



2023



Connect. Learn. Lead.

ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared By :

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www.kichinigardenersi.org



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Board Statement

Dear Members and Supporters,

On behalf of the board, reflecting on this past year, we are incredibly proud of the progress Kichini Gardeners has made. Despite facing economic challenges, our commitment to sustainable gardening and fostering a deep connection with nature among children has never wavered. Our school gardening outreach programs have been particularly impactful, with over 30 students managing their own vegetable gardens. This initiative has educated them on sustainable practices and nurtured their sense of environmental stewardship.

A major highlight this year was the launch of our school gardening outreach program in a rural community. Celebrating World Food Day and Children's Day alongside local schools allowed us to join millions globally in advocating for these critical causes.



Additionally, distributing 100 local fruit tree seedlings to children has provided hope and instilled a sense of environmental responsibility in the younger generation. We owe a great deal of our success to our Founder and Executive Director, Irene Nagudi. Her vision, dedication, and leadership have been instrumental in shaping Kichini Gardeners into the thriving organization it is today. As members of the inaugural board, we are honored to support her mission and contribute to the growth of this remarkable initiative.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Richard Tugume Tulyahikayo, a dedicated board member involved from the start, who has recently resigned to run his own organization. Richard's contributions and commitment have been invaluable, and we wish him all the best in his new endeavors. We are also deeply grateful to our colleagues, whose diverse skills and innovative ideas create a dynamic and supportive work environment. Together, we embrace challenges and uphold our shared vision with unwavering dedication.

Looking towards the future, we are excited about our upcoming projects. We plan to expand our outreach and forge partnerships with environmentally conscious businesses. These endeavors align with our goal of creating a broader and more meaningful impact on sustainability. Our values of practicality, environmentalism, teamwork, accountability, and stewardship continue to guide our efforts. Through Kichini Gardeners Initiative, we are nurturing a generation of environmentally conscious leaders empowered to create positive change and build a sustainable future for all. Thank you all for your dedication, passion, and continued support!

Warm regards,

SIOBHAN SHAW

ROBERT ONEK

JUDITH NAKAMANNYA

Co-Chairs, Kichini Gardeners' Board of Directors

Director's Statement



Reflecting on the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for what we have accomplished together as Kichini Gardeners. Despite facing economic challenges, we have made significant strides in expanding our reach to rural communities and furthering our mission of fostering a greener future through sustainable gardening and nature connection for children.

The year 2023-2024 was marked by remarkable achievements. We successfully launched our school gardening outreach program in a rural community school, where we celebrated World Food Day and Children's Day, aligning ourselves with millions worldwide advocating for these important causes. Moreover, our initiative to distribute 100 local fruit tree seedlings among children in rural areas has not only brought hope but also instilled a sense of responsibility towards environmental conservation in the younger generation

Our collaboration with local schools has been incredibly rewarding, with over 30 students initiating and managing their vegetable gardens. This hands-on experience not only educates them about sustainable practices but also nurtures a deep-rooted connection with nature and stewardship for our planet.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our esteemed board of Advisors for their unwavering trust and active involvement. They have played a pivotal role in shaping Kichini Gardeners into the thriving organization it is today.

I also extend my gratitude to my colleagues, whose diverse skills and innovative ideas create a dynamic and supportive work environment. Together, we embrace challenges and uphold our shared vision with unwavering dedication.

As we look towards the future, we are excited about the upcoming projects, expanding our outreach and forging partnerships with environmentally conscious businesses. These endeavors align with our goal of creating meaningful impact and fostering sustainability on a broader scale.

Thank you all for your dedication, passion, and continued support.

Best regards,

IRENE NAGUDI

Executive Director

Profile Of Company

Kichini Gardeners Initiative is a registered not-for-profit organization based in Uganda. That empowers children (ages 8-16) and youth to promote food security, nature conservation, and climate action through sustainable gardening activities.

Our work:

- School Garden outreaches and conservation
- Homes and community engagements
- Environmental and climate education

Our work targets to meet SDGs 2,13, 15, 16

Our Values:

Practicality: When our hands do it, we don't forget it.

