

REPORT 2021

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January – December



Do not wait; the time will never be "just right." Start where you stand, and work with whatever tools you may have at your command, and better tools will be found as you go along.

Napoleon Hill

From the Director's Desk:

March 2021 marked one year since Uganda, like many other countries, underwent a new experience: "Lockdowns" which came into existence to halt the rapid spread and devastating impact of the Covid-19 (C-19). Implications of the pandemic on nations and livelihoods are diverse; none has been spared the painful experiences that have affected our existence, social, economic, educational, cultural and political wellbeing. Majority of Persons with Disabilities are excluded and confined to the fridges of government C-19 response services. As we gradually shook off the 2020 pandemic horrors, 2021 seemed to bounce us back into "normality;" when schools re-opening, Deaf Link Uganda (DLU) resumed its activities in earnest.

Despite the challenges, DLU intervention services were expanded to reach a larger deaf population. The number of sponsored children increased, while self-employed deaf individuals who had lost jobs and suffered the economic impact of C-19 received startup capital. Our 2020 initiative: *DLU Covid-19 Response: Deaf People at the forefront* gained momentum with provision of humanitarian support, especially to those living in urban areas and facing food shortages. In March through our strengthened networks, we organised an Art workshop for Deaf artists, a major highlight at the beginning of the year! To highlight experiences of deaf people during the pandemic, we formed a partnership with Disability in Wales and Africa (DWA) that resulted in a series of documentaries of deaf people in the **Tell Your Story** Project.

Mid-year, Uganda was hit by the deadlier C-19 Delta variant, resulting in high fatalities; the nation was plunged into a second lockdown ordered by the president on 18 June 2021 – yet again, we rolled back into another cycle of helplessness, fear and uncertainty with immediate closure of educational institutions, businesses, social and religious activities. During the two months' lockdown, programmes went on hold. The government began vaccination programmes, albeit at slow pace, majority of deaf people remain excluded from obtaining vaccines due to language and communication barriers.

Achievements have been possible through financial support from donors, partners and friends, whose commitment ensures the organisation's continuity. It's a privilege to serve with a supportive Board of Directors, a dedicated staff team and volunteers during these difficult times. The generosity of friends contributes to building an inclusive Uganda that enable Deaf people thrive and utilize their potentials to lead productive, meaningful and dignified lives.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

DLU's activities continue under three programmes to ensure access to education, economic, social and cultural opportunities to deaf persons:

I. Education

- a) Sponsorship (formal & technical skills training);
- b) School & Home Visits.

II. Business Enterprise

- a) Micro-credit
- b) Deaf Development Project (DDP)
- c) DLU Savings & Credit Cooperative Society (DLU-SACCO)

III. Livelihoods

- a) Humanitarian Assistance
- b) Parents Business Groups (PBG)

IV. Deaf Rights & Advocacy

A crosscutting activity that strengthens DLU's networks with national and international partners in our efforts to combine resources, knowledge and ideas to raise awareness about deafness and deaf people and work towards improving their welfare..

I. EDUCATION:

Educating the Deaf is key to powering future generations of individuals equipped with knowledge and meaningful skills for independent living.

Sponsorship: School disruption due to lockdowns is creating a crisis that is hampering the educational welfare of deaf learners, increasing their vulnerability. Confined at home where most families are unable to communicate in sign language intensifies isolation and exposes many to mental health problems. Majority of deaf children (especially girls) may never return to school, a dangerous scenario that increases risks to sexual violence, abuse and dependency.

2021 began with high hopes as schools re-opened after nearly a year's lockdown. In continuing sponsorship for deaf children from disadvantaged backgrounds, we increased the number of supported deaf learners to six. 13-year-old Akilo (photo) a new beneficiary continued primary four education at Ngora School for the Deaf. The first child of three children born to deaf parents, Akilo's education had been terminated by her parents after the 2020 lockdown. Unable to afford her fees, they withdrew her from school because her father, a self-employed carpenter, closed his workshop due to economic hardships. Escorted by DLU staff,



Akilo joyfully returned to school on 1st March 2021. Like her parents, she was extremely delighted with the support. In April, staff visited the two sponsored children at the school to follow up their educational progress and general welfare. Furthermore, despite the disruptions, one of our students took her “O” Level national exams at Mbale School for the Deaf, completing a crucial level of education. Having prepared intently in the midst of challenges (including lack of access to multi-media), her hard work and perseverance are commendable. Other students continued their education in respective schools.

