

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



**KATOSI WOMEN  
DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

[WWW.KATOSI.ORG](http://WWW.KATOSI.ORG)

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# Message From Board Chairperson



**Dear Valued Stakeholders,**

There is no question that 2020 has been an extraordinary year for the world and we have all had to adapt to living our lives very differently. Thus, I would like to begin by thanking all the KWDT stakeholders, starting with our teams and partners, who have risen up to meet the challenges posed by the pandemic and continued to deliver on KWDT's mandate. Our ability to adapt and grow through this difficult period is no accident. It is testament to the strength of the support that we received from all our valued stakeholders over many years, transforming Katosi Women Development Trust into the organization it is today.

While the pandemic brought much of the world to a halt, it also intensified the vulnerabilities of the communities KWDT intervenes in. Within days of the World Health Organization's official declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic, the women's groups reported the need for relief as their daily sources of income came to a halt.

As the world has raised the bar on the importance of water, so too has KWDT. Access to water health and sanitation was prioritized this year more than ever.

We are living through an unprecedented moment in time, but what gives me hope is our partner's equally unprecedented commitment to responding to the needs of our communities. We have received various relief packages to address the urgent and emerging needs of our region's most vulnerable residents.

While the needs and the incredible potential of our county's residents have never been greater, every day we see the impact of our donors' generosity and investments. The lasting impactful change we want to see will take time but is extremely crucial.

Regardless of the adversities we faced this year, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Margaret Nakato on receiving recognition as a food hero by the Food and Agriculture Organisation: <https://www.fao.org/fao-stories/article/en/c/1309638/>

To all our donors, nonprofit partners, advisors and others who have let us share in their generosity, and on behalf of our dedicated and talented Board, I offer my sincere gratitude. Thank you for inspiring us and for joining us in building our communities together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Harriet'.

**DR. HARRIET NAJJEMBA MUTYABA**

# Message From Executive Director



## Friends and Colleagues,

2020 was the year that reminded us that we all need the same systems to live. As the world stood at standstill due to COVID 19, the time came to transform the systems that shape our lives.

To say that 2020 was challenging is truly an understatement. The global COVID-19 pandemic has affected and continues to affect our community's personal and economic wellbeing.

This year has also been a time of great introspection for KWDT as well and with the development of the KWDT 2021-2026 Strategic Plan it's the time to realign our interventions. We have witnessed the vulnerability in the communities we intervene in affirming our need for systematic interventions that benefit all.

KWDT has witnessed the strength, determination and intentionality of our staff and partners who have supported our work through the challenges. They did this with respect, integrity and compassion.

We were also able to access specialized funding for programs that specifically supported people to manage the stressors of living during a pandemic, including food security hampers programs for our most vulnerable populations as well as income generating programs to help the vulnerable recover from the setbacks of COVID- 19. We hope to build on the amazing work of uplifting women's voices to ensure their participation in the areas of their lives that will alleviate them from all forms of oppression.

As we continue to navigate through these complex times, it is crucial for us to strengthen our commitment to be champions of equity, diversity and inclusion, underrepresented communities to advocate for change to systemic issues that these communities continue to encounter.

As we look ahead, we have difficult but necessary work to do to embody our commitment to these principles. With the vision and support of our Board of Directors, incredible staff and volunteers, we look forward to building back better and more equitably for all British Columbians.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margaret Nakato". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**MARGARET NAKATO**

# ABOUT KWDT

## The Mission that guides us

“To enable rural women to effectively manage their social, economic and political development processes or improved livelihoods”

## The Vision that inspires us

“Empowered rural women with productive livelihoods living in healthy communities ”

## Values we live by

Participation, Sustainability, Gender and Cultural equity, Transparency and Accountability



*A member of Bisooboka Womens group, Lutoboka landing site*

**“The year of lifting women's voices to be heard”**

# THEMATIC PROGRAMS OF INTERVENTION



## Economic Empowerment

The program supports women in economic activities including fishing, fish processing and trade; integrated sustainable agriculture, food processing. Access to credit supports diverse economic activities to reduce women's vulnerability and to promote the culture of saving.



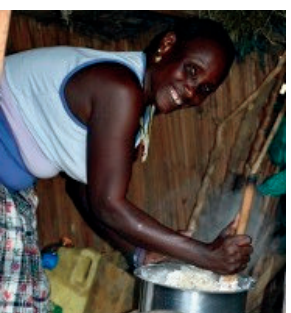
## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The program improves health through increasing access to clean safe water, adequate sanitation & hygiene at household and community levels. This is achieved through construction of water sources, rain water harvesting and purification of drinking water. Improvement of sanitation includes construction of latrines and promotion of appropriate technologies. Hygiene promotion is complemented by trainings in construction & management of WASH facilities, sensitisation and dialogues on good hygiene practices. The program has a component of awareness on HIV/AIDS, malaria, reproductive and maternal health.



## Formal and Non-Formal Education

The program supports education of children through improvement of primary schools' infrastructure; vocational skills trainings for youths and women. Knowledge empowerment for women through non formal education creates awareness on human rights including land rights, women rights, mentoring women in civil and political leadership, as well as advocacy & lobbying. Through community dialogues, drama and theatrical productions women are the conduits for creating awareness on various social issues.



## Environment Conservation

The cross-cutting program aims to support women engage in activities that contribute to conservation and sustainable use of resources. Sustainable agriculture practices, soil, seed and water conservation, generation and use of renewable energy are the areas that KWDT supports and engages women in.

# KWDT GROUPS



**Bi-monthly meeting of Muwumuza Women's Group'**

KWDT developmental initiatives are undertaken with women organised in groups. These women are the point of entry in the communities with responsibilities to supervise, monitor and are engaged in evaluation of development projects in the communities.

