

AFFCAD IMPACT & MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORIES



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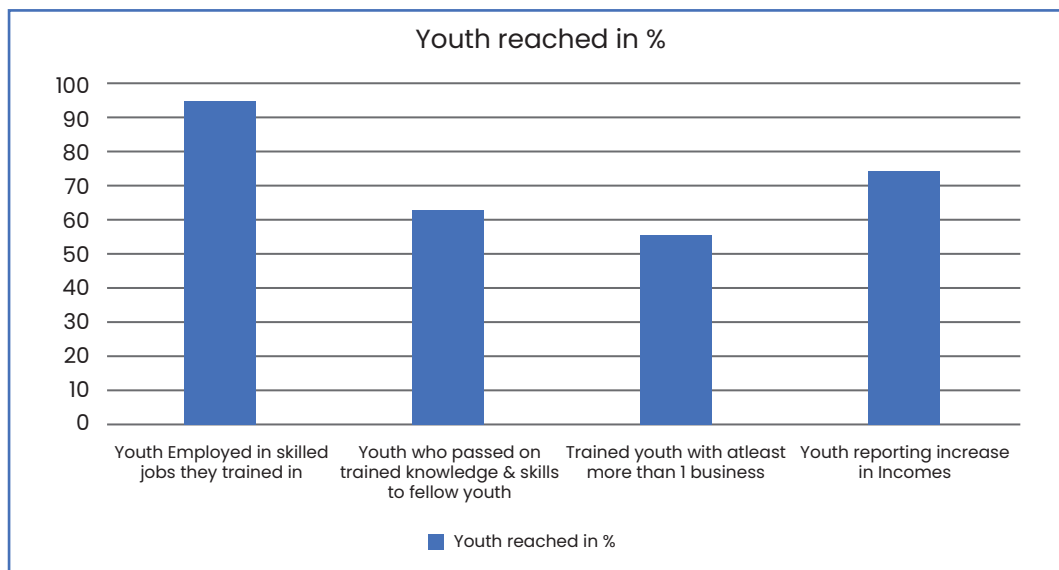
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1. OUR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IMPACT

Our Economic Empowerment programming focuses on equipping youth with vocational and entrepreneurship skills to enable them either get employed or start their own business enterprise to thrive out of poverty thus sustainable and dignified lives.

- 95% of our graduates are employed in jobs where they are using skills attained at ABVI.
- 63% of graduates have passed the knowledge and skills gained during training to their peers and community members.
- 56% of Graduates have at least 1 business at exit.
- 75% of graduates experience an increase in income.



1.1 OUR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORIES

A story from **NAMAGANDA AISHA**, a beneficiary of the Economic Empowerment projects

'I was at home frustrated, broke and without any source of income when I heard about the opportunity for a skills development with AFFCAD. There was no second thought about it, I immediately signed up because everything was free, from fees to the training materials.'

My name is Namaganda Aisha I am 33 years old and married, I live in Kawempe, a fashion designer and currently pursuing a bachelor's in social works and social administration at Victoria University in my third year.



I got to know about AFFCAD from a friend in 2014 when I was staying in Bwaise. Later, I was informed that they were mobilizing students under one project that was funded by U.S. Embassy; I learned that the project was supporting youth staying in urban low-income communities. I was supported in a six-months Tailoring and Fashion Designing course, the training was free including scholastic materials, supported us in internship and startup capital for business which business has provided a platform AFFCAD trainees. AFFCAD also offered me an opportunity to become a certified business coach and I support people on how they can start and manage their businesses.

I have seen my former students/trainees start up their own thriving businesses. I was unemployed, broke with no direction but now, I train not less than 20 students per year in different skills, I've got the money because I wasn't working for free, I've been able to start up this business (own training center). I'm also a certified business coach, I coach people on how they can start businesses and how they can manage their businesses, and I have also been able to go to the university. I stand for over 6,000 youths that have gone through the same trainings at AFFCAD. All these would not be possible if it wasn't for AFFCAD.

