



2021-2022

UZIMA ANNUAL REPORT

November 5, 2022

**UZIMA WOMEN RELIEF GROUP
INTERNATIONAL**

100 Consilium Place, Suite 200 Scarborough, Ontario M1H 3E3

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- Jacobet Edith Wambayi**

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WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



Uzima Women Relief Group International is aimed at supporting efforts to relieve poverty by empowering impoverished communities 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. Uzima has realized some milestones that we will share in this report. Uzima continues to run programs in the community working with women, youth, and seniors to improve their lives. Uzima is stepping up its fundraising activities and with your participation we are sure to raise unrestricted funding so that the organization can build its capacity financially. To date our main source of funding has been through restricted grants mainly from the Government.

With charitable status we can now issue tax receipts to donors. We will also resume our in-person fundraising dinner events next year after 2 years due to COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to your support. However, other fundraising activities are ongoing and please make your donation via our website and other means. Members of the Board, staff, volunteers, and friends continue to work diligently to bring the fundraising events to a success. All fundraising proceeds go to women groups overseas. We would like to see our membership grow. The application form is found on our website, but you can request it via email or pick a hard copy from the office.

We thank all current members for continuing to support and build Uzima. 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 our partners as we build new ones. 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.

Jacobet Edith Wambayi, Ph D

About Uzima

Uzima Women Relief Group International is a charitable non-profit organization incorporated in 2012 in Toronto. 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's empowerment. Members and supporters of Uzima are diverse and represent a cross section of all Canadians.



Uzima's Values

- Honesty
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Respect

Mission

Uzima Women Relief Group International provides care and support to families affected by the effects of war and disease domestically and internationally to contribute to the global efforts to relieve poverty and improve women's health and education.

Vision

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

Objectives

To advance education and relieve poverty of Black (racialized) community members in the Toronto area by providing employment-related workshops and training on resume writing, job interview preparation, job skills training, mentoring programs, and job placement assistance.

To relieve poverty and advance education by providing training in agricultural and farming techniques, and kitchen garden training to poor women in Kenya.

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Uzima Annual General Meeting:

AGM



UZIMA WOMEN RELIEF GROUP INTERNATIONAL
INVITES YOU TO OUR

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022
&

OTF PROJECT LAUNCH

Ontario Trillium Foundation project
helps us to build resiliency in the
community due to Covid-19

Hybrid Event:
Zoom ID: 635 934 4621



**Saturday,
05 November**



9:45 AM – 1:00 PM



VENUE

100 Consilium Place, Suite 200,
Scarborough, M1H 3E3

Please RSVP to
admin@uzimawomeninternational.org
by 30th Oct 2022

647-748-8870
uzimawomeninternational.org/

The Annual General Meeting will be
taking place on November 5th,
2022.



Uzima Board of Directors



AMINA HAGI MUSA- CHAIR

A licensed paralegal in Ontario with a law degree from University of London (UK). Amina has her own legal practice and works under the supervision of a certified Immigration Specialist heading the Private Refugee Sponsorship. Consults and help organizations in the community with newcomers to Ontario.

JANE KIAMA-VICE CHAIR

Jane is working as a Registered Practical Nurse since 2009, at Westpark Health Care center and Sienna living. She has been a volunteer at Nyumba Community Association Secretary since 2017.

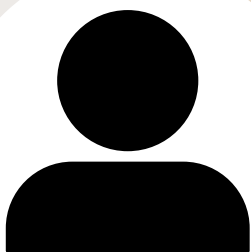


RUKIA SWALEH – BOARD SECRETARY

Rukia Swaleh is a Medical Doctor, Endocrinologist. She is passionate about the health and wellbeing of women and is involved in a number of volunteer and mentorship initiatives aimed at improving the lives of marginalized women and children.



Uzima Board of Directors



PERPETUA EVANS – TREASURER

Founder of Non-profit organization called "Heal The Wounded Foundation". She has worked with an organization called GTZ (Germany based) in Tanzania as Field Coordinator Assistant

ELIZABETH ERHIRHIE- MEMBER

Elizabeth is a Hospitality Professional with over 10 years of experience working in the black community, helping women and youth in Crisis





Uzima Board of Directors

JESSE KIOME- MEMBER

A church Elder at Kenya Global Church-Toronto. Has a Diploma in Theology and like serving others and contributing to the society.



