



# **WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY UGANDA**

**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

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# WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of WITU,

We believe that young women's social and economic empowerment has the power to end poverty in Africa and around the world. We also believe that STEM is one of the major keys to unlocking the power in each and every young girl and women to innovate a good future for herself and her community. A future where equal rights and equality are not myths, One where she has the power to contribute to family decisions and income, One where she has knowledge, power and control over her body and wellbeing.

STEM education, Leadership and Entrepreneurship Education are some of the ways WITU is putting power in the hands of a girl and young woman.

We believe its possible to achieve a future where we have equal numbers and contributions from Women in STEM, Leadership and Entrepreneurship. When girls and young women are taught practical STEM education, it unlocks the power in her to change communities.

2016 was a good year for us, we reached and impacted the lives of over 550 girls in all our programs, most of whom are into gainful employment or have re-enrolled into formal education.



We welcomed new members to our team as we grow and together we believe we will change Uganda and Africa.

We just developed our 2017-2019 strategy and are looking forward to impacting young women and girls lives around the country as we open up new centers, reach new communities and raise the next generation of unlocked potential and powerful women and girls.

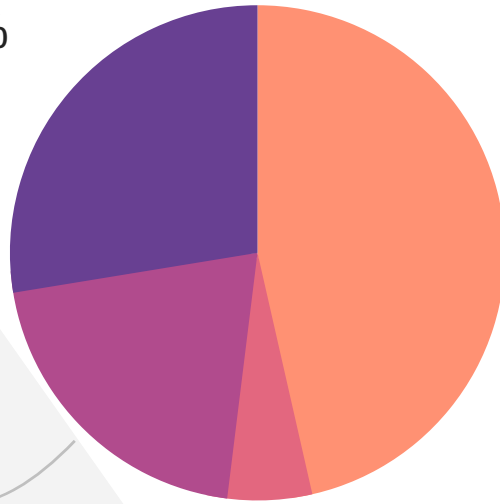
Thank you for your support and believing in us! We look forward to continuing working with you in 2017 and beyond.

**BARBARA BIRUNGI**

Executive Director

## EVENTS

28%



## CLSP

46%

## CODE GIRLS

20%

## TECH KIDS

6%

We trained up to 562 girls in all our programs as shown.

CLSP	261
TECH KIDS	31
CODE GIRLS LEVEL UP	47
CODE GIRLS (SECONDARY)	68
EVENTS	155

**WITU AT  
A GLANCE**

# CAREER, LEADERSHIP & LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM



Ladies learn Liquid Soap Making during the Entrepreneurship Practical Lessons

To date WITU has consistently inspired, trained and mentored girls through the Career, leadership and life skills program (CLSP), a three months training program that targets young women from poor social economic backgrounds with in Kampala. In 2016 WITU graduated 218 young women trained in four cohorts who were empowered in ICT skills basically Microsoft application, internet and online security. Life skills handled self esteem and awareness, CV writing, interview skills and entrepreneurship skills that handled how to start and manage a business, marketing and customer care. The program also entails hosting networking and mentoring events (Women in business),

doctor's visits, Sexual Reproductive Health Talks and skills exhibition. Various partners like the KCCA division offices, WITU alumni and former aspiring women counsellor Bukoto Ms Ruth Ann Kiiza, church leaders of St Joseph Catholic church Kamokya, Passover Church Kamokya, St Paul Mawanda road Kamokya local council leaders have been great support in getting the girls enrolled in the CLSP program. The girls enrolled come from all the 5 divisions of Kampala. Most of the girls come from central division from the villages of Bukoto, Naguru, Kamwokya and Kololo. Kawempe division from the villages of Bwaise, Kawempe, Kalerwe, wandegeya, Nakulabye, Makerere 1, 2, Lugoba, Mulago, Kisaasi and Kyebando, Rubaga division from the villages of Mengo, Nsangi and Busega, Nakawa division from the villages of Mbuya, Kitintale, Mutungo, Kyanja, Kireka, and Kiwatule, Makindye village in Makindye and Wakiso district from the villages of Kiira, Kireka, Kyaliwanjala, Naalya, Gayaza and Wampewo

