

MIFUMI NEWSLETTER



TOP NEWS

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MIFUMI'S CERTIFIED SAVINGS & SUPPORT GROUP IS A GO!

MIFUMI JOINS NATIONAL GBV REFERENCE GROUP FOR IMPACTFUL PROGRESS



Speaking: Madam Angella Nakafero, Commissioner, Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development

MIFUMI has marked a significant milestone by joining the National Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Reference Group, a key initiative established by the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development in 2010. The group is dedicated to enhancing efforts in shaping national GBV policies, programs, resource mobilization, and fostering networks for a robust response to gender-based violence. MIFUMI's expertise in working with shelters played a crucial role in securing its position, as highlighted during a recent retreat in Entebbe where Lucy Athieno, MEAL Manager at MIFUMI, represented the organization. The discussions centered on refining the group's Terms of Reference (TOR) and delving into the National Development Plan IV, with a particular focus on Human-Centered Design (HCD).

This accomplishment not only underscores MIFUMI's commitment to combating gender-based violence but also highlights its dedication to innovation and collaboration. As MIFUMI embraces this new role, the organization brings with it a wealth of experience, a passion for positive change, and a resolute vision for a society free from the constraints of gender-based violence. Stay tuned for updates as MIFUMI continues to pioneer impactful change in the fight against gender-based violence.

'MIFUMI VISA' SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUP GETS REGISTERED IN KALANGALA

The fantastic news comes with the issuance of a Certificate of Registration from the Community Based Organization (CBO), confirming that 'MIFUMI Visa' Group, operating in the heart of Mugoye Sub-county, is now a fully recognized entity under the Kalangala District Council.

What does this mean? Well, it means that MIFUMI is now officially empowered to rally women and create groups dedicated to saving and borrowing money. This initiative is set to be a game-changer, not only enhancing the financial well-being of women but also paving the way for property ownership and job opportunities.

The certificate allows MIFUMI to take tangible steps towards fostering a sense of unity among women, enabling them to develop a collaborative and harmonious working approach. Additionally, the organization is now equipped to actively promote the culture of saving and responsible borrowing.

In essence, MIFUMI's newfound status as a registered Community Based Organization positions it as a catalyst for positive change. Through the mobilization of women and the facilitation of financial initiatives, MIFUMI is contributing to the overall development of the community. This accomplishment marks a crucial step towards empowering women, fostering economic growth, and building a brighter future for Mugoye Sub-county.





THE INTER-DEVELOPMENT PARTNER WORKING GROUP (SRHR-IDPWG) TAKES OFF ON A JOINT FIELD MISSION IN NAMAYINGO

VISIT SHEDS LIGHT ON SRHR/SGBV CHALLENGES

In a concerted effort to address pressing issues related to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), the Inter-Development Partner Working Group (SRHR-IDPWG) took off on a joint field mission from the 7th to the 9th of November in the Busoga region, Uganda. This strategic move was fueled by the persistent challenges of child marriages and teenage pregnancies that have plagued the region for an extended period.

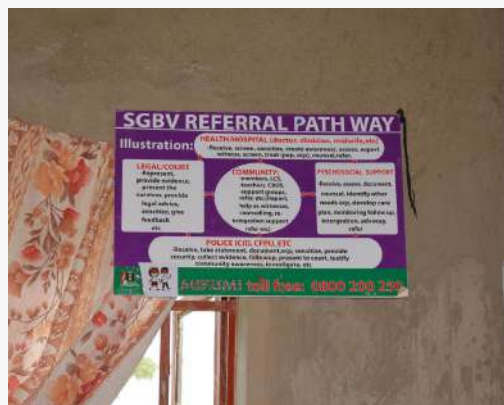
Busoga region, encompassing 11 districts, has been a focal point for numerous development programs, yet the desired impact on mitigating these issues remains elusive. The SRHR-IDPWG selected three districts for a closer look, with Namayingo being a key focus.

The objectives of the joint field mission were multifaceted, aiming to strengthen coordination among diverse activities across districts, gain insights into the sustainability of development partner initiatives, acquire a firsthand understanding of SRHR in the Busoga region, and foster collaborative learning among members.

Namayingo, nestled on the shores of Lake Victoria, served as the furthest point of exploration for the mission. Four projects/programs supported by SRHR-IDPWG members were scrutinized, with the HEROES team backed by the Netherlands Embassy, WBG/GFF, UNAIDS, Embassy of Sweden, UNICEF, Belgium and UNFPA.

One notable stop during the visit was at MIFUMI's advice center in Namayingo, where a mobile legal aid clinic was in full swing. The scene painted a vivid picture of community members eagerly awaiting assistance. The team on the ground, comprising the Resident State Attorney (RSA), the Magistrate, and a private practitioner, delved into legal issues dating back to 2019.

The visit underscored the urgency of collaborative efforts to tackle the complex web of SRHR challenges in the region. The exchange of ideas, shared experiences, and a deep dive into the grassroots realities of Namayingo have set the stage for a more coordinated and impactful approach to promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. As the findings are processed, the hope is that the collective efforts of the SRHR-IDPWG will pave the way for positive transformations in Busoga and beyond.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



MIFUMI recently concluded its active participation in the impactful 16 Days of Activism, themed "Invest! Unite to end violence against women and girls." Our commitment to this cause extended beyond mere rhetoric, as we engaged in a series of initiatives designed to make a tangible difference.

During this period, our mobile legal aid clinics emerged as a crucial lifeline, providing essential support to those navigating legal complexities. Simultaneously, community dialogues tackled pressing issues such as ending teenage pregnancies and addressing gender-based violence (GBV). In Kalangala, a district we serve, reported teenage pregnancies declined from 496 in 2021 to 359 in 2023, with 275 pregnant teenagers seeking antenatal care (ANC) this year—a testament to both progress and persistent challenges.