Environmentalism: We shall have the spirit of conservation of our soils at heart and at all times

Teamwork: We achieve more when we collaborate and work together for a common good

Accountability: Each of us is responsible for our actions and our results

Stewardship: We embrace inclusiveness and we are all servants for Mother Nature

Through Kichini Gardeners Initiative, we are nurturing a generation of environmentally conscious leaders empowered to create positive change and build a sustainable future for all.



2 ZERO HUNGER

13 CLIMATE ACTION

15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Vision & Mission



Vision

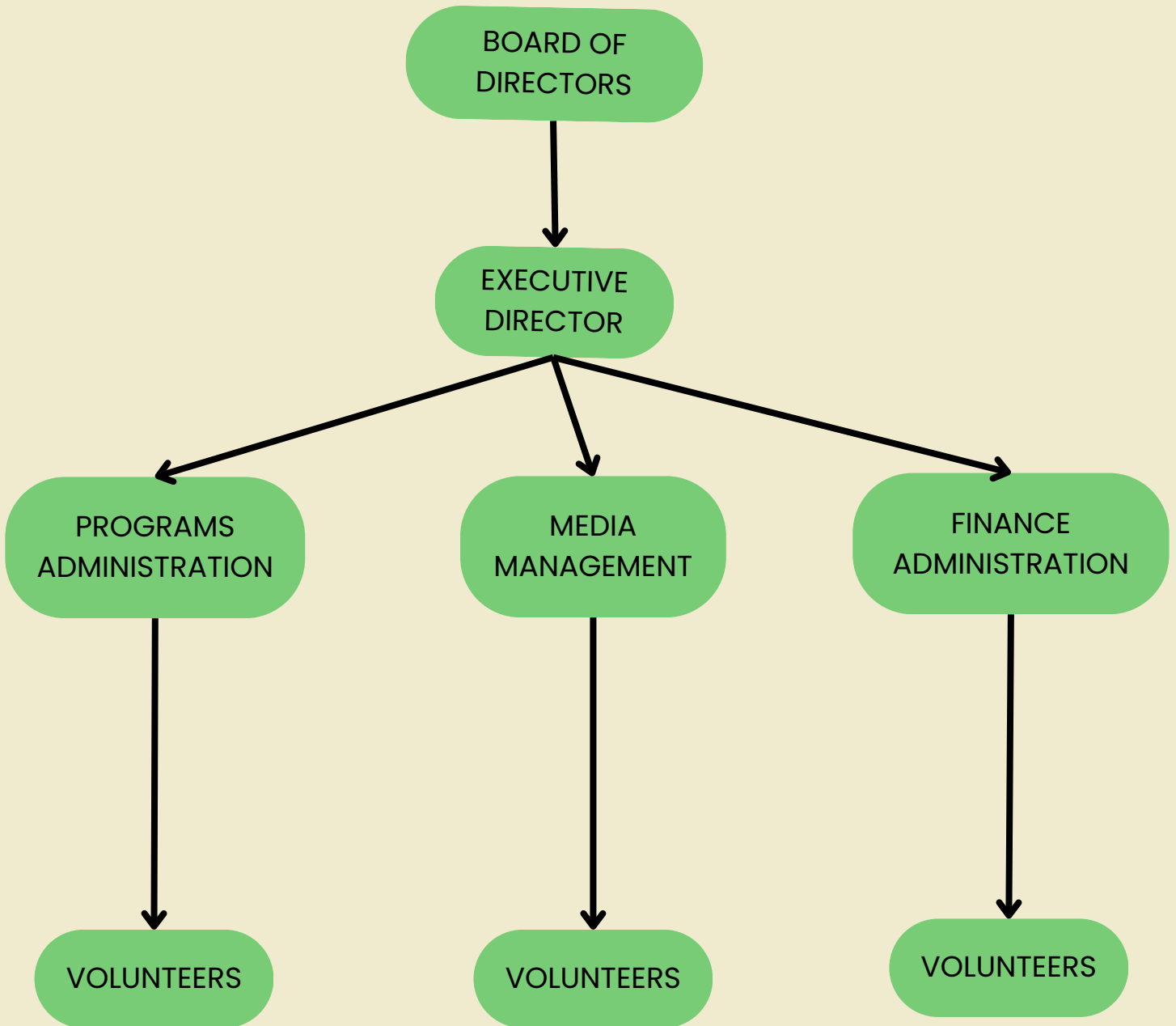
A global community where every child enjoys and learns about safe food and a healthy planet within the garden.

