

**UZIMA WOMEN RELIEF GROUP  
INTERNATIONAL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019/20**

# 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 holds annual dinner fundraising events among other fundraising activities. Unfortunately, this event was not held in 2020 and will not be held in 2021 due to COVID-19. However, other fundraising activities are going on and please make your donation via our website. Members of the Board, staff, volunteers and friends continue to work diligently to bring the fundraising events to a success. We have raised over \$20,000 through events and fundraisers. All fundraising proceeds go to women groups overseas. 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 at their own cost.

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**



**Rukia Swaleh – Board Member**

Rukia Swaleh is a Medical Doctor, 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.

**Elizabeth Erhirhie - Member**



## **Partners**

Northwood Neighbourhood Services, [www.northw.ca](http://www.northw.ca)

Africans in partnership against AIDS (APAA), [www.apaa.ca](http://www.apaa.ca)

African Canadian Social Development Council (Uzima is a member), [www.acsdc.ca](http://www.acsdc.ca)

Rotary Club, Scarborough Bluffs, [www.rotarybluffs.com](http://www.rotarybluffs.com)

Abeingo Association Canada, [www.abeingocanada.org](http://www.abeingocanada.org)

Kenyan Canadian Association,

Black Youth Helpline, Inc, [www.blackyouth.ca](http://www.blackyouth.ca)

MyStand Organization, [www.thisismystand.org](http://www.thisismystand.org)

RisingYouth | TakingITGlobal | [www.risingyouth.ca](http://www.risingyouth.ca)

I Do! Project, [www.idoproject.ca](http://www.idoproject.ca)

AMREF Canada, [www.amrefcanada.ca](http://www.amrefcanada.ca)

Elevations Inc, [www.elsci.ca](http://www.elsci.ca)

## **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 interested 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.

## Community Multicultural Programs

Uzima actively promotes its activities in communities in Toronto by engaging diverse groups in community development programs. Uzima participated in several community meetings and events virtually to support partner agencies empowering immigrants in matters of diversity and embracing multiculturalism in Toronto.



### *Uzima at Canada Day Multicultural event in Scarborough*

## Female Genital Cutting Awareness Program

Uzima is a member of “End FGM/C Canada Network”, a non-partisan group of individuals and organizations working to end female genital mutilation/cutting in Canada and globally. The network organized awareness campaigns across Canada by applying for proclamations in cities across Canada to declare February 6 the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation. Uzima participated in a virtual webinar on Feb 6 where a panel presented and young girls sent a message to the Prime Minister Trudeau to address FGM more seriously in Canada

End FGM Canada Network: <https://www.endfgm.ca>

Twitter: [@CanadaFgm](https://twitter.com/CanadaFgm)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/endfgmcanada/>

## Advocating for Anti-Black racism

Uzima works with groups in Toronto to address Anti-Black racism and other barriers to economic and social equity for Black people in Toronto. Uzima is a member of Black Resilience Cluster, under the City of Toronto: Supporting Black communities in Toronto applying a

Black lens and framework to the City's COVID-19 social service responses among other areas.

## **PROJECTS**

### **Youth Project**

Uzima continued to implement youth educational programs in Toronto where youth especially newcomer marginalized youth at-risk are engaged in discussions on Sexual health, Substance use and addictions, Mental health, Crime prevention and COVID-19. The summer youth were responsible for the development and presentation of black youth mental health project. The black youth mental health workshops emphasized various important topics such as COVID-19 effects, causes and statistics on mental health issues, intersection of mental health and blackness, prevention strategies and possible solutions, as well as accessible resources for different age groups.

Two youth were retained after the Summer program and continued putting together presentations on black youth mental health with an emphasis on different aspects such as cultural influence and drug use among Black Canadians. The summer youth completed a training program with the Flexible Upskilling Network (F.U.N.) which allowed them to develop their digital marketing and web design expertise. They were able to acquire different skills, such as audience interaction through surveys, communication, storytelling, short stories and leadership. They were competent in teamwork, and attentiveness and they created a website for their final presentation which focused on the importance of action towards ending climate change. They were also able to gain more knowledge about Search Engine Optimization (SEO) which attracts a wider audience to a business with keywords in search engines, branding, the importance of colour and sizing, social media, and audience interaction.

The summer youth also attended a peaceful rally against anti-black racism where they listened to speakers who spoke about issues affecting immigrant communities such as police brutality, the strong presence of francophone Africans in Toronto who lack proper access to funding for their community organizations etc.

### **Women and girls Project**

This is a Gender-based violence project with the goal of empowering women and girls throughout Toronto on how to respond to the Corona Virus pandemic. Approximately 50+ women and girls are participating in the program. Uzima is offering virtual workshops to empower this vulnerable group on how to overcome gender-based violence, poverty reduction, building confidence and standing out as leaders during the pandemic. The topics of discussion include Black women's mental health, forms of violence, COVID-19 effects, Resource Accessibility among others. The needs assessment survey was conducted to ascertain the needs of the participants. The virtual learning sessions were scheduled and out of the first five, three have already been performed. The training methodology was through virtual learning which included presentations, free discussions, question and answer among other methods. The link between GBV and COVID -19 was given the center stage and useful information and resources to better assist to overcome challenges during this difficult time were taken into consideration. There is also an extension of the project to best assess the level of violence committed against Black women and girls. This project is ongoing and Uzima is ready to support more women. A Whatsap group was formed for survivors of GBV to offer more focused support



e.g referrals for more specialized support such as clinical counselling. 10 survivors receive other supports including groceries, hygiene supplies and PPE.

### **Seniors Project**

This project addressed the needs of Continental African seniors during COVID-19. 76 seniors participated in the project that provided virtual information on COVID-19 and its effects especially on mental and financial health, isolation. Additionally, 20 seniors with dire needs received other supports including groceries, hygiene supplies and PPE. Seniors received training in using technological devices and engaging in virtual communication with others on social media. Tablets were given to those who did not have access to computers.

### **Men's Project**

The men's project targeted Black men of all ages in Toronto. The project ran along the same goals as the above projects. 50 men participated in educational workshops and received groceries and other supplies.

### **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 and Eastern 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. The group in Rift Valley runs a Dairy plant. Uzima is currently supporting *Little Bay All Age & Infant* school, in Jamaica.







*Farming projects in Kenya*

## **Financial Report**

Uzima's main sources of funding are fundraising events and program grants. Uzima engages an Accounting firm to prepare all financial documents, payroll, and all reporting to CRA.

SNA Accounting and Tax Consulting  
CPA Professional Corporation

112 Athol Street, Suite 205A Whitby, ON L1N 3Y9  
Cell: (647) 466-7181  
Toll Free (289) 3125379 [www.snacpapc.com](http://www.snacpapc.com)

The firm presents necessary documents and receipts to the appointed Auditing firm. Attached, please find Uzima's audited financial statement prepared by:

GMS Professional Corporation

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Licensed Public Accountants  
5484 Tomken Rd., Unit # 34 Mississauga, Ontario Canada L4W 2Z6  
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Jacobet E.A. Wambayi, PhD,  
Executive Director.

