



Yahona Teklu
interior design class member

ANNUAL REPORT



Message from the Team leader

Dear Friends and Supporters of Raising Gabhdo Foundation,

We are pleased to present our 2021 annual report, which highlights our achievements and progress over the past year. We are proud to report that we have made significant strides towards achieving our mission of empowering communities to improve their livelihoods through sustainable development.

Over the past year, we have continued to work with individuals, families, and communities to create positive change through inclusive, participatory, and collaborative approaches.

We have remained committed to our goal of building resilient, sustainable, and inclusive societies where everyone has a voice and is able to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

Through our various initiatives, we have provided access to resources and tools that promote sustainable development and have empowered communities to take charge of their own futures.

We have also continued to work with integrity, accountability, and transparency, and build partnerships that enable us to achieve our mission.

We are grateful for the support and dedication of our team, partners, and supporters, and we look forward to continuing to work together to create a better world for all. As we move forward, we are excited to take on new challenges and continue to make a positive impact in the communities we serve. Sincerely,



Basemera Sarah
Team Lead
Raising Gabhdo Foundation

Building resilient, sustainable, and inclusive societies where everyone has a voice and is able to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Raising Gabdho Foundation (RGF) is a social enterprise that was established in 2015 and registered with the Uganda Registration Services Bureau in 2016.

The name Gabdho, which means girls in Somali, reflects the organization's commitment to diversity and inclusivity in its approach to serving communities. Since its inception, RGF has been focused on addressing energy poverty by promoting access to affordable and renewable energy solutions in both urban and rural areas.

Over the years, RGF has worked tirelessly to provide last-mile communities with access to clean and reliable energy, with a particular focus on informal settlements and underserved areas.

RGF'S now has 7 program areas which include: Livelihood, sustainable agriculture, environment, renewable energy, Water sanitation and hygiene, Green Lens

The RGF way.

At Raising Gabdho Foundation (RGF), our values are rooted in sustainability and go beyond just program outcomes. We are dedicated to supporting the most vulnerable communities in Uganda, including refugees and the host community, who face challenges such as poverty, resource scarcity, and marginalization.

Our approach prioritizes working in areas where our experience and expertise can make the greatest impact, particularly in those affected by poverty and

climate change.

This focused approach has contributed to our success. Our decisions are guided by a clear strategy and a set of principles that emphasize sustainability, gender equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Areas where we worked in 2021

Yumbe

Arua

Kampala

Kilyandongo

Mission

Our mission is to empower communities to improve their livelihoods by providing access to resources and tools that promote sustainable development.


We strive to promote economic growth, enhance social and environmental well-being, and build resilient communities.

Vision

We envision empowered communities that are resilient, sustainable, and inclusive, where everyone has a voice and is able to participate in the decisions that affect their lives. We are committed to working towards this vision with passion, dedication, and a deep sense of responsibility to the communities we serve.”

Goal

Our goal is to work with individuals, families, and communities to create positive change through inclusive, participatory, and collaborative approaches. We are committed to working with integrity, accountability, transparency, and building partnerships that enable us to achieve our mission.”



Impact dashboard 2021

500 Homes powered with the zeed energy smart kit: solar home system, fireless slow cooking basket, improved cook stove and 50kgs of briquettes.

530 households powered with the Zeed energy kitchen kit: fireless slow cooking basket and improved cookstove.

50 people trained in sustainable livelihood skills. Supported the off-grid voices campaign

5 energy kiosks supported.

Established 2 sustainability village and Loan Saving Association.

422 households supported with Zeed easy cook pack 2: 6kg complete LPG pack.

Introduction

In 2021, RGF prioritized sustainable access to energy in vulnerable households in Uganda.

One key intervention was the promotion and adoption of improved cookstoves that are efficient and emit less smoke than traditional stoves.

This not only addresses energy poverty but also positively impacts health and the environment.

In addition to improved cookstoves, RGF promoted the use of Zeed slow cooking baskets that save on fuel consumption. Furthermore, RGF focused on promoting liquid petroleum gas (LPG) as a clean energy alternative.

RGF ran a second pilot campaign in 2021 to promote access to 6kg complete cylinders of LPG. The success of the first pilot campaign, which targeted 100 people with access to 3kg complete cylinders, prompted over 500 households to request access to LPG even after the campaign had closed.

This initiative served 422 households, providing them with access to safe, sustainable, and clean energy for their cooking needs

The promotion of LPG as a quick cooking solution has created income-generating opportunities for community members. Five income-generating activities emerged as people were trained and became distributors of LPG in their respective communities, increasing the availability and accessibility of LPG while also creating new economic opportunities for vulnerable households.

Through these interventions, RGF was able to increase access to sustainable energy and improve the livelihoods of vulnerable households in Uganda.

Access to sustainable energy is critical for vulnerable households, as it has significant implications for their health, education, and economic well-being. Many households rely on expensive and dangerous traditional forms of energy that contribute to deforestation and environmental degradation.

By increasing access to sustainable energy, vulnerable households can improve their health and well-being, access better education and job opportunities, and contribute to sustainable environmental practices. As RGF continues its efforts to boost livelihoods in marginalized communities, access to sustainable energy will remain a crucial component of its programs.



Students at kibuli Environmental club planting trees to conserve the environment

Powering hope:

Bringing solar energy to refugee and last mile communities

RGF is committed to sustainable development, and we recognize the importance of providing access to clean and affordable energy in refugee and last mile communities. These communities often lack basic services such as electricity, which can have significant impacts on their daily lives and livelihoods.