Education of the Deaf in Crisis: *The nearly two years of school lockdown have had a destructive impact on deaf learners, rolling back years of achievement in their lives. Their unique learning needs have not been addressed by the Ministry of Education, leaving them excluded and dis-empowered. Majority in rural areas have no access to on-going digital alternatives in education, resulting in high dropout levels.*

Lockdown II in June compounded the education crisis that worsened a desperate situation for deaf learners. To address these challenges, DLU stepped up its home-based activities, keeping learners engaged in income generating initiatives. Monitoring visits have been ongoing to support families and re-assure learners of our commitment to their welfare, especially because many are prone to psychological and mental health problems due language deprivation, communication and isolation within their homes. Staff interact with the deaf and their families, providing counseling when need arises.

School & Home Visits: To ensure the overall wellbeing of students, DLU conducts school and home visits to follow up their progress at home and school, keeping close contact with school administrations, teachers and parents. Close engagement with families enables us understand their dynamics to provide appropriate support; interactions create a forum that strengthen family bonds. Visits are opportunities to address issues concerning the child during school terms and holidays. DLU home based support include livestock, poultry, farming and agricultural tools. Besides consumption, benefits of homegrown food reduce expenditure and are sustainable source of income for the youth in addition to equipping them with farming skills. **Photo:** Home visit in Jjeza – Mpigi district.



Home visits: Following up progress of beneficiaries' agriculture & farming activities.

During a visit to Kampungu village in Gomba, a parent commented proudly about his deaf son's resourcefulness in the family's coffee farm: He is so *industrious and helpful. He is innovative unlike his hearing siblings; you don't have to tell him to undertake any chore: show him once and he takes on the job by himself without supervision. He's a valuable member of the family and am so proud of him!*

Internship Training is provided to students who express interest in acquiring additional skills.



19-year-old Okurut was overjoyed when schools re-opened after a year's lockdown - he was disturbed by the second lockdown: *During last year's lockdown, DLU placed me with a Deaf carpenter in my village, Orapada (Kumi district) to acquire carpentry skills. When schools re-opened this year, it was for a brief period! The pandemic has disrupted my education! Long stay at home is demoralizing and isolating. Even though I continued home based farming & agricultural activities, I wanted to resume carpentry training. In August, DLU came to my home proposing that I do an internship in Kampala! My parents and I were excited! In August, I travelled to Kampala for a four months' internship with a skilled Deaf carpenter. I've learnt a lot which is better than staying at home; I'm learning carpentry and business skills and gaining great exposure. Thanks to DLU for this exceptional opportunity!* **Photo:** Internship orientation - DLU office

Okurut has been sponsored since 2012 when he began primary one at Ngora School for the Deaf. In 2019 he was enrolled at Mbale School for the Deaf for a two-year course in Welding and Metal Fabrication.

Due to the prolonged schools lockdown that gravely interrupted many learners' education, Okurut is among the very few who benefitted from continuous education in DLU's internship project. From August to December, 2021 he was placed with Ssebatta Julius an accomplished Deaf carpenter. During this period, he learnt to make and produce varieties of furniture: chairs, tables, cabinets, stools, cooking gadgets, etc. some of which he sold; boosting his morale with income. Besides carpentry, Okurut, who had never lived in Kampala, gained confidence to maneuver in and around the complex city – cycling through its chaotic, jam ridden street, while exploring new suburban environments. The Deaf-to-Deaf peer training was an incredible experience that increased his self-esteem with additional avenues for making income by working with other deaf carpenters. Other skills acquired included, independent living and socialization with a wider community. Okurut became popular in his new neighbourhood, returning home a changed lad!