# TECH KIDS

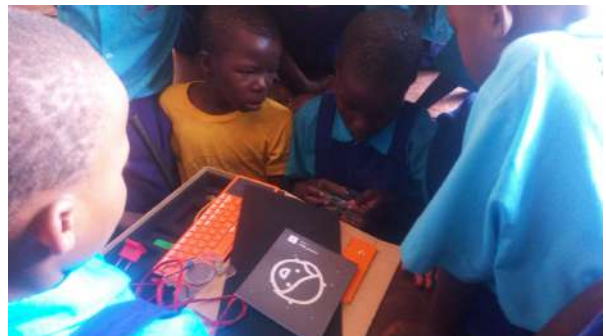
(IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THEIR WORLD)

In June 2016 WITU collaborated with Their world started a journey to run WITU code club with the theme "Together we are breaking down the barriers that stop children from getting the best start in life". Their World provided an IT kit the Kano computer which the WITU code girls clubs used during their weekly basis training for 6 months with the young women arranged by age category of 6-10, 11-14 and 15-25 years. WITU worked 60 girls (20 girls per age category) under the WITU code girls club sessions that teach the girls how to improve their capability to dream, think innovatively, improve their view of technology, and inspire them to productively use technology as a progression tool. Better still the girls get an understanding of the hardware accessories of a computer because they go through practical sessions as they assemble the computer kit.



Young pupils of KCCA P/S in the 6 to 10 years age category assembling the Kano Kit during their weekly sessions

As part of the 6 months weekly training sessions the three age groups were expected to develop different projects as explained below; The 6 to 10 years age category as part of their project decided to develop a Christmas card using scratch one of the programs they learnt and also be able to share with their fellow pupils who are not in the WITU code girls club about the hardware of the computer at their school.



Aceng Fortunate a pupil of KCCA P/S taking fellow pupils through the hard ware lessons that they had learnt.

For the 11-14 age category of the WITU code girls clubs WITU worked with club members of Kololo Senior Secondary School. In order to accomplish their project the club members identified poor self esteem, lack of sexual education and belief in sexual myths as the biggest problem youth face in their community. Therefore they decided to develop something to solve low self esteem and belief in sexual myths. The girls were divided into two groups, One group came up with the self-esteem booster animation and the other group came up with a prototype of a sexual myth dispelling system using the scratch program.

The prototype of a sexual myth dispelling system developed using scratch and paint editor. This prototype reveals facts through differentiating a myth from the fact. This is just a prototype that was developed in a paint/art editor. So it does not function like a fully developed system. For the 15-25 years age category WITU code girls club, they came up with the development of re-usable sanitary pads project and menstruation app called "NowIKnow" which helps to introduce the teenage girls to menstrual periods notes. This app you install it on your phone and any time you want to access information on menstrual periods, you browse through the app.



# THEIRWORLD PROJECT



# CODE GIRLS LEVEL UP

In 2016 WITU introduced and registered 45 Makerere university girls for a 10 week acceleration program that reinforced relevant technology and employability skills training to prepare them for the job market in Uganda. Topics covered included; desktop application, programming, networking, social media marketing, CV writing and animations and graphics design. In the bid to build mentorship and networking groups the girls were introduced to different Tech field's talks for them to know what is expected in those fields as far as employment is concerned. 30 girls were able to complete the 10 weeks program and 5 were offered internship at Hive Colab and 3 were offered internship at Cross road digital multimedia limited.



