



Uzima Women Relief Group International
Giving a new meaning of Life, hope and bright future to all women

UZIMA WOMEN RELIEF GROUP INTERNATIONAL

ANNUAL REPORT

2018/19

Word from the Executive Director

Jacobet Edith Wambayi



Uzima Women Relief Group International is aimed at supporting efforts to empower women domestically and globally so that they can contribute to the global fight for women's health, education and human rights.

This annual report summarizes the activities of Uzima in the last one year. It is still a challenging journey for a new and small organization but in moving forward Uzima has realized some milestones. Uzima continues to hold annual dinner fundraising events among other fundraising activities. Members of the Board have worked diligently to bring the annual fundraising events to a success. We have raised over \$15,000 through events and fundraisers. We are continuously building partnerships in every sector since we use a multifaceted approach to achieve our goals. We would hereby deeply and sincerely like to thank all those who have supported us since Uzima was registered in Ontario in 2012. We would like to thank all our donors and community partners for their on-going support throughout these busy and economically challenging times. Finally, our most sincere thanks go to our volunteers who continue to work in diaspora communities in Canada as well as traveling abroad to work with impoverished communities.

Thank you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacobet Edith Wambayi'.

Jacobet Edith Wambayi, PhD

About Uzima

Uzima Women Relief Group International is a non-profit organization incorporated in 2012. Uzima is a Kiswahili word meaning wellness. The organization works to alleviate poverty and augment wellness among at-risk populations facing health challenges brought about by lack of access to medical care and medicines, good nutrition and education for both women and men with a focus on women empowerment

Members and supports of Uzima are diverse and represent a cross section of all Canadians. There are members from over 10 African countries, Jamaica Asia as well as Caucasians of European origin.

Mission

Uzima Women Relief Group International provides care and support to families affected by, poverty, war and disease domestically and internationally to contribute to the global efforts on women's health, education and human rights.

Our Vision

We envision a world where women understand their rights and have access to quality health, education and economic stability.

Our Objectives

- To help alleviate poverty through empowering women and girls to attain higher education
- To train women in methods of improved living conditions and better lifestyles of their families through educational workshops
- To offer unique volunteer trips to developing countries that allow volunteers to participate in relief of poverty through education, better agriculture, health practices and income generating activities

Uzima Board of Directors



Olufunke Akinkunmi –Chair



Robert Gichuru, Board Secretary

Robert Gichuru has more than 27 years working in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector in Kenya and Canada. Ten of these years have been in the Non-profit sector in Canada. He is passionate about developing technology to improve lives.

Education: University of Toronto, 2004, University of Nairobi: 1988



Andrea Thomas, Board Treasurer

Andrea Thomas spends much of her time involved in various community services on a voluntary basis. Entrepreneur and businesswoman, Andrea's background is in Business Administration. She is the co-owner of Aspire Travel and does event planning. Mother of 3 adult children, Andrea is a Christian and is actively involved in her church.



Rukia Swaleh – Board Member

Rukia Swaleh is currently completing her medical training to become an Endocrinologist. She is passionate about the health and well being of women and is involved in a number of volunteer and mentorship initiatives aimed at improving the lives of marginalized women and children.



Erin Urquhart – Member

Erin works for RBC Capital Markets and has worked in finance for over a decade. She is passionate about accelerating gender diversity and advocating for inclusion and equality both in the workplace and in the community at large.

Elizabeth Erhirhie - Member



Partners

Northwood Neighbourhood Services, www.northw.ca

Africans in partnership against AIDS (APAA), www.apaa.ca

African Canadian Social Development Council (Uzima is a member), www.acsdc.ca

Rotary Club, Scarborough Bluffs, www.rotarybluffs.com

Abeingo Association Canada, www.abeingocanada.org

AMREF Canada, www.amrefcanada.ca

Elevations Inc, www.elsci.ca

Black Youth Helpline, Inc, www.blackyouth.ca

Global net Community Foundation, www.globalnetcf.org

Activities

The activities of Uzima are carried out in Canada and internationally. However, the fundraising activities and training of volunteers are mainly executed in Canada. Since the founding Directors and board members are people from developing countries there is a focus on empowering women and men who are interest in helping on projects in developing countries.

Activities in Canada

Fundraising

In May 2013 Uzima launched an annual fundraising event to raise funds to support grassroots women groups in developing countries. These events have been successful in raising over \$20,000. These funds have helped the women groups to start community projects supporting women and their families especially needy children. The Annual fundraising dinner is held in recognition of International Women's Day in March every year. Uzima also receives grants from Government and other funders to run community programs locally.

Programs

Uzima actively promotes its activities in communities in Toronto by engaging diverse groups in community development programs.