JOHN NDICHU-MEMBER

Pastor, Kenya, Sudan and Canada. Community worker, and has Diplomas in Theology, Counseling and Human Resources.





Uzima Staff



REBAH SIJENYE - PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Rebah Sijenye oversees Uzima's portfolio of program commitments and advocacy initiatives. She brings a wealth of experience in international development, spanning policy, research and evaluation across diverse geopolitical and multicultural environments as well as business development, in both non-profit and for-profit industries.

JITHYA DANESH – OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

With around 10 years of experience in the non-profit sector, Jithya is handling the overall administration of Uzima. Her interests are project management, outreach, community facilitation and has special interest in gender-equality

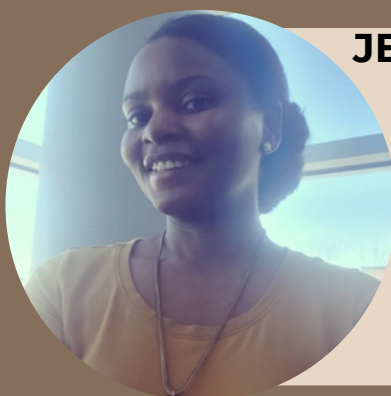


CHRISTIANA PATRICK - PROJECT COORDINATOR

Christiana is Uzima's Project Coordinator. She coordinates the FGM, Seniors project, GBV and CSMARI projects. Christiana has a MSW (Ryerson University); BSW (Ryerson University); and BA Ed. (Geography) Ahmadu Bello University Nigeria.



Uzima Staff



JENNY MUYIA - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Jenny worked with the executive director to found Uzima. She has been flexible taking on multiple roles in the organization ranging from administration, IT, fundraising, project management, and more. Jenny loves community work and has been active in advocating for vulnerable persons to be empowered.

EPHRAIM MWAURA – IT CONSULTANT

Ephraim is our consultant who handles all IT-related issues including providing end-user support to our staff, volunteers and project teams. He also facilitates IT & Cybersecurity workshops for internal and external stakeholders.





Uzima Staff



ANGELA WU - RESEARCH AND OUTREACH WORKER

Angela is currently a youth staff at Uzima and a university student. She helps to coordinate projects primarily concerning youth and also help with other activities such as social media handling.

SUHAIL MUGHAL – PROJECT ASSISTANT

Suhail is currently working as a project assistant here at Uzima. He helps to conduct research, assist with project coordination, chair the fundraising project and assist with various other tasks such as social media management and grant writing. I am also a university student.





Uzima Staff

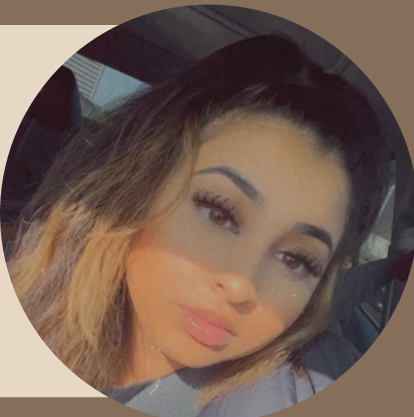


JULIA MPOYI- INTERN

Julia Is one of Uzimas interns. She is currently assisting with a multitude of Uzima projects.

Pronouns: she/her

Centennial College Social Worker Service Student



CHRISTINA BUDRAM - INTERN

Christina is another intern at Uzima. She also assists with a myriad of Uzima projects and tasks. She is currently enrolled in the Social Service Worker program at Centennial College.



FIKIRTE GEBREWOLD -,INTERN

Fikirte is an intern at Uzima. She recently began her placement and also assists with various Uzima tasks. She is currently studying Toronto Shelter Management and is training to be a community service worker.

Uzima Activities

The activities of Uzima are carried out in both 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 key focus on empowering women and men who are interested in helping on projects based in developing countries.