Amidst these efforts, MIFUMI actively participated in the 16 Days of Activism, reaching a total of 3,132 people (1,744 female, 1,388 male). Notably, 115 of them were Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), comprising 68 females and 47 males. The 16 days saw integrated community dialogues on family relationships, repetitive pregnancies, and the urgent concern of child marriage. Beyond these initiatives, MIFUMI organized a meeting to disseminate research findings on mid-term reviews, exploring social and cultural dimensions, including repetitive pregnancies. As we move beyond the formal 16 Days of Activism, MIFUMI reiterates its steady commitment to combating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). Our journey continues, fueled by the vision of a safer, more equitable future for the communities we serve.

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY 2023

In the quest to carve out a more promising future for young people worldwide, WUSC, a Canadian non-profit organization, stands as a force for change. With a diverse coalition of students, volunteers, schools, governments, and businesses, WUSC unites under a shared vision to cultivate inventive, youth-centric solutions. Their mission spans borders, making a positive impact in over 15 countries by amplifying education, economic opportunities, and empowerment initiatives.

An exemplary illustration of WUSC's dedication to global collaboration is the recent partnership with MIFUMI, resulting in the arrival of Michelle Wandia from Kenya as a Communications Advisor. Michelle's journey took on added significance with an invitation from the United Nations Volunteer to participate in International Volunteer Day—a day filled with lively activities and genuine appreciation for the devoted volunteers in Uganda.

On this special occasion, volunteers like Michelle were recognized for their commitment to creating a positive impact in local communities. It serves as a tribute to the collective efforts of individuals like Michelle and the countless others contributing to the noble cause of youth empowerment. As we express our gratitude, a heartfelt thank you goes out not only to Michelle but to every volunteer playing a pivotal role in building a better world.





Why do we make Gender Based Violence about women and girls?

Thursday, December 07, 2023



Atuki Turner

MIFUMI ON THE DAILY MONITOR

As the 16 days of activism to end Gender-Based Violence (GBV) unfold, the urgency to address this pervasive issue remains ever-present. In response to a recent article questioning why the dialogue on GBV predominantly centers around women and girls, it is essential to offer clarity on the profound reasons behind this focus.

Gender-based violence is indeed a multifaceted challenge, impacting individuals across the globe, including men and boys. However, the statistical landscape paints a compelling picture that demands attention. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics reports a staggering 68% rate of gender-based violence affecting women in Uganda, surpassing the international average of 28-33%. These figures underscore the critical need to prioritize the experiences of women and girls in the conversation surrounding GBV.

The Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2016 reveals that 49% of women aged 15-49 in Uganda accept justifications for husband-inflicted violence. This alarming statistic unveils a distressing acceptance of violence within societal norms, creating an environment where women are more vulnerable to abuse. To address this, campaigns often direct their efforts towards dismantling harmful practices deeply ingrained in cultural traditions, such as bride price and polygamy.

While acknowledging that men and boys also endure violence based on their gender, the concentration on women and girls is not an attempt to negate or belittle the experiences of male victims. Rather, it reflects a stark acknowledgment of the systemic inequalities and vulnerabilities faced by women.

MIFUMI, as a grassroots women's rights agency, has been at the forefront of combating GBV and its cultural drivers. Over the years, our work has shed light on the interplay of cultural norms, including bride price and polygamy, significantly contributing to the heightened vulnerability of women and girls. These practices, deeply rooted in tradition, perpetuate harmful power dynamics and increase the risk of violence against them.

The UN Women campaigns focusing on ending violence against women and girls recognize the reality that, globally, a disproportionate number of women and girls suffer from gender-based violence. This focus does not intend to erase the stories of male victims; rather, it emphasizes the urgent need to address the alarming prevalence of violence against women and girls.

Efforts to curb GBV must be informed by the distinct forms of violence faced by women, including dowry-related abuse, forced and early child marriages, female genital mutilation and honor killings. By understanding and addressing these unique challenges, tailored interventions can be crafted to provide effective support for survivors and prevent further harm.

In conclusion, making GBV about women is not about sidelining the experiences of men and boys but rather acknowledging the gravity of the situation faced by women and girls. It is a call to action for comprehensive societal changes, challenging cultural norms, advocating for policy reforms, and fostering educational initiatives that promote gender equality. By centering the conversation on women, we aim for a future where every individual, regardless of gender, can live free from fear and violence.

By Dr Atuki Turner

MIFUMI (KAMPALA OFFICE) HOSTS MEMORABLE END-OF-YEAR REFLECTION & CELEBRATION



The long-awaited end-of-year celebration at our Kampala office unfolded with joy and camaraderie. Staff from the various districts we serve gathered alongside our esteemed directors, Dr. Atuki and Glyn Turner. The day was marked by lively conversations, delightful cuisine, team-building activities, and the highlight of the event – a spirited Secret Santa gift exchange. Amidst the festivities, the day was also filled with reflections on 2023, recognizing tremendous achievements by the team and identifying areas of growth and accomplishment. This heartwarming conclusion to the year provided an opportunity for colleagues to strengthen connections and bid farewell before embarking on a well-deserved holiday break, leaving everyone in high spirits and setting a positive tone for the upcoming year.



END OF YEAR PARTY - PICTURES

MIFUMI

Wishing You
A PROSPEROUS

2024

May your year be filled with
kindness, empowerment, positive
impact, and joyful moments from
all of us at MIFUMI.

Happy
New Year



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