

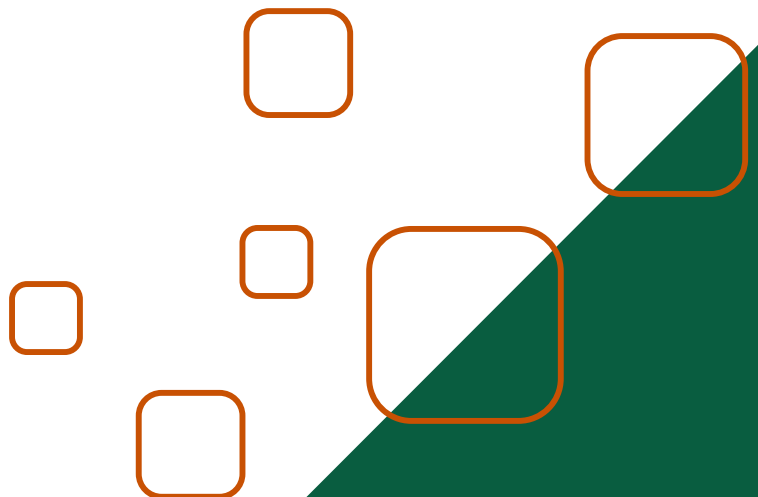
MIFUMI



NEWSLETTER

**JULY - SEPTEMBER
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TOP NEWS

MIFUMI SECURES LICENSE TO RUN SGBV SHELTER IN KALANGALA DISTRICT

PG 1

MIFUMI now has the green light to run a safe haven for women in Kalangala, thanks to the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. Together, let's protect her, ending gender-based violence one shelter at a time.

PG 2

A pivotal moment! Consortium members of the Heroes for Gender Transformative Action program convened in Kalangala District for a 5-day inception meeting where we delved into the next chapter, Heroes 2.0.

SUCCESSFUL INCEPTION MEETING SETS STAGE FOR HEROES 2.0



BREAKING NEWS

MIFUMI SECURES LICENSE TO RUN SGBV SHELTER IN KALANGALA DISTRICT

In an extraordinary development, MIFUMI, with the valued support of the Ministry of Gender, Land and Social Development and the Heroes for Gender Transformative Action Program, has officially opened an SGBV (Sexual and Gender-Based Violence) Shelter in Kalangala, offering a lifeline to survivors who had previously found themselves without refuge or assistance.

The Kalangala region, prior to this groundbreaking endeavor, faced a grave shortage of resources to aid survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Those seeking justice were often at risk when approaching the police, and some officers were even involved in further traumatizing survivors. Women trapped in abusive relationships had nowhere to turn, while displaced children and women were left without shelter or support. Providing essential services in such conditions was a daunting challenge.

Thanks to the Ministry's unwavering support and the Heroes for Gender Transformative Action Program, MIFUMI's SGBV Shelter now stands as a beacon of hope. It not only offers survivors a secure temporary home but also provides comprehensive psychosocial support and skill-building programs. This initiative empowers survivors with knowledge about sexual reproductive health, HIV prevention, and SGBV awareness, ensuring their successful reintegration into the community as self-reliant individuals. The establishment of this shelter marks a significant turning point in Kalangala's battle against sexual and gender-based violence, representing a brighter future for survivors and the entire community.



Previously, survivors seeking justice were sent to the police, a risky move as some officers were involved with survivors. Now, our Kalangala shelter provides safety and empowers women and children to rebuild their lives.

Willy Nkumbi

District Senior Probation & Social Welfare Officer



SUCCESSFUL INCEPTION MEETING SETS STAGE FOR HEROES 2.0

The consortium members of the Heroes for Gender Transformative Action Programme convened from the 18th to the 22nd of September in Kalangala District to kickstart the Heroes 2.0 initiative, building upon the success of the Heroes 1.0 programme.

