

# Education & Development Opportunity - Uganda



**AU-EU**  
**Youth Plug-In Initiative**



# 2017 Annual Report

January 2018



From the Executive Director



I am glad to present to you our 2017 annual report, a statement of accomplishments in our mission to transform lives.

We had significant milestones in 2017. Our projects on education, girls' and women's rights advocacy and youth empowerment registered impressive results. Take for example our "East African Big Men" Project where we used multimedia platforms to document stories of men in Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda defying gender stereotypes and advancing women empowerment, and consequently published in the UK, France and across East Africa as well as through various social media platforms. We brought to international attention gender disparities in East Africa and the candid efforts by individual persons to address the problem.

It is such results, amidst stringent financial difficulties we operated in, that boosted our morale to continue to work and deliver for girls and women. When we scored, it was a score for women and girls, for everyone, women and men.

In 2017, our work majorly focused on four priority areas; education, advocacy for girls' and women's rights, youth empowerment and building networks and partnerships. We are glad sharing with you our story.

Please feel free to give us feedback. We are always happy to hear from you, thank you.

**BRIAN MUTEBI, Executive Director.**

January, 2018.



## INTRODUCTION

### About EDOU

Education & Development Opportunity – Uganda (EDOU) is a charity organisation incorporated in Uganda with mission to transform lives of people. We provide access to education to orphaned and vulnerable young people particularly girls through education scholarships, improve the health and wellbeing of the youth through access to information, training and capacity building; and empower and advocate for the rights of girls and women.

Since inception in 2009, EDOU has been growing in her charity cause mobilizing and committing resources in areas of practical need. Our work is deeply rooted in our strong conviction about man's primary responsibility of serving humanity, which gives us and our partners opportunity to demonstrate love and compassion in the communities in Uganda.

The charity is governed by a Board of Directors, the top decision-making body composed of experienced professionals in management and development work. The Board supervises the Management Team headed by the Executive Director.

### Vision

Transforming Lives

### Mission statement

We shall transform lives by touching hearts of orphaned and vulnerable young people particularly girls, provide access to education, improve the health and wellbeing of the youth, empower and advocate for the rights of girls and women so as to realise sustainable development.



### EDOU Strategic Objectives

1. Provide access to education to orphaned and vulnerable young people
2. Improve the health of adolescents and youth
3. Skilling the youth for socio-economic development
4. Empower and advocate for the rights of girls and women
5. Networking and building partnerships

### Core Values

- ✚ Love
- ✚ Integrity
- ✚ Innovation
- ✚ Accountability



## EDOU STRATEGIC PROGRAMME AREAS

### Access to Education

We give scholarships to orphaned children, GBV survivors, teenage mothers and girls with disabilities. In Uganda, 1 in 4 girls between 15-19 years of age, according to the Uganda Health Demographic Survey, is either pregnant or had a baby. With only one in 10 able to return to school after giving birth. GBV survivors suffer physical and emotional pain. The scholarships, covering tuition, accommodation, living allowance, scholastic materials and discipleship, bestow upon them a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.



### Empowerment and Girls' and Women's Rights Advocacy



We invest in the economic empowerment of women and girls for such creates ripple effects for families, communities and the country, and use multimedia platforms to advocate for their rights. We raise awareness on gender-based violence, advocate for investing in preventing child marriage and teenage pregnancy, access to age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health information and family planning services and fight harmful practices like Female Genital Mutilation that violate the rights of girls and women.

### Youth Empowerment

Uganda has one of the world's youngest population, with over 78% below 30 years and 52% below 15 years. 6.5 million Ugandans are between 18-30 years, constituting 21.3% of the population. Unemployment among the youth is at 83%. Investing in Uganda's youth will yield a demographic bonus as more productive and healthy youth join the workforce and the dependency ratio is at its lowest. Our Empowerment Programme focuses on livelihood support, skilling and social business entrepreneurship.