The year ended with **26 women groups that brought together 590 members reflecting an increase in membership by 4%**, with 87% women, to share resources, knowledge and skills equitably to enable them steer desired development for themselves, their households and communities in Mukono district. Organizing and mentoring 3 new women groups from three landing sites, (fishing villages) Kiziru, Buleebi and Mbale was embarked on early in the year.

# KWDT GROUPS

	Name of group	Village	Total	Female	Male	Year Joined
1	Katosi Women Fishing & Development Association	Katosi	23	23	0	1996
2	Bukwaya women's group	Bunakijja	18	17	1	2002
3	Muwumuza women's group	Gonve	29	27	2	2002
4	Kisakye women's group	Mpunge	28	28	0	2004
5	Bugoye women's group	Bugoye	24	24	0	2004
6	Bugolombe women's group	Bugolombe	18	18	0	2005
7	Kulubbi women's group	Kulubi	21	19	2	2005
8	Kalengera women's group	Muwumuza	19	18	1	2005
9	Bakyala kwagalana women's group	Naluwala	28	17	11	2007
10	Bulonda women's group	Kisoga	16	11	5	2007
11	Twekembe-Kisoga	Kisoga	23	22	1	2007
12	Nakisunga women's group	Ntakafunvu	24	18	6	2009
13	Balabire kuffe women's group	Mpunge	23	20	3	2011
14	Basooka kwavula women's group	Mpunge	14	12	2	2011
15	Manyi ga balimi	Kiyoola	12	14	2	2011
16	Muterezanda women's group	Mpatta	20	17	3	2014
17	Twekembe Namaliga	Kitebe	31	24	7	2015
18	Lutengo Nama	Bulika	22	15	7	2016
19	Agali awamu women's group	Mugangu	19	19	0	2019
20	Bajja basaga women's group	Kibanga	14	11	3	2019
21	Biyinzika women's group	Kisinsi	37	36	1	2019
22	Bugula women's group	Bugula	20	16	4	2019
23	Ffenatukole women's group	Buzindere	25	20	5	2019
24	Mpenja women development trust	Mpenja	35	28	7	2019
25	Ssubi women's group	Muvo- kasali	23	23	0	2019
26	Twezimbe women's group	Nangoma	24	24	0	2019
27	Kiziru women's group	Kiziru	16	16	0	2020
28	Nezikokolima women's group	Mbale	20	20	0	2020
29	Bakyala Tweffeko	Buleebi	24	24	0	2020
			<b>650</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>75</b>	

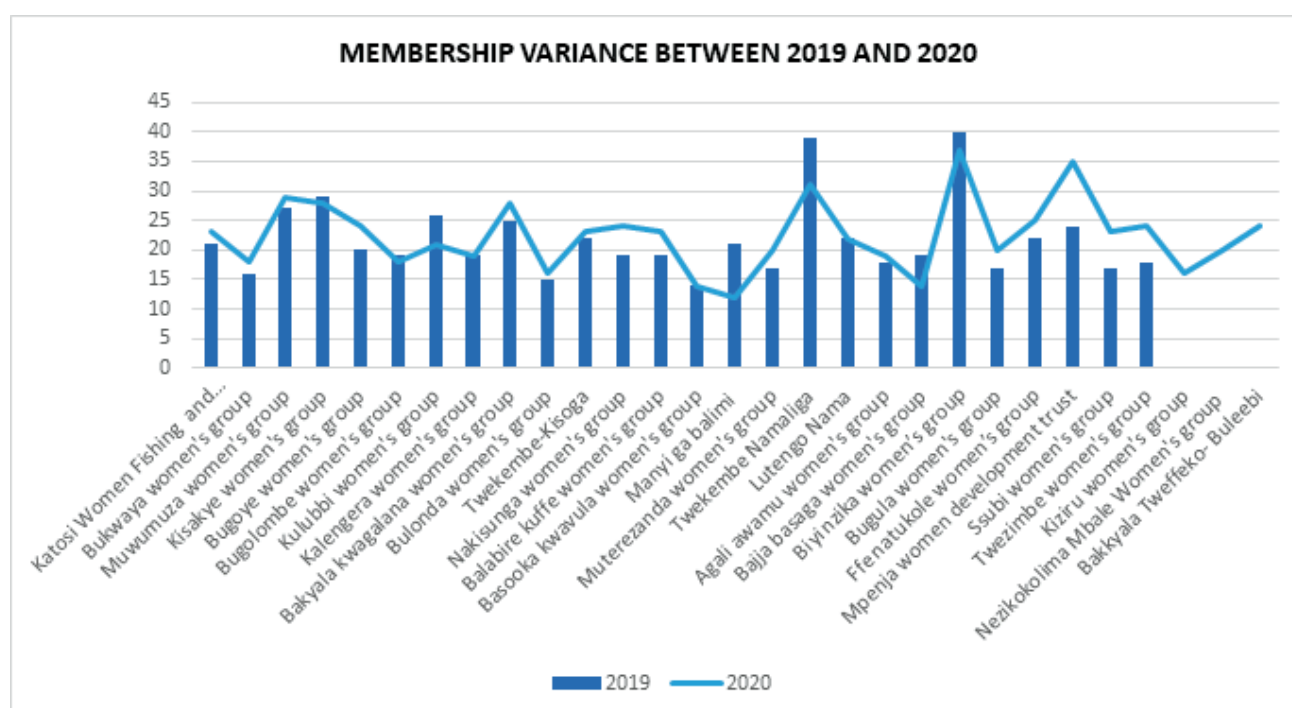


# KWDT GROUPS

KWDT further collaborated with 3 women’s groups in Buikwe, Wakiso and Kalangala districts to support more women in the rural and fisher communities.