Mission

To help children connect, learn, and lead on a greener future through hands-on sustainable gardening to cultivate a lifelong connection with nature.



Organisational Overview





Impact Assessment

Our impact for the year 2023 was categorized into projects and one-day-event celebrations which were mainly rotating around active participation and education of the children on real-life circumstances

Our Impact 2023

Engagement

We have engaged 100 students 10-17 years old, and 10 teachers in creating an ambient learning atmosphere under the Climate Talking Ambiance(CTA) project

100 tree seedlings were given to learners and 75% of them are growing, and children are taking care of them

Education

The improved reading culture among children in our project school; 5 in 10 children reading and interpreting signposts in the compound compared to 2 in 10 initially.

It is a right to advocate for children's rights and take a stand against mistreatment and violations.

Empowerment

Education on children's rights and responsibilities

50% of Children gained a deeper understanding of their rights and entitlements as human beings and the importance of being treated with fairness and equity.

Highlights In 2023



1

**Climate Talking
Ambiance Project**

2

**Nakivubo School
Garden**



3

**International
Children's Day**



4

**World Food
Day**



The Climate Talking Ambiance



Phase 1

In partnership with

NAKIVUBO C/U PRIMARY SCHOOL



THE CLIMATE TALKING AMBIANCE PROJECT PHASE 1



Over 600 pupils are enrolled at the beginning of the year. In primary four, the enrollment is about 163 students, but less than 50 learners remain and take their final primary examinations after 3 years. This is linked to several factors including student and teacher absenteeism, malnutrition, and a rigid curriculum.

These factors stem from climate change and unpredictable weather events, which are a pivotal determinant of socio-economic transformation in rural communities that predominantly rely on agricultural practices to sustain livelihoods.

The effects of climate change have long-term impacts on children's health and future thus achieving quality education in rural communities, becomes a challenge that never dies.

How about a Climate Talking Ambiance?



What keeps our students out of school is mainly hunger at home and school. Their immediate solution is to opt out of school to garden longer hours in preparation for the next seasons, charcoal burning for extra income, and thus the growing malnutrition among young people and less time dedicated to school.

However, if students understand the root cause, they can be key change agents in transforming this unfortunate trend.



Our Success

Though the project is still ongoing, we managed to register success;
We have engaged 100 students 10-17 years old, and 10 teachers in creating an ambient learning atmosphere;

- greening the school compound; fruit trees, hedges, flowers
- School garden demo
- give-away of vegetable and fruit tree seedlings to 50 children
- Written & colorful Posters on global and local statistics of climate change effects on food, and call-to-action.





Nakivubo School Garden

It's a Food security issue

Learning to grow vegetables differently

With 35 participants, learners at Nakivubo C/U Primary School took the initiative to learn different ways of gardening especially vegetables that they usually grow on a seasonal basis thus not having enough vegetables for home consumption and others not having at all till the rainy season.

Our main goal for the School garden was to grow vegetables all season round. This would mean learning from school and returning to practice within our own homes.

With the school garden, learners were taught how to adjust to the changing climate within food systems and the value of nutrition from vegetables



01

20% of learners developed ridge gardens within their homes grew vegetables and had weekly harvests for home consumption

02

school vegetable garden demo with egg plants and spinaches that supplemented staff meals for 4 months

03

with seeds received, 30% of learners could share about the nutritional benefits of vegetables in our diets



Eggplants in the School Garden

The young gardeners taking care of their eggplant garden



Gardening and Climate action in Wamulongo village

Climate Adaptation Campaign in Wamulongo Primary School through Gardening

In the Wamulongo community Busoga region, parents believe that they have small plots of land and they can only use the space to grow staple foods – sweet potatoes hence more potatoes are harvested but without accompaniment to the dish hence the idea of vegetable compound gardens and integration. As Kichini Gardeners, we were invited to the school to share with the community small-scale gardening and climate adaptation for enhanced resilience.

