



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



INSPIRE | TRAIN | PREPARE

Foreword

We are grateful to the Lord for granting us yet another successful year, despite the challenges at global and country level, we have some strides.

We have seen more youths attend school; a rebuild of their social and spiritual life. God has continued to provide for the Organization.

We present to you the work we undertook in 2023. This work run across; Boys to Men, Literacy Catch Up, Siyabonga and Tagged Conversations Programs. We present the successes, challenges and opportunities.



Introduction:

Youth Consult Uganda is a youth led Organization with a mission to;Inspire, train and prepare young people for a holistic transformation to take advantage of the opportunities in leadership, education and business. Youth Consult was founded in 2018 by a team of young people with different backgrounds in business, leadership, education and the arts. The desire of this team was to create a platform where youth can sharpen their skills to make decisions and drive change in their own lives and communities where they live. Since inception, Youth Consult has extended mentorship, volunteer opportunities, leadership, entrepreneurial training and new pathways to present and future opportunities to young people in Wakiso and Butambala Districts.

Vision:

To see a generation of young people ignited and committed to explore and live their God given potential.

Mission:

Inspire, Train and Prepare young people for a holistic transformation to take advantage of the opportunities in leadership, education and business.

Values:

- **Love** – *To love God, self and Others*
- **Stewardship** - *Critically look at what God has put in our hands in order to mentor, nurture and disciple.*

Program Delivery Approach:

- Local and evidence based
- Experience, innovation and creativity
- Demand driven solutions

Our 2023 Programs:

- Boys to Men (BOTOM)
- Literacy Catch Up
- Siyabonga
- Tagged Conversations

SYNOPSIS OF WHAT TRANSPIRED IN RESPECTIVE PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

Boys To Men (BOTOM)

About the Program

The program Launched on 10 February 2023 with the purpose of addressing core values of the boy child. The focus is on mindset change and imparting strategies that enable the boy child address and circumvent the day-to-day challenges. Since inception, the program has focused on coming up with interventions that address challenges faced by the boy child. This has touched the fabric of the boy child in terms of mindset change and real time solutions..

Objectives

- Train and impact boy child into responsible citizens in Uganda with a global mindset.
- Give the boy child a second chance in order to redeem himself for something better in society and at a personal level.
- Work with boys to build and amplify their skills in the local and global working community to create more job opportunities.

BOTOM Activities in 2023

In pursuance of helping the boys, several activities were undertaken. To streamline coordination and communication, the project team established a WhatsApp group. Below we highlight activities undertaken through the year.

- Conducted group discussion sessions
- Planning meetings
- BOTOM gathering Edition 1
- Mobilization

Highlights of the BOTOM EVENT

The 24th November event purposed to create a free space for the boys to discuss issues and generate solutions within their grouping. We brought in men mentors who imparted words of wisdom to the young boys. To create a good and free discussion environment, the training took place at Viska Resort with good ambience..



Select members of the program



The boys in a brainstorming session

The key discussion point was on identity but split in a series of sub themes. The facilitators provided insights on each theme before they delved into discussion. In these sessions, the boys were able to freely speak out and figure out solutions. In the course of discussing, the boys asked a series of lifestyle questions which the facilitator ably answered.

BOTOM Program Achievements

- A free space for the boys to engage and discuss is in place.
- The boys are willingly opening up and sharing their challenges as well as generating solutions.

Challenges encountered by the Program

In the course of delivering the BOTOM Program, we encountered some challenges these as highlighted below:

- It was not easy to mobilize the boys due to the negative attitude towards boy child mentorship.

- Working with the boys is sometimes a daunting task, oftentimes they would come in late and this contributed to some delays.

Recommendations going forward

- Intense mobilization for increase in the boys mentored.
- Increase visibility and make the program more attractive to the boys.
- Increase on the number of facilitators to conduct the various topics issues.

