

AWYAD-INSIGHTS



AWYAD
African Women and Youth
Action for Development

QUATERLY NEWSLETTER



AWYAD Staff trains care givers on inclusive education and safe guarding in Buliti zone, Kyaka II refugee settlement.

TOP NEWS OF THE QUARTER

AWYAD-ECW PROJECT- INCREASING SAFE AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



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AWYAD has Supported children express themselves through play, sports and MDD activities through using Team Up Approach.

READ MORE

Greetings, dear readers, We are thrilled to share with you about the Day of the African Child, celebrated annually on June 16th. This year's theme, "Protecting and Promoting Children's Rights in the Digital Era," emphasized the critical importance of ensuring children thrive in the digital landscape while safeguarding their rights.



CELEBRATING THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

INTRODUCTION

>>> HI,

I am thrilled to introduce this edition of our newsletter, curated by our dedicated communications officer. In these pages, you will find stories, updates and insights that reflect our ongoing mission to make a meaningful impact. Thank you for your continued support.

Best regards,
Phiona Kemigisha
AWYAD.

AWYAD-ECW PROJECT- INCREASING SAFE AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION.



Within the quarter, 1033 children were enrolled for team up activities where 4 groups were formed and each group consisting of 60 children. 20 sessions were conducted in the 4 schools of Angel's care, Byabakora, Sweswe and Bujubuli primary targeting P3 and P4 classes in all the school, each group has received 16 sessions on the themes of Respect, bullying, friendship and friends, conflict and anger and the children's wellbeing has started improving evident by their active participation in the games in their respective groups and their confidence in responding to their routines. Within the sessions,

- Children developed love for each other through the team up and the games they play.
- Friendship has been created and instilled among the children.
- Children of different age are able to play together through the various games.
- Fear has been reduced among the children as they are able to speak freely and confident
- Aggressiveness has been reduced and cooperation strengthened among the group members since they are able to connect with each other.
- Confidence has been strengthened among the children especially to those children who were shy and unable to engage with others.
- There is increased cooperation, resilience among the children since children of different age bracket are able to play together.



Josephine, AWYAD Gender Disability & Inclusion officer engages children during a hygiene & sanitation training.

CELEBRATING THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD (DAC) : PROTECTING AND PROMOTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL ERA.



The Day of the African Child holds a special place in our hearts as it commemorates the brave spirit of the youth during the Soweto Uprising of 1976. This day is not only a tribute to the past but also a call to action for the future – a future where every child's rights are upheld, their voices are heard, and their dreams are nurtured.



A TAPESTRY OF CULTURE AND UNITY: CELEBRATIONS UNVEILED

The day's celebrations were a kaleidoscope of vibrant colors, spirited dances, and soulful songs. From bustling cities to serene villages, the air was filled with excitement as children, teachers, parents, and community members joined hands to amplify the significance of education and empowerment. Traditional performances took centre stage, reminding us of the rich cultural heritage that defines Africa. These cultural displays reinforced the idea that while we celebrate our unique backgrounds, we are united in our commitment to a brighter future for our children.



VOICES AMPLIFIED: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES AND BUILDING SOLUTIONS

As part of the celebrations, open dialogues and panel discussions were organized to discuss the challenges that still persist for many African children. Conversations revolved around issues such as social media evils. These discussions were not mere reflections on problems; they were a collective promise to find solutions and create lasting change.