Name of group	Village	District	Total
Atanaziraba Women's Group	Kasenyi	Wakiso	20
Kiyindi Womens Group	Kiyindi	Buikwe	20
Lutoboka Womens Group	Lutoboka	Kalangala	35

The fluctuation of group membership was due to the disruption of economic activities by the enforcement from Fisheries’ Protectin Unit and the rising water levels which displaced women from one fishing landing site to another.



# COVID-19 OUTBREAK



The year was marked by the outbreak of COVID-19 in Uganda! The pandemic revealed the systematic inequalities that exist particularly in fisher communities that lack access to clean safe water and sanitation. Characterized by use of communal water sources, latrine and congested work places further heightened their risks to COVID-19.

As KWDT we effectively and in a timely manner rose up to the challenge with **twenty-nine (29) WASH Committees** comprising of 2-3 members taking the lead to create awareness on the COVID-19 and measures to curb the contagion.



**Twenty-nine WASH communities from each of the 29 women groups sensitized over 8,350 people on covid-19 using mobile megaphone and community radios.**



The message reached particularly children in rural and fisher communities who were left out with use of communication channels such as telephone answer dial tones and radios which targeted adults only.



Additionally, **forty-nine members from 29 WASH committees were trained to train water and toilet user committees on COVID-19 Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs)** to curb its spread. **Two Water user committee members** from each of the 86 water sources and **2 toilet committee members** from each of the 16 communal latrines were trained. For majority of the WASH management committee members, this was the first time they learnt about the measures to prevent and curb spread of COVID-19.



**Seven (7) children were trained in each of the 11 landing sites (fishing village) as WASH champions** to create awareness among children on COVID-19 using posters with graphic illustrations developed by KWDT, on symptoms of COVID-19, how it is spread and how it can be avoided.



**WASH champions from Buleebi landing site sensitize fellow children on COVID-19 using info graphic posters**

The methodology was impactful as adults benefitted from this exercise as well. The posters were easily accessible with educational graphic illustrations and many could interpret and understand the messages about COVID-19.



***Twenty Nine (29) WASH committees were able to train over 2,766 people from over 461 households on COVID-19 with emphasis on installation of hand washing facilities, hand washing with soap, use of masks and to avoid crowding.***

***Hand washing facilities were installed in the communities at various entry points and in front of women's micro enterprises sparking a behavioral change in many villages.***



***KWDT also installed 16 handwashing facilities in key strategic places such as markets and communal, latrines to promote handwashing.***

To curb the spread of COVID-19, women were engaged in the production of soap essential to curb the spread of COVID-19. **Over 890 litres of soap were produced by women** for use at communal facilities such as latrines at a critical time when many couldn't afford soap due to the nationwide lockdown. The local production of soap by women met this need.



Complementing governments efforts to produce and distribute masks, **2,322 masks were produced by women and distributed** during KWDT community activities to ensure safety of participants. This was also an income generating activity for the women at a time when economic activities were at a standstill.



The abrupt lockdown of the country to curb spread of COVID-19 affected everyone particularly the micro businesses whose livelihoods depended on daily income. **KWDT was able to disburse cash relief for purchase of food to 592 members with UGX 22,000 (\$ 6.) per member. A total of UGX 13,137,500 (USD 3,822) was disbursed on their mobile numbers through Mobile Money Transfers.**

The most profound challenge experienced by all was the care of teen children who were out of school due to the nationwide lockdown. Various strategies were devised by parents to keep their children safe.

## How Grace of Bugoye Womens Group kept her daughter at University safe during the lockdown



**“I used the money sent to me as food aid from KWDT to start a business to keep my daughter busy”**

I lost my husband of 28 years in 2009 and life has never been the same because we used to work together in our gardens. When he passed, I was left with 3 school going children. My daughter, aged 21, was in high school by the time of her father’s death. I had to struggle to see that her dream of attaining graduate education was realized and by the time of the COVID-19 lockdown, she was in her second year at university. This was a very hard because I had fully paid her tuition fees and partial paid for her 2 siblings in secondary school. Life was not easy as all income from agriculture was spent on school fees and yet children were at home. Amidst despair, there were announcements on the radio by government to distribute free food to all families. I hoped that I will be able to get some of that aid but it did not come.

One day KWDT asked me as the Chairperson of Bugoye Women’s group to update telephone contacts of all our members. Little did I know that this would be my lifeline in my dire situation. While working with the children in the garden, a message came on my phone indicating that some money had been sent to my phone. I found out that it had come from KWDT and it was later confirmed that UGX 22,000/= was sent to each member towards food relief in the COVID-19 lockdown. After the jubilation and much appreciation to KWDT, I discussed with my children to find a way of putting the miracle to proper use. Olivia, the eldest at home, had been persistently pestering me to find her any income generating activity that would keep her busy and bring in any additional income to the family.



We agreed to start making pancakes because they require little capital and the inputs like yellow bananas and cassava were readily available from the garden. The ongoing construction in the neighbourhood provided the needed market though it later closed due to the lockdown. We did not give up but instead contacted a shop owner in our village so that we could supply pancakes to her shop to sell on commission. Knowing the situation our family was experiencing, the lady offered to sell our pancakes at no cost. My daughter wakes up very early and makes the pancakes with assistance from her siblings, delivers them to the shop and then joins me in the garden. This is a daily routine except Saturday when we don’t work because we are Seventh day Adventists.