Project Activities in Canada:

Covid_19 has greatly impacted Uzima's usual functioning. In response to Covid_19 we adjusted a multitude of our projects and workshops to ensure that they could be conducted online. Given the reduction of restrictions and the slow move back to in-person gatherings and meetings throughout Ontario, Uzima has proceeded to plan more in person events, projects and workshops - including but not limited to the seniors grocery assistance and the CSMARI introductory meeting/workshop.



Promoting French language services in Black communities in Toronto:

The goal of this project is to reach out to Black French speaking people in Toronto and the GTA. Uzima provides services to marginalized communities with a focus on Black communities in Toronto and beyond. Programs at Uzima include support for gender-based violence survivors who are majority women, children, and youth.

The project aims to provide more access to French resources to Uzima's community. It consists of weekly French tutoring classes to aid those who want to learn the language but are limited by socio-economic and personal barriers. The classes are taught by multilingual Francophones that speak and write fluently in French but can communicate in other languages.

This will allow Uzima to aid more people in getting access to helpful resources related to many of our projects, such as mental health, the COVID-19 pandemic, Human trafficking prevention and helping lower income families, especially those who can only speak and understand French.



Enhancing Senior's Wellness and Safety:

This project targets Black seniors aged 55 years and over in Toronto who are experiencing elder abuse as well as the adverse effects of COVID-19. Uzima is concerned about elder abuse because it affects seniors across all socio- economic groups, cultures, and races.

The objectives of this project include providing information on elder abuse including financial abuse, training seniors in new technology to virtually navigate financial systems, and engaging seniors in the community through mentoring others on financial safety to reduce the incidence of abuse among Black seniors.

Gender Based Violence (GBV) /Shock proofing:

This project involves helping Black women and girls in Toronto and the GTA cope with adverse effects of the pandemic using culturally appropriate approaches. It also supports them in moving beyond the pandemic.

GBV increased during the pandemic and there is urgent need for Uzima to continue and expand the recently ended project on building the capacity of Uzima to support Black women during the pandemic.



OTF Resilience Fund:

This project focuses on building the capacity of Uzima to learn virtual technology to support community due to COVID 19

The program provides training to the board and staff to successfully carry out required tasks for Uzima projects while also enhancing Uzima's services and programs to serve clients better. Through training the program will adapt and re-imagine the delivery of programs and services.

The project will also help Uzima identify new health and safety processes and required personal protective equipment (PPE) technological supports to deal with challenges brought about by COVID-19. Uzima will adapt to the shift to more virtual elements in its work to make work completely accessible in virtual spaces. Uzima will engage public health and other professionals in processes such as correct and consistent use of (PPE), mental and physical health and wellbeing supports etc.

In addition, the program will enable Uzima to increase its ability to access financial resources and develop new and alternative sources of revenues. The team will learn to use e-marketing and social media to reach out to donors. Staff will develop new fundraising plans, identify fundraising and financial technological resources, seek opportunities for public-private partnerships and social enterprises to sustain the program.

A flyer for an "E-MARKETING WORKSHOP". The title is in large, bold, white letters on a dark red background. Below the title, it says "27TH SEPTEMBER" and "2:00PM-3:00PM". A circular inset image shows a man with a beard and a topknot, wearing a suit, working on a laptop. The Uzima WOMEN logo is in the top right corner. At the bottom, it says "ZOOM" in a red box, followed by "Meeting ID: 814 5554 0788" and "Passcode: 398630". Logos for Ontario, Trillium Foundation, and Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario are at the bottom left.A flyer for a "TROPICANA: GRANT WRITING 3 WORKSHOP". The title is in large, bold, teal letters on a light blue background. Below the title, it says "Facilitated by Ephraim Mwaura". A circular inset image shows hands holding a pen over a document. The Uzima WOMEN logo is in the top right corner. At the bottom, it says "Date and Time: Monday, October 17, 2022 @11AM" and "Zoom: Meeting ID: 871 7750 6461 Passcode: 415379". Logos for Uzima WOMEN, Government of Canada, and Gouvernement du Canada are at the bottom right.