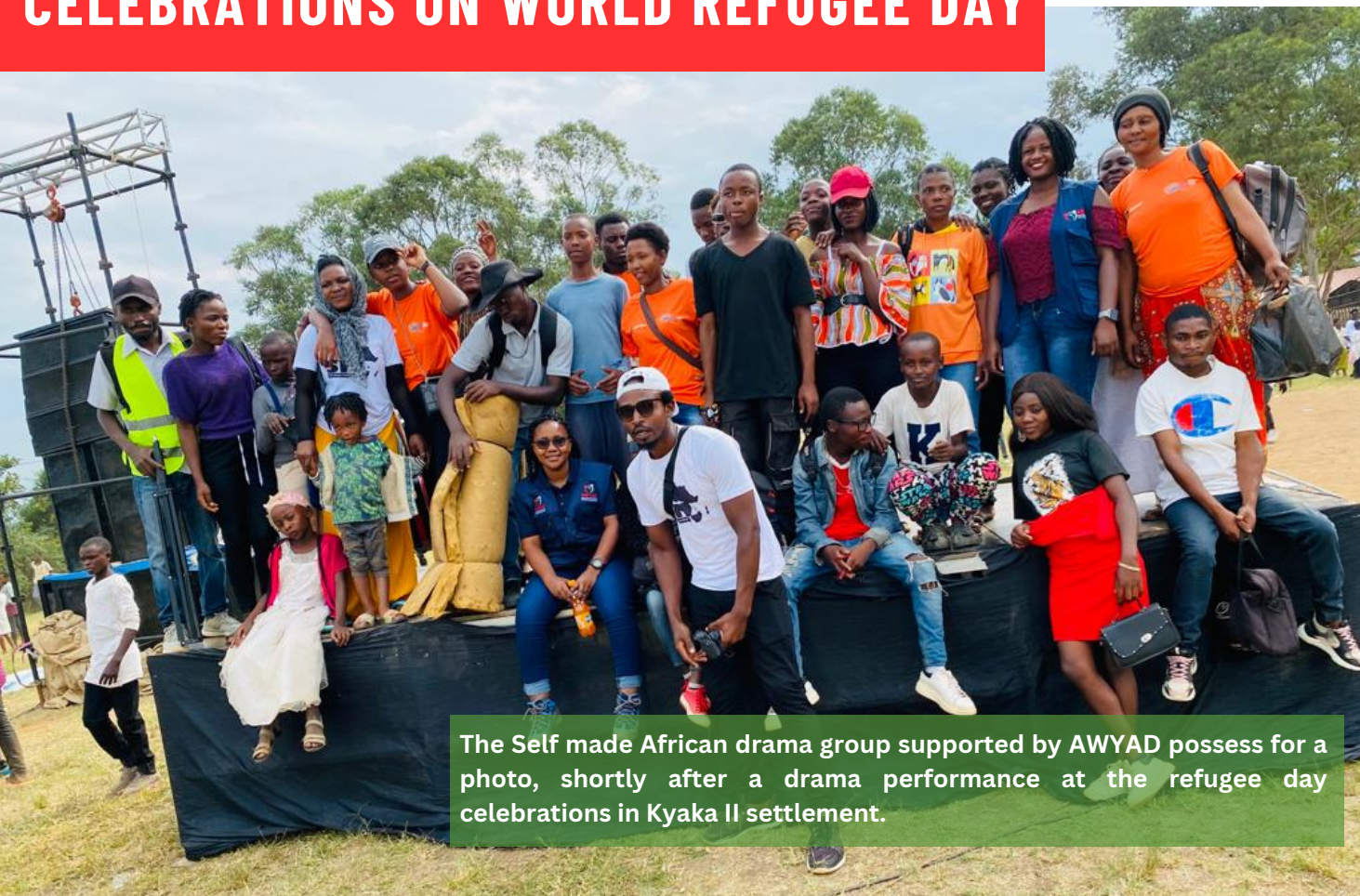
Lillian, AWYAD child Protection officer face paints children during the DAC celebrations.



CONTINUING THE JOURNEY: A MESSAGE OF HOPE

As the sun set on the Day of the African Child, the echoes of celebration lingered in the hearts of everyone involved. The celebrations were more than just a day; they were a reminder that every child's dream is a stepping stone towards Africa's progress. We are inspired by the resilience and potential of our children. Let us continue this journey, not just on this special day, but everyday. Together, we can create a legacy of empowerment, education, and opportunity for the young minds shaping our continent's future.