BOTOM 2024 Goals

We have set sight on a number of goals for 2024:

- One boys session per month.
- Increased visibility and awareness about the program.
- Increase mobilization.
- Engage more male mentors.
- Widen the engagement free space for the boys to freely share.

THE LITERACY CATCHUP PROGRAM

Introduction:

The Literacy Catchup Program launched in January 2022 and officially closed in November 2023. Youth Consult together with Open Schools Worldwide (OSWW) conceived the Program. The purpose of the program was to accelerate learning of children who had failed to go back to school after end of COVID – 19 pandemic in Uganda. To realize the purpose, the program focused on; imparting numeracy, literacy, bible and a series of life skills. A combination of these culminated into knowledge enhancement and improved communication. The design was to have the classes twice a week for two hours each day for the young children and five days (Monday to Friday) for the teenagers. Initially, the Youth Consult Team would travel to Butambala but due to the cost implications, management decided to hire two permanent resident teachers who taught up to program closure.

The program has registered immediate benefits for example, the children have had their hope rekindled, confidence enhanced, self-esteem built and made new friends. In the lifetime of the program, over 100 students have benefitted. The program targeted ages

ranging from three to eighteen years. Some of these enrolled back into the formal school structure.

Program purpose:

The catch up program purposed to rekindle hope of the children of Butambala to have another chance of rejoining school after the COVID – 19 aftermath. To deliver on this, Youth Consult initially targeted 60 young children and teenagers from Kiyonsa, Lugala, and Lusanja villages in Budde sub county, Butambala District.

Activities undertaken:

We undertook a series of activities, these included; parent's meetings, tutors training, home visits, sports/games days, movie days, classes, assessments and close out day. Below we expound on these activities:

■ Parents' meetings:

The first parents meeting took place on 27 April 2023. Purpose of this meeting was to get feedback from the parents about their



A Parents Meeting in session.



Trained Tutors received certificates.

children's progress and for Youth Consult to respond to any queries from the parents.

The second parents' meeting took place on 31 October 2023. Purposed to inform the parents about the closure of the program at the end of the year and establishment of the nursery and vocation schools at the beginning of the year 2024.

■ Training Tutors:

Tutors training took place on 1st to 3rd May 2023 at Suubi Africa Youth Offices and facilitated by Open Schools Worldwide. This aimed at equipping tutors with capacity to deliver the literacy and numeracy curriculum. Three teachers were trained including; Maria, Ian and Regina. Following this training, there has been great improvement in handling and teaching of the children.

■ Home visits:

In the course of interacting with the children, we noticed that some would come in shabbily dressed. Many did not have shoes and others



Home Visits

had torn shoes. This necessitated a home visit to establish where these children came from. The team planned for a home visit and they were able to get to grips with the situation at homes of the children. These visits were useful to the team in terms of coming up with the best approaches of handling the children. Six (6) home visits undertaken with eleven (11) children visited.

Because of the home visits, children received help in form of clothing. Specifically three of the eleven children received clothing. This gesture brought so much joy and put a smile on the children's faces as well as their parents.

■ Sports/Games Days:

It was imperative to create some fun for the children. Every term, a sports/games day was organized. Through sports and games, children got platform to show case their dancing skills for example. This has also been very helpful in strengthening the bond between the children and the teachers.

■ Movie days:

The project team Organized two movie days for the children. Children watched the movies: Matilda and Home Alone. On top of learning, the children and teachers greatly enjoyed watching the movies. This served as a good break from the rigors of class.



Sports & Games create fun for the children



Children watched Matilda and Home Alone during the Movie Days.



Children attending Classes and doing assessment exercises provided by YOUTH.

■ Classes:

We conducted classes for all the children spread in three classes. Lower class comprised ages 4 to 7, middle class 7 to 12 years and teenagers 13 to 18 years. The year had three terms: term one ran from 07th/Feb/2023 to 4th/May/2023, term two from 30th/May/2023 to 24th/Aug/2023 and term three from 19th/Sep/2023 to 23rd /Nov/2023. The lower and middle classes have been having their lessons for the two days; Tuesdays and Thursdays and the upper class has been having its lessons from Monday to Friday.