Community Multicultural Program

Under the Community Multicultural Grant, Ontario Government, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, Uzima organizes community events as well as joining other community groups in empowering immigrants in matters of diversity and embracing multiculturalism in Toronto.

African women as well as all others who participated were more empowered to promote multiculturalism and improve their health and social well being in Toronto. Women learnt that barriers to accessing services include isolation and unawareness of what other cultures offer. Networking during events and workshops exposed participants to new places to sell their merchandise. The diverse topics presented made participants aware of social ills like hate crime which is a determinant of health. Youth and their parents learnt ways to navigate the judicial system and avoid conflict with the law. The Uzima presentation on female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) informed participants of some of the cultural values that immigrants come with into Canada. Some of the values are acceptable but some like FGM/C are against Canadian law and Human Rights.



Uzima at Canada Day Multicultural event in Scarborough

Female Genital Cutting Awareness Program

The Department of Justice Canada funding enabled Uzima to conduct community workshops creating awareness about Female Genital Cutting (FGC) in Toronto following the pilot research on the same topic. Participants who included women, community leaders and service providers expressed concerns about the way service providers support survivors of FGM/C. The same concerns had been expressed by participants in the initial research conducted by Uzima on experiences of survivors of FGM/C in Toronto. Recommendations from participants especially survivors included education for service providers to know how to treat survivors better. This year Uzima conducted workshops with Primary Care Practitioners. The workshops were very successful with PCP requesting other service providers including Schools, Children’s Aid Society and the Police.



FGM/C workshop with health care providers



Other activities

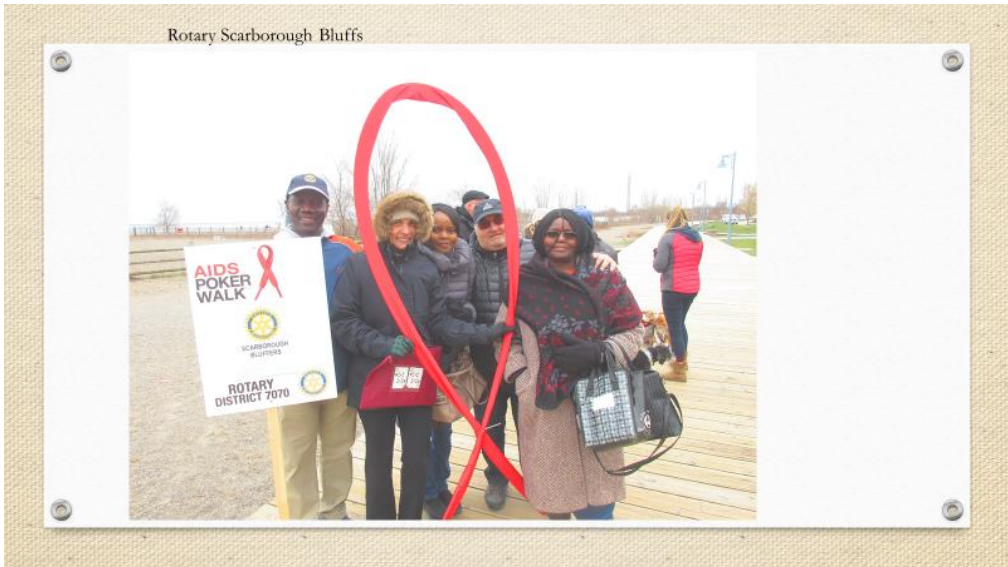
Youth engagement

Uzima continued to implement youth educational programs in Scarborough where youth especially newcomer marginalized youth at-risk are engaged in discussions on Sexual health, Substance use and addictions, Mental health, Crime prevention etc.



Youth discussing issues affecting them in Scarborough

Uzima participated in several community meetings and events to support partner agencies. Heritage Skills Development Centre engaged elected leaders in a meeting to discuss



The AIDS Poker Walk



Diabetes workshop in partner with Abeingo Association of Canada

International activities

Uzima is currently supporting grassroots women groups in Kenya and Jamaica. There are three groups in Kenya and one in Jamaica. The women led groups engage youth and men in their projects mainly in horticulture and animal farming. There are several groups in Western Kenya all working on farming and other income generating activities. The groups are focusing on the “Kitchen garden” concept with model homes and institutions that will train community members in better ways to farm e.g organic farming to improve nutrition. Better farm produce will also fetch income from surplus sales. With Uzima support, teachers in Jamaica are engaging students in a green house project.





Farming projects in Kenya

Financial Report

Uzima's main sources of funding are fundraising events and program grants. Attached, please find Uzima's unaudited financial statement prepared by:

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Jacobet E.A. Wambayi, PhD,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacobet E.A. Wambayi'.

Executive Director.