The business has yielded profits enabling my daughter to save **UGX 150,000 (US \$ 44) in two months**. She continued to work hard in order to save money to supplement her university tuition when the lockdown is lifted. In addition to the pancake business, she and I also engage in making hand-crafts for sale. We usually make the crafts when we come back from the garden. The pancake business, hand-craft making and gardening have helped the children avoid redundancy that could breed vices especially in young girls like my daughter. All in all, **I am very grateful to KWDT for the food aid which was a blessing that supported me with capital to enable my daughter start a side income.**”

**“However little, it can make a difference, don’t be afraid to be part of the society that transforms that lives of the women”.**



**Group members engaged in similar income generating activities were divided into sub groups of 5 people and each group supported to access fish or seeds to revive their business.**

Upon the lifting of the lockdown, majority of women could not go back to their business. The business capital was spent to provide for basic households needs particularly food at the time when majority had no income. With limited opportunities for women to regain entry into micro businesses without support, KWDT launched a strategy to put women back into income generating activities with focus on fishing and farming.

The strategy aimed to minimize loss of capital reinvested in the business among cash stricken households due to long spells out of income generating activities. Sub groups members were able to support each other and ensure that only profits are spent while capital is reinvested in the business.

**The strategy supported over 336 women from 18 women groups to revive their fisheries businesses.** Additional investment was made in fish processing with the purchase of 8 racks for 4 groups.

**Fish including the Nile perch, tilapia, silver fish worth UGX56,000,000 (USD 15,342) was distributed to women** dealing in fresh fish trade, fish smoking, drying, frying to revive their micro businesses.



Income generation was revived for members engaged in agriculture by supporting the cultivation of vegetables that could bring in income in three months. **Two hundred and eight six (286) women were supported** to access vegetable seedlings. **Nine hundred (900) fruit trees seedlings** including, avocado, oranges, castled apple, guavas, lemon, tangerine, pomegranate and mangoes were distributed as a long-term measure alternative of income. A total of UGX 26,091,000 (USD 7,148)

# PROGRAM IMPACTS

## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT- Fishing

Support to revive fisheries businesses, destroyed during the enforcement to curb illegalities in fisheries sector and by COVID-19 was our priority this year. The destruction of all illegal fishing equipment by the Fisheries Protection Unit has continued to affect women's engagement in the sector. Additionally, the change of the legal size of the fishing boat to 28 feet required special support to women to ensure that they are not displaced from fisheries.

Nevertheless progress was achieved in the program with training of 519 women, imparting knowledge and skills on the use of PAH safe fish smoking kiln to 104 members, 231 trained on improved fish handling and 184 to use PAH safe fish smoking kiln technology.



The access to improved knowledge and skills in improved fish handling and smoking has been followed by gradual shift from use of open fire kiln to safe PAH kilns.



**The women reported that :**

**Open Fire Fish Smoking Kiln**

"It exposes you to smoke, working with children on the back, the child also is exposed to smoke"

"The smoke has affected my eye sight"  
~reported a member from Bugula

"My fingers are all burnt as I have to handle hot fish"

"If you are not vigilant, the fish can burn, turning black"  
~remarked a member of Muwumuza.

**PAH- Safe Fish Smoking Kiln**

**There is no exposure to smoke, it is clean technology.**

**No exposure to smoke**

**With the trays, you don't have to turn each fish, you change trays and can wear protection**

**There is no direct contact of fish to fire and smoke. Fish is safe from polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)**

The year was marked by **change of leadership for the fisheries cooperative that brings together 81 members (69 women and 12 men) in fisheries from all the 29 groups.** The aim is to elevate the level of organization from group to organization level. The democratic process put four women from four different groups in leadership position of the cooperative.



**Ms. Nakku Christine of Bukwaya Women's Group was elected the Vice Chairperson to Ms. Nantongo Sharifa from Mbale Women's Group**

In all most all fishing communities, women reported a reduction in smoking of Nile perch which they attributed to the restrictions by the fisheries protection unit. This has further disrupted rural economic livelihoods as majority are highly dependant on thriving fisheries sector.

**Three hundred and thirty-three (333) people were trained on the Voluntary Guidelines for securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication (SSF Guidelines)** from 18 fishing communities covering 4 districts, Mukono, Buikwe, Wakiso and Kalangala. The training provided a platform to discuss human rights violation during enforcement, gender-based violence, cultural and traditional norms that restrict women’s engagement in fisheries and the prevailing challenges. The training illuminated the roles that communities should play in securing sustaining fisheries. The training motivated many to move to legal fisheries practices and to working in groups and cooperatives as a strategy to enhance access to legal fishing equipment.

**“I have learnt that it is my right as a woman to engage in fishing. I dare anyone who will stop me again to go fishing”**  
 remarked a member from Nangoma as she left the training. ”



**333 participants were mobilized by women groups to attend the training. This broadened the scope of women's influences in the community to fisheries.**

## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT- Sustainable Agriculture

The slump in prices of agriculture products as a result of the lockdown to curb spread of COVID-19 was felt by all members of the communities. Markets were disrupted by the lockdown while the low demand as a result of low consumption further depelted women's incomes in agriculture.

Working in cooperatives, women were able to buy animal feeds in bulk to improve on the production of milk thus increasing incomes from the cows. Additionally, women's access to markets and veterinary care for the animals was enhanced.

## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT- Micro Enterprises

Micro businesses were equally affected due to low demand for products resulting in low sales and subsequently low incomes. For majority of the households, it was for survival. Loans disbursement and repayment was at its lowest because micro business were affected by the disrutptions like enforcement of legal fishing and COVID-19.

All efforts have been geared towards providing business advisory services to women to make informed decisions as well as providing the necessary support to revive their business. Few micro loans were disbursed this year as a precaution for women not to fall deeper in the depth of indebtments.



**Business Entrepreneurship training by Start Young Prosper Young to empower women with skills to efficiently manage their micro businesses**

64 members with **97% women** were trained in business entrepreneurship and finance management. The trainers had to be distributed into 3 cohorts of 20 people each to meet the prevailing COVID-19 regulations as it was for many of the activities.