I want to build a clothing brand named, K Aisha's wear. I want to see K. Aisha's wear known internationally and see my community empowered and skilled but most importantly, I want to see the young people empowered and skilled. So many people who were part of the project in the community were given machines by AFFCAD and are still there working.

A story VICTORIA NAKATUMBA a beneficiary of the Economic Empowerment project

'AFFCAD got me out of the urban low-income communities of Bwaise where I had lost all hope and restored my life into a decent young girl who is living her dream of hair dressing'



My name is Victoria Nakatumba, a resident of Tebuyoleka in Bwaise. I am 23 years old, single, and studied up to senior 4 (Secondary). I used to live in the Bwaise an urban low income community in a small house with my mother and 5 siblings. I helped my mother run a retail grocery shop together with my siblings, after my Universal Certificate Education (senior 4), I dropped out of school because she could not afford to have me in school anymore.

Life in the urban low Income communities is characterized by prostitution, drug abuse, theft and generally insecurity. These mainly affect youth and girls end up in early marriages and teenage pregnancies. Majority of Victoria's agemates are teenage mothers and this scared her a lot. During the times while she was at her mother's shop, older men would ask her to go out with them. Victoria stand for a hundreds of girls who go through the same situation while growing up in urban low income communities that we serve.

Victoria recalls that, in 2021, while she was at the shop with her mother, some staff from AFFCAD came and informed them that they were looking for youth to be enrolled in vocational training. Her mother asked whether they were supposed to pay any money as she was unable to. The lady from AFFCAD informed her mother that there was no payment required and all she needed was permission from her to let her daughter join and she accepted. After 3 weeks, Victoria joined and selected the hair dressing course. The course was for 3 months, and she graduated.

During the course, I was able to acquire entrepreneurship skills, record keeping skills, business, and customer care skills. After the course completion, I was provided with salon equipment such as dryers, chairs, shampoo, hair food, salon mirrors and counter shelves. I met other youth who were part of the training and later started business with one of them. However, I was disappointed when the girl disappeared with all the equipment that had been given to me. Later i competed and won a set of salon equipment that I am using to date and has completely turned my life around. As a result of the salon business, I am now able to pay rent worth 200,000 shillings (\$54), I have employed a staff whom I pay 100,000 shillings per month (\$27), I am able to save 20,000 shillings (\$5.4) per week as well as send my mother financial support for my siblings.

Most of my agemates tell me that I am lucky to have such an opportunity and I always encourage them to look out for opportunities instead of getting married or becoming a teenage parent. I stand for over 661 youths that have been supported with Small business startups (Enterprise support and growth). 'The training at AFFCAD has completely changed my life, I always wanted to do hair dressing, a passion that AFFCAD has enabled me to achieve, thank you so much AFFCAD'



A story from **ROBERT MUTESASIRA** a beneficiary of the Economic Empowerment project

In 2014, when I joined AFFCAD, I was 18 years old. We never had support from anywhere as young people living in Bwaise. We never had opportunities to study these technical skills, and back then when you are seen opting for vocational technical studies, you were considered a failure.

My name is Robert Mutesasira, I'm 28 years old, and I'm married with two daughters. My level of education is senior 6, (Advanced secondary level certificate), The certificate which I have is from AFFCAD.

When I joined AFCCAD in 2014, I was a school dropout. I had dropped out after senior two (secondary level), So, when I heard a community drive announcing skills training bursaries, I followed up for registration. At that time, I had the passion to cook. I dropped out of kimwanyi group, which was a group of youth moving round fighting and beating people, doing bad behaviors around the community.

AFFCAD made us the youth realize the potential we had inside us and so, it made me think that I should go back to school. After completing vocational training, I was able to return to school in 2015 at St. John's High School where I completed the advanced level certificate exams. AFFCAD called us again for the first intake trainees to get back so that we can do a Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT).


I shopped my first items, my first capital for the business. I bought plates, saucepans, cutlery, and cups.

A few months later, they brought us more items that we had listed down. They gave us capital and we started a restaurant with a friend in Kawempe. The restaurant never worked out because it was a new idea, but we kept on moving. We decided to change the idea from a restaurant to outside catering because we had more experience in catering.