■ Progress Assessments:

Like any other intervention, it is important to assess progress. The team deemed it fit to assess progress of the children in numeracy and literacy skills. Team conducted assessments at end of each term. Teachers used the findings to support children improve.

■ Literacy Catchup Closure:

The program closed this year. At closure, the team delivered gift hampers to the children's homes, watched movies and ate lunch together. The children were happy to receive a gift.

The program has registered immediate benefits for example, the children have had their hope rekindled, confidence enhanced, self-esteem built and made new friends.



The YOUTH team delivered gift hampers to the children's homes

Key Achievements:

During the one year of delivering the program, we registered some achievements as captured below:

- We managed to hire a second teacher
- We undertook six home visits of the children in the program
- Literacy and numeracy skills of the children were improved
- Some children were able to go back to school

Challenges encountered

The program did not register significant challenges save for;

- Initially there was not enough work force in form of teachers.
- The operational costs were high because the team had to move Butambala every week.

Next course of action

The program is transitioning into a nursery school in 2024 with baby class. The target is to start with 40 children.



SIYABONGA

About the Program

Siyabonga is a child sponsorship program of Youth Consult Uganda. It launched in 2009 by Siyabonga Milele Africa and was taken over by Youth Consult in 2021. The Program initially supported eighteen (18) children with their educational needs. Currently, the Program has 21 young people benefitting.

Spotlighting the Siyabonga beneficiaries from Institutions of higher learning

■ Wanyana Carol

Is one of the students that Siyabonga started with in 2009, from primary; she is now offering a degree in education at Makerere University. She will complete her studies in 2024.



BEFORE



AFTER

■ Kebirungi Shivan

She is currently a nursing student at Lubaga Nursing School. She is among the first students of Siyabonga and had a dream of becoming



BEFORE



AFTER

a nurse. The dream has come to fruition. She says; *"I love helping others, this is the drive to becoming a nurse. I will provide care to many people. This is my call from God. I extend thanks to the sponsors and Youth Consult administration for the support extended to me."*

■ Kayuki Elijah

Is also one of the first Siyabonga students, He is currently doing a Diploma in Physical Planning at the Institute of Survey and Land Management. Elijah is in his last semester of studying, he will be graduating next year.



BEFORE



AFTER

■ Ssebuufu Enock

Is studying to become a professional chef at Biira Vocational Institute. His dream is to have a continental restaurant with an outside catering business that cooks at functions and parties. He is also doing his final year of study.



BEFORE



AFTER

■ Ssebuliba Alex Talemwa

He is in his final year and semester studying plumbing at Biira Vocational Institute. He will be graduating next year, 2024.



BEFORE



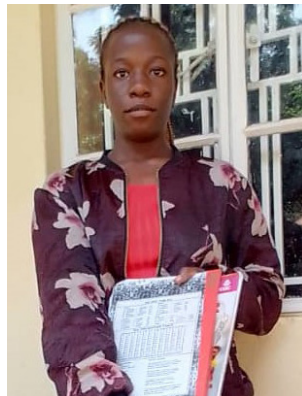
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■ Nakasi Sharon

Right from infancy, she has been in love with numbers. Her desire has always been to join the field of finance. She is currently studying



BEFORE



AFTER

her undergraduate degree in Finance and Accounting at Africa Renewal University.

■ Namirimu Victoria

She is studying a Bachelor of Business Administration in her first year at African Renewal University; she hopes to run her own businesses one day.



BEFORE



AFTER

■ Nalukwago Shilla

Shilla is undertaking her studies at Bukalasa Agricultural College, she is reading for a certificate in Agribusiness. She hopes to apply this knowledge in managing farm businesses.



BEFORE



AFTER

It launched in 2009 by Siyabonga Milele Africa and taken over by Youth Consult in 2021.