The garden demo setup was attended by 20 parents and 40 pupils given seeds and seedlings to establish their first vegetable gardens within the compound.

The goal was to empower the Wamulongo community with small-scale climate-smart vegetable gardening techniques



01

Setting up on-ground raised and sack gardens to maximize the small spaces within homes

02

Session on how climate change manifests, the greenhouse effect that all farmers and children should be aware of, hence promoting resilience within the community



With Local actions and engaging parents together with their children, we can transform our communities and ensure food security for all

1st Quarter Webinar

26 MARCH 2024

STORY TELLING as a tool to foster
Environmental Stewardship among children.

DATE: 26th March 2024
TIME: 5PM-6PM EAT
VENUE: GOOGLE MEET LINK

Join the conversation

<https://meet.google.com/nir-mvpv-nsm>

HOST



ASIANZU BLESSING APAMAKU
Programs Lead
Kichini Gardeners Initiative

SPEAKER



JOSHUA AAITA APAMAKU
Wildlife Biologist
Co-founder, NatureWILD

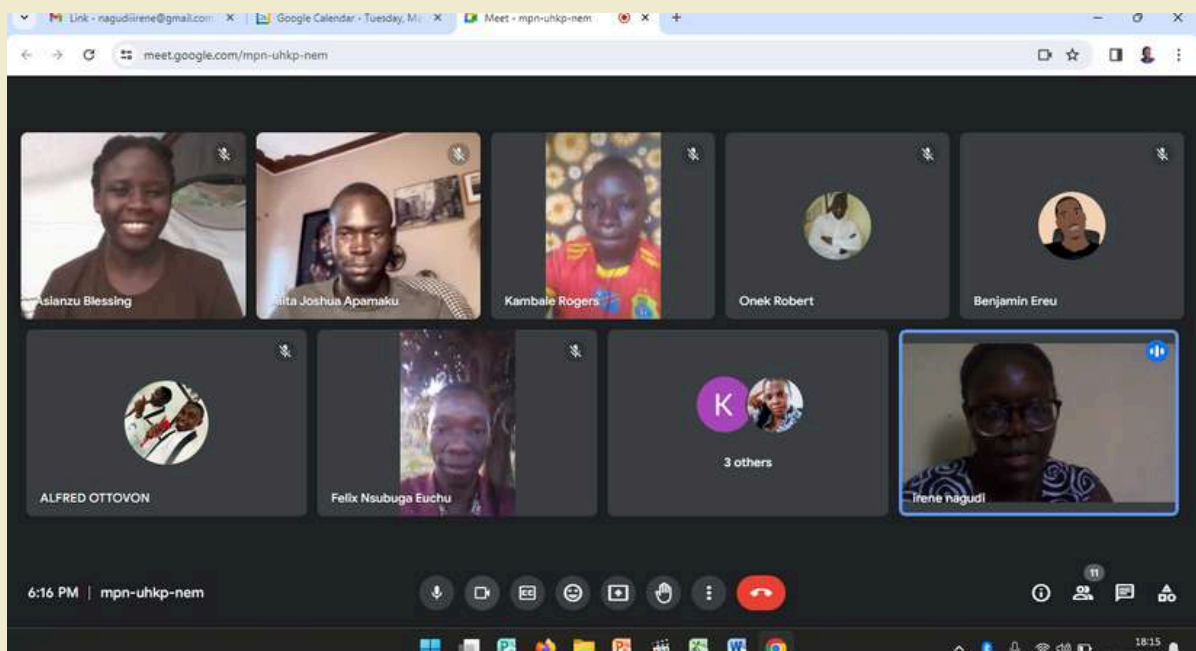
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WEBINAR SERIES - STORYTELLING

Title: Storytelling as a tool to foster environmental conservation among children

The session drew the attention of about 13 individuals from different walks of environmental conservation.