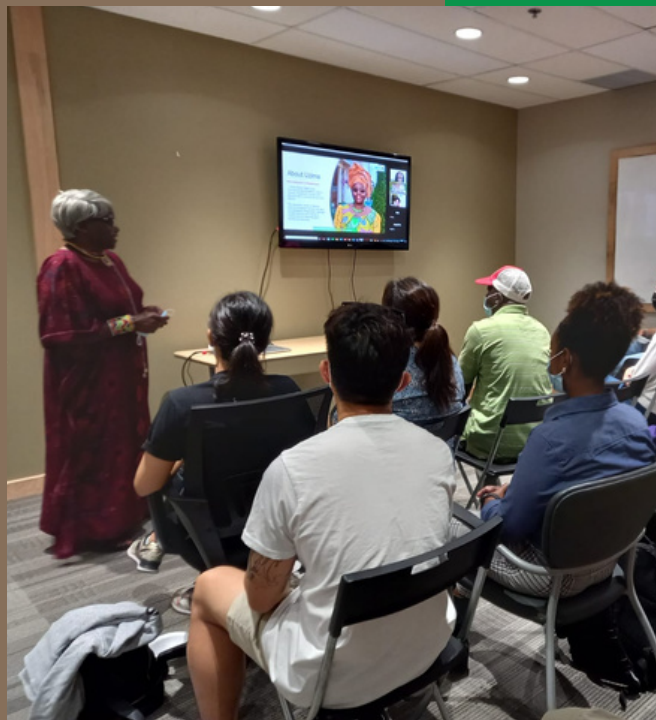
Tropicana:

Another new project Uzima is working on is Tropicana which focuses on Strengthening Uzima's Operational Management Effectiveness to Cope with the Increased Needs Of Black Communities In Toronto Due To COVID-19. With improved financial and operational management, Uzima will increase its credibility to funders and attract more multi-year funding for projects to better serve the needs of such communities. We hope to start our first set of workshops for internal staff this month to improve personal management and encourage both growth and sustainability.

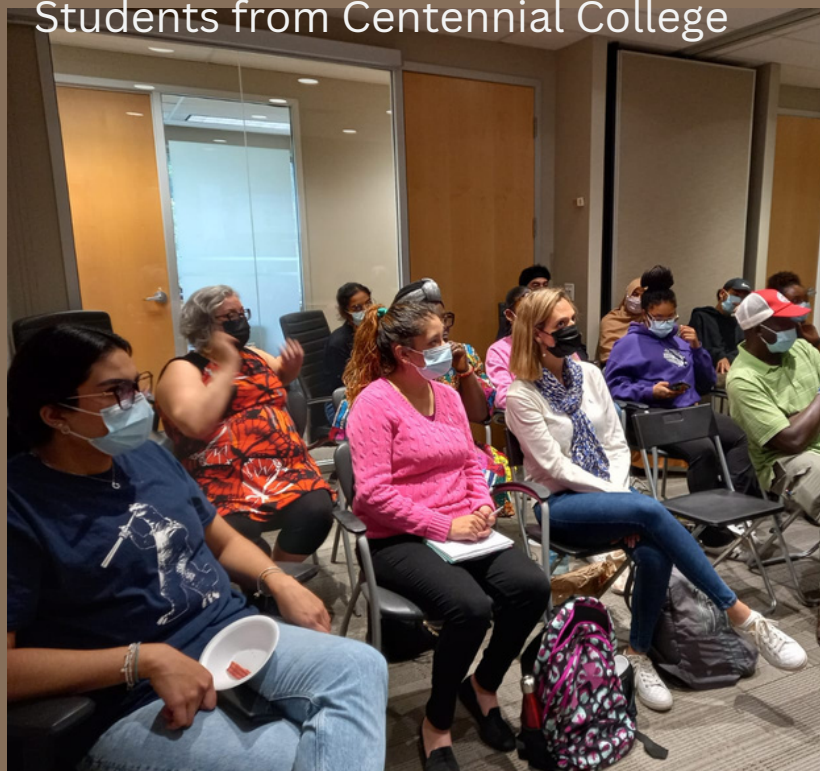
Community Support Multiculturalism and Antiracial Initiatives (CSMARI):

This project aims to build the capacity of Uzima to serve diverse racialized communities in Toronto and the GTA. It will enable Uzima to support communities in confronting racism, engaging in discussions on diversity and strengthening research and evidence to build understanding of the disparities and challenges faced by racialized and religious minority communities as well as indigenous people.