### Networks and Partnerships

Given the magnitude of challenges in providing access to education, empowering the youth and promoting girls and women's rights, we understand that our work cannot be carried out singlehandedly but collective action is needed. Networking is thus central in our development strategy. In networks, we acquire partnerships, share resources, adapt best practices, mobilize resources and carry out joint projects for greater impact.



## The 2017 Activities

### 1. EDUCATION

#### a. The Brian Mutebi Dream Scholarship Fund

We continued with our scholarship scheme benefiting vulnerable children in Mityana, Wakiso, Kiboga and Kampala districts <http://bit.ly/1t6upiA>.

Beneficiaries of the Brian Mutebi Dream Scholarship Fund have so far climaxed to 30 in primary and secondary school <http://bit.ly/1VRY1MY> and university. Most prominently, Lisandra Kabagenyi, the first girl to receive the university scholarship <http://bit.ly/29QJBZw> is in 3<sup>rd</sup> year of her undergraduate law course at Makerere University.



#### b. Published with Partnership for Global Education

In our goal to increase visibility on the situation of access to education for children of the poor and, rally the international community, we established a non-formal partnership with Partnership for Global Education (GPE), a global education advocacy organisation, and published an article in which we called for more commitment to education mobility between Europe and Africa and funding for right to education worldwide especially for the poor living in Europe and Africa's remote and hard-to-reach areas. Here is the link <http://bit.ly/2kMIGPy> and extraction from the article:

“...Sub-Saharan Africa on the other hand has the highest rates of education exclusion on the globe. Over one-fifth of children between the ages of about 6 and 11 are out of school, according to UNESCO. If this is the situation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, shouldn't Africa and EU leaders act, and act fast on the proposals the youth presented?”

#### c. Advocacy for the right to Education at the European Union

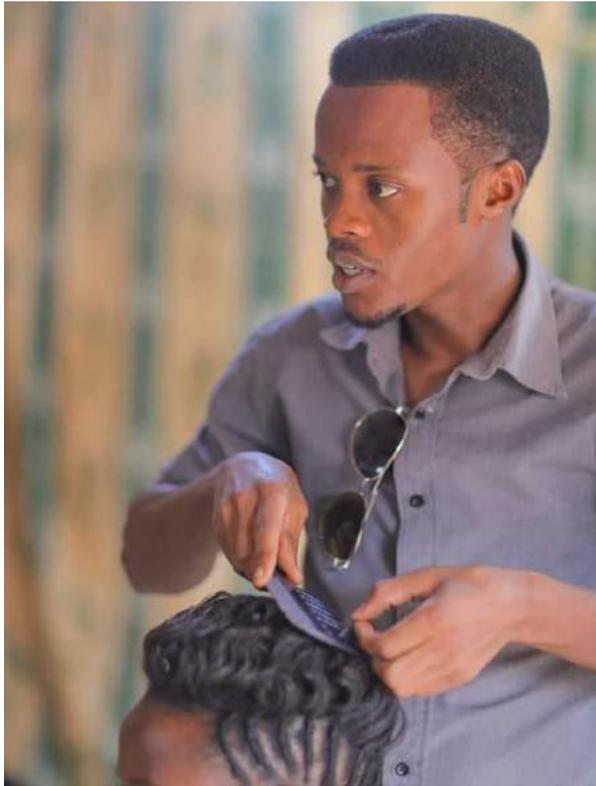
During the AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative in Brussels in November, we published an article calling on European and African political leaders to prioritize the right to education. This climaxed our annual global advocacy work on access and financing education. Advocacy at the EU was important for the EU is one of the biggest funders of education in Uganda. Here is the link <http://bit.ly/2F7bhY7> and extraction from the article:

“...Which world are you handing over to us... with a population of young people who have missed opportunity to be in school? A society of people with skills, knowledge and information is always the best. Education has a magical multiplier effect. And we can all do something to realising a world where no one is left behind.”