**Having fun is part of learning at KWDT**

The micro enterprises support program was expanded to Mpatta sub county, 6 years after our first intervention in the sub county, reaching out to four women groups and community members from Mpatta. Despite the challenges that came with COVID, **the program supported 107 women from the four groups in Mpatta to access micro loans with up to UGX 28,680,000 (USD 7,857.5) disbursed in the year.**

# PROGRAM IMPACTS

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The year has been marked by intensified strengthening of access to water, sanitation, improved hygiene through building local capacities to sustain management and access to WASH services in KWDT areas of intervention. To understand how best to support fishing communities, we were able to undertake a knowledge attitudes and Practice's survey. Our interventions have been informed by the findings from the survey.

[YOU CAN ACCESS THE REPORT ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE Access to Water

Three fishing communities, Kiziru, Buleebi and Mbale acquired their first protected water sources. With quality and inclusion as a key tenant in this year's interventions, the constructed water sources taking into consideration the needs of the disabled persons, elderly with the installation of the sitting rump.

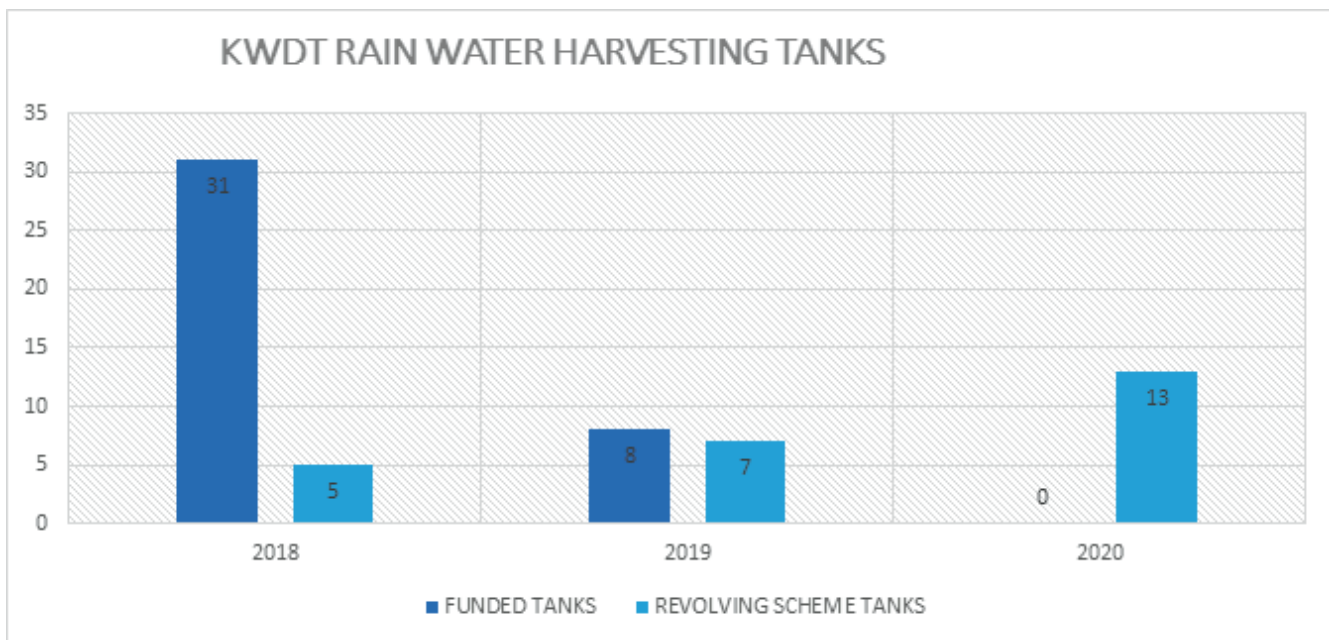


A resident at Kiziru landing site drawing water while seated demonstrating the ability to access water for all including those living with disabilities and elderly



KWDT has made progress on the strategic objective of increasing access to water for rural and fisher communities with over **557 households, 1913 people**, from the communities of Mbale, Buleebi and Kiziru having access to safe water from the **3 bore holes**.

**This year KWDT constructed the 80th tank from revolving scheme with a total of 13 tanks constructed in 2020.**



## **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

### **Access to Sanitation**

A cesspool emptier truck to ensure appropriate emptying of latrines and safe disposal of fecal matter in gazetted places to contribute to sustained use of latrines in rural and fisher communities was acquired this year.



**KWDT cesspool operators, two women and one male truck driver, empty a latrine**

KWDT has supported the construction of pit lined latrines to contain fecal materials and curb the pollution of the environment with fecal materials since 2012. Additionally emptying enables continued and sustained use of latrines for fisher communities. The service is accessible for rural fisher communities, creating awareness on the appropriate emptying measures as well as access to safe and appropriate emptying services for the communities. KWDT has trained women cesspoll operators to manage and operate the cesspool emptier truck.

## **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

### **Improved Hygiene**

Significant improvement has been made in the capacity building of local self-managed committees to sustain access and use of WASH services. **KWDT has built the capacities of 121 water user committees (WUC) and 44 toilet user committees (TUC)** on their roles and responsibilities. Additionally, their abilities to mobilize communities to contribute towards sustainability of WASH facilities through meeting their obligations like regular cleaning and payment of user fees have been built. The committees were also trained on the COVID-19 SoPs to curb the spread of virus at the communal water points. Women in leadership committees also played a leading role on improvement of hygiene and sanitation particularly during the outbreak of COVID-19.



Bintu, a stern leader on the Nangooma Water User Committee.