Outside catering worked for us since we did not have the rent burden; we got jobs from this approach. Now together with my friend, we employ about 10 youths in the business directly and about 15 of them indirectly. In good season, we make about 1.500,000 in profit per month and in a bad season, we can make a minimum of 700.000 in profit per month.

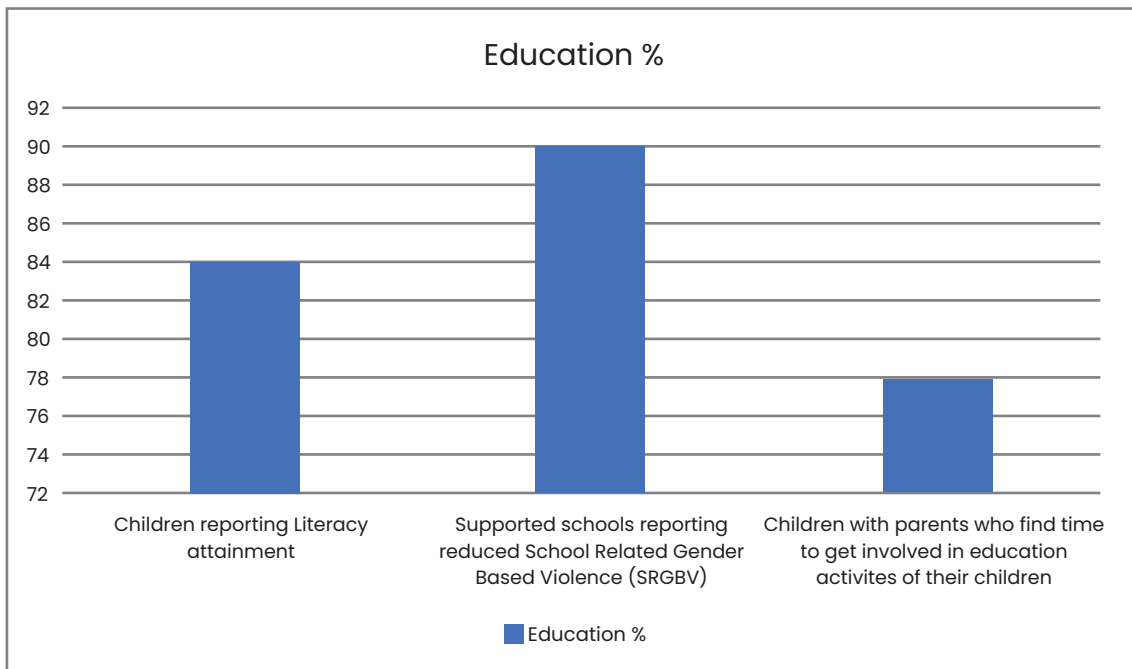
I'm now a youth leader, I changed a lot and I have improved myself because of these opportunities which were offered by AFFCAD. I can now afford to rent a house and employ more youths. Robert represents over 6,114 youth who have gone through the ranks at AFFCAD since inception in 2009

2. OUR EDUCATION IMPACT



Our education programing aims at improving education outcomes for children from urban low income communities through provision of quality education and building capacities of supported schools on prevention of violence against children by addressing school related gender based violence (Bullying, corporal punishments and sexual harassment). We contribute to retention in schools. Our M&E data indicate;

- 84% of learners at AFFCAD schools have attained literacy and numeracy skills
- 90% of government supported schools we work with have reduced incidences of school related gender based violence (bullying, sexual harassment and Corporal Punishment)
- 78% of parents engage in the school related activities



2.1 OUR EDUCATION MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORIES

A story from **NANTEGE NUSFAH** a beneficiary of the Education projects

'If it had not been for this project, I think I would have become pregnant or would be married like most of my agetates who have not benefited' Nusfah.



My name is Nantege Nusfah, 21 years old, single and no children. I live in Nakamiru zone Bwaise II. I am a teacher by profession and teach baby, middle and top classes at the AFFCAD School where I have been teaching for the last 3 years. I represent over 1257 learners who have gone through AFFCAD School.