Goal: Embracing storytelling as a tool to enhance environmental conservation among children



POINTERS

Storytelling: The art of narrating an event or occurrence to create a flow of information

- Media format: Audiovisual, photogenic, arts, graphics.
- Stories should be inspirational and lead to actionable change.
- Approaches to children's storytelling should hinge on children-tailored techniques suitable for the target group.
- Techniques: Simple language, visual animations, relatable environments, songs and rhymes, interactive elements.



Children's Day 2023

For Every Child, Every Right!

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT IN NAKIVUBO C/U PRIMARY SCHOOL - KAYUNGA DISTRICT

20th November 2023

➤➤➤ INTRODUCTION

World Children's Day is observed every November 20th, representing a solemn reminder and celebration of children's rights worldwide. The day champions the rights, voices and lives of children. It's not just about celebration, but about addressing the myriad of challenges children face globally (SDG Resource Centre)

On 20th November, Nakivubo C/U Primary School in partnership with Kichini Gardeners Initiative, commemorated the World Children's Day under the theme: "For Every Child, Every Right!"

World Children's Day is UNICEF's annual day of action for children, by children, marking the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Addressing Challenges: From climate change, education and mental health, to ending racism and discrimination.

Recognizing: children and young people are raising their voices on the issues that matter to their generation and calling for adults to create a better future.

On this World Children's Day, Nakivubo C/U pupils are raising their voices on the effect of climate change on their food security and mental well-being.





WHY COMMEMORATE WITH NAKIVUBO PUPILS?

Students in Nakivubo C/U Primary school are among the children in this world who are faced with challenges that force them to grow up faster than their age and enjoy less of their childhood like other children across the planet. In their community they face challenges ranging from food insecurity, education inequities to increasing poverty which leaves them in a state that not only exposes them to adulthood when still very young but also threatens their mental health. Early exposure to these experiences frustrates quality of life, undermines beliefs, and poisons attitude and behavior.

With the increasing impacts of climate change on food security, inequalities, poverty they are susceptible to hunger and malnutrition, violence and dropping out school which leaves SDG4 attainment at an arm's length. On a sad note, the majority of these students have never heard about Children's day and their rights as they transition into adulthood.

**I am a Child, born
innocent,
born happy, full of trust!
I admire, I see, I believe.**

»»» CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

1. Respect for children's views,
2. Access to information,
3. Protection from violence,
4. Protection from discrimination especially Children with disabilities,
5. Good Health, water, food, environment,
6. Access to Food, clothing, a safe home,
7. Access to education: Every child has the right to an education.
8. Rest, play, culture, arts: Every child has the right to rest, relax, play,
9. Protection from harmful work: Children have the right to be protected from doing work that is dangerous or bad for their education, health or development.
10. Protection from sexual abuse: The government should protect children from sexual exploitation (being taken advantage of) and sexual abuse, including by people forcing children to have sex for money, or making sexual pictures or films of them.

Protection from exploitation: Children have the right to be protected from all other kinds of exploitation

➤➤➤ CHILDREN'S DIALOGUE

This session was led by Ms. Nagudi Irene, with the following questions;

1. Who's a child?
2. What do we understand about children's rights?
3. Why should we honor children's rights?

In conclusion we agreed Children's rights are human rights. Children must be treated with equality, respect and dignity, not because they are "the future", but because they are human beings today. And understanding our rights as children is key to future development of our societies and the generations to come after us.

➤➤➤ POEM RECITING

This poem calls on everyone to remember we were all once children, we dreamt, we were positive but along the way, we forget that the children today, who need us to grow and meet their potential.

I AM A CHILD

I am a child, born innocent
born happy, full of trust!
I admire, I see, I believe.
when i go to school, i seek quality education
as i learn, i speak my dream
but the scream from society shutters my dream.

I am a child, a receptive child; seeking knowledge but weak without food
my voice is not heard, i learn to detest,
but I yearn to love.

At times i live in fear, but all i need is comfort and protection
As I dream to reach far, teach me how.
i am a child, do not abuse me,
do not expose me to immorality.