## 2. GIRLS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCACY

### a. East Africa's Big Men Project



We were part of the team of British journalists, film makers and East African gender activists who won a \$20,000 reporting grant from the European Journalism Centre for the “East Africa’s Big Men” project <http://bit.ly/2rcE8HV> We used multimedia platforms to tell stories of men in Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda defying gender stereotypes or advancing women empowerment. The project examined masculinity and its effect on gender development. Comparing and contrasting Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya, we asked deep questions about what it means to be a ‘big man’. We published in the UK <http://bbc.in/2rynW4z>, France and across East Africa <http://bit.ly/2D9JSIV> as well as through various social media platforms.

### b. Facebook Live chat at the European Union Commission, Brussels, Belgium.



world our story of transforming lives of vulnerable girls and boys. At the event that received over 6,000 views, Brian strongly advocated for strong commitment and funding for access to the right to education for vulnerable young people, gender equality, girls’ and women’s rights and sustainable development. <http://bit.ly/2DBLLNz> The event helped project EDOU on the international scene, increase its visibility and recognition, especially, among potential partners. The event was hosted by Hannah Cole, Head of Unit, Communications, EU Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development. This was possible with financial support from the EU.

While on a month-long AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative in Brussels, Belgium, Brian was featured in the Facebook Live chat at the European Union Commission where he shared with the



**c. Africa Talk Jobs Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**

We participated in the Africa Talk Jobs Conference organized by the African Union and the Germany Government at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The conference explored ways of ensuring effective education and sustainable jobs for the youth in Africa. We actively participate in a session on “Girls and women in skills development, education and employment” where we formulated resolutions for the African Union member states to tackle hinderances to girls’ education specifically addressing the issue of teenage pregnancy and child marriages. Here are two of the resolutions made:

- Commitment and financial contribution of all member states to a girls’ fund for education (formal and non-formal) and skilling
- Provide gender sensitive education for all through formal, non-formal and informal education



This was made possible with financial support from the African Union Commission.

**d. Publishing for Refugee girls and women, Baltimore, Maryland U.S.**

On the International Day for Refugees, we published with Knowledge for Health (K4Health) an article highlighting the plight of refugee girls and women and measures that should be taken to address the problem. K4Health is based at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland U.S. One of the measures we highlighted is access to family planning services in fragile environments to avert unwanted pregnancies. We advocated for innovative approaches at the local level to address human rights challenges and violations girls and women face in conflict and fragile environments <http://bit.ly/2tImGZS>. The article shades light on the plight of refugee girls and strengthened EDOU’s position as one of the credible organisations from the global South that brings to international attention issues that affect women and girls. Our cooperation with K4Health made the publication of this article possible at no cost.

**e. Capacity building for Girls Not Brides Alliance members, Kampala, Uganda.**



EDOU participated in the workshop that developed advocacy messages for Girls Not Brides Uganda (GNBU) National Alliance members that implemented the CSO Led Advocacy Campaign to End Child Marriages. The project is funded by Amplify Change and coordinated by GNBU National Secretariat. At the workshop, we developed Data collection tools, M&E tools and Tailor-made advocacy messages to aid implementation of the project.

**f. Capacity building for GNBU Alliance Members, Kampala, Uganda**



- Capacity building workshop on building institutional support, networking and coalition for effective advocacy. This was under the Girl Advocacy Alliance Project funded by Plan International and Terres des Hommes Netherlands through GNBU National Secretariat.
- Trainings on Advocacy & Lobbying and on Institutional Integrity & Networking sponsored by GNBU National Secretariat.
- In the follow-up workshop, we shared our experience on using the media to advocate for and promote the rights of girls and women, building international partnerships and position ourselves in spaces to promote the rights of girls and women. Given the magnitude of challenges in promoting girls and women's rights, collective action is needed.

**g. The 1<sup>st</sup> East African Girls Summit, Kampala, Uganda.**

We participated in planning for what was going to be the 1<sup>st</sup> East African Girls Summit. This was in partnership with Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development and Girls Not Brides Uganda National Alliance. However, activities were called off a month to the Summit due to lack of funds and withdrawal of support from donors. The summit was aimed at putting light to the problem of child marriage in the 5-country region, so its untimely cancellation was a big disappointment to all the parties who had invested much in planning for this summit.

