



"RESILIENT GENERATION"

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 IBANDA GIRL CHILD CARE INITIATIVE



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO LEAD THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT A PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE CHANGE IN RWENZORI REGION

A key finding from IGCCI for girl's partners led learning on inspired approach in Kasese

Gear up for an energizing start to your year with our annual report we have carefully crafted potent mix of thrilling opportunities the latest updates and valuable insights in the sector to ignite our journey.



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INTRODUCTION

2025 have been a year of opportunities and challenges that **Ibanda girl child care initiative** is worth of recording. Let's dive together and ensure that this year becomes our best one yet. **Ibanda girl child care initiative** is committed to cover the ordinary stories of Uganda's young generation skills through engaging leaderships, mentorship confidence building, advocacy education health, livelihood, empowering, economic live hood economic transformation and engagements. This transformative community driven change would not been achieved without the generous support from girls first and internet for humanity their vital funding has been instrumental in enabling ibanda girl child care initiative to work with communities to challenge deeply rooted social norms and empower local communities to realize lasting changes.

Ibanda girl child care Initiative too believes that collaboration is the cornerstone of sustainable development and we are deeply grateful to internet for humanity (I4H) for their unwavering generosity in sharing their extensive knowledge experience and expertise their support support has not only enhanced the capacity of partner in effectively implement community lead approach but has also amplified the collective efforts towards tackling systemic challenges to gender justice and promoting personal and community wellbeing .

The partners led workshop and training employed qualitative approach, designed to assess the effectiveness of Ibanda GIRL CHILD CARE INITIATIVES as inspired by she is the first Community lead approach (C LA) SIX communities was piloted.

These communities are

1. Ibanda community led by ENGUBI.
2. Kyanya youth empowerment-bead by.K.Y. E
3. Doniz women initiative mubuku.
4. Kayingo Towatikanaye –kigone.
5. Mubuku adoniz group.
6. Bunyangoni Tulibugwa group

The approach focused on gathering in depth insight from representatives of the different members of the communities using the two key data collection methods below.

Focus group Discussions(FGD) FGDS were conducted with women, men, adolescent girls and boys, Youth

1. Community leaders and members of the community management committees.
2. The FGDS was segmented by gender and age to capture the nuanced expert on how she is the first inspired (CLA) impacted each.



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FGDs –Target groups and number in each community.

CATEGORY	TOTAL PATICIPANT	MALE	FAMALE
Youth	8	4	4
Adolescent girls	8	-----	8
Adolescent boys	8	8	-----
Men	8	8	-----
Community leaders	8	4	4
Women	8	-----	8
Community management			4
Committee members	8	4	4
Total	56	28	28

Key informant interviews(Kills)

The KIIL targeted influential individuals from different demographic groups. Mostly adolescent girls, youth and community leader and member in the community management committees.

1. For the Purposes of this report Adolescents refers to those aged 10-19 and youth or young people refers to those aged 20-25.
2. Elected members of the community entrusted with the task to coordinate the implementation of their collective vision.

The kits provided an opportunity for those leaders to share they personal expenses and insight into the changes taking place within their communities; these interviews helped to identify any discrepancies between what was shared in the FGDs and individuals and comprehensive understanding of community led development.



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The insights gained from these one on one conversations offered valuable feedback for refining the approach and ensuring that the voices of all community members particular those in leadership positions when heard and incorporated into future planning.



Key informants per community.

CATEGORY	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	MALE	FEMALE
Youth	2	1	1
Adolescent girls	1	0	1
Boys	1	1	0
Men	1	1	1
Community leader	2	1	1
Women	1	0	1
Community management	---	1	
Committee member	2	--	--
TOTAL	10	5	5



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A key Aspect of the methodology was the community driven selection of participant’s communities were given the Autonomy to choose individuals they felt would best represent their view, ensuring that their voices hard in the FGDs as Authentic and legimate.

I. KEY FINDINGS FROM THE PARTNERS LED.

Ibanda girl child care initiative highlighted that the new approach partner used to engage the community over the past two years significantly strengthened unity Among its members, unlike past methods which tended to involve only as elect few individuals, the new strategy employed by the partners was more inclusive and involved the entire community.

This shift from a limited exclusive engagement to one that embraced all community members created a sense of collective pontifical on. As a result, everyone felt valued and included in decision making processes more over the use of interactive exercises such as erosional storytelling, role plays and cultural dances, played pivotal role in strengthening the bonds Among community’s members.

These activities allowed individuals to reconnect with their cultural heritage and traditions fostering a deeper sense of belong picture and pride.