Women groups take leading roles in the management of the water sources. **Three to five (3 to 5) members of the group are elected to sit on the water user committee** taking up key leadership positions on the water management committees. Bintu is a water attendant of Nangoma water user committee. A stern leader, she often reprimands fellow group members who have not met their responsibilities like payment of water user fees. For her, it's a role she plays with devotion to ensure the water source is clean and everyone strictly follows the COVID-19 SOPs.

“As a leader, I ensure that our water source is well handled and that the community members fulfill their responsibilities so as to maintain the borehole so that it can serve us for as long as it can. We have lived without clean safe water before, no body wants to go back to the old unhealthy days as a result of drinking dirty water. COVID-19 has further opened our eyes, a life without clean water is not complete. All of us are affected differently but for a woman it is much deeper.”  
says Margaret



In all the communities, discontent on the lack of including men and male youth by KWDT in its previous intervention was highlighted. KWDT focused on including youth in all interventions including training and management committees. KWDT has inducted the youth in various committees; water user committees, toilet user committees and created youth groups; ‘WASH champions’ to promote WASH among fellow children. **Additionally, 6 male youth in Ngonve have been imparted with tank construction skills** by Muwumuza Women’s Group. To further enhance youth engagement in WASH promotion KWDT adopted new models of communication for development championed by youth through sports. 11 fisher communities acquired sports jerseys for both male and female teams to create good WASH practices in communities.



Improved collaboration with the local leaders from the 4 sub counties and 2 town councils, to ensure local leaders offer the necessary support to the local management committees in executing their roles increased this year. The collaboration has also provided the platform for the communities to interact with their local leaders. For many this was the first time to interact with their local leaders.

### **Improving access to water sanitation and hygiene promotion in 11 fisher communities**

Construction of 2 bath facilities at Kiziru and Buleebi landing sites provided clean and decent WASH bathing facilities for 1,612. Additionally, 7,310 people benefited from use of improved sanitation facilities with installation of solar lights in 11 communal toilets along the shores of Lake Victoria in Mukono district.

**Watch the woman of vigour at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XofxfoCSaVw&t=1s>**

# PROGRAM IMPACTS

## SUPPORT TO FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATION

### Development of Primary School Infrastructure

A remarkable progress in the sector was witnessed with an increase in the number of pupils in all the schools constructed by KWDT. More pupils are drawn to schools with improved infrastructure and access to water and sanitation.



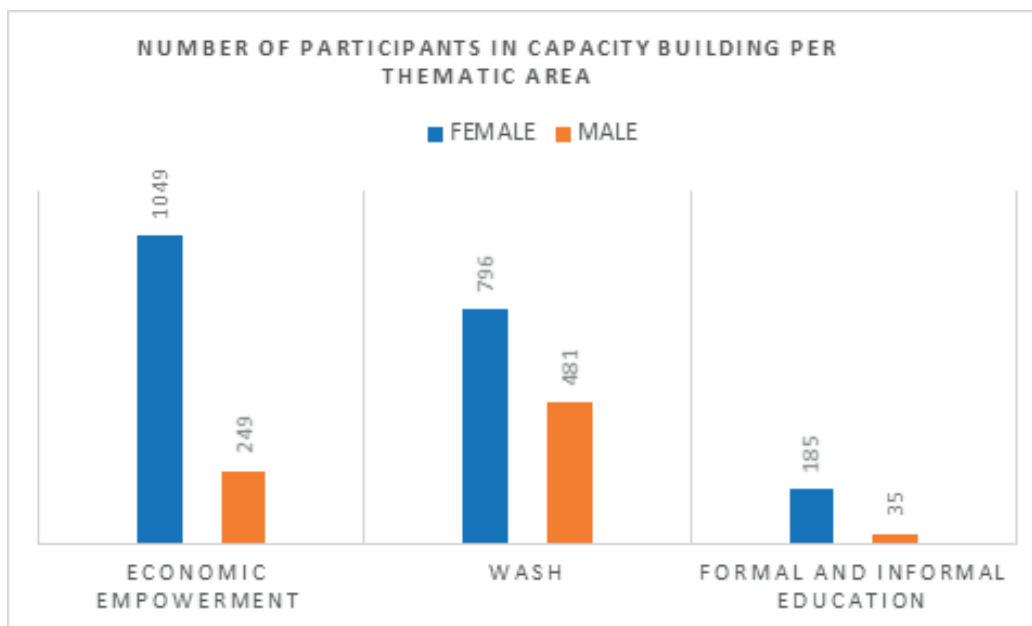
“I want my child to go to a school that has water, then she will not be forced to leave the classroom to go and fetch water” remarked one parent

### Non Formal Education

Human development through knowledge and skills empowerment continues to be a priority among women with over 220 KWDT trained women on human rights to enable women use the knowledge to make informed decisions and support their advocacy work for improved access to basic social services.

Knowledge empowerment for women through non formal education created awareness on human rights including land rights, women rights, mentoring women in civil and political leadership, as well as advocacy & lobbying. Through community dialogues, drama and theatrical productions women are the conduits for creating awareness on various social issues.

The program is responding to emerging needs among women particularly the fishing communities where accusations on witchcraft are rampant and violate human rights.



## Witchcraft Accusations



Teopista Komakech, 39, is a member of one of the 29 groups organised under Katosi Women Development Trust and a fisher woman who has lived in Buzindeere landing site for the last 20 years. On 16th June 2020, she was banished from her home after community members accused her of practicing witchcraft. Teopista, her husband and her 6 children were rescued from the angry community members and were sheltered at Katosi Church of Uganda Primary School with support from KWDT. Teopista was actively engaged in fishing but her boat and engine were then used as collateral by the community members to raise money and pay the services of another witch doctor to cleanse the community.

