**WOMAN OF PURPOSE**

**Empowering Rural Communities**

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**ORGANISATION PROFILE**

**2019**

**BACKGROUND – *Who we are and why we exist***

Woman Of Purpose (WOP) was established in July 2004 as an effort to help communities living in rural areas, who usually have no ready access to resources and opportunities due to poverty. WOP empowers communities to develop their potential by equipping households (especially women and child headed households) with practical vocational skills and life skills to alleviate poverty and as a result become socially, economically and emotionally self-sustaining and independent.

Woman Of Purpose is a Civil Society Community-Based organization that is committed to undertaking grassroots-based interventions that serve women and their families often in hard-to-reach rural areas with a purpose to be flexible, pragmatic, relatively quick and effective in the implementation of its desired goals and projects. WOP’s major activities are centered on training in life skills, human rights and vocational training, poverty alleviation projects and community mobilization including counseling as a way of emotionally liberating people from constant social and economic hardships.

## vision, mission and objectives

**Vision**: To see rural communities developed and empowered through wealth creation and life skills training.

**Mission:** Empowering communities to develop optimum potential by training and availing them with opportunities to become self-sustaining both economically and socially.

**Core Values**: Being God fearing, Transparency, Accountability, Integrity and Unity

**WOP OBJECTIVES**

1. Promote and protect women’s rights through mainstreaming public awareness and observance of local and international human rights instruments
2. To bring together Communities for joint action against discriminative practices and traditions.
3. Provide technical and policy expertise to communities, civic leaders and policy makers on human rights and community development issues.
4. To encourage and facilitate the initiation of community based projects aimed at improving the welfare of both men and women.
5. To uplift the living conditions of families through training in life skills and facilitation of income generating activities.
6. Promote knowledge of women’s rights and help in the enforcement of those rights.
7. Research into the circumstances and position of women in rural areas.

## Organisational Structure

**Annual General Meeting:** The highest organ of the organization comprising of all the registered members. It meets once every year to pass resolutions, vote Board members and approve the financial statements and budgets.

**Board of Directors (BOD):** The second highest and policy making organ of the organization elected by the Annual General Meeting.

**Secretariat:** This consists of staff and volunteers directly involved with the implementation of programmes. The Executive Director, who acts as the Chief Executive Officer of the organization, heads the Secretariat and directly reports to the Chairperson of the Board. The staff and volunteers are in charge of the day to day running of the organization and the implementation of the organization’s activities.

**OUR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES**

**Reading Kids Project:** The reading kids project is aimed at addressing the problem of very poor literacy and numeracy competences among the children in the rural community of Agule. The project in partnership with Ezel Nursery and Primary school aims to establish a modern library, stocked with relevant reading books and text books including computers in order to provide access to books for reading and lending to the children of Agule who do not have and cannot afford books. The project is estimated to cost about 6000 US Dollars for the first phase. The project is expected to start in March 2020.

**Cow Scheme (Heifer Chain) Programme:** This programme has been operational since 2006,it is a livestock sharing programme aimed at improving the livelihood of economically challenged rural families. In this programme, a heifer is given to a family who tends it under the supervision of the organisation. After the heifer calves, the first female calf is passed on to another beneficiary and if it is a male, it is retained by the Organization for sustainability. As of 2017 over 250 heifers have been given out benefiting over 500 direct and indirect beneficiaries.

**Widows Housing Scheme**: The Widows Housing scheme is aimed at improving the livelihood among widows by building for them new low cost houses or renovating dilapidated ones. The program plays a very big role in improving living conditions of poor widows and their families, most of who live in dilapidated mud walled grass-thatched houses. More than 40 widows have benefited from this program since 2006. It has been instrumental in highlighting the plight of the widows and creating awareness of their rights.

**Widows Rights Education:** The Widows’ Rights Education Program began in 2005, since then we have conducted more than 100 sensitisation meetings, held workshop on the same, celebrated the international Widows day and engaged in various activities to promote the rights of the widows who are a very vulnerable group of people. It is a programme majorly aimed at giving HOPE to the Widows.

**Woman of Purpose Vocational School/ Youth Empowerment Program:** The vocational school was started in 2012 as a way of skilling young women who had failed to continue with formal educational. The need to address the unemployment situation among the youth in general compelled WOP to setup the Vocational school giving direct skills to young men and women. The school skills the youth in carpentry, tailoring, brick-laying and motor mechanics. We have so far graduated more than 60 youth since inception with over 10 youth now in self-employment and a majority of them gainfully employed.

**Energy Saving Stoves and solar lighting:** An initial donation from Joseph’s Coat Australia benefitted 40 families with energy saving stoves, making more than 60% saving on firewood. The stove emits very little smoke which in fact is directed outside the cooking area through a pipe in the wall thus saving beneficiaries from eye infections caused by too much smoke in the cooking area. The donation also included solar lamps which has greatly blessed these families. Given the African culture where several families live together, one lamp placed in the middle of the compound serves about five families. 40 people considering that each family has an average of eight people. Today more than 80 families have benefited from this programme.

**Girls in Control project:** Woman of Purpose in partnership with Moon Catchers organisation make re-useable sanitary pads. The Pad are made by the tailoring student under the supervision of their tutor. This project has been vital in keeping over 600 girls in school during their menstrual periods. We have so far distributed over 600 sanitary pads to girls in the surrounding schools. Not only has this project benefited the girl child but it has also became a source of income for the young women who make the pad at the vocational school.

**Wates Restaurant/Pam Catering School:** The Wates Restaurant was conceived as a means of ensuring sustainability for the organisation. It is a modern restaurant with lovely gardens – providing a conducive environment for holding workshops, seminars, parties etc. The Wates Restaurant is also home to the Pam catering school, providing training in catering and restaurant management.

Beside the programs highlighted above we are also involved in other activities or initiatives as a way of giving back to the community for example we have the girl child program that basically focuses on encouraging young girls to remain in school by providing them with scholastic materials, we also mobilise our friends in the cities to give clothes, shoes and other items they no longer need, which we then give to those in need.

**Our Partners (Past and Present)**

1. Access4 UK
2. Joseph’s Coat Inc. Australia
3. Widows Rights International – UK
4. Uganda Women’s Network (UWONET)
5. Tools with a Mission - UK
6. Work Aid – UK
7. Friends in the US, UK and Australia
8. Friends in different parts of Uganda.
9. Ezel Nursery and Primary school

**About the Foundation of Woman Of Purpose**

Please get information for this section from the director.