the benefits of educating children and its general role in community development through career guidance in schools, radio talk shows and in community meetings and gatherings.

#### **SFA 3: Children Protection & Human Rights;**

**Result 3:** Increasing community participation and involvement to promoting human rights awareness and defend children rights such as rights to education services, health, food, and increase access to quality welfare of both children and adolescents, particularly those affected by domestic violence, early child marriage, HIV/AIDs and other community conflicts.



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RUFU – (U) provides a platform for engagement of government law enforcement departments such as Police, local judiciary courts through community sensitization, reporting children abuse cases such as; defilement, child labour, rape in rural communities for investigation and action.

#### **SFA 4 Livelihood and community empowerment;**

**Result 4:** Improved community livelihoods and reduced poverty levels among rural, under served and vulnerable to disaster communities through provision of basic agricultural information, inputs and tools, geared towards a sustained and strengthened economic transformation and development.

#### **SFA5 Health;**

RUFU – (U) is actively involved in enhancing health programs in the Communities by Creating awareness and advocacy in the communities to take lead in accessing health services during the, HIV/AIDs training and awareness creation in the communities through community meetings and radio talk shows.

#### **Aims and Objectives**

- i. To promote formal education, vocational training and life skills to underserved communities to help them cope up with life challenges.
- ii. To support and contribute to rural communities' social welfare through mobilization, sensitizations and spread of information that is geared towards reduction of poverty.
- iii. To strengthen the voices of young people at risk of early child marriage and pregnancies and their rights.
- iv. To improve the health of underserved communities by addressing issues that undermine their good health and creating awareness of disease and poor sanitation.

#### **RUFU – (U) Operation areas:**

RUFU – (U) operates in the District of Kasese, Western Uganda, in particularly Eight (8) sub counties, that is, Buhuhira, Kyondo, Nyakiyumbu, Kyarumba, Lake-Katwe, Kyabarungira, Nyamwamba Davison and Ihandiro. However, RUFU – (U) is not limited to only one district and 8sub counties; it intends to extend its activities to other districts soon in the future. **RUFU – (U)** has its headquarters in Kasese Municipality, Kasese District, in western Uganda.

#### **Our approach to Project Management and Implementation**

- Participatory Learning and Action (PLA)
- Appreciative Inquiry (AI)

- Focus Group Discussion (FGDs)

#### Current Members of the Board of Trustees

S/N	Name	Gender	Designation at the organization	Principle role outside the organization as of now	Nationality
1	Nakalanzi Zaamula	F	Chairperson	Senior Teacher at Kasese Secondary School 0701104017	Ugandan
2	Rev. Fr. Ngobi Jimmy Masereka	M	Deputy Chairperson	Parish Priest, Katwe Diocese of Kasese 0755752515	Ugandan
3	Matsitsi Yonah	M	Secretary	Teacher Kithoma Peas 0704118553	Ugandan
4	Kidima Margret	F	Treasurer	Officer RWECO – Kasese 0772528114	Ugandan
5	Kabugho Ruth	F	Member	Secretary for Social Services Kasese District 0705145828	Ugandan
6	Muhindo Jackson	M	Member	Executive Director Human Relief Action Foundation 0751233010	Ugandan
7	Baluku James	M	Member	Executive Director RUFU – U 0754875521	Ugandan

#### RUFU-U Staffing:

RUFU-U permanent staffing remained at three (3) for the reporting period and these worked hard through the year to have the organization forge ahead with efforts of realizing its objectives irrespective of the scarce resources .

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## CHAPTER 2: Program Context

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### **a. Detailed Activities, Implementation and Results**

In 2016, RUFU-U promoted its entire mission by carrying out different programs activities in the local communities that were relevant to the community's needs.