### 3. YOUTH PROGRAMMES

#### a. AU-EU Youth Summit, Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

We were one of the youth organisations on the African continent that took part in the 4<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Youth Summit in Abidjan, Ivory Coast that developed the Abidjan Youth Declaration that recommended a wide range of measures for African and European political leaders to improve the situation of youth on both continents. The Abidjan Youth Declaration stated among others:

- We call on AU and EU Member States to guarantee universal access to quality and inclusive education, recognising the importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training.
- We call upon AU and EU Member States to facilitate programmes that enhance sustainable access to finance, ensuring that young people from all backgrounds are enabled to access enterprise funding.

Participation in the Youth Summit was possible through sponsorship from the EU.

#### b. AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative

The theme of the 5<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Summit was "Investing in Youth for a Sustainable Future". In this context, EU and AU aspired to ensure a more meaningful and comprehensive inclusion of Youth as “agenda setters” in the run up to and at the Summit. The AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative (YPII) represented a main component in the planned process to achieve this goal. The 4<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Youth Summit and its main outcome, the Youth Declaration, laid the foundation for the YPII. 36 fellows (African, European and Diaspora) from the Summit (Brian represented EDOU) were organised in 6 clusters in accordance with the Joint Africa EU Strategy, the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council for a Renewed Impetus of the AU-EU Partnership, the AU Concept Note for the AU-EU Summit, the AU’s Roadmap for Harnessing the Demographic Dividend of Youth and themes raised as priorities by the youth: The outcome of YPII was the Youth Agenda, which together with the Youth Summit Declaration was endorsed by State Leaders in Abidjan.

1. Education and skills
  2. Business, job creation and entrepreneurship
  3. Governance, political and democratic inclusion and activism
  4. Environmental preservation and climate change
  5. Peace and security
  6. Culture, sports and arts
- Digitalisation and gender were cross-cutting.





### c. SDGs and Youth Reflection Dialogue, Kampala, Uganda.



Participants shared first-hand experiences of how the youth are affected by limited access to health information and services, showcased youth-led solutions in addressing these barriers and promoting health equity. Discussion was also on identifying concrete avenues for the youth to play meaningful roles in the implementation and review of SDG No.3 and No.5 and provide a networking space for the youth to develop partnerships for programs implementation. The dialogue was attended by 40 youth and youth actors from various section of society working on various areas of SDGs.

We participated in the SDGs and Youth Reflection Dialogue organised by partner organisation, Youth Equality Centre, focusing on SDG No.3-universal education and No.5 – gender equality.

### d. National Youth Leadership Dialogue, Kampala, Uganda.

Following the reading of the 2017/2018 national budget, we participated in the National Youth Leadership Dialogue aimed at building capacity and developing strategies for youth to actively engage in budget advocacy. This was under the auspices of Youth Budget Advocacy Alliance, Uganda Youth Network and Open Space.

### e. National Reality Check Conference 2017, Kampala, Uganda.



employment, entrepreneurship and education in Uganda. At the conference, we called for social business entrepreneurship in addressing Uganda's alarming unemployment levels among the youth and the country's craving for descent employment. We presented the idea drawing lessons from our experience of running the Brian Mutebi Dream Scholarship Fund, a very innovative social business enterprise model. The conference was organised by the German development organisation, Konrad Adenauer and local partner, Centre for Development Initiatives.

We took part in the 3-day National Reality Check Conference 2017 that discussed



#### 4. NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2017, we strategically positioned ourselves in key networks promoting access to education, youth empowerment, gender and girls' and women's rights. The following were our partners, at various levels of cooperation.