Teopista’s case is not isolated. In many fishing communities of Mukono district where KWDT works, as well as other parts of the country, witchcraft and witch hunting are a common phenomenon. However, after observation, it is the absence and access to social services such as education, health care and transportation that often triggers such accusations.

For instance, Teopista has been able to educate all her children through her hard work, while many of the children in the community have dropped out of school. One of Teopista’s accusers claims that her daughter got pregnant after completing primary school and she attributes this to Teopista’s witchcraft. Others claim that many children fall sick and faint but Teopista’s children don’t suffer the same maladies concluding witchcraft.

**“they accuse me of witchcraft but I have never even been to a witch doctor! I work so hard. I always have to get loans to take my children to school. I sometimes spend nights at the shop verandah looking for market for silver fish so that my children can go to school! I put on one dress and I don’t even do my hair to take care of my children! And now people accuse me of being a witch!”**

remarked a sad Teopista

Witch-hunting in these communities has resulted into mob justice, several human rights abuses and maltreatment of the accused while the accusers also suffer emotional and psychological distress. The accused are denied the right to housing, employment, and their sources of incomes are destroyed. The accusations also often result into unwarranted relocation, loss of property and sometimes death.

Unfortunately, often local leaders are part of the rackets and belief system and thus fail to provide solutions or support to the suffering families. One of the police officers from one police station was quoted telling the community members, that he had the contact of a “good” witch doctor! On the other hand, one local leader commended the community’s decision to forcefully mortgage the property of the accused to pay for the witchdoctor fees.

FIAN Uganda, in partnership with KWDT and PILAC intervened in various landing sites in Mukono through sensitisation of communities on their human rights, conducting community dialogues on what factors trigger witch craft accusations as well as facilitating mediation and provide counselling. This incident also sparked interest for KWDT to enact a human rights approach in all developmental initiatives.



KWDT intervened on the situation by introducing human rights sensitization trainings for 11 women groups in the 11 fishing landing sites. 220 women were trained. The trainings aimed to make women aware of the exiting national legal framework they violate as they engage in banishing those they accuse of witchcraft from the communities.

The training further sought to engage women in identifying the root causes of the accusations prevalent in all fisher communities and seek to address those root causes to eliminate accusations of witchcraft in fishing communities.

The training further empowered women on their social cultural rights and strengthened women capacities in working as team to ensure they secure their rights to engage in social and civil leadership. As we look forward, we will continue to create mass awareness on human rights for women groups and their communities to protect their social, cultural and economic rights.



**A participant from Bugula during a conflict and conflict management training for groups**

Progress was attained in imparting 171 women with knowledge and skills to manage group conflicts. The aim is to ensure groups resolve their conflicts and continue to work together. In all the 10 trainings conducted, conflicts that existed in group and among group members were resolved strengthening cohesion and willingness to work together as a team.

**“ A good leader brings people together, gives people equal opportunities and helps in conflict resolution. Poor conflict management is the reason why groups form today and dissolve tomorrow. Its important for us as women to acquire these skills to strengthen our groups. ~asserted a participant.**

”

## Digital Literacy Training

More so 6,380 women were trained on digital literacy and the use of use smart phones. The aim was to ensure women effectively embrace and use digital services including financial services in their businesses. Additionally it aimed at creating awareness on online fraud providing critical information to women.



One of the KWDT group members using her smartphone during the digital literacy training”

# PROGRAM IMPACTS

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



Nangooma Waste Management Committee

**50 women in 10 fishing communities were equipped with skills to manage waste** in their communities. For some communities, waste continued to be a resource used in production of briquette as an alternative source of energy.



A member of Buleebi carrying basins of briquette to a community dialogue where the briquette is sold after the dialogue

# DEVELOPMENT OF KWDT STRATEGIC PLAN

The year was also marked by progress on the development of KWDT strategic plan. The process was intended to be through physical interactive meetings to ensure participation of all staff members and stakeholders. The emergence of COVID-19 brought the process to halt. Eventually when we resumed COVID-19 placed limitations on the numbers of stakeholders and staff that would engage in the process and also affected the modes of interactions as many advisory processes were conducted both online and offline.

## CHALLENGES

### RISING WATER LEVELS OF LAKE VICTORIA

The Rising water levels of Lake Victoria to 12.66 meters the highest in 60 years displaced many fisher communities as their houses were submerged under water. The water destroyed various infrastructure including water sources, fish handling facilities, roads, schools as structures become submerged under water

### TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS TO CURB SPREAD OF COVID-19

Women depend on male members of their family or the male for transportation. The restriction of carrying passengers by motor cycles during COVID-19 as a measures to curb spread, resulted in less movement for women to do various roles including monitoring loans, WASH roles as well as their social and economic livelihoods. This had a huge impact on KWDT work reducing repayment on most all resources acquired from the revolving fund.



*Leah, a loans committee member from Kitebe Namaliga depends on another male member of the group to be transported to monitor progress of members micro businesses.*



# THE GUESTS WE HOSTED

The exchange of with the University of Agdar Norway and Makerere university



Asked on what shows that what you have done makes a difference?  
Rose a member of Kalengera women’s group had this to say

“ before we received children from Bugula landing site at Katosi church of Uganda Primary School, these children used to squat any where and relieve themselves. But to assert that our efforts have born fruits, now children we receive ask us for the latrines. Demonstration that they know that someone can only relive themselves in latrine”



# TO OUR VOLUNTEER

Thank you for making a difference



For Tina Burkhardt, her term of service was cut short by the outbreak of COVID-19. We look forward to have you back when the times are better.



Thank you, Ms. Kakashozi Florence, for volunteering your time to capture the women going about their development work. We appreciate you.