Okurut training at his instructor's workshop in Salaama, Kampala. Instructor's comments: He's a *hardworking student and enthusiastic. He was able to make furniture for sell within a short time!*

II. BUSINESS ENTERPRISE:

Deaf Business Group (DBG) previously under the Livelihoods Programme was changed to Business Enterprise a programme aimed at economic empowerment of the deaf. Support includes start-up capital, micro-credit loans, skills training and apprenticeship. Self-employed individuals affected by C-19 received support to revive their businesses, while for others, training was provided.

a) Micro-credit

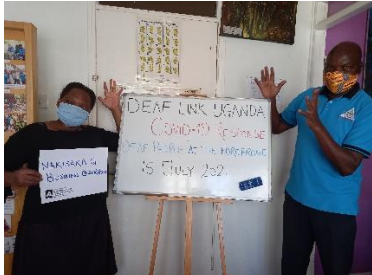
This support is vital for the deaf because many are excluded from mainstream microfinance services. Therefore, eligible self-employed individuals received small loans to boost their business.

Nakisaka (inset photo), an industrious retail shop owner abandoned her shop in Tula, Kawempe (Kampala) when she failed to raise capital to buy stock. In 2019, she got a job at a biscuit factory nearby, but when the pandemic broke out, she lost her job.



Without any source of income, she became destitute and dependent on others for survival. In July, hope was restored when she successfully secured a DLU micro-credit loan of Ugx 500,000/- which revived her business. With potential for growth, her business is thriving. Nakisaka employs a deaf shop assistant – extending economic support to her peers.

DLU undertakes interviews and also visits to business premises during assessment



Nakisaka receives loan (Ugx 500,000/-); DLU visit her shop before and after receiving loan (re-stocked).

b) Deaf Development Project (DDP)

This project provides start-up capital, training and business resources to eligible individuals. During the pandemic, majority of deaf people with small & medium enterprises lost their livelihoods. Many were exposed to poverty and exploitation. DDP was initiated to create economic opportunities for the deaf:

▪ Startup Capital

- i. **Ssebatta**, father of five, is a skilled carpenter making quality furniture for homes and offices. In 2000, he began work at Uganda School for the Deaf as an instructor in carpentry.

For twenty years he trained and mentored deaf children; many started their own workshops after school. For additional income, he set up his own business Ssebatta Furniture in 2011. His excellent skills attracted many customers, enabling him expand his business; he continued training and passing on skills to young deaf children, as well as employing deaf carpenters. Besides carpentry, he's a self-taught free-lance photographer and farmer, which earns him extra income. C-19 seriously affected his business, as restrictions on movements cut off his customers from the school premises. To abide by government regulations on movement within the school, he was terminated and requested to move his workshop! Paralysed by these events, he approached DLU to discuss challenges of expulsion from school and the impact on his livelihood. Due to the urgency of the matter, Ssebatta applied for emergency business support to enable him relocate and build a new carpentry workshop at his home in Salaama – Kampala.



DLU hands over business support supplies to Ssebatta; Follow up visit to new workshop

Skilled beneficiaries are required to give back to DLU by passing on their skills and knowledge to peers through internship training. As above, Ssebatta is undertaking an internship, training a DLU student in carpentry; he's role models and resourceful individual who remains actively involved in the organisation's activities to promote entrepreneurship among the deaf: *"When DLU was established 14years ago, I was among its first volunteers. Over the years I've benefitted from its programmes and feel delighted to contribute to its activities! Training Okurut is enjoyable as he's a hardworking and humble student with great potentials."*

ii. **Nabbosa Cleophasi** decided to improve on her family's income by starting a Fruits & Vegetable stall at her home in Kisugu. "This supplements my husband's meagre income during this difficult time when our survival is threatened." Nabbosa has a one-year-old son and had never worked before. DLU assessed her eligibility and supported her with startup capital of Ugx 100,000/= She participated in **Tell Your Story project** sharing personal experiences of the pandemic).