Heroes 1.0, launched in November 2020 and funded by the Netherlands Embassy in Uganda, aimed to combat gender inequality in nine hard-to-reach districts grappling with high levels of SRHR violations and SGBV. Partnering organizations Cordaid, MIFUMI, and ICRW created a district-based SRHR and SGBV response across Central and Eastern Uganda. This initiative, approved for 38 months, consists of both intensification and extension phases, with Heroes 2.0 extending the duration of interventions by two years.

Key objectives of Heroes 2.0 include reaching an additional 551,492 young people with digital and in-school SRHR/SGBV information, strengthening networks for delivering quality SRHR and SGBV services, promoting respect for SRHR and gender-positive laws, and accelerating actions leading to improved access to justice.

The inception meeting's purpose was to harmonize the understanding of the Heroes 2.0 programme's scope, strategies, and key concepts while introducing the revised Theory of Change (ToC) to core staff. It also aimed to reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past three years, illuminate the results, strategies, and interventions of Heroes 2.0, and clarify key areas in various aspects such as GTA, disability inclusion, research and learning, and risk management.

The meeting employed interactive methods, group work sessions, presentations, panel discussions, and more to achieve its objectives, resulting in improved clarity on the Heroes 2.0 scope and implementation packages, financial management and reporting requirements, and partner scopes and synergies. The successful inception meeting sets the stage for the transformative impact of Heroes 2.0 in addressing SRHR and SGBV issues in the target districts.



MIFUMI EXPANDS SGBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE SERVICES TO KACHANGA, A SMALL ISLAND IN KALANGALA

In a remarkable stride towards combating gender-based violence (GBV), MIFUMI has extended its SGBV prevention and response services to the secluded island of Kachanga, nestled within the Kalangala region. This expansion is a crucial component of the Heroes for Gender Transformative Action Program, where MIFUMI continues its mission to address GBV in previously underrepresented communities.

MIFUMI has launched a comprehensive set of initiatives to raise community awareness, offer legal aid clinics, and provide crucial training to community leaders and duty bearers. These efforts aim to establish a robust referral pathway and facilitate access to vital medico-legal services.

Community awareness campaigns serve as the first line of defense, enlightening residents about the dangers of GBV and the avenues available for seeking help and justice. Simultaneously, legal aid clinics empower survivors with the legal knowledge and resources necessary to navigate the complexities of GBV cases.

One of the cornerstones of MIFUMI's approach is the training of local leaders and duty bearers. By equipping them with the skills to recognize, respond to, and report GBV cases, MIFUMI fosters a culture of vigilance and accountability within the community. This comprehensive strategy not only bolsters the immediate response to GBV but also lays the groundwork for sustainable change in Kachanga.

Medico-legal services are an essential aspect of MIFUMI's expansion efforts. These services offer survivors both medical and legal support, ensuring that their physical and legal needs are met in a sensitive and comprehensive manner. By addressing the multifaceted aspects of GBV, MIFUMI strives to create a safer, more supportive environment in Kachanga, where survivors can seek justice and healing. This extension of services exemplifies MIFUMI's unwavering commitment to eradicating GBV and fostering resilient communities across the Kalangala region.



'CRACKING' BOOK LAUNCH

The Unveiling:

On September 26, 2023, the British Council in Uganda shone brightly as it hosted the grand unveiling of "Cracking," an anthology of short stories curated by Dr. Atuki Turner, the visionary Executive Director of MIFUMI Writers Collective. Writers, poets, and artists filled the venue, creating an electric atmosphere to celebrate the art of storytelling.

A Star-Studded Affair:

The event featured an impressive lineup, including accomplished writers, esteemed poets, and luminaries from the film industry. Mr. Chilufya Besa, the British Council Country Director, and FEMRITE, champions of women's literature, added their unique charm. The authors behind "Cracking" added a personal touch by sharing their insights, breathing life into their stories.

A Literary Gem in Your Hands:

"Cracking" is now available to readers, offering a captivating journey into the worlds crafted by Ugandan and African storytellers. Priced at UGX 60,000.0, this anthology is an affordable gateway to the boundless imagination of these gifted writers. With "Cracking," you can explore the thriving literary landscape and the unity of the arts. It's an open invitation to immerse yourself in captivating narratives and become a part of the growing creative community.



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