

2019 Presentation for OB Fundraiser 9/28/19
[TEXT to accompany Powerpoint]

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Kisoboka Nano Initiative (KNI), founded and operated by women for women became a registered Community-Based Organization in 2018, and has been working in partnership with local CBOs and NGOs throughout Uganda as a local program of Our Biswas, since 2016.

Today, as directors on the CBO board, two Country Coordinators, Milly Nalukwago (right), and Aminah Nakayiza (left) manage four communities and nearly 450 marginalized women who live in the central and western regions of Uganda.

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KNI partners are Bliss Feme, in Kisinga Sub County, Kasese District, which launched in January 2017. The Albertine Rift and Kyaninga Community Conservation Area Organization, known as ARKCCAO located in Kyaninga, in the western part of Uganda and launched in November 2017. Kisoboka Nano Initiative, where the CBO offices are located in, in the urban settlements of the capital city of Kampala District and began in June 2018. And our newest partner ACCESS which began in January of 2019, is located in just northwest of Kampala, in Nakaseke District.

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The Bliss Feme women of Kisinga sub-County, Kasese District live in the hills and mountains of the central region. Hunger and sickness is a way of life here, among women whose self-esteem is strongly impacted by their lack of education and access to information. The long distance they need to travel to take their goods to market is also challenge. As reported from the country coordinator's recent community visits in August, however, "the Bliss Feme women are so happy because of the chance given them and they working hard to see that they live a good life."

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The women of Kasese District are now able to manage the school fees for their children, have had great success with producing exercise and schoolbooks for the district community, and have this year begun to work collaboratively in cocoa farming and chicken rearing to make greater profits.

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Because of the adult literacy and numeracy training, the women who can read, writing and manage the finances of their business is growing. Pictured here are the country coordinators Aminah and Amilly (orange shirts), with program lead, Solomon Bukundika, and program coordinators Pricilla Mbambu and Pelucy Balauku.

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The women of ARKCCAO live in Kyaninga, Kabarole District, in the western region of Uganda, where the soil is fertile, many of the women are farmers and sell fresh foods, although similarly face the problems of poverty: they struggle to feed, clothe and educate their children, lack

access to health care and have little experience in business. Poor roads, climate change, and lack of crop diversity has been a challenge for them. Pictured here is Kobugenyi Jackline, a women of nano finance who plants banana trees and markets the produce.

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Here are Milly and Aminah (center), the country coordinators for Uganda with ARKCCAO program coordinators Simon Kateeba and Annet Katusabe.

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Here is Kabahinya Sarah with her children in the tailoring shop she and other ARKCCAO women share, using their nano finance loans to form a sewing collaborative.

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The women of ARKCCAO, approaching 3 years of nano finance send their greetings. They are the largest of our four community partners in Uganda, currently serving 168 women. Among the many successes they too are benefitting from literacy/numeracy training, collaboratives and social enterprise businesses bookmaking and passion fruit farming, and opening retail shops in tailoring as well produce, as a result of participating women farmers.

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Since the inception, KNI has implemented monitoring and evaluation for the purpose of continuous improvement and to gather data to demonstrate impact. We currently have three years of data using the [Poverty Probability Index](#) (PPI), which has revealed a remarkable 5-10% annual reduction in poverty likelihood for the women of our local partner communities. We also have added indicators to the PPI, reflecting changes in earned income, metrics relevant to financial inclusion, and baseline data for 2020 projects within the energy sector. Additionally, we assess through quarterly reporting, tri-annual visits by our country coordinators, monthly distributions and collections of loans by local partner program coordinators (proving an exceptionally low delinquency rates attributed to the sense of community fostered), as well as continual communications via What's App groups. Shown here is the daily earning improvement pre and post participating in nano finance for each of our community partners.

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Participating women of nano finance are mobilized in Busega, Kampala District, one of more than 60 slums of the capital city, where housing is unstable, and the women struggle to address the emergency needs of their family that continually arise. Here is Nankabirwa Agnes selling fresh fruits and vegetables, a business she was able to start because of her nano finance loan.

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In just over a year, the women of Busega have managed to pay school fees for their children, reducing the school dropout rate, save money and open bank accounts, and initiate a book making business that recently was funded in part by Kampala Capital City Authority, the local government offices.

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Aminah Nakayiza and Mary Nakngu are the KNI program coordinators; Amimah also serves the Uganda program as Assistant Country Coordinator.

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In addition to the businesses mentioned, nano loans were also used by Nyombi Robinah to expand her hair salon, and by Nansamba Harriet, who sells used clothing.

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The women of nano finance who are members of our local partner ACCESS in Nakaseke live in one of the most under resourced health districts in Uganda. The women who are part of the continuous cycle of poverty also lack education, struggle to feed, clothe and educate their children, and have little experience in business, as their only option prior to engaging with nano finance was subsistence farming.

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Florence Nakafeero, shown here, is a village health worker, serves as an assistant program coordinator for the women of Nakaseke, and has used her nano finance loans to expand her bee farming business.

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Resty Nakayima, shown here on the left, is the program coordinator for ACCESS. She is supported by Florence. As recently reported, the 50 women of ACCESS are actively returning their loans. They are now take their children to school, pay government taxes, reduce famine in their community and improve nutrition for their children.

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Leveraging nano finance as a bridge for the poorest of the poor in Uganda to empower themselves economically and socially through financial inclusion, we are currently working to align the women's businesses with the challenges and opportunities identified as strategic objectives by local government leadership to better a sustainable and thriving future. This effort is aligned with the systems change and system entrepreneurship for systemic impact. This Last April, Vision/Strategy workshops were conducted with each community partner with this mind. Among the businesses currently happening in the Uganda communities engaged in nano finance, clean water access, solar products, urban farming, agroecology are among those in the developing strategy of the Uganda program.

Thank you.