## It was a year of KWDT staff supporting each other amidst COVID-19



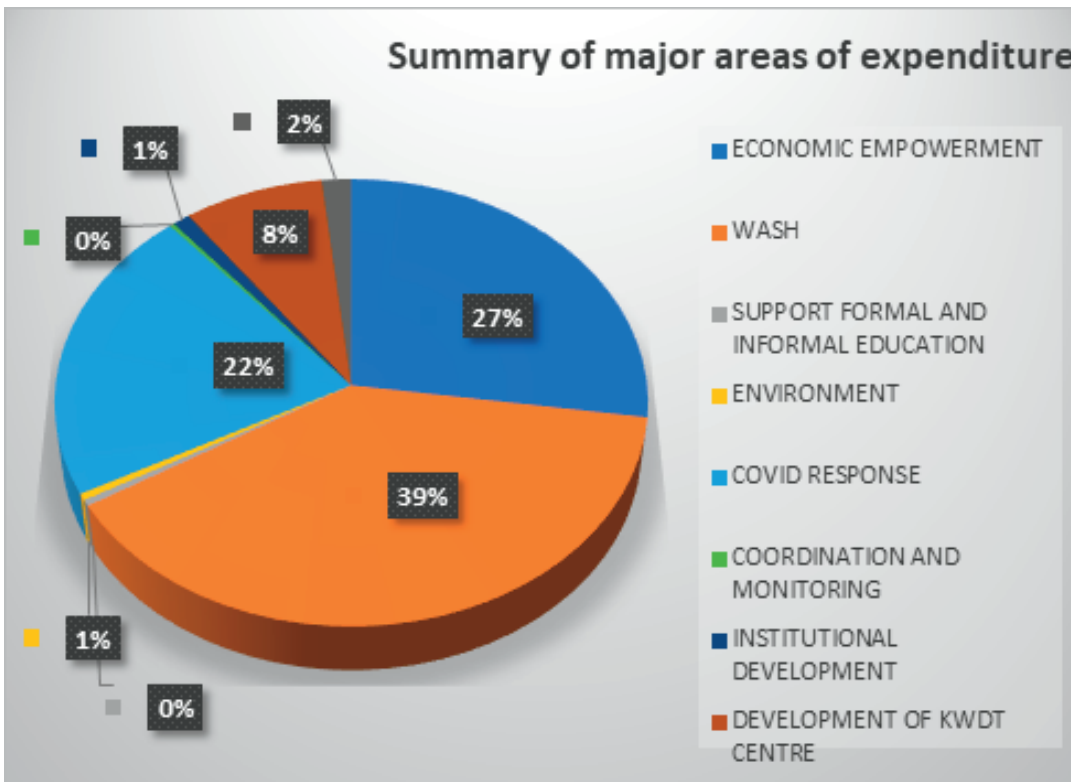
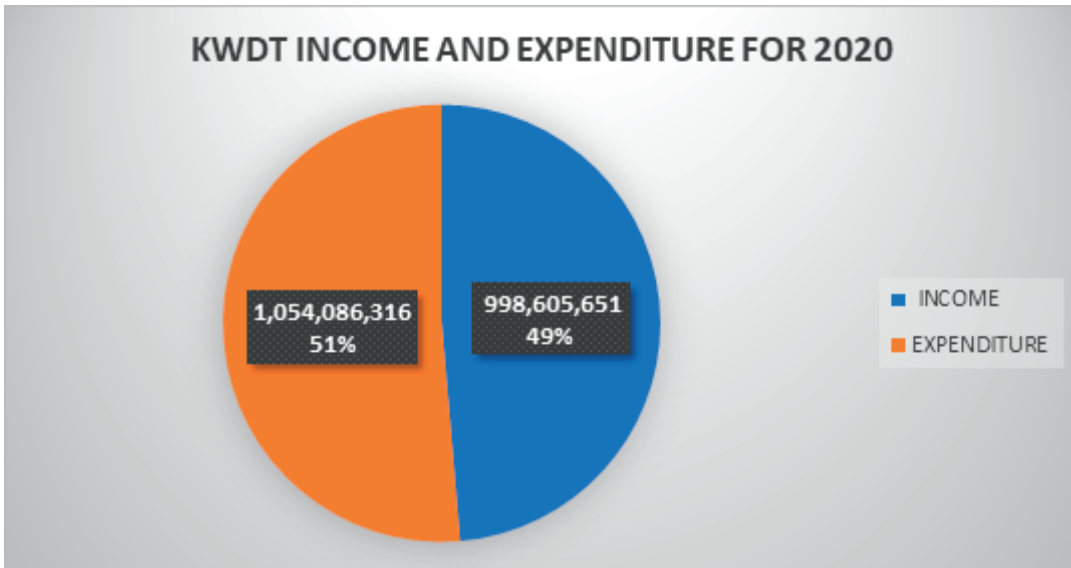
## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS

**For all the financial and moral support that was in line with KWDT strategies. With your support we were able to make progress in all our four key thematic areas**

- arche noVa
- Fian Uganda
- Katosi Women Development Trust UK
- Kelly Pickerill
- Living Water International
- Strategic Impact Advisors
- The European Union and the German government for their financial support through the Civil Society in Uganda Support Programme (CUSP) which is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.
- The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through GIZ Responsible Fisheries Business Chains Project (RFBCP)
- Volnet
- Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET)



# SUMMARY OF OUR INCOME AND EXPENDITURE




## WE NEED YOUR HELP

We continue to make strides in engaging women in development transcending traditional and cultural restrictions. As new groups join KWDT, they come with new demands and challenges. Successful interventions motivate many fishing communities and women groups to look up to Katosi to address those needs. We can't do it with your support.



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