▪ Business Support

Services to self-employed individuals received economic support: When DLU-Eastern regional activities were on hold due to the second lockdown; beneficiaries working from home were not affected by restrictions on movement. Akwi Agnes, a skilled weaver (using a handloom donated by DLU) continued her work. Programmes Officer (Okello Sam) visited to follow up her progress: *"I commend Akwi for her hard work. Despite an accident in which she injured her foot, she is determined to work to complete customers' orders. During lockdown, she made twenty scarves! Large scarves are sold Ugx 45,000/- and provide a good source of income. She received knitting thread to increase her productivity. Akwi makes high quality products that attract many customers in her locality (Mukura – Eastern Uganda) as well as Kampala!"* Inset photo: Akwi displays her products.



▪ Skills Development:

Workshops by Uganda's renowned artists: Two workshops were conducted to equip deaf youth with skills in creative art, giving them opportunities to expand their horizons and impart knowledge in various art forms; they were enlightened on diversifying income avenues. The workshops were conducted in partnership with Goethe-Zentrum Kampala/Ugandan German Cultural Society/ (GZK/UGCS/) which contributed Ugx 5,000,000/- as well as providing space, increasing DLU's visibility and strengthening our networks. Two of Uganda's internationally renowned Art Entrepreneurs: David Kibuuka and Sanaa Gateja facilitated the workshops respectively in March and November. The initial workshop, Modern Batik Art (Level 1) was spread over three days with a group of seven artists. They acquire new skills and techniques in designing patterns on fabric and using wax and dyes – instructed by the Kibuuka, brainchild of this technique. The workshop was highly interactive and vibrant, increasing the artists' self-confidence, giving them a platform to boost their talents. Television networks Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) and Spark TV aired the event on their television networks as well as publications on GZK & DLU social media platforms. The East African (a regional newspaper) documented the activity in its article: ¹*Ugandan Deaf artists find their voice in Modern Batik Painting* published May 8 – 14, 2021. The workshop increased awareness about the youths' talents and potentials, opening up a larger platform for Deaf Artists in inclusive environments.



Modern Batik Art: Artists at work during the workshop – applying wax and dyes on fabric.

¹ <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/magazine/modern-batik-classes-allow-deaf-artists-to-voice-their-plight-3392460>

Following the workshop, one of the artists, Deus Barugahare, was invited to participate in an Art Competition organised by Alliance Française Kampala and Goethe Zentrum Kampala. The competition, comprising of six hearing artists, was to paint a Mural. Deus' 1.2m x 2.4m mural,



entitled "One to Watch" took him 3 days to complete. It was the first experience for him to paint on a large wall: *It's a privilege working alongside other talented artists. My artwork will remain on the walls the German/French center for years – it's a landmark achievement for which am thankful to DLU that enabled my participation!* Barugahare

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Voting for the best artist was held during the French German Art & Culture week in May with the public invited to choose their best artist. DLU attended the event with other Deaf artists, creating an interactive forum between the deaf and hearing.

Second workshop: *Art in the Making* (ATM) was held 1st – 5th November 2021 engaged nine deaf artists and students. It was conducted by Sanaa Gateja, Uganda's internationally renowned **King of Beads** who pioneered the making of fashionable beads from discarded paper. Held at his residence cum studio in Lubowa, Kampala, the workshop gave participants the opportunities to explore and conserve their environment through the use of cost effective re-usable art materials (paper); learning the entire process of paper-making and using the material to make varieties of products such as; greetings cards, lamp shades, bowls, paper toys, etc. The experience of dual learning exchange was a highlight as the instructor and his team taught the art of paper-making, the youth taught them sign language communication skills.