I am a child, a promising child, the light of tomorrow
Now that I am here invest in me
Build my confidence and hope. Do not disown me for I am your offspring.
let me blossom for I am a child.





MENTAL AND SOCIAL WELLBEING OF CHILDREN

This activity was shared by Dr. Kayondo Moses, children need to understand that they have a right to mental and social wellbeing within their families and communities and should be in a position to tell when their mental health is being stepped on. In situations where they feel their mental health is being jeopardized, having a relative or a teacher they can talk to, can help them survive the consequences such as suicide, running away from home and so on.



PHYSICAL WELLBEING OF CHILDREN

The session was held by Ms. Asianzu Blessing, sharing how food is a key component for the well-being of children as it contributes to their right growth of the body and mind. To fight off malnutrition among children, children should understand their right to healthy and safe food. And should be entitled to at least 2 meal a day that are fully balanced in nutrients, to reduce on the malnutrition cases arising each day among children and adolescent girls which makes them stay at home



CONCEAL ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

The sum up on children's rights was conducted by Hon. Fatuma, who shared to children how their rights really matter and they should not stay silent when they see that their rights are being violated. The authorities are readily available and much willing to defend the rights of children as per the constitution of Uganda.

No child's rights should be violated for cases of being young or not having a voice because of age. Children are also humans and their rights should be protected and respected.





OUR LETTER TO THE WORLD

OUR LETTER TO THE WORLD

Children's Day 2023,

Dear parents, teachers, leaders and the entire community,

Our hearts as children are bleeding in great pain as our rights are stepped on.

Many of us hardly access quality equitable education, quality medical care is simply a mystery and hunger is killing us for we only survive on one meal a day.

When our minds are taking up all of this, we are afraid there's no one to listen to us and mentally we end up not being okay.

We are less privileged and socially looked at as minors. With poverty affecting our households, the girl child is given away to an early marriage in exchange for wealth. Are we really the future you claim we are?

Please listen to our voices and make the world a better place for us all.
wondering what you can do for us!

Strengthen child protection mechanisms in our communities.

Call for meaningful child participation in decision making.

Promote education facilities for all.

Strengthen Sensitization on children's rights protection

support the mental health of children

Dear all, remember children are the parents, teachers, and leaders of tomorrow, let's invest in them!

Regards,

Children of Nakivubo C/U Primary School, Kayunga District



TREE PLANTING

To honor the theme: For Every Child, Every Right! the day was concluded by tree planting and 10 trees were planted in the school garden while 70 fruit tree seedlings were given to children to plant in their homes as a way of honoring that our future should be bright with less pollution and it's their right to a healthy environment.



**Viola 16 -year-old,
primary six
planting her Mango
tree**



LESSONS LEARNED

Invest in Our Future



- Our rights as children should be put at frontline and we have to be aware of them
- We are also human beings and we deserve to be treated right, for its our right as children
- We should raise our voices to defend the children who have no voice yet they are mistreated and their rights violated.



World Food Day 2023

*Water is Life
Water is Food*



KICHINI GARDENERS WORLD FOOD DAY COMMEMORATION

EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH KNOWLEDGE ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD GROWING ON THIS WORLD FOOD DAY - NAKIVUBO C/U PRIMARY SCHOOL, KAYUNGA DISTRICT

12th October 2023

➤➤➤ INTRODUCTION

Kichini Gardeners Initiative commemorated World Food Day in partnership with Nakivubo C/U Primary School, Kayunga district on the 12th of October 2023.

Food insecurity is a common public health problem and a major constraint to educational attainments among school children and adolescents in developing countries. Students from food-insecure households are more likely to be absent from school due to exposure to infectious diseases and socio-emotional difficulties compared to their peers from food-secure households. This not only affects the normal physical growth of young children but also adversely affects their intellectual capacity and social skills thus having a significant association with students' poor school attendance.

Imagine 5 out of every 10 students miss school, to help out with the home gardening! Nakivubo C/U Primary School is a government-aided institution situated in Nakivubo village, Kayunga district, serving over 800 students from families dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. The changing seasons, marked by extended droughts, often force these children to miss school to help with farm work.