The project will enable Uzima to have an effective organizational structure with functioning key systems in place. The Board and staff will be equipped with knowledge in crucial areas like strategic planning, financial and human resource management. The board and staff of Uzima will gain skills in virtual communication using various electronic devices to provide services virtually during the pandemic. Training in Financial health will empower Uzima to implement programs and sustain them through periods of limited funding.



Introductory CSMARI meeting - Students from Centennial College



Financial stability at Uzima will be the foundation of successful programs. A well-trained board and staff will ensure that the needs of diverse groups are embraced in a culturally appropriate manner. More programs advocating for equality will be sustained at Uzima hence continuous services for racialized and other marginalized groups. There will be stronger partnership development, collaboration, and networking among service providers.

SUVAT BLUE/YVHTPP

This program is a youth violence and human trafficking prevention program with a broad scope on educating and empowering youth by building digital media platforms. It is formed from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services by the provincial government.

The program networks youth as a peer resource for each other. The program begun last summer and is building a sustainable digital media library in addition to providing a series of informative workshops to youth on a variety of topics.

It has also been branded as SUVAT BLUE. The name came from the words “survivors” and “anti-trafficking” combined.





Toronto/GTAYouth Media Broadcast



Join Us

Opportunity to be interviewed on video and tell your stories

Qualified participants will receive Visa gift cards



Please email
info@uzimawomeninternational.org
Subject: Suvat Youth Media to see if you qualify



Ministry of
Children, Community &
Social Services

Taking it Global

As part of our Rising Youth program meant to empower youth, we conducted a STEM workshop to educate and inspire the youth in our community to pursue a career in STEM. Given that it was a youth led event, we were able to create a safe space for youth to express their concerns and share their experiences.



Kindred Project

The Kindred project is one of Uzima's newest projects that is focused on providing mental health support to Black youth communities. The program will include workshops, mentorship and leadership opportunities, pro social activities, etc. Selected Black youth will also form an advisory committee to lead and execute the project activities. This project is also a youth led project.



KINDRED PROJECT

Seeking Black Youth (Aged 15-29) to participate in Uzima's Kindred Project

Honorariums will be provided for participants:

- Youth joining the advisory committee will receive \$50 per meeting (total of 4 meetings)
- Youth joining as participants will receive \$30

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION
ADMIN@UZIMAWOMENINTERNATIONAL.ORG

Sponsored By: 



Other Uzima Activities:

Throughout the 2021-2022 year, Uzima has hosted and participated in a multitude of community events and other activities. This included the East African Artisanship Fundraiser Event, Afro-Carib Fest, Afro-Fest - to name a few.

Fundraising Activities



Winners of the raffle prizes from the East African Fundraiser event.



Summer Events



Kenyan Chapter

On June 11, 2022, Uzima ran a 2 day workshop in Western Kenya. The ongoing initiative was to empower every participant to grow their own food within minimal confines of space. Kitchen gardening was the strategy behind this where organic farming maximized the effectiveness of yielding crop. As a result, the gardener would harvest highly nutritious food for consumption, to farm without replacing seeds for multiple seasons, and to profit from selling if commercial. Multiple guest speakers such as Ben Kiplagat led the event with lectures and demonstration on how to maximize produce using the equipment. Also, religious leaders, healthcare providers, and other professionals joined our Director Jacobet Wambayi PhD in making the event a success.

Uzima Women Relief Group International is launching a Kenyan chapter. There is an opportunity to participate in membership to grow the organization in that region.



Our Current Funders

Uzima's work involves extensive support from Funding Agencies, donors, staff and volunteers



A warm and hearty thanks to all of Uzima's funding agencies, partner agencies, participants, donors, staff and volunteers. Without your support Uzima would not be Uzima.



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 (888) 3125379 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
Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants
5484 Tomken Rd., Unit # 34 Mississauga, Ontario Canada L4W 2Z6
Telephone +1 905 919 3543 Fax + 1 289 210 0728
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