■ **Namuwaya Angel**

Is studying cosmetology from Nateete School of Beauty. She is passionate about the course and looking forward to becoming a well-known beautician in Uganda and Africa at large. She will complete training next year.



Flashlight on the sponsored secondary students:

■ **Nabiryo Patience**

Has just sat for her Ordinary Level examinations at St. Margaret's College. Despite having by sickle cells, the Lord has helped her push through her education journey. In two years, she will be done with her secondary education.



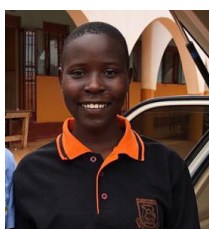
■ **Nanteza Jemimah**

She sat for her Ordinary level examinations this year from St Henrys College Gangu. She has two years to join University. During this vacation, she is helping her parents with household chores.



■ **Namugambe Sharuah**

She has completed secondary school level this year and looks forward to joining University next year. She is a very hard working



young woman. She is grateful to the lord thus far he has brought her.

■ **Ssekamate Eric**

Eric has completed his ordinary level. He has two years left to complete secondary school.



The newly on – boarded students

This year, we managed to bring on board three new students into the program; these are:

■ **Nabbaka Rashidah**

She is a senior three student at St Henry's College Gangu. She joined Siyabonga in 2021; she stays with her grandmother of 93yrs. She was unable to go back to school due to old age of grandmother and lack of financial support. Rashida is a very smart, patient and promising student who hopes to be a Doctor one day so that she can treat and support old people.



■ **Ndagire Ronitah**

She joined the program in 2023 and is currently in senior three. She was previously a participant in a program called Tagged Conversations. She stays with her struggling single mother and her 4 siblings, after she joined secondary school, her mother was no longer able to support all 3 of them through school. Her salon business had collapsed. She has ambitions of becoming an engineer.



■ Ainebyona Calvin Jeff

Calvin is the youngest student in the program. He is in primary five (P.5) at St Sinai Day and Boarding school. Before joining, his 19-year-old brother was trying to push him through school using money earned from his dance shows.

Their mother is in an abusive relationship. The stepfather chased Calvin and his brother out of home. Calvin is happy to be in school and he is doing everything possible to succeed. He aspires to be a computer scientist when he grows up..



TAGGED CONVERSATIONS

About the Program:

Tagged Conversations (T.C) is a program that runs under Youth Consult Uganda with the objective of strengthening youth participation through supportive platforms where they can fully unlock their highest potential from the community to international level. The program launched in 2020 to empower young people whose hope to life had dwindled during COVID – 19 pandemic.

Based on the set targets, the program has been largely successful. At the beginning of year 2023, we had a target of reaching out to 400 participants and by close of the year. We have reached out to 550 from the TC hang out and 110 from the usual sessions held at the office.

Program Aim

Create a safe free environment where all the young people in Uganda can express.

Program Delivery Approach

The Program teams designs topical themes premised on various challenges youths undergo. The youth convene at a central point where discussions ensue in form of brainstorming sessions, counselling and direct delivery by the facilitators.



Topical areas handled in 2023

Some of the topics handled this year comprise;

Topic	Discussion points
Peer/gang involvement	Consequences of gang membership may include exposure to drugs and alcohol, age-inappropriate sexual behavior, difficulty finding a job because of lack of education and work skills, removal from one's family, imprisonment and even death. Remedies include; punitive sanction, counselling, increasing adult supervision and training in conflict resolution.

