ABOUT MIFUMI

WITH SUPPORT FROM DFID, UKAID, THE JO COX FOUNDATION
MIFUMI started in 1994 as community initiative reducing the burden of poverty for rural women. MIFUMI has since evolved into an international Not-For-Profit Organisation taking on the higher responsibility of strengthening community and civil society agencies in effective response to Violence Against Women and Children.

WE BELIEVE
We believe in a world where women and children have the opportunity to realise their full potential. MIFUMI engages communities and various stakeholders through conversations, dialogue, sensitization, campaigns, advocacy to create environments for women and children as full and independent individuals with the mental, physical and other innate abilities to succeed.

We envision a world where women are free and safe to;

- to enjoy their full rights humans
- participate in gainful employment in order to improve their livelihoods and their households wellbeing.
- to converse at different plenaries and challenge practice and norms that continually disable them
- negotiate power relations and make decisions pertaining their safety, reproductive health and overall well being

Overall MIFUMI’s faith is with communities starting and continuing to recognise women as development partners at household, community and national social and political platforms; and making proactive and affirmative decisions in response to Violence against women and Children (VAWC)

OUR MISSION

MIFUMI is working to strengthen community-based and civil society responses to domestic violence and all other forms of human rights violations. In Uganda MIFUMI is also tackling social-cultural issues that perpetuate and condone violence against women and children such as but not limited to Bride Price Violations and polygamy.

MIFUMI Core values and principles

Our beneficiaries are paramount in every single thing that we do in MIFUMI, underscoring our core values of:

- believing women and children’s experiences of violence and abuse;
- prioritizing all abused women and children’s safety and confidentiality;
- supporting empowerment and self-help so that women can regain control of their live;
- and challenging discrimination and promoting equal opportunities.
MIFUMI continues to mobilise community into Movements to lead advocacy, ensure enforcement. MIFUMI believes this to be the most sustainable, hands-on and practical way of action and responding to VAWC. MIFUMI also believes a movement of community activists will ensure better response and more accountability be all.

MIFUMI’s holistic domestic violence service delivery approach enabled over 50,000 women and children out of situations of violence and abuse, and the self-mobilization of over 10,000 women, men and children into community support structures across Uganda.

More recently (2019), MIFUMI rolled out its stakeholder recruitment process under the MIFUMI Women’s Network to include media personnel, duty bearers, rights champions, policy makers among others. This network is currently estimated to have a membership of over 200 people; and is still growing. These efforts are meant to ensure collective responsibility in ending violence against women and children.

For 15 years MIFUMI lobbied for the reform in the cultural practice of Bride Price that furnished tenets for abuse of women and girls trapped in relationships for which Bride Price was demanded.

In 2009, Tororo District passed the Tororo District Bridal Gifts Ordinance. In Butaleja District adapted the same ordinance soon after. The landmark milestone for MIFUMI came in 2015 August when the Uganda Supreme court endorsed the MIFUMI Bride Price campaign by agreeing to some of the clauses of MIFUMI’s petition and declaring Bride Price refund unconstitutional.

For the first time, probably in the whole of Uganda, MIFUMI brought to the public a cultural matter considered sensitive, delicate and almost taboo; for discussion, conversations and debate there by allowing for both men and women, communities, duty bearers and policy makers to start questioning and examining cultural practices in their fullness.

MIFUMI brought domestic violence services closer to rural communities using the advice structure. Each sub-county in Tororo District has a domestic violence advice centre. These advice centres provide safe women only spaces for women to access domestic violence services such as counselling support, handheld support, mediation, case-handling, referrals and other community outreach support. MIFUMI runs advice centres.

Shelters: starting 2008, MIFUMI has established 4 shelters in the most hard hit regions across the country to ensure emergency protection and safety for women escaping situations of violence and abuse. MIFUMI’s Tororo Haven is the first of a kind purpose built women’s refuge in Uganda.

CFPU: MIFUMI constructed the first fully furnished Police Child and Family Protection Unit to improve services for women and children accessing Police Domestic violence and child abuse services.

The helpline: MIFUMI’s toll free domestic violence helpline is the only dedicated telephone support with trained emergency respondents and counsellors in Uganda.

The school and Health Centre service: MIFUMI set up the community schools and health centre to secure the opportunities for good health and education for the people of Mifumi Village.
MIFUMI WOMEN’S NETWORK

MIFUMI WOMEN’s Network is a Vibrant network comprising MIFUMI, Women Rights Champions, Gender sensitive Men and local partners. The three-year funding (2019-2022) is helping with mobilising individuals and communities (women, men, girls, boys and institutions) into a Network of Human Rights supporters who will in turn influence positive changes on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment; and to lead community action to preventing and responding to Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC).

This Programme is being implemented in Tororo, Bukedea and Budaka Districts and funded by the Jo Cox Memorial Grant.

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Safety First:
Be COVID-19 Alert

Every life is precious to MIFUMI. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, our most urgent call is for the safety of our beneficiaries, volunteers, staff, duty bearers, well-wishers and all individuals and agencies affiliated to MIFUMI.

- Let the pandemic not be the reason for perpetrating violence against women and children; choose not to use violence.
- Follow the ministry of health guidelines on safety and prevention of the virus. SANITIZE, WEAR YOUR MASK, SOCIAL DISTANCE.