ATM workshop: Acquiring invaluable skills in creative art through use of recycled waste paper

c) Deaf Link Uganda Savings & Credit Society (DLU-SACCO)

The SACCO, an independent entity borne out of DLU's micro-credit project was established in 2016. Activities are funded by DLU due to its limited sources of income. Operations were greatly impaired during the two years of the pandemic – setting back gained progress. In 2022/21, member savings were significantly reduced due to the economic impact of Covid-19, the cooperative further stagnated as a result of restricted movement and a ban on congregation which previously brought members together during educational sessions in financial literacy by

various stakeholders. The social aspect of the SACCO was equally curtailed, cutting off deaf people from one another, intensifying their isolation particularly during lockdown and increasing economic deprivation and poverty – many lost their jobs along with social cohesion of the Deaf Community that provided solace and togetherness. Having failed to realise reasonable income, the SACCO couldn't secure a permanent certification and instead obtained an extension of another two year probationary period. As majority of members continue to struggle financially to revive their livelihoods, managing the SACCO has proved to be a continuous challenge, as it is heavily reliant on Deaf Link Uganda to fund its activities. Its Executive Committee serving on a voluntary basis is constrained, as other members are unwilling to offer services. The *fragile* nature of the SACCO, despite its great potential is subject to review to justify its sustainability as it continues to present challenges.

III LIVELIHOODS

Improving livelihoods of the deaf, their families and communities is a key to DLU's services. Strengthening families as key players in the welfare of their deaf child. Our advocacy, collaborative efforts and interaction with parents results in increased opportunities for creating inclusive home environments that value the deaf child. Although the deaf are primary beneficiaries, we support the entire family through **Parents Business Groups (PBG)** and **Humanitarian Assistance** aimed at improving the socio-economic status of families, especially those in rural areas.

a) Parents Business Groups (PBG)

In 2013, DLU began supporting families of the deaf in rural Eastern Uganda by providing donations in kind (i.e., livestock, poultry, farming tools, etc.) given to families as income generating opportunities. Using a rotating system, each family received three turkeys or sheep. After a two years period, new families of the deaf are identified to receive support. Previous beneficiaries return animals/poultry for distribution to fresh applicants. PBG has benefited many families.

Osion Village, Kumi:



23-years-old Apoo Jennifer was born deaf. Although she's never attended school, she's skilled in farming & agriculture. In 2018, Apoo was among the four PBG beneficiaries who received three turkeys each. During the two-year project (2018-2020), she worked hard to increase the number of turkeys; this year returned five turkeys to DLU for donation another family of a deaf child. The project increased her family's income: their turkeys multiplied from 3 to 22 within a short period. The decided to sell off some turkeys and upgraded to livestock. They now have three cows! PBG has

improved the welfare of many families. Apoo is in charge of the project, supported by her parents and grandparents who commend her work: *"We're proud of Apoo - she's the star of our family and has brought us wealth!"* says grandmother (in photo with Apoo).

This year, fifteen families benefited with six new beneficiaries joining the project. DLU provides free training in turkey rearing, drugs and mentoring support. The project connects parents of the deaf, enables them interact and share experiences and challenges. Friendships formed and wealth creation have a positive impact, increasing appreciation of deaf children as valuable members of a family unit.



Aug 2021: Hand over in Madoch village (Kumi): Deaf children receive turkeys and sheep

Table below shows how the project has progressed over the years.

PBG: Turkeys & Sheep Rearing Project in Rural Eastern Uganda

FAMILY	ASSET DISTRIBUTED	YEAR 1 (2018)	YEAR 3 (2021)	Remarks
Family 1	Turkeys	3	19	Sold turkeys and upgraded to cattle
	Sheep	2	8	
	Cows	0	1	
Family 2	Turkeys	3	11	Struggling due to animal disease.
Family 3	Turkeys	3	16	One sheep pregnant
	Sheep	0	4	
Family 4	Turkeys	3	14	Sold turkeys and upgraded to cattle
	Cows	0	3	

POSITIVE OUTCOMES:

- i. PBG donations translate into quick assets that are converted into cash or exchange for other farm animals. This means that support to families of the deaf is very helpful in meeting immediate and long-term financial needs;
- ii. The project leads to improved attitudes and positive image towards the deaf (previously considered worthless *dependants*). The deaf person is a source of assets and wealth necessary to alleviate poverty and is important for the family's wellbeing;
- iii. The project is an indicator of a Culture of Saving (i.e. use of farm animals as non-monetary assets) to improve livelihoods among families of the deaf;
- iv. Small donations of poultry and/or farm animals are crucial to the wellbeing in African families for they result in social and economic empowerment. Savings is crucial in enabling families gain economic independence to meet their needs;
- v. Skills learnt during the two-years revolving project are vital for increased competencies in farming and management skills;
- vi. Social cohesion formed among families enable them become stronger advocates of the Deaf as they share, experiences, knowledge and information;
- vii. PBG increases visibility of the Deaf within their families and communities as valuable, productive and dignified individuals with skills and knowledge to share.