Topic	Discussion points
Debate on access to birth control products by youth	Studies show that preventing teens from getting contraceptives unless they tell a parent will not stop teenagers from having sex. It will just drive them away from the services they need to protect themselves, leading to higher rates of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV. For these reasons, the leading medical organizations oppose laws that would require teens to involve their parents before they can get contraception.
Choice of religions – Is it personal decision or parents' choice?	Religion's influence extends beyond personal beliefs, touching areas as disparate as personal relationships, career choices, morality and ethics, political beliefs, healthcare choices, and financial decisions. Understanding the importance individuals place on religion aids in comprehending their decision-making processes.
Equity and Equality	Equality means each individual or group of people access the same resources or opportunities. Equity recognizes that each person has different circumstances and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome. Being equitable means accounting for varied circumstances and allocating the exact resources and opportunities to each person needs to receive an equal outcome.
Debate whether children thrive in a two parent's family.	Children are more likely to thrive— behaviorally and academically, and ultimately in the labor market and adult life—if they grow up in a two parent home.
Memories and life events	They educate us about people and place, the values of our community and what we hold dear in our city, region or even worldwide. Events create memories.
Possessions and money	It is not wise to put love of money before your love for God. Hebrews 13:5 points out; "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
Emotions and dreams	Dream experience (DE) represents a fascinating condition linked to emotional processes and the human inner world. Dreams could represent a sort of simulation of reality, providing the possibility to create a new scenario with emotional mastery elements to cope with dysphoric items included in nightmares.
Lifestyle	Sharing focused on; habits, attitudes, tastes, moral Standards, economic level, etc. These constitute the mode of living of an Individual or group.
Passion and Potential	Most people use the word "passion" to describe powerful feelings that show extreme desire or unbounded enthusiasm. Passion is willingness to suffer for what you love.
Personal Development	Participants have an understanding that, personal development is a phrase that refers to activities designed to improve talents, potential, employability, and even wealth. Any time you are consciously making an effort to improve yourself, you are participating in personal development.

Other areas of training comprised; talents and skills build up, ethics management, business idea, time and activations, peer pressure, power of a parent, on screen violence and identity in God. In the last half of the year, focus was on; social media and Christianity, morals, mental health, morals and trust.

We acknowledge the facilitators who included; Ian, Eddie, Sandra, Maria, Irene and Steshire for the great work done.

TC Hangout

This was a mega party for the Tagged Conversations on 1 September 2023. To mobilize participants, teams undertook advertisements in schools and hanged posters by the roadside. This culminated into 550 participants for the day. The hangout topical discussions focused on; drugs sex and fame. A panel session moderated by Steshire Buyinza provided insights and clarity on the various topical discussions.

Games Day

During each cohort, we undertook a series of games and sports activities. These ranged from swimming, dancing amongst others. At climax, the youths partook of a sumptuous meal.

TC Gala

This year, we prepared a dance gala where we got an amazing number of young people. Initially we expected around 50(maximum) but 110 attended. The young people displayed their various talents. The TC dance crew joined in.



Youths engage in Team building Exercises during the TC Hangout.



Some of the youth participants in the Games Day



Youths practice dance routines during the TC Gala.

Challenge encountered

The delay in registration process affected easy penetration of the schools. We strongly believe that this will come easy in 2024 because we have the legal mandate.

TC focus in 2024

- Extend the program to more schools depending on the resources envelope. This is aimed at influencing young people in; leadership, business and life skills.
- Develop a robust training strategy that addresses the emerging needs and trends of the young people in Uganda.
- Strengthen collaboration with the local leadership and parents. This will enable effective delivery of the TC program.

TC Action Plan

Objective(s)		Action Area	Timeline	Responsibility
1.	To equip participants with life skills and solutions to their challenges.	Reaching out to more facilitators	February, 2024	Steshire
		Developing Topics	February, 2024	Sandra, Irene & Eddie
2.	Expand the program to new areas	Recruit more schools and youth into the Program	February, 2024	All TC leaders
3.	Management Strengthening	Recruiting T.C representatives in the Schools	February, 2024	Irene, Eddie, Sandra and Collins
		Development and Sign recruitment forms with the appointed representatives.	February, 2024	Steshire and Maria

Overall action areas for Youth Consult in 2024

- Organize capacity-training sessions for the Youth Consult Program/Project Teams.
- Develop collaboration and partnerships with other like-minded Organizations and stakeholders.
- Accelerate resources mobilizations to enable the projected expansion and increase in number of beneficiaries.

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