To address this issue, we have prioritized the promotion of solar energy as a viable solution.

Solar power is renewable, reliable, and can be easily installed in remote locations without access to traditional power grids.

By providing solar panels and related infrastructure to these communities, we are not only addressing their energy needs but also promoting sustainable development and environmental protection. Energy can be particularly transformative.

By providing lighting for safety and education, solar power can enable children to study and learn in safe and healthy environments. It also provides opportunities for income-generating activities such as charging stations for mobile phones and other devices, which can significantly improve communication and access to information.

Energy kiosks

Access to reliable, affordable, and clean energy is a major challenge for many communities, particularly those in remote areas. This has led to an over-dependence on traditional sources of energy, which are often associated with health hazards and environmental degradation. The lack of energy access also limits economic opportunities and perpetuates poverty.

As an organization committed to promoting sustainable livelihoods in the communities we serve, RGF recognizes the importance of increasing access to renewable energy.

Through the establishment of energy kiosks, we have worked to provide clean energy technologies in refugee and last-mile communities while also creating employment opportunities for community members.

Our approach involves the establishment of energy kiosks that are operated by village savings and loan associations (VSLAs) and individuals within the communities. The kiosks provide access to clean cooking energy technologies, enabling community members to power their homes and small businesses without relying on traditional fuels.

By operating the kiosks, VSLAs and individuals can generate income and build their own financial resilience, while also contributing to the welfare fund of their group. This fund accumulates as an interest-free loan, which can be used to support community members in times of need, such as for health emergencies or to start a small business.



Photo: Beneficiaries receiving LPG to enable them access clean energy

Most surveys conducted in the off grid communities report that access to electricity is a top priority for refugees, and our efforts are making a real difference in addressing this need.

Through our energy kiosks, we have not only improved access to clean energy but have also contributed to the economic empowerment of the communities we serve.

By supporting the creation of local businesses and employment opportunities, we are helping to build more resilient and sustainable communities.

RGF remains committed to promoting sustainable livelihoods in the communities we serve, and we will continue to seek innovative approaches to achieve this goal

Livelihoods:

Cash for Work Intervention

RGF's Cash for Work initiative aimed to promote economic empowerment and improve the living standards of vulnerable individuals by providing them with employment opportunities and valuable skills.

Through the program, 18 individuals were employed to support the production of improved cook stoves and zeed slow heat retaining cooking baskets, which are designed to be more efficient and environmentally friendly.

By producing these innovative cooking technologies, participants not only earned a source of income but also contributed to RGF's efforts towards environmental conservation.

The program enabled participants to gain valuable experience and knowledge in the production of these technologies, which will enable them to continue contributing to environmental conservation and sustainable livelihoods in the future.

Moreover, the Cash for Work program helped to improve the living standards of participants and their families by providing them with much-needed financial support.

RGF remains committed to exploring innovative ways to promote economic empowerment and support vulnerable communities in the region while contributing to environmental conservation.

**Participants
earned ugx
7,000,000 from
cash for work.**

Environment:

At RGF, we are committed to environmental conservation, and this year we took an important step by organizing a tree planting exercise with children.

Together, we planted 100 trees, which not only created awareness about the importance of environmental conservation but also taught practical gardening skills to the children.

As part of our ongoing efforts, we plan to establish environment clubs in schools to continue educating and empowering the younger generation about sustainability and environmental conservation.

We believe that by involving children in such activities, we are nurturing a generation that is mindful of their impact on the environment, which is crucial for building a sustainable future.

We are proud of our progress towards promoting environmental conservation, and we remain committed to our mission.

We believe that our tree planting exercise and the establishment of environment clubs in schools are significant steps towards achieving our goals. We look forward to continuing our efforts and contributing to a more sustainable future for all.

Empowering Vulnerable Youth

The Vocational Skills Training program is a key initiative aimed at empowering vulnerable youth in the community by providing them with the skills and knowledge they need to secure employment or start their own businesses. This program contributes to poverty reduction and economic growth in the region, while also promoting sustainable development.

RGF recognizes the importance of vocational skills training in promoting economic growth and the overall well-being of the community.

Under this program, RGF trained 126 youths in various skills that are in demand in the local job market.

The training covered a range of activities, including tailoring and garment making, carpentry and joinery, bricklaying and masonry, and computer skills.

The program's objective was to equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to secure employment or start their own businesses.

By choosing the activity that best matched their interests and career aspirations, participants were able to gain specialized knowledge in a field of their choice.

This provided them with valuable hands-on experience and practical skills that will help them contribute to the economic growth of the region.

RGF remains committed to promoting youth empowerment and livelihood interventions through vocational skills training.

We believe that by providing vulnerable youth with access to high-quality training, we are contributing to the sustain-

Gender programming.

RGF is committed to promoting gender equality and has implemented various initiatives to ensure equal opportunities for both men and women.

We have taken steps to ensure that women have equal access to employment opportunities, training programs, and benefits in all RGF programs.

One of our key approaches to promoting gender equality is through skills development programs that target women in traditionally male-dominated sectors. For example, we offer training in renewable energy technologies and provide equal opportunities in cash-for-work interventions. These initiatives help to build women's capacity and increase their economic opportunities, contributing to their overall empowerment.

We believe that promoting gender equality is not only a matter of social justice but also a key driver of sustainable development. By providing equal opportunities for men and women, we are working towards creating a more inclusive and prosperous society. RGF remains committed to promoting gender equality in all our programs and activities.



A women group learn how to make briquettes for sustainability