This has greatly contributed to the learning impairment of learners in classrooms because they lose concentration and in the end are not able to comprehend and internalize what has been taught.





WHY COMMEMORATE WITH NAKIVUBO PUPILS?

Pupils of Nakivubo C/U come from families that are agriculture-based but challenged by the longer droughts and unpredictable weather conditions the community experiences. The children normally fall victim to missing school to help out with the garden preparations in preparation for the predicted rainy seasons accompanied with the one meal the children receive in a day. Children missing school, neither builds them nor guarantees a fruitful future rather making them susceptible to the adverse effects of dropping out of school such as teenage pregnancies, drug abuse and anti-social behaviors among others. By sharing knowledge with these children, we are creating awareness about climate change's impacts on water and food security and how children can respond to them by transferring the knowledge back home to practically do it with their parents.

95% of our food is produced on land and all begins with soil and water

➤➤➤ THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER AND HOW TO CONSERVE IT

The children shared that water is important for our survival as it is key;

- Irrigating the plants
- Household chores

5-TIPS TO CONSERVE WATER

Reuse of water

Water from dishes reused for other house chores like mopping and water used to wash food can be reused for irrigation of plants

Harvest rain water

Instead of leaving it to flow, if learners can collect the water it can be used for irrigation in the gardens during the hot days when plants are water stressed

Don't play with water

With the school borehole, learners learnt to use a container to tap flowing water instead of washing hands with water flowing to waste. the tapped water can be used for other meaningful uses.



Capture and store water (stormwater) in our gardens

If water is left to flow, we are not only losing the water but the top soils as well. Learners were taught how to capture and store water in the garden through the use of ridges and swales relating to the ridges we created in our previous school garden space.

Mulching of our Gardens

With mulching, we are in a position to conserve moisture within the soils that the plants can take in their processes of food production. Further use of plastic bottles especially in their small gardens of vegetables to minimize the water used for irrigation.

5-TIPS TO CONSERVE WATER

How we conserve water in our Nursery beds;

With the school's set up nursery beds, we dug trenches that allowed water to flow through and be sipped into the ground steadily. Then cover the beds with nets where the drips of water surface the whole ground of plants slowly and less water is used while protecting the plants.



CHILDREN OF NAKIVUBO PRIMARY SCHOOL SENDING OUT CALL-TO-ACTION MESSAGES

As an organization, We believe that when we connect, we learn and eventually we can lead. Formulated by the children, **4 teams took on identities of different foods, Sukuma wiki, Rice, Apple, and Jackfruit**, which they based on to write and send out call-to-action messages to inspire peers and general public.

Learners learn to communicate to the world calling the different people to support their cause and transform the communities we live in.



LESSONS LEARNED

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



CHILDREN'S MAIN TAKEAWAY



- Children could identify the different ways they waste water at home and school
- Different ways of reusing water at home
- Children learnt of the World Food Day and appreciated the initiative to commemorate it.

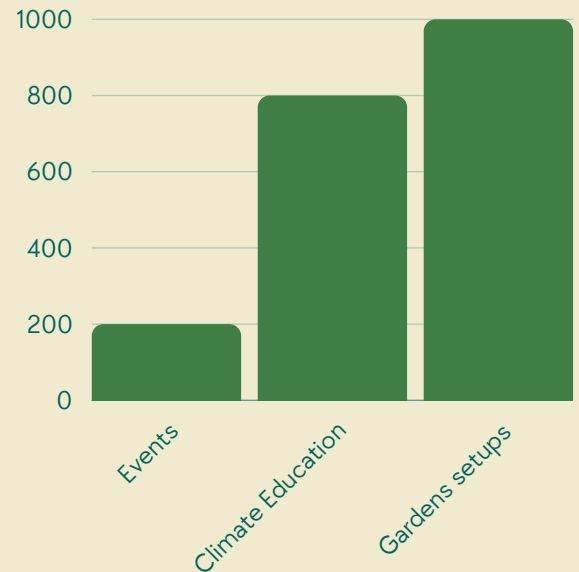
**I LOVE FOOD
I AM HAPPY**

By Team Sukuma wiki

Funding and Expenditures

Our funds are always raised through grant writing and contributions from generous individuals and organizations, along with partnerships