Before the AFFCAD intervention, I had dropped out of school in primary two due to lack of school fees. My mother is a poor single parent and was unable to pay for my education. My father passed away while I was still young. One day, AFFCAD visited my mother and identified her as one of the beneficiaries of their education project. I was taken to Excel Education Centre where i studied Primary three

(3) and four (4) and later Liberty Education Centre where i completed my primary seven (7).

After completing my education, i later returned as a nursery schoolteacher. As a result of my employment, I am able to receive salary that helps take care of my personal needs, I am able to save, support my mother and I am pursuing a certificate in Early Childhood Development. In addition, I talk to young girls about the benefits of education and encourage them to look for opportunities where they can study and become independent. I love children so much and teaching them at the tender age makes my life complete, says Nusfah.

A story from NAKANDI HADIJJA PAULINE a beneficiary of the Education projects



‘I really want to thank my sponsor for paying my school fees and I want them to help pay school fees for other children who are on streets’.

My name is Nakandi Hadijja Pauline in senior two at Uganda Martyrs’ high school-Rubaga. I joined this secondary school from Mivule primary school and AFFCAD has been paying my tuition since primary three. Before AFFCAD started supporting my school fees, i attended Boston primary school.

My mother got to learn that AFFCAD was registering girls residing in Bwaise to enroll for school. Before AFFCAD offered to pay my fees, I used to miss classes because of unpaid school fees, at times because of school requirements because my mother could not afford. My mother would cry all the time about being unable to pay my school fees. I appreciate that AFFCAD chose Uganda Martyrs because it teaches a lot of co-curricular activities compared to the school I was studying from.

We learn other skills like baking, band, music, soap making and ICT practical studies. The support I am receiving from AFFCAD is contributing to me realizing my dream of becoming a civil engineer.

A story from the Head teacher Mbogo Muslim Primary school a beneficiary of the Education project

Senyunja Jamil is a head teacher at Kawempe Mbogo Muslim Primary School where he has been teaching at the school for 2 years. He is married with children. Through the district education offices, he came into contact with AFFCAD staff who told him about what the organization does.

After that interaction, the staff came back after a month and carried out a survey to establish the needs of the school. During the process, they realized that the school had many orphans and vulnerable children as well as learners with disabilities.

One of the immediate needs that was discovered during the survey was congestion. 7 pupils were occupying a desk that was planned for 3 pupils. AFFCAD was able to supply 40 desks to the school. Due to the support, congestion has reduced, performance of the pupils has improved as they are able to sit comfortably, and the school administration was appreciative of the support.

The total number of enrollments is 1,130 against the ideal of 965 with an ideal sitting capacity of 3 pupils per desk.

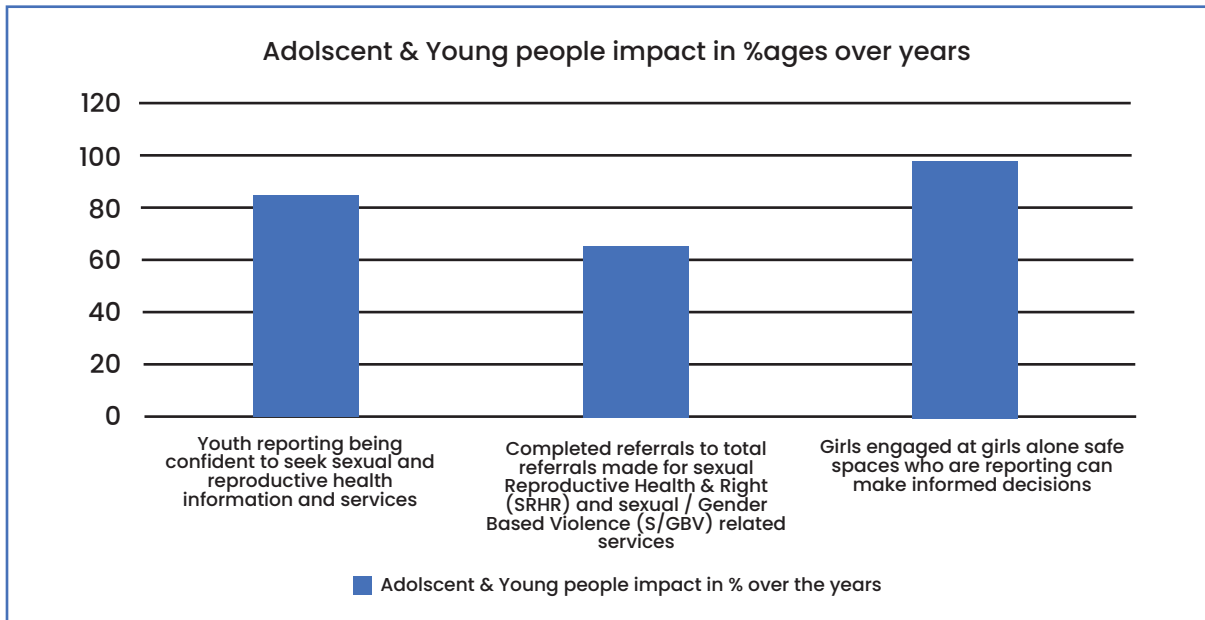
The children with disabilities are able to sit for long and attend class with less interruption. AFFCAD support contributes a lot to learning outcomes especially on enrollment and retention of learners. We continue to work with new needs, but we are in a better place.



