WHY GIRLS AND WOMEN?

The unfortunate reality is that women and girls suffer disproportionately from the burden of extreme poverty: 70% of the world’s extreme poor are women and girls. In Uganda, young women and girls live in a male-dominated society that dictates women’s subordination and economic reliance on men for survival so that it is even harder for them to escape the cycle of extreme poverty. Without equal educational and economic opportunities, girls are never able to fully realize their potential.

When the overall wellbeing of girls is put at the forefront of development interventions, a girl can understand the importance of gaining control over her life. In Uganda, 85% of girls leave school early, resulting to $10 billion lost in potential earnings— which is a massive socio-economic waste at a national level. It is well known that investing in girls early in their development has a ripple effect. Studies show that educated and empowered girls receive better wages, raise healthier and better-educated children, are less likely to experience domestic violence, and contribute to the development of their communities.
ABOUT US

Smart girls was founded in 2012 and officially registered in 2015, we are the leading youth girls-led not for profit organization. Each year we train and support 150 -200 young girls and women in our economical programs and train 20 - 30 peer educators to lead community development initiatives engaging 25-30,000 young people. Vision is to see a nation where girls have self-esteem, engaged, ability to make decisions and create visionary change. Mission is to empower and mentor girls to develop their confidence, life skills and economically improve their ability to realize their dreams and to contribute positive social transformation.

- **Civic Participation:** young girls and women are significant contributors to development processes, resulting in public policy and practice that both supports and is accountable to young people.

- **Livelihoods and Employment:** young girls and women are taking up productive livelihoods and employment opportunities that contribute to their household income and the economies of their communities.

- **Girls Health:** young girls and women are making informed decisions and engaging in safe sexual and reproductive health practices that lead to healthy lives.
OUR PROGRAMS

GIRLS WITH TOOLS BUSINESS SKILLING

The Girls with Tools project hosts 3 months hands-on courses for at least 100 to 200 young women trained in vocational areas like machinery welding, automotive mechanics, Electricity Installation, Carpentry, construction and House Painting with some in Arts and craft like tailoring, basket weaving and so many more. They get additional Workshop trainings that include entrepreneurship, life skills, gender issues and financial Literacy. We partner with local workshops and garages to link the girls with work and we also team them up while we encourage them to save in order to start up their own businesses in these sectors. The courses are paid for the girls that can afford them while the girls that can’t afford apply for a scholarship/bursary. We make sure they are certified by DIT or UBTEB government exam bodies for hands on skills.
Girls With Tools Activities

**Geek Girls**

A project under girls with tools that inspires young girls in school to visualize themselves in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math careers and empowers them to pursue STEM professions. We envision a Uganda where women feel confident to pursue STEM careers and are equally represented in the STEM workforce.

**Girls With Tools Car Service & Washing Bay Business**

A business we have started for our alumni in Mpererwe ku Mbuzzi to give them work after their training and have 30% of the profits go back to enroll more girls in the training.
BUSINESS GIRL MAGIC PROGRAM

A premier and social program for women entrepreneurs, change-makers, go-getters, creatives, industry leaders, and any woman who has a dream and a mission to turn her ideas into reality. Our program equips women with the knowledge, skills, tools and connections to create and grow successful businesses. The ladies after our incubation and events are able to market and sell while they learn from industry experts, network with entrepreneurs and change-makers, discover tools to grow their businesses/startups, and feel empowered to create a positive change.
Coffee Talks

The Girls Coffee Talk is a social bi-monthly event meant to promote positive talk among ladies and girls on issues affecting them within their communities, through empowering each. Girls gain knowledge from a particular topic, listen to inspirational stories from fellow colleagues, and create networks amongst themselves for entrepreneurial and social support. The event involves couch guest speakers that are well-versed with different issues that affect women. Through this, the girls are tasked to empower other girls to impact their lives socially and economically.

Business Girl Magic Market Exhibition

- A two-day event designed for young women who want to progress in their career or business. It provides inspiration, guidance, recruitment opportunities, and business services to level up in their professional journey.
- The event was created to help us market our girls with tools created businesses and other young women businesses in order to increase their sales.
OUR APPROACH

Is bottom-up and holistic, focusing on individual behavior change amongst young girls and women as well as systematic change in livelihood and practice towards a more supportive environment for young girls and women development. We deliver grassroots programs in underserved areas and slums. Leveraging the impact of our former alumni and trainers, we are creating a network of young leaders, supporting them to progress in their careers and be champions of youth-led development. We also support policymakers to engage young people mostly girls in the decisions that affect them. In addition, we partner with other organizations to work more effectively with and for young girls. Smart Girls Head Office is in Mpererwe, but work with several partners in the Eastern and Central Region.
OUR SMART BAGS

Bags4Girls are comprehensive menstrual hygiene kits/back packers with educational programming designed with and for girls in Uganda. We designed this bag for Girls ages 9 to 17 years in rural Uganda that miss up to 8 days of study each school term because they are on their periods, NGOs have provided them with reusable sanitary towels but some still don't use them because they have no sense of confidence of carrying them to and fro school.
SMART BAGS 4 GIRLS

Comprehensive menstrual hygiene kits/back packers with educational programming designed with and for girls in Uganda. A bag is sold/distributed with a pack of reusable pads, MHM Booklet, Pads sowing kit and now a plan to add a solar powered tablet.

3 Types

Recycled Smart Bag
Recycled Solar Smart Bag
Menstrual Toilet Bag
PROJECTS UNDER SMART BAGS4GIRLS

GOOD MEN PROJECT

Project Objective is to enhance the involvement of men most especially the Fathers in their daughters’ lifestyles to empower daughters to be able to stand up for their rights, become self-aware and confident thereby bridging the gender equality and opportunities gaps. Happening Throughout the Year.

ANNUAL FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE FUNDRAISING EVENT

The Father - Daughter Dance is a social annual event meant for fathers to be more involved with, better understand, and support their daughters’ lifestyle, rights and educational needs, to help bridge the equal opportunities gap. All proceeding benefits from products and materials sold will go to buying Smart Bags4girls Happening in December.
OUR IMPACT

THROUGH OUR PROGRAMMES:

• We have 200 girls graduated from the girls with tools, 150 have secured internships. 50 have started their own businesses
• 200 girls have enrolled in the cohort2 for the girls with tools
• 1000 and more girls have been part of our coffee talks and business girl magic market place
• 10,800 smart bags have been supplied in the eastern and central of Uganda from the award we won from UNFPA innovations through Openideo.
• 50 girls are under our global and one on one mentorship, 10,000 and more have benefited from the group mentorships in schools and communities.
• We have over 43 fully paid members that help us in the running of their organizations while they benefit from our mentorship programs.