Kichini Gardeners Initiative in 2023 estimated an annual budget operation of USD6000, however we managed to raise USD2000, which we used on our expenditure - Events, Climate Education and School garden setups





Challenges

Besides our success stories, we have also faced setbacks in executing our mission

- we are constained with the limited funds to execute our work expansively and effectively
- Limited resources to facilitate our monitoring and evaluation of the work we do
- The Unpredictable weather patterns and prolonged droughts threaten children's ability to maintain their gardens.
- The need for mindset change, which renders more time as children face challenges of theft for their vegetables both within their homes and schools

Meet the Team

The Kichini Gardeners' Board



SIOBHAN SHAW

Co-founder/Board of Director's chair Growing to Give, Host Real Talk Show, Author



ROBERT ONEK

Financial management and Accounting professional, Director Finance and Operations (UWESO)



JUDITH NAKAMANNYA

Humanitarian worker, an entrepreneur and community development implementator for international organizations

The Kichini Gardeners' Team

The team along with their messages in line with what we do



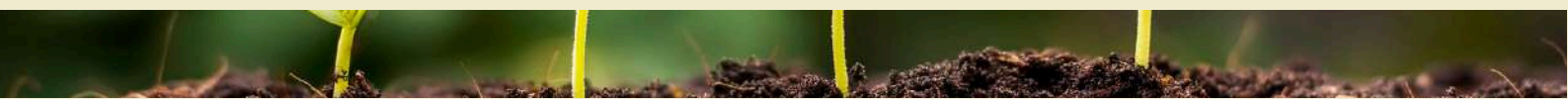
IRENE NAGUDI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Every child deserves a better future, but there's no guarantee to a better future on an empty stomach"



BLESSING ASIANZU APAMAKU
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

"Tapping into the potential of children positions them for a lifetime of environmental stewardship and active citizenship"





ROGER KAMBALE
PHOTOGRAPHY & COMMUNICATION
DIRECTOR

“Every body has a role to play to enhance nutritious food for all not leaving children behind”



MAYI NAMAKULA
FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

“Just like funds, Nature thrives on action, deliberate planning, and preservation for sustainability”



CHRISMAS MUCUNGUZI
CONTENT WRITER

“Children’s curiosity and creativity in the gardens inspires us to grow a brighter and sustainable future together”





Great Thanks to our Donors, Partners, and schools we worked with in 2023

Donors



Partners



Schools

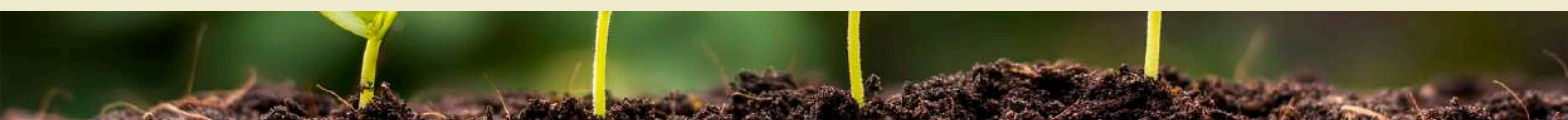
Nakivubo C/U Primary School Kayunga District

Wamulongo Primary School Mayuge District

Private donors

Stephanie Dobbie

A warm appreciation to all our dear supporters and those who chose to stay anonymous





Support Our Work

Our work entirely depends on grants, contributions from individuals, without your support, we are not in a position to bring a smile to these children and their families

We actively seek support from individuals, organizations and partnerships to promote food security and climate education for all

- You can contribute to our projects through funding us
- You can partner with us to empower more children with global knowledge



Kichini Gardeners

Connect. Learn. Lead.

For more information about our work

kichinigardenersi.org

P.O.BOX 101592
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KAMPALA, UGANDA



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