3. Our Health Impact

Our health program focuses on ensuring young people’s access to integrated Sexual Reproductive Health & Right (SRHR) and Sexual/Gender Based Violence (S/GBV) related services. Over 2,000 (676 males, 581 females) have been reached while 360 girls alone safe spaces have been empowered over the year. Impact report indicate;

- i. 85% of youth are confident to seek sexual and reproductive health information and services
- ii. 65% of completed referrals to total referrals made for Sexual Reproductive Health & Right (SRHR) and Sexual/Gender Based Violence (S/GBV) related services
- iii. 98% of the girls engaged at girls alone safe spaces can make informed decisions



3.1 OUR HEALTH MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORIES

A story from Mary a beneficiary of the Health projects at the girls alone safe spaces





I'm **Nakabiito Mary** aged 18 years "I could not talk in public; but in the Safe Space, everyone is given an opportunity to talk and that is how I gained my self-confidence. We adolescent and young people living in urban low income communities' face many challenges ranging from teenage pregnancies, school dropouts, and sexual harassment among others. But with support from AFFCAD health programs, we are empowered to make informed life choices. I can now relate with other girls and boys from the same village." For me adolescent girls and young women accessing sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender based violence (GBV) related services is a dream come true because I do not want to have children at this age Thank you AFFCAD.

A story from Rachel a beneficiary of the Health projects at the girls alone safe spaces



THRIVING AMIDST A STORM

Nalule Racheal is an eighteen-year-old adolescent girls from Mukalazi Safe Space in Kawempe Division. Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Racheal dropped out of school in senior four due to lack of school fees. Living with her grandmother, she had no option but to start working in her

grandmother's restaurant.

A peer mentor from her safe space told her about an opportunity for free vocational training and she applied. "Electronics has always been a passion of mine. I like doing jobs that many feel that women can not do so when I was selected for electronics, I was very happy," Nalule recalls. She underwent vocational training in Electronic Installation and Repairs under the Adolescent Girls Power Program (AGPP) funded by the Child's Rights and Violence Prevention Fund (CRVPF) implemented by the Central Cluster in Kawempe and Wakiso Districts.

Nalule attended the training for six months and underwent assessment by the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) to attain a professional certificate in her course to which she passed with flying colours. "I am now working with my uncle who is also an electrician, I also fix appliances for people around my home to make some money.

I hope that I will become one of the greatest female electricians done day. I thank CRVPF for believing in girls like me who feel like all hope is lost," Nalule concludes.

A story from Winnie a beneficiary of the Health projects at the girls alone safe spaces



Winnie Nakasango at her work station at Divine Uniforms

“My past trials do not define who I am.” These are the words of **Nakasango Winnie** an eighteen-year-old adolescent girl from Lugoba safe space. Winnie dropped out of school after senior four due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Raised by a single mother, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected her finances hence failing to secure school fees for all her five children. When an opportunity came up for her to acquire a skill in tailoring, she took it up. “ I was seated at home, idle and with nothing to do when the opportunity to enrol for vocational training presented itself and I took it up, ” Winnie recalls.