CELEBRATIONS ON WORLD REFUGEE DAY



The Self made African drama group supported by AWYAD possess for a photo, shortly after a drama performance at the refugee day celebrations in Kyaka II settlement.



Dear [Newsletter Subscribers],

On June 20th, the world came together to celebrate International Refugee Day, a day dedicated to recognizing the strength, resilience, and enduring hope of millions of refugees who have been forced to leave their homes due to conflict, persecution, or crises. This year's theme, "Hope Away from Home," resonated deeply with people across the globe, and our newsletter brings you a recap of the heartwarming and inspiring celebrations that marked this important occasion.



GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS:

Communities worldwide came together to celebrate the contributions and stories of refugees. From vibrant cultural festivals to educational workshops and panel discussions, the day was filled with events aimed at raising awareness about refugees' experiences and promoting empathy and understanding.



STORIES OF RESILIENCE AND INSPIRATION:

Central to these celebrations were the stories shared by refugees themselves. These narratives illustrated the strength, determination, and talents of refugees, inspiring others to stand in solidarity. Stories of successful integration, entrepreneurship, and advocacy served as beacons of hope for refugees and the communities that embrace them.



EMBRACING "HOPE AWAY FROM HOME":

"Hope Away from Home" beautifully encapsulates the essence of International Refugee Day. It highlights the determination of refugees to rebuild their lives and the importance of offering support and solidarity as they embark on this journey of hope.



ONLINE ENGAGEMENT:

In a world increasingly connected by technology, many International Refugee Day celebrations moved to the digital realm, making it possible for people from all corners of the world to participate. Webinars, virtual art exhibitions, and social media campaigns allowed for a global exchange of ideas and experiences.

➤➤➤ TAKING ACTION:

As we celebrated International Refugee Day, we were reminded that every action, no matter how small, can make a difference. You can:

- **Support Organizations:** Contribute to organizations like AWYAD and other refugee support groups.
- **Advocate:** Raise your voice for policies that promote refugee rights, integration, and access to essential services.
- **Engage:** Participate in cultural exchange activities and dialogues within your community to foster understanding.
- **Educate:** Share stories of hope and resilience from refugees with your network to inspire awareness and empathy.

➤➤➤ CONCLUSION:

International Refugee Day, with its theme "Hope Away from Home," was a powerful reminder that refugees bring with them dreams, talents, and an unbreakable spirit of resilience. By coming together, supporting one another, and advocating for inclusive policies, we can ensure that refugees find the hope and opportunity they deserve in their new homes. Together, we can create a world where refugees are not just survivors but thriving contributors to our global community.

Thank you for being part of our community and for your commitment to making the world a more compassionate and hopeful place for all.

Warm regards,



AWYAD joined partners and refugees at the Urban Refugee Day celebrations at Old Kampala secondary school

CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY



We are delighted to share the remarkable highlights of this year's International Youth Day celebrations, which revolved around the theme of "Green Skills for Youth." On August 12th, young people and communities worldwide united to celebrate the energy, ingenuity, and determination of our youth while shedding light on the crucial role they play in environmental sustainability.

Green Skills: Nurturing a Sustainable Future

This year's theme, "Green Skills for Youth," underscored the significance of equipping young minds with the skills needed to address pressing environmental challenges. As our planet grapples with the effects of climate change, resource depletion, and pollution, empowering the youth with green skills becomes more important than ever.

A Day of Empowerment and Learning

The celebrations were a confluence of learning, creativity, and activism. Workshops and seminars were conducted to educate youth about sustainable practices, renewable energy, waste management, and conservation efforts. These initiatives aimed not only to raise awareness but also to equip the youth with the tools they need to actively contribute to a greener future.



AWYAD and other partner organizations commemorating the international youth day (photo taken at Lubiri)



Youth-Led Initiatives: Inspiring Change

What stood out during these celebrations was the enthusiastic involvement of young people themselves. From tree planting drives and community clean-up campaigns to innovative projects that promote circular economies, the youth showcased their dedication to creating positive environmental change.