In all the six communities where the approach was applied, participants highlighted that these cultural expressions created. A platform of open conversations and understanding transcending age, gender and social divisions for many community members the for many community members the new way partners engaged them marked a significant shift in how they relate to one another unlike in the past when only a selected few were involved in discussions this inclusive and participatory Approach made everyone from elders to youth feel like active contributors to the community development. This collective engagement fosterers aspirate of unity and cooperation that had been lacking before people began to see them slaves not just as inter connected community with shared goals and inspirations.

II. INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN DECESION MAKING PROCESSES:

Discussion from the FGD and interview with kills revealed that, in the past women children, and youth were largely excluding from decision making process on issues affecting their communities Traditionally, community leadership roles were predominately held by men, women children and youth were not associated with community meetings.

As a result, their voices were deliberations research participants noted a significant shift with the introduction of new approach implemented by partners, which explicitly emphasized the inclusion of those previously overlooked groups. The new approach actively encouraged and facilitate the participation of women, children and youth in decision making process this inclusive strategy ensured that diverse perspective were brought to the table. Allowing these groups to contribute to discussions on matters that directly impact their lives and well-being of the broader community.



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This transformation in leadership dynamic has led to a broader cultural change within the community, breaking down longstanding barriers and challenging traditional gender and age based hierarchies. It has also promoted gender and intergenerational collaborations, creating a more inclusive and representative governance structure that reflects the needs and aspirations of the entire community not just a select few.

FGDs with the groups of adolescent girls and boys highlighted that in the past parents and other Adults in the communities Assumed that they knew more about life and issues that children and as result the made decisions for children with one decisions for children without goal consulting or listening to them with the discussions on children rights, parents and other Adults have realized that children have ideas and understand the issues they face from their education marriage career, health and community development. New parents another Adults in the communities actively listen to and follow suggestions actively listen to and follow suggestions from children especially on issues affecting them directly.

Adolescent boys and girl also stated that they now see themselves as partners in development and are working together to build the community. Young people also highlighted that they are now heading community development initiatives, bringing their innovation and physical strength to promote unity, celebrate their culture and address challenges within the community for example in Mubuku prisons farm. Community a primary school of young girls organized cultural gathering such as festivals, Paredes and dance that brought people together to celebrate traditional reunions these events create unique spaces for the sharing of experiences by community members and facilitates discussion in resolving matters that affects every one





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CHANGES IN THE WAYS MEN PERCEIVE GIRLS AND WOMEN CAREGIVING AND DOMESTIC CHORES.

During the FGD with girls' men they shared that the workshops on human rights and personal and community wellbeing and gender justice provided by she is the first and other partners who help can help on reflecting the existing gender roles that create division between the two sexes. In the 6 community's men who took part in the FGD declared that there is profound shift in their perceptions and attitudes towards girls and women. workshop have helped men understand the need for both sexes to work together as team in all aspects of life weather in the house hold or in the community.

In Bugoye community in kasese district they adopted the slogan “side by side” which means that men and women are now working together as a team. through the discussion on gender roles men have realized their responsibilities as equal partners in caregiving and house hold duties they acknowledge that in the past the division of labor with in the house hold was rigid with women bearing the brunt of domestic work and child care.



Research shared that men are more actively involved in performing caregiving factions sharing house and taking on more parenting roles after the discussion on gender roles during the workshop in addition sometime some in the communities are now championing women and girl's



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rights. these men have become advocates for the full inclusion and participation of women in all decision making process with in their communities.

They are actively promoting gender justice leading by example and encouraging others men to do the same. their advocacy has helped transform the community’s attitudes towards women role, positioning them as key contributors to the decision making that shape the future of their communities they are also supportive of women leadership

Women leadership.

Women have also confirmed that the inter actions and relationships between men and women in the community have greatly Improved, women reported that the men now can treat them with more respect as equals they listen to their opinions both at home and in public gathering and they are more supportive in performing house hold clones, such as child care, cooking and cleaning. However, some still are addicted to drugs and alcohol and yet they need skills for retaining them

INCREASED ASPIRATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS TO OCCUPY LEADERSHIP POSITION

The FGD with women and adolescent girls revealed that the trainings and seminars conducted by IGCCI also made them realize that they have rights and confidence to assert their rights and actively participate in community leadership roles areas that were previously dominated by men.

in both Mubuku and Ibanda communities participants Reported a land mark achievement for the first time in their history where women were elected to serve in key leadership positions in mubuku

we have 3 women in local council and councilors while in ibanda we have two girls in the age of 24 as councilor at town council while in Ibanda we have two girls of the age 24 as councilors to serve at town council. these election represent major breakthrough in challenging the traditional patriarchal structures that have long excluded women from holding position of authority.