Fashion has always been her passion and that is why she chose the Tailoring and Fashion Design course. “While undergoing my training in Tailoring and Fashion Design, the integrated program helped me gain confidence through the safe spaces, being able to express myself without fear among other life skills.

It has been a life changing experience for me as currently I am employed.” she says “The confidence I built enabled me to walk up to my employer and ask for a job and I was given one straight away. I am now able to access the basic needs that I might need and to also support my mother to take care of my siblings. I am grateful to CRVPF and the Central Cluster team for always believing in me and proving me with this life changing opportunity.” Tearful Winnie said.

Winnie graduated on 28th April, 2023 and is now a professional Tailor after being assessed and certified by the Directorate of Industrial Training. She is also currently working at Divine Uniforms in Kazo West. She also hope that when she gets enough money, she will be able to enroll and upgrade her qualifications.

A story from Esther a beneficiary of the Health projects at the girls alone safe spaces



ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING IS MY PASSION”

Nabunya Esther is a nineteen-year-old from Mukalazi Safe Space in Mukalazi Zone, Bwaise II Parish in Kawempe division pursuing a level one course in Electrical Installation and Repairs. Despite the fact that she suffers

from autism, she has not let this define her as she remains steadfast in pursuing a career in Electrical Installation and Repairs. Coming from a family of three children, Ester was born with autism but this has not stopped her from pursuing her dreams and aspirations. Nabunya attended school until senior three but after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, my guardian was not able to pay my school fees as she was also struggling financially.

“I joined the Mukalazi safe space after attending one of the sessions that the peer mentor had invited me to attend. This is when I got to know about the program. I found the girls dancing and this attracted me to the safe space and that is when I joined it.” Esther recalls.

She was enrolled for a course in Electrical Installation and Repairs course in March, 2022 as part of the adolescent girls that were enrolled for vocational training in phase one of implementation of the Adolescent Girls Power Program by the Central Cluster. “I would love to become an electrical engineer one day because it is my dream and that is why I chose a course in electrical installation.” Nabunya says. Initially, she was very shy and was not able to express herself but as part of the confidence building component of the program, she has been able to learn how to express herself and be free with her colleagues. “I might be different from everybody else but I do not let this pull be down. I believe that I am a child of God and will achieve all my dreams. I never let the negativity get to me,” Esther states.

On 28th April, 2023 she graduated after completing the modular level training in Electrical Installation and Repairs and has gone an extra mile to enroll back at the institute to upgrade her qualification by pursuing a level one qualification in her field. “Being an electrical engineer is my passion and even though it might take me some time but I believe that I will be one of the best electricians in this country. I would like to thank CRVPF and the Central Cluster for believing in me and providing me with this opportunity and I will not let you down,” says Nabunya.



Who we are?

Action for Fundamental Change and Development (AFFCAD) is a youth focused not for profit Non-Governmental Organization founded in 2009. We exist to provide quality education and skills to young people in vulnerable urban communities in Uganda through four program areas namely; Education, Health, Economic Empowerment with peacebuilding and Advocacy as crosscutting issues.



VISION STATEMENT

"Sustainable and dignified lives for young people in urban communities in Uganda."



MISSION STATEMENT

"To provide quality education and skills to young people in vulnerable urban communities in Uganda."



CORE VALUES

- Service beyond self;
- Teamwork;
- Integrity and accountability;
- Creativity and innovation.



OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- To empower youth with vocational and business skills
- To increase access to quality education for vulnerable children
- To increase young people's access to quality inclusive health care and wellbeing
- To strengthen organizational capacity and development to sustain operations
- Across all three of its programs, AFFCAD also strategically pursues 'Advocacy' by engaging with stakeholders at all levels. This enhances our partnerships and collaborations, optimises resource mobilisation, and strengthens our institutional capacity.



ACTION FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

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