The youth-led initiatives were a testament to the fact that green skills are not just theoretical knowledge; they are actionable tools that empower the youth to initiate real change in their communities.

Harnessing Green Innovation: Voices of the Future

In line with the celebrations, discussions and forums provided a platform for youth voices to be heard. From debates on sustainable policies to hackathons focusing on eco-friendly technology, these conversations highlighted the innovative ideas and fresh perspectives that our youth bring to the table.

The youth of today are not just passive observers; they are active participants in shaping a future that prioritizes sustainability and responsibility towards the planet.

Commitment to a Sustainable Tomorrow: A Call to Action

International Youth Day 2023 was more than a celebration; it was a call to action. Governments, educational institutions, and businesses reaffirmed their commitment to providing young people with the green skills they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world. Partnerships were forged to create avenues for mentorship, internships, and hands-on experiences in environmentally conscious fields.

Continuing the Journey: A Greener Path Ahead

As the curtain falls on this year's celebrations, the spirit of International Youth Day continues to inspire and motivate. It reminds us that the youth are not just the beneficiaries of a sustainable future; they are the architects of it. Let us celebrate the determination, passion, and innovation of our youth every day, as they lead us towards a greener and more sustainable world.

With hope and enthusiasm,



AWYAD staff plants a tree on the international youth day in Kyaka II settlement



AWYAD staff and other refugee led organizations participating in tree planting at Sweswe youth centre, Kyaka II during the international youth day

YEEDE PROJECT

Youth Empowerment,
Entrepreneurship and
Decent Employment.