The election of the women in the community has inspired more women to believe in their ability to lead and aspire to the positions that influence .it has also created ripple effect encouraging adolescent girls to consider leadership roles as viable options for their future



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fostering new generations who are empowered as young women.



V REDUCTION IN THE GENDER BASED VIOLENCE.

Research participants emphasized that discussions a rounder gender justice are having a profound impact on traditional practices with in their communities particularly concerning child and forced marriage .The work shop and trainings sessions organized by she is the first as our partners are leading to a gradual but significant cultural shift men in particular are being question and challenged.

During the FGD with the adolescents and young people participants reported significant reduction in the amount of violence they witnessed between men and women, particularly parents.

Many adolescents expressed relief that they were no longer exposed to the level of domestic violence that had been common in previous years. This marked change in their environment was seen as a major improvement in their emotional and mental wellbeing similarly women in their **FGD highlighted** a dramatic reduction in incidents of domestic violence. In some communities’ participants proudly shared that there is had been no reported cases of domestic violence for this year a profound ship from part experiences of regular conflict and abuse within homes this positive change was directly attributed to the training; workshops on well-being, human rights and gender justice that girl first partners had trained. These workshops equipped both men and women with practical tools to resolve conflicts, peacefully recognize and uphold gender equality and faster healthier, more respectful relationships with their families.



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These shifts in community dynamics extended beyond individual households discussions in the FGDS revealed a gradual but notable transformation in how community are addressing some traditional practices that negatively affects the well-being and health of girls and women. One of the most prominent example is the practice of early marriage before university. Women and girls especially after participating in the well-being discussion began questioning the value practice and relevance to their lives and their health, with the activities related to their secret society e.g. homosexuality. Secret society is a group that has some beliefs or practices that are kept hidden from the public and membership is often restricted in some way such as by religious affiliation sex or invitation only

IN Ibanda the community acknowledged that while eradicating the secret society would take times, they collectively agreed to a major interim step which is no girl under the age of 18 would get marriage no support and the parents would have been seen for disciplinary action. this agreement marks significant step forward protecting young girls while respecting the ongoing process of community reflection and process to effect long term changes

In mubuku community members took bolder action enacting a local law to ban the practice of early marriage. this legal measure demonstrates the community's commitments to ending harmful traditional practices and ensuring the safety and rights of women and girls. However, it is important to note that this is shift is not uniform across all communities in some areas the practice continues through the number of girls participating in other rituals has significantly decreased. adolescent and young people have been particularly observant of this decline, signaling that young generations are increasingly rejecting the certain practices. Children and youth in the communities reported that they were under less pressure from their parents since enrolled in the IGCCI programs. they observed that there has been significant reduction in cases of early marriage as well some adolescent reported that their parents had stopped

encouraging advances from men to marry their teenager's daughters and were focused instead on their education and carrier's developments **Success factors for the effective implementation of the community led approach.**

A. Relationship building with the communities. In the community led approach R/Ship building with the communities is not just foundation element but the key driver of success. It facilitates trust, mutual respect, and collaborations empowering communities to take ownership of their development and sustain change is significantly enhanced leading to meaningful, long lasting impact.

B. Empowering communities to take ownership of their development



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Another key learning from girl's fist over and partners point of view is the importance of empowering communities to take ownership of their development and that through she is the first inspired (CLA, - The partners have changed their approach of providing all resources and giving money to community which had created a community dependence on NGO or external parties for their development. Now the partners prioritize empowering the communities to harness their own skills, resources and talents to drive their own development.

C. Having a community facilitator in the community. At the core of she is the first A model is the presence of a community, facilitators based in the community, who serves as an intermediary between the partner's organization and the community and provides all resources and provides all resources and support to the community to achieve its developmental goals. These success of the support is dependent on community facilitators being well trained and equipped with the right knowledge skills competencies and materials to effectively guide the community understanding this principle, the partners have invested in training and tempering the community. facilities in all communities where they applied the she is the first(CLA) model thus includes understanding key topics such as comprehensive sexuality, education SRHRS Feminist gender justice. Human rights women's rights and children's rights and facilitation skills.

Reflections on next steps in strengthening achievements a depending the implementation of the community led approach:

The next step for advancing the community led Approach (CLA) in the community focus on deepening community engagement, capacity strengthening of the community management committees and improving systems for ongoing learning and evaluation. The learning reviews demonstrates that while CLA has been instrumental in creating transformative change, its success that has hinges on a commitment to continuous learning, improvement and adaptations for CLA to achieve long term sustainable impact, is essential to empower communities to drive their own development, supported by flexible, unrestricted funding.

This type of funding enables the sustain effective community led solutions over time.