#### **(I) Activities Implemented;**

With the underlying motivation of popular participation among the communities, the key activities that RUFU-U implemented through the year included:-

- (a) Training of Vulnerable young mothers in vocational skills
- (b) launch of the integrity ambassadors clubs
- (c) Establishment of Integrity Ambassadors clubs
- (d) Training of Bar and Lodges managers and attendants on the safe storage of condoms
- (e) Supply of free condoms to bars and lodges
- (f) Supply of IEC materials to all the IACs clubs
- (g) Conducting baseline survey on condom use in Nyamwamba division.
- (h) Development of the organization website
- (i) Development of the organization policies.
- (j) Printing of RUFU-U brochures.
- (k) Follow up visits to schools
- (l) Identification of local councils committees in charge of children affairs in our areas of operation
- (m) Meeting with local media houses and individuals.
- (n) Meeting with potential donors, partners and supporters
- (o) Procurement of 1 computer
- (p) Shifting to new office premises

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- q) Procurement of new office furniture
  - r) Payment for Office running costs including rent, Staff allowances, communication, utilities, water, electricity, repairs, office equipments and maintenance etc.
  - s) Conduct monitoring of activities and organization progress through meetings
  - t) Conducting SES training

**(ii) Target Groups:**

The target groups have been:

The local community members including children, men and women at the different levels, and the youth in and out of school, and other stakeholders like the local government leaders and the religious leaders

**(iii) Achievements/results over the year 2016:**

The program has had tremendous achievements in a diverse way and detailed descriptions are contained in the **"Result Analysis" Model on the next pages.**



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**The matrix of a result analysis for the program activities for the period January 2016 - December 2016:**

<b>Program key result areas</b>	<b>Planned results</b>	<b>Actual results</b>	<b>Variation</b>	<b>Explanation for variation</b>	<b>Latest Estimates</b>
(a) Training of Vulnerable young mothers in vocational skills	30 young mothers to be trained in vocational skills to enhance their economic status and general welfare.	8 young mothers were trained in vocational skills.	-22	The resources did not allow for the target to be realized.	Only 8 young mothers were trained.
(b) launch of the integrity ambassadors clubs	25 school clubs to be launched on the same day	12 school clubs were launched.	-13	Schools received Communication for the invitation to the launch late.	12 schools attended and had their clubs launched.
(c) Establishment of Integrity Ambassadors clubs	Establishing 25 school integrity ambassadors clubs.	25 school clubs formed as integrity ambassadors.	0	The target was realized.	25 school clubs were established and ready for activities.

<i>(d) Training of Bar and Lodges managers and attendants on the safe storage of condoms</i>	Train 10 bar and lodge owners and attendants on the safe storage of condoms	10 bar and lodge owners and attendants trained.	0	The target was realized.	10 bar and lodge owners and attendants were trained on the safe storage of condoms.
<i>(e) Supply of free condoms to bars and lodges</i>	40000pieces of condoms to be given out to youth and other sexually active members in Nyamwamba division.	15000 pieces of condom distributed.	-25000	Resources were not enough to purchase and distribute the planned pieces of condom.	15000 pieces of condoms were distributed to the youth and other sexually active members in Nyamwamba Division-Kasese municipality.
<i>(f) Supply of IEC materials to all the IACs clubs</i>	Distributing IEC materials to 25 clubs	25 clubs received the IEC materials.	0	The target was realized.	The IEC materials were distributed to all the 25 integrity clubs.

<i>(g) Conducting baseline survey on condom use in Nyamwamba division.</i>	Conduct a baseline survey in Nyamwamba division on the attitude and the use of condoms for 100 respondents.	66 respondents met during the baseline survey	-34	Mobilization was not done as planned due to limited resources.	Some basic information needed was got and results analyzed.
<i>(h) Development of the organization website</i>	To develop the Organization website.	An organization website was developed.	0	The target was realized.	The organization website already developed and working.
<i>(i) Development of the organization policies.</i>	To develop the Organization finance, child protection and human resource policies.	3 Policies developed.	0	The target was realized.	The documents were developed and now being implemented.
<i>(j) Printing of RUFU-U brochures.</i>	To Print 2000 copies of organization brochures.	1000 copies of brochures printed and given out to the community.	-1000	The target was not realized due to scarcity of Resources.	1000 copies printed and are now circulating in the community.