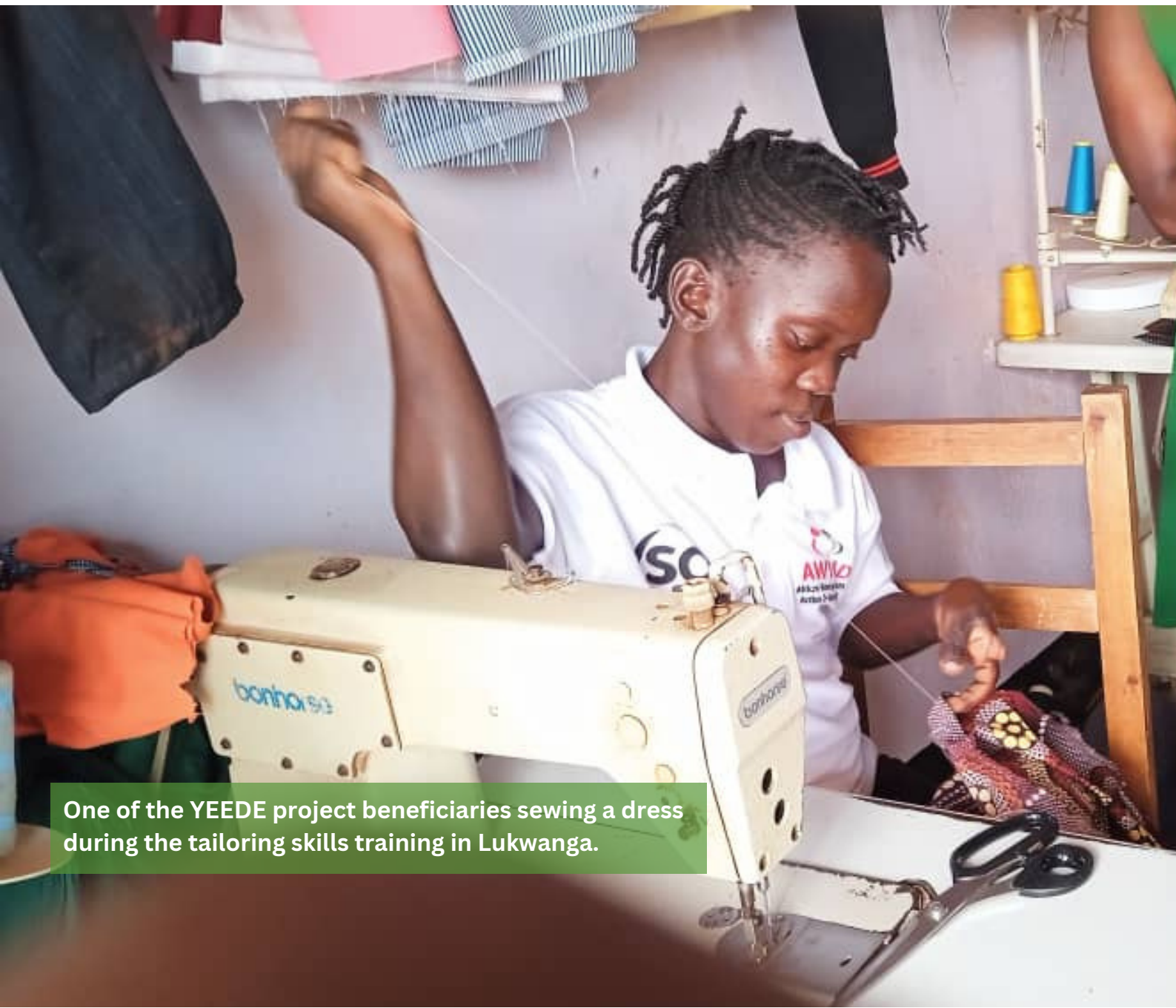


In April 2023, AWYAD launched the YEEDE program with support from VSO to enable 600 marginalized young women and men including people with disabilities take advantage of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in Kampala and Wakiso by Dec 2023. By the end of 2023, the program will see 600 youth between the ages of (16 to 35) empowered through employability and entrepreneurial pillars to access decent employment.

Under the Employability pillar, youth are engaged in non-vocational skilling that is bakery, catering, phone repair, hair dressing, motor vehicle mechanics, poultry, tailoring and welding.

Entrepreneurial Pillar entails financial literacy skills, business planning and management skills and life skills.

Cohort 1 non vocational skills beneficiaries were able to review the fundamentals on entrepreneurship and stay current with the sector standards and best practices. This was done through a one-day refresher training on entrepreneurship where 45 participants (5 Male, 40 Females, 2 PWDs) were reached from Kabalagala.



One of the YEEDE project beneficiaries sewing a dress during the tailoring skills training in Lukwanga.



AWYAD equipped 123 participants (42 Male, 81 Female, 6 PWD) with skills to focus on the specific steps necessary for them to make business ideas succeed, but also helps them to achieve short-term and long-term objectives. The activity was conducted through a two-days training on business plan development and management from Kampala involving 62(28 Male, 34 Female, PWD) and Wakiso 61(14 Male, 47 Female, 2 PWD).

AWYAD participated in a joint monitoring visit organized by VSO across 2 districts of operation for 04 days. The visit aimed at assessing the project's implementation progress, identifying successful aspects and areas of improvement, understand challenges faced by trainees and trainers.

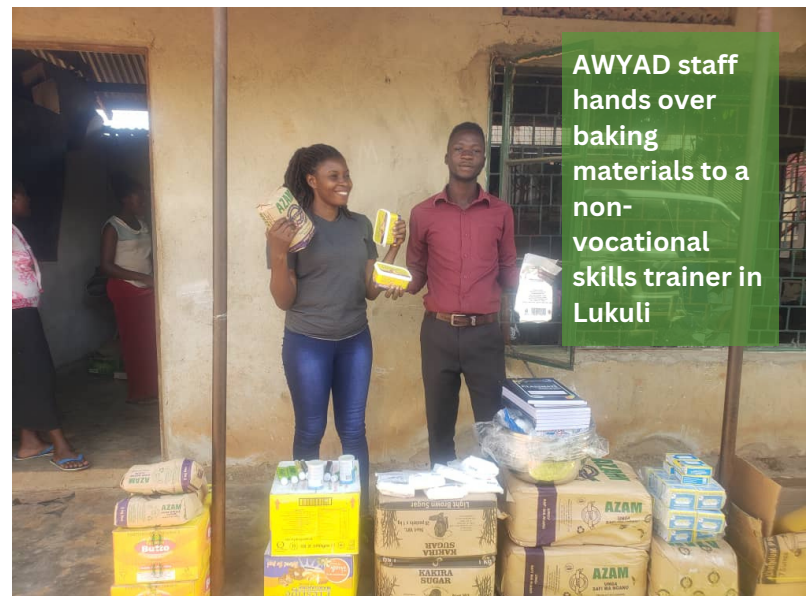
In this quarter, AWYAD empowered participants through the GALs methodology training which uses principles of inclusion to improve income, food and nutrition security of vulnerable people in a gender-equitable way. 52 participants (16 Male, 36 Female, 3 PWD) attended 02 life skills trainings using the GALs methodology, Vision journey and empowerment map. Kampala had 26(7 Male, 19 Female, 2 PWD) and Wakiso 26(9 Male, 17 Female, 1 PWD) participants.