1. Girls Not Brides Uganda National Alliance
2. Girls Not Brides Global Partnership
3. 120 Under 40: The New Generation of Family Planning Leaders
4. Youth Budget Advocacy Alliance
5. Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development
6. Partnerships for Global Education
7. Knowledge for Health
8. European Union
9. African Union
10. Holy Trinity English Church in Brussels
11. St Peter's Chapel Ostend, Belgium

#### 6. NEW INITIATIVES

##### a. HerWallet Project



We launched HerWallet Project, a social business enterprise providing microloans to urban poor women. The women call themselves “Widows of the living” because they are married but to absent husbands and thus the economic weight of running their families rests on their shoulders. “We also got tired of asking for money from

our ‘dead’ husbands, which may earn you a slap,” one woman said. Discouraged by a rigorous banking system, they turned to individual money lenders for loans. But money lenders charge very exorbitant interest rates beside sexually harassing them. This is in country where GBV is at 63% among women with the lowest of economic status. That’s how unbalanced economic power perpetuates violence against women! HerWallet is a multipurpose project that is empowering women economically and by giving them financial freedom, prevent GBV in homes. The women own market stalls, retail shops art and craft businesses among others. Investing in girls and women creates the ripple effects that yield multiple benefits, not only for individual women, but for families, communities and countries. 30 households benefited from the project.

### **b. Family Planning and reproductive health**

Our director, Brian was named Member to the International Jury of Experts on Family Planning and Reproductive Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health for selection of the “120 Under 40” 2017 winners. In addition, under the leadership of Hopkins and Bayer, participated in the development of a concept note for a proposal for 80 winners (2016 and 2017 cohorts) to attend and participate in the International Conference on Family Planning in Kigali, Rwanda November, 2018, and for Grant opportunities for winners, individually or in collaboration with other winners.



### **c. My Skill, My Education Project**

We started a new project; My Skill, My Education Project involving training girls in making beads and other hand crafts. The project is assisting girls acquire life skills while their products fetch an income that support their livelihoods.