<i>(k) Follow up visits to schools</i>	Visiting 25 schools to make follow-ups on the IACs activities.	25 clubs visited following on the activities of their clubs.	0	The target was realized.	Clubs were visited and guided accordingly.
<i>(l) Identification of local councils committees in charge of children affairs in our areas of operation</i>	Identifying 8 local council chairpersons in the two sub counties of Kyondo and Buhuhira.	8 local council chairpersons identified in Buhuhira and Kyondo sub counties.	0	Target realized	Local council chairpersons were identified and requested to identify the Para social workers in their respective villages to be briefed on the children issues.
<i>(m) Meeting with local media houses and individuals.</i>	1 meeting with the media conducted to give the over view of the organization and its strategic focal areas.	1 meeting held with different media and efforts to improve media relations and basic information about the organization given.	0	The planned meeting was conducted	1 media meeting held and media staff well informed the strategic focal areas of the organization.
<i>(n) Meeting with potential donors, partners and and supporters</i>	Creating links with the potential donors and partners.	Partnership requests with some well established organization not yet honored.	-	Forms were filled and submitted but not approved.	Still waiting for the approval of our membership forms by the potential partners.
<i>(o) Procurement of 1 computer</i>	Procuring 1 desk top computer to ease documentation work.	1 desk top computer was procured and doing office work.	0	No variation	1 des top procured and in good working condition.



<i>(p) Shifting to new office premises</i>	To occupy a safe, bigger and conducive place for office work	Shifted to a new and safe place for office activities.	0	0	Already operating at the new office.
<i>q) Procurement of new office furniture</i>	To acquire 4 tables, 6 chairs and bigger file shelf.	Furniture acquired	0	0	Furniture acquired and the office took another shape.
<i>r) Payment for Office running costs including rent, Staff allowances, communication, utilities, water, electricity, repairs, office equipments and maintenance etc.</i>	To have staff paid salaries, allowances, rent and other utilities. 3 staff	1 staff paid salary and other two paid some simple allowance	-2	Inadequate resources.	Still the one paid salary is not yet fully cleared. However, other expenses were met.
<i>s) Conduct monitoring of activities and organization progress through meetings</i>	To conduct 2 evaluation and monitoring meetings.	1 evaluation meeting conducted.	-1	Inadequate resources	The evaluation meeting was conducted and action steps taken.
<i>t) Conducting</i>	To train staff in the	3 staff trained in general	0	Target realized	Recommendations made were

<i>SES training</i>	organization management, record keeping.	organisational management, reporting and records keeping			implemented.
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## **Other Activities that we engaged in during the year 2016.**

### **Theme : Response to Violence in Rwenzori Region.**

The meeting was organized by the Rwenzori forum for peace and justice together with foundation for urban and rural advancement (FURA) with funding from international alert. The meeting was attended by several local civil society organizations under the theme “responding to violence in the Rwenzori region”.

The meeting was aiming at;

- Sharing a common voice, view, thinking for peace in the region
- Bridging the gaps between different organizations in the peace building processes.
- Engaging communities in the peace building process.

The meeting intended to review the resolutions the previous district stake holders meeting had made. Among others include the following;

- Documentation about the violence
- Forming consortiums
- Offering the support to the affected people conduct violence surveys to di deep
- Advocate for legal representation
- Peace messages especially on radio stations.

Organizations representatives were also informed about the advocacies the previous meeting had proposed and they include;

- ✚ Release of the Omusinga
- ✚ Legal representation in courts of law
- ✚ Construction of the destroyed properties review of reports on land conflicts
- ✚ Inclusion of women and youth in peace development
- ✚ De-linking civil service from cultural institutions among others.
- ✚ Members resolved that a whatsapp group for the organizations be created for any information to reach member organization on time and also ease communications.
- ✚ The organizations were also advised to consult always before any activity to avoid duplication of work with the member organizations.
- ✚ The meeting was chaired by Rev.Fr.Dr Paddy Sunday who asked organizations to put attention to the causes of conflicts and to be genuine in their work. He added that it was not the situation for organizations to start scheming on how to make money through this confusing situation.

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## Summary pictorial views of activities



*Rufu-u staff during the baseline survey on bar and lodge attendants condom storage and use.*



Condom Supply Exercise to bar and lodge managers



Launch of the integrity Ambassadors clubs at Kasese Secondary school



Vocational Skills meeting for both Tanagers, and young mothers.



*Field Photo of pupils of Hope of Joy primary school a school we work with in education program*



Members of Board of Trustees during a meeting



Field Photos during the SES Training Exercise with the expert Claus Oellerking