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The project was extended to the Central region in Mpigi district, Jjeza village where 19 year old Kazibwe Ronald received a female pig. Staff had previously made a home visit to assess his eligibility and the family's capability to rear the animal. It was impressive to find that Kazibwe's parents had purchased a pig for him – indicating their determination to improve the family's economic welfare and increase support for their deaf son during school lockdown, opening avenues for income generation.



Livestock donations: Fifty one turkeys and eight sheep distributed from 2013 to date. A beneficiary in Hoima received a goat (2020) and one in Mpigi (Jjeza) a pig. These animals are kept for income generation and as security in the event of economic need to be traded for cash.

b) Humanitarian Assistance

Extended to the deaf, their families and communities, including interactive meetings to raise awareness on issues affecting the deaf in society. Donations such as, food relief, clothing, farming tools, furniture, etc. are given.



Activities: Family meeting; donations to families of the deaf; PBG pre-handover meeting

When the pandemic broke, DLU began supporting deaf people affected by lockdowns in Uganda through provision of food relief: **DLU's C-19 Response: *Deaf People at the Forefront***. As restrictions continue to affect livelihoods, many deaf people have lost jobs and are excluded in government C-19 Response programmes. To reach out to this minority, we re-defined our work to remain relevant during these difficult times. Working with volunteers in food distribution activities (especially in urban areas). Deaf people have been mobilized to receive donations; in total, 81 individuals have benefited. Although this support is short term, it makes a huge difference to livelihoods. Below are distribution activities: 17 carpenters in Kyebando, 27 deaf employees at ²Hariss International (Riham) and Biplous Uganda Limited.



Humanitarian support: C-19 food distribution to Deaf employees: Harris & Biplous

IV DEAF RIGHTS & ADVOCACY

RESEARCH: *Deaf People's Survey*: Due to lack of data on the deaf, DLU undertook pilot surveys in three regions: Kampala, Gomba and Kyegegwa districts to obtain information on the deaf and their experiences during the pandemic. Surveys were done by a deaf person and in total sixty (60) deaf individuals (20 in each region) took part. Short term needs included food supplies, while long-term needs were related to employment (i.e. startup capital) and support for skills training. The surveys will lead to interface meetings with participants to support formation of

² Hariss international is a foods and beverages company; Biplous Uganda Limited is a leading producer of furniture in Uganda. The two sister companies employ a total of 27 deaf people

Deaf Communities with shared experiences. The survey reveals the need to address challenges affecting deaf people during the pandemic, as well as problems of isolation, violence, lack of access to information (i.e. on C-19 and vaccination, etc.) language and communication barriers.

EVENTS

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ART & CRAFTS EXHIBITIONS: Despite the challenges, 2021 had a number of positive outcomes and highlights as a result of a hard working staff team - consistent in its determination to reach out to the Deaf Community during the second year of the pandemic. Having secured a strong foundation in our working relationship with GZK/UCGS, we were selected and invited as a vendor at the first ever Christmas Book Fair that brought together artists from Uganda and East Africa. The event gave us a platform to widen our networks, connecting us to new partners. DLU invited participants of the previous Art workshops to exhibit and sell their art and crafts. The fair was attended by several vendors, with an exciting programme that included poetry & book reading, music performances and numerous other activities, creating a Christmas atmosphere of joy and fellowship at Central Perk in Bukoto (a Kampala suburb) and most of all raising **Ugx 1,005,000/-** in Art and Crafts sells.

i. Christmas Book Fair



DLU invitation as a vendors at the 1st ever Christmas Book Fair organised by Goethe-Zentrum Kampala/Ugandan German Cultural Society at Central Perk, Bukoto - Kampala. Activities include panel discussions, live performances, poetry and music, display and sale of art & crafts by various vendors and artists. 11 December 2021