To support ongoing development a key next step is to strengthen the capacity of community management committee(CMCS) These committees are vital for fostering local leadership, mobilizing resources and ensuring continuity in community led projects specific areas for capacity strengthening includes resources mobilization networking, advocacy. Strategic planning and establishing partnerships with private and public sectors actors who can contribute to the community development. Goals empowering CMC will ensure that they can effectively sustain and expand upon the progress made, even beyond the period of direct support from the partner's organization.

Another priority is for partners to develop and implement comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M & E Systems these systems are crucial for documenting the impact of community led initiatives, gathering insights on effective on programs effectiveness and identifying areas for



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improvement. This learning review highlighted the value of documenting hearings and outcomes reinforcing the need for robust M and E to consistently capture, share and reflect upon the community and journey and achievements.

A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M & E) framework will also support the driven decision making, helping partners and communities to make informed adaptations as needed. Umbanda girl child care initiative needs flexible, long term funding for the deepening and expansion. For the next steps to CLA, IGCCI. Role in creating the conditions for community led change. The outcome of this project focus plays in supporting its partners to achieve meaningful sustainable results IGCCI contributions extend beyond conventional process models as it provides holistic support that enables other communities to innovate, grow and become resilient forces for change within their communities.

Below is an analysis of IGCCI role in the communities to achieve are

1. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING FOR SUSTAINABILITY.

Capacity strengthening is a cornerstone of the Ibanda girl child care initiative support model, equipping participants, community's leaders with skills resources and tools that enhance their effectiveness through training sessions, workshops and tailored guidance. IGCCI supports in areas of financial literacy, project settings, mentorship, economic growth, empowering advocacy and community engagement.

These skills are very crucial for the long term success of grass root organization ensuring that they can deliver impactful programs and develop strategies for growth and sustainability by enhancing participants' operational capacity. IGCCI is building resilience within these communities enabling them to continue their work beyond direct involvement.

2. Mentorship and close partnership

The Ibanda girl child care initiative highlights the importance of mentorship and on guidance provided by it as the first many community based organizations benefit from close support to navigate challenges, develop strategic vision and define their approach to community issues. IGCCI Mentorship is not merely transactional, it is based on cultivating genuine partnerships and understanding the unique strengths and limitations of each community. This close relationship building, trust and empowers organizations to confidently pursue bold initiatives, knowing they have supportive partners who understand their journey.

3. Encouraging innovation and exploration.

The Ibanda girl child care Initiative role includes encouraging the beneficiaries to explore new and innovative methods of addressing community needs.

This commitment to fostering creativity empowers girls and women to develop contextually relevant solutions that are sustainable and impactful.

5 Strengthening network and collaboration



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IBanda girl child care initiative will actively promote collaboration among partners organization both locally and internationally by fostering a network approach IGCI enables partners to share the best practices, learn from one another's experience and even jointly tackle challenges this collaborative environment broadens each organization's perspectives helping them understand diverse approaches to common issues and adopt effective strategies through partnership with other organizations. IGCCI will open avenues for local organizations to connect with broader movements and access additional resources and support.

4. **Promoting sustainable community led change**, The IGCCI points out that while direct funding is a growing trend, sustainable results often require sustained guidance and support, results often require sustained guidance and support which IGCCI needs to implement its community led development approach by investing in organizational capacity and resilience, IGCCI ensures that the impact of its support extends beyond the funding period IGCCI approach empowers self to head their own development processes and create solutions that are responsive to their communities' needs. This commitment to sustainability aligns with IGCCI's vision of long term transformation, where community organizations are fully equipped to sustain and expand their work independently.

conclusion.

IGCCI demonstrates that funders have much to gain by investing in community led approaches. Supporting organizations through flexible funding, capacity strengthening mentorship, commitment to local innovation offers funders unique insights into sustainable, ground up solutions that are both adaptable and deeply rooted in community realities. When funders prioritize community led models, they empower organizations to develop context specific responses that address complex issues more effectively. This support model fosters resilience, autonomy and innovation, allowing local full change long after funding ends. Furthermore, community led approaches deepen funders' understanding of the local landscape, revealing nuanced, culturally informed strategies that could guide and inspire broader philanthropic practices.

The key insight that IGCCI has gleaned from this report is that community led approaches make profound investment in lasting impact and transformational change. Flexible and responsive communities at the center of their development, strengthen communities from within. The report confirms that when funders trust local organizations with the autonomy and resources to head their own growth, the result comes not only to the empowerment of individuals and communities to be agents of their own development. This commitment to local agency and philanthropic landscape, guiding funders towards practices that honor the voices and visions of those they support and foster sustainable community driven progress.



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