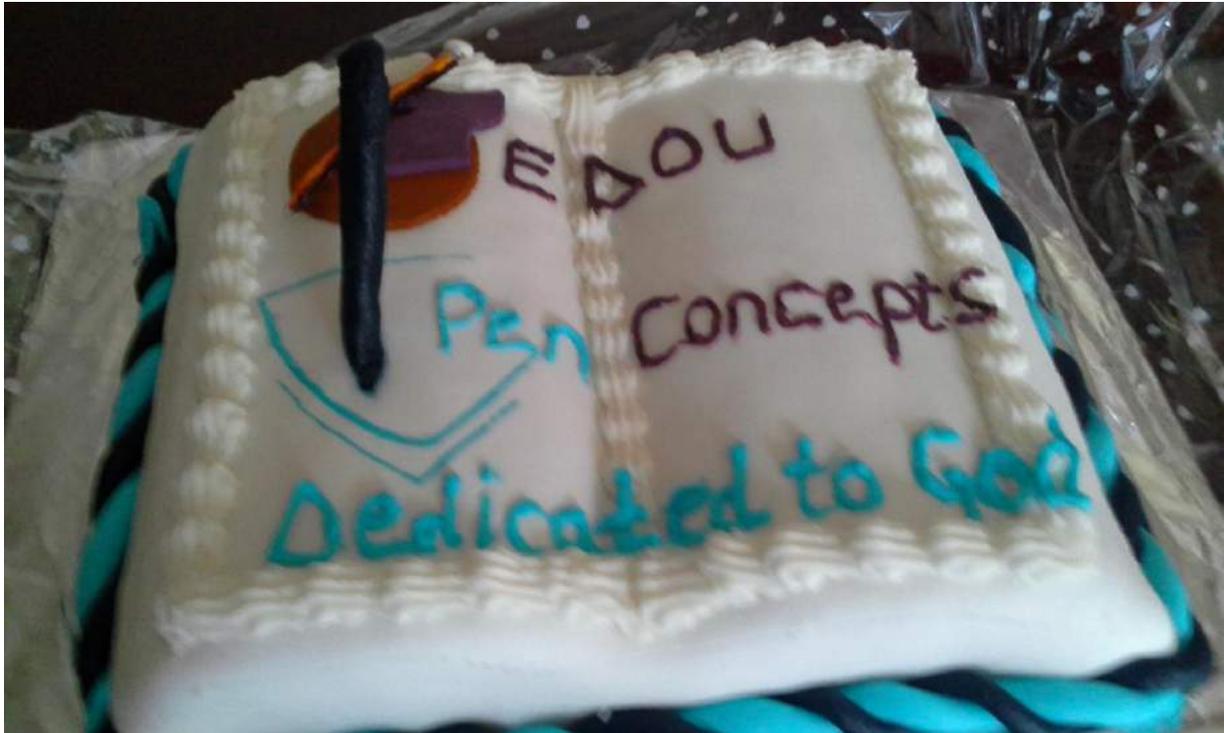




## 7. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

### a) Opening office premises

On January 4, 2017, we officially opened our offices at Nansana East II, Nansana Municipality, and dedicated the organisation and year's activities to God. The prayers were led by Pastor Bashan Zziwa of Bajjo Full Gospel Church. It was attended by all staff of the organisation and sister company, Pen Concepts; and friends. There was praise and worship, ministry of the Word and cutting of the cake.



### b) Human resources

In 2017, the organisation hired one permanent staff, the administrator. This was a major achievement as previously the organisation never had a permanent employee to spearhead the day-to-day operations of the organisation. The administrator was supported by a team of three volunteers, and of course the executive director. In total thus, the organisation had five workers.

### c) Materials and equipment

We furnished our new office with furniture and bought a second computer, which helped staff to do office work a little faster.

### d) Communications

We designed a new website and launched it, which gave us mileage in our advocacy work and communication to current and potential partners. Our current web address is [www.edouganda.org](http://www.edouganda.org) We also regularly updated our social media platforms through which we easily communicate to friends and partners.



### e) Finances

We carried out a number of activities with funding from individual donors including our founder and executive director whose donation kicked off HerWallet Project. Other funds came from our friend from the UK, who is not at liberty to disclose her name, but been a strong pillar in the running of the Brian Mutebi Dream Scholarship Fund. Other activities were supported by the European Union, Girls Not Brides, Uganda Youth Network among others.

It's important to note that funds for carrying out most of activities were not wired to the organisation's bank account, but costs accruing to the activities carried out were borne directly by the agencies we partnered with. This explains why significant sums of money for carrying out the several activities reported herein may not be reflected in the organisation's bank statements.



## 8. EDOU SWOT Analysis

### Strengths

- Clearly defined vision and mission
- Office space
- Visionally, passionate and committed leader
- Effectiveness in communication and documentation
- Visibility in the mainstream and social media
- Availability of volunteers

### Weaknesses

- Lack of funds to implement the organisation's projects.
- Limited number of staff due to the fact that the organisation cannot afford experienced personnel whose remuneration is high
- Inadequate office equipment and materials
- Inactive board of directors

### Opportunities

- Increasing visibility in national and international spaces
- Good relationship with the community where we work
- Well structured vision and programme focus
- Potential donors and partnerships for our projects

### Threats

- Restrictive legal environment on the operation of NGOs in the country especially on funding sources
- A political environment that is often fragile especially in the city
- The socio-cultural and economic factors including gender biases still constrain the promotion of girls' and women's rights.
- High poverty levels among the populations we work lender access to education and promotion of human rights secondary among the population. For example, poverty is one of the major causes of child marriages.



## FOCUS FOR 2018

### The 5-point action programme

- ✚ Resource mobilisation. Our target is to raise at least \$50,000
- ✚ Sustainability of current projects
- ✚ Media and advocacy initiatives on family planning, reproductive health, women's rights and Sustainable Development Goals
- ✚ Human resource development for greater performance and productivity
- ✚ Networking and partnership building to increase visibility and impact

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