DLU is enjoying a fruitful partnership with GZK as Sina Weber states: *"Thanks so much for your kind words and sharing the DLU report with us. It's amazing what you have achieved this year despite the pandemic – we are happy about the growing cooperation between GZK and DLU. To us, we have experienced a fruitful partnership getting to know sign language and engaging with the deaf artists' community. It was an amazing experience and we are looking forward to 2022."* **Sina Weber** - GZK Project Coordinator

ii. Buganda Day of Persons with Disabilities



Buganda Kingdom organised its 1st ever Day of Persons with Disabilities to celebrate and raise awareness about their potentials and diversity. The event held at Bulange, Mengo – Kampala was graced by The Katikkiro (Kingdom Prime Minister) Charles Peter Mayiga (Chief Guest). As a vendor, DLU exhibited arts and crafts made by Deaf Artists during the course of the year on 15 December 2021

PARTNERSHIPS & NETWORKS

I. Ugandan German Cultural Society/Goethe Zentrum – Kampala (UGCS/GZK)

Partnership formed to the inclusion of Deaf artists in UGCS/GZK programmes. The organisation gave Ugx 5,000,000/- towards two Art Workshops, providing additional resources and space for these events and promoting visibility of Deaf Artists on Uganda's Creative Art Scene. Interaction of deaf and hearing artists is resulting in greater appreciation of deaf artists' talents;

II. Disabilities in Wales & Africa (DWA)

Lack of information about disabled persons' experiences during the pandemic resulted in their exclusion, increased vulnerability, exploitation, neglect and abuse. In collaboration with DLU, we documented unique challenges faced by deaf people through the **Tell You Story (TYS)** project collecting footage from their personal experiences, compiled in seven short documentaries that highlight the negative impact of the C-19 pandemic on their lives, providing insight into their isolation and victimisation. Although many are trying to overcome the challenges, there are long-term effects on livelihoods, especially for young deaf children. The pandemic has rolled back years of progress in education and other areas of development. *Documentaries are available on DLU's ³website and YouTube channel.*

ADMINISTRATION: DLU intervention services towards deaf people, their families and communities have had a positive impact on their lives, improving their welfare particularly during the last two years of global health emergency. Our programmes have reached out to diverse communities. However, constrained finances continue to impact seriously on our human resource

³ www.deaflinkuganda.org

– limited number of staff results in a heavy work load. Only one staff member is employed on full time basis, the others (3) work part-time and four (4) volunteers. It means we cannot accomplish our goals of reaching out to more deaf people. Programme monitoring and supervision is affected. Our sources of funds mainly from individuals and partners are limited, and also not sustainable. Nevertheless, we commend the continued financial support we receive, which has made a significant difference to the lives of many deaf individuals, their families and communities. We are grateful to the generosity and commitment of our funders, for their continued interest in DLU's services. These financial contributions are invaluable. We're therefore, indebted to our Friends and Partners for reaching out to DLU to remain afloat, particularly during the last two years. Special thanks to your generosity over the years. In recognition to our donors and friends who wish to remain anonymous, I extend special thanks to all individuals and the following organisations: Stewardship Giving Services (UK), KFUK-KFUM (YMCA/YWCA) Bromma, Södra (Sweden), Deaf Link Uganda/USA, InterAction – Sweden, KFUM – Heby (Sweden), Y's Men's Club International – Järfälla (Sweden), Indoor Energy AB – Sweden, Goethe Zentrum Kampala/Ugandan German Cultural Society (GZK/UGCS) and Disabilities in Wales & Africa. Thank you for enabling our work and believing in DLU! Special thanks is extended to DLU staff and Board of Directors for their tremendous input in 2021. Working with limited resources did not deter staff for continuing to serve the Deaf: This is a commendable Sacrifice!

THANK YOU from all of Us!



DLU-Eastern (PBG): Handover of livestock (Madoch village – Kumi)

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31 March 2022