Paul Kanoti from Roke Telkom discusses Networking



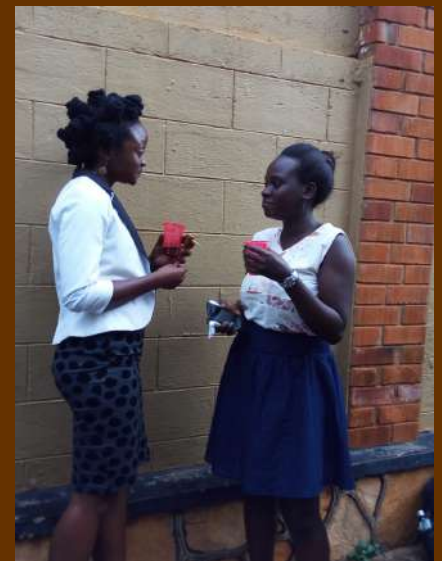
Joanita Nalubega shed light on social media marketing



### GIRLS IN ICT DAY

On 28th April, 2016 WITU joined the rest of the world to commemorate and host the Girls in ICT day. This is an annual event aimed at “Expanding horizon, changing attitudes”. This day presented an opportunity to hold a cocktail and networking event with Evelyn Namara as the guest of honor.

WITU uses the Girls in ICT day to introduce them to career opportunities in tech, and expose them to women working in the tech industry and leadership for networking and mentorship purposes.



Evelyn Namara and Susan chat on Girls in ICT Day

### GIRLS HACKATHON

On 29th July, 2016, WITU in collaboration with our great partner Hive Colab hosted a two days girl’s hackathon event for girls to come up with social solutions to different problems in our communities.

The hackathon was attended by 32 girls; the girls were taken through a problem identification process and discussed the possible solutions that could be built to meet these problems. The mentors for the day helped the different groups in directing them on how to build solutions.



Girls enjoying the cocktail event

# EVENTS

Day two the girls worked on the prototypes and pitching their ideas. Out of the 6 ideas, two ideas below were picked as the best.

**Mpolako** is an application that aims at making the process of acquiring items to be used for a short period of time easy. The application connects a lender and a borrower by people responding to requests of items needed. The borrower can then go ahead to contact the lender to receive the requested item.

**Instant Maid** is an application that connects house maids to people who are looking for maids. The maids are recommended and vetted before being uploaded onto the app for security purposes. When a user is interested in a particular maid, they can contact them directly.



Members of the winning team - mpolako app



Kitumba Solomon (mentor) guiding the girls through a group discussion



Tusiime Samson takes the girls through a problem identification process during the hackathon



## WOMEN IN BUSINESS

In 2016 WITU introduce the women in business event to bring together all the CLSP alumni. WITU carried out 4 Women in Business events 119 girls who attended.

The first event tried to understand what the alumni were doing in their various businesses and their progress. Those who attended the event requested they need to learn how to make paper bags that would help in some of their businesses. The second event had a practical class of making paper bags and looking at how to grow a small scale business.

The third Women in business event held on 30th September the alumni girls used this opportunity to exhibit their products but as the same time shared key points in building applicable marketing skills. On 25th November WITU held the final Women in business of the year under the theme understanding financial Management, with emphasis on savings and budgeting.





**WOMEN IN TECH (WITECH)**

WITECH is a quarterly meet up program for women in tech, women in business and women interested in tech. The discussions are around careers, tech start ups, creating a women network and sharing opportunities, challenges and creating solutions collectively. This is hosted every 3rd Friday of the third month in the quarter. WITU hosts an average of 15 ladies every meet up.

**AFRICA CODE WEEK**

Women in Technology Uganda together with three other partners - Hive Colab, Makerere University, Resilient Africa Network spearheaded the activities of the Africa Code Week in Uganda in October, 2016. Africa Code Week aims to foster digital literacy and equip the continent's rising generation of young people with job-relevant digital skills. Trainins for 10 schools was done in this week





# COLLABORATIONS

## READY TO WORK

In the last quarter of the year WITU collaborated with Brighter Monday to carry out Ready to Work trainings. Ready to Work is created by Barclays and is a pan Africa initiative aimed at helping young people build the skills they need to make the critical transition from education to work. WITU is proud to partner with Brighter Monday on the Ready to Work initiative because it provides more opportunity to empower the young girls and being able to get Ready to Work certificated inspires the girls to work hard. The initiative provides the girls with access to digital and face to face learning curriculum do develop their work, people, money and entrepreneurship skills. So as to better equip the girls in securing employment or starting their own business.

## OUR PARTNERS