Through community level discussions on Safeguarding, AWYAD increased awareness on identification, reporting and referral of safeguarding cases. Participants were educated on adult safeguarding through sharing experiences on how to prevent and reduce the risk of abuse amongst women in the community.

AWYAD procured and distributed VSLA kits amongst the established VSLA groups from the districts of Kampala and Wakiso. VSLA kits include; a set of metallic lockable boxes, calculators, members pass books, padlocks, plastic plates (bowls), long rulers, pens, branding and ledger books. The activity aimed at ensuring the safety of group member's funds and maintaining proper records.



Non-vocational skills beneficiaries supported with training materials in Makindye.



AWYAD staff hands over baking materials to a non-vocational skills trainer in Lukuli

EQUAL PROJECT

Ensuring Quality Access to Education for All



In September 2021, AWYAD, Embrace Kulture and Chance for Childhood launched the EQUAL programme with support from the Vitol Foundation to tackle the lack of inclusion in education for the most marginalized learners in Kyaka II refugee settlement and those marginalized learners included children with disabilities, girls and those from economically vulnerable households. By the end of 2023, the programme will see 1,100 refugee children (aged 5-17) enjoy quality inclusive primary education. In this project, AWYAD is supporting families/children with scholastic materials, menstrual hygiene kits, providing psychosocial support, training of community structures and parents on inclusive education as well case identification and referral by maintaining close working relationship with other partners such as FCA, Humanity and inclusion (HI) and other stakeholders to ensure continual support towards the project implementation.

AWYAD has been working closely with other service providers and other implementing partners which is implementing disability inclusion and through the help of the community structures, 39 school children were identified and referred to humanity and inclusion (HI) for further assessment and screening were 29 children (female-13, Male-16) were supported with assistive devices these included 19 supported with eye glasses to access learning and 10 with hearing devices.



Roger, project Assistant EQUAL hands over scholastic materials to a beneficiary under the EQUAL project in kyaka II.



67 home visits were conducted by the staffs in the zones of Byabakora, itambabiniga, Buliti, Kaborogota, Kakoni and Bwiriza where they were the team was able to provide psychosocial support to 46 girls and 21 boys OOSC and Children With Disabilities especially those who had enrolled back to school to ensure they are safe both at home and school during their transition.

79% of the supported girls reported feeling safe while in the classrooms and at home because of the MHM kits which have given them the dignity they have been able to remain in school and during classroom hours

There was reduced absenteeism reported by the girls, enhanced school attendance by girls thereby creating an enabling and equitable learning environment that gives the girls a chance at succeeding in their education ambitions in a dignified manner.



Roger, EQUAL project Assistant, hands over scholastic items to the EQUAL project beneficiary in Kyaka II.



AWYAD

**African Women and Youth
Action for Development**

 Plot 5 Semawata Road Ntinda
P.O. Box 116757 Kampala Uganda

 +256-454 436 346
+256-394 849 121

 www.afriwyad.org
info@afriwyad.org

 afriwyad@gmail.com