

Profile Of



Mbeleni Foundation

Research. Advocacy. Action for change.

About Us

MBELENI FOUNDATION is a Ugandan indigenous women-led Non- Governmental Organization which was founded in 2006 and legally registered in 2011 by the NGO Board.

Mbeleni was founded on recognition of the fact that while there are a number of efforts by government, humanitarian agencies and many other diverse stakeholders to address Refugee's plight in Uganda, the scope is still small and calls for strengthening. Refugees' Rights are not fully realized; Refugee women, youth and children's psycho-social, health and educational needs are not met to the fullest, and their orientation to relevant governing laws and policies need to be popularized. Compelled by this situation, Mbeleni was inspired to join the force to contribute to bridging the gaps and particularly focus her activities on community socio-economic justice and development. Mbeleni contributes to the realization of community wellbeing with focus on children, youth and women within refugee camps and settlements, the host communities and other populations affected by conflicts, disease, poverty and natural disasters.

VISION

Communities affected by conflicts, disease and poverty attain sustainable, socio-economic justice.

MISSION

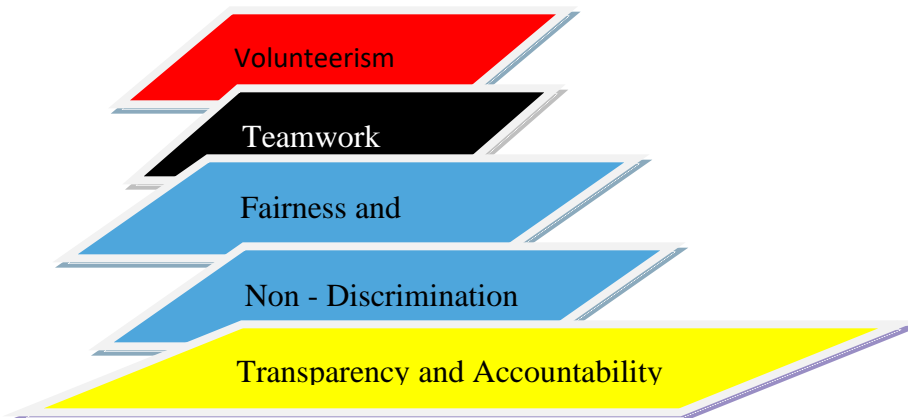
To empower vulnerable women, children and youth to rebuild their lives, their families and their host communities.

Slogan/Motto

...hope for a better future.

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Our values



Thematic focus:

Education

Through our scholars' programs, we engage and support parents and refugees to access quality education through provision of basic needs, scholarships, provide income generating activities to facilitate the access to basic quality education. Mbeleni foundation supports parents to attain basic principles of literacy through Functional Adult Literacy

Health

Mbeleni engages communities for better health outcomes. We promote advocacy for access and create demand for service uptake, create an enabling environment for refugees to participate in making choices on the decisions that affect them. Mbeleni works with community structures to achieve this.

Psychosocial support

Mbeleni through its network of lawyers provides communities with free legal services. Counselling sessions are an integral part in the work of Mbeleni. We promote access to justice as well as access to services by both victims and survivors. To date, Mbeleni has a number of lawyers spread through the different regions of the country.

Livelihoods

Women economic empowerment is at the heart

Areas of focus

- Economic empowerment– sustainable income, alternative livelihoods
- Food security

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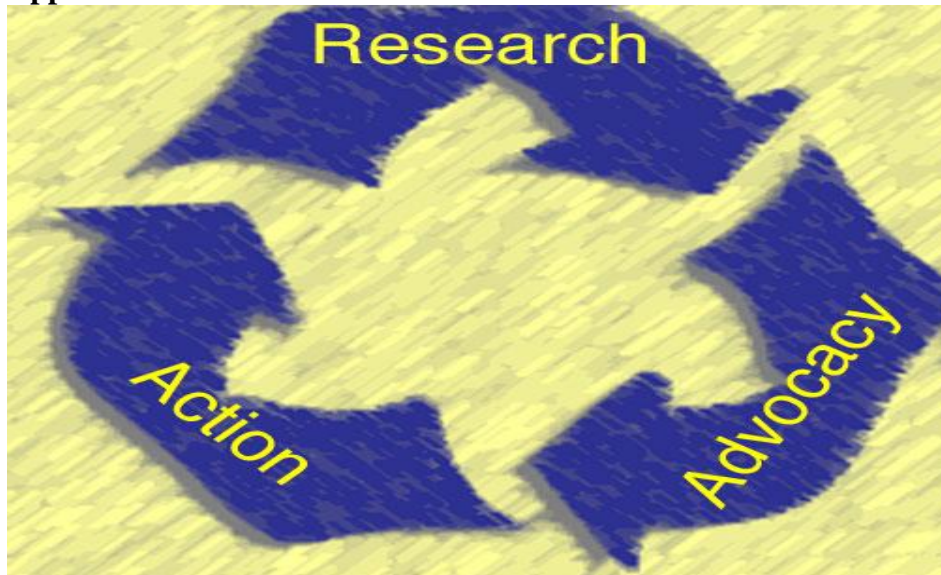
i) Good governance

- Women’s Rights promotion
- Peace building and security
- Social and Economic Rights
- Gender equity and gender inclusion

Areas of operation

MBELENI FOUNDATION has a national coverage, but presently works in Nakivale refugee camp in Isingiro district, Kyaka II refugee settlement in Kyegegwa District and in greater Kampala among the urban refugees.

Approach



Mbeleni Foundation’s approach is action-oriented research; using analytical evidence-based research findings to provide evidence that informs her action and advocacy work. Our entry point to the community is a family. Mbeleni Foundation will work with scholars to advance research, through partnerships and affiliation.

Achievements

Since its inception in 2006 Mbeleni has implemented a Scholars program that has extended support to 80 students in primary and secondary schools across Uganda. Some of these scholars have since finished different levels of education and are living their lives. This programme was financially supported by donations from committed individuals in the United States and Canada under the mobilization of one of the founders Professor. Sarah Dryden Peterson of Harvard University.

Mbeleni initiated the implementation of the Safe Play Initiative for Children and Youth Project (SPICY) in Katale Busawuula village, Kyengeru Town Council in Wakiso District in 2020-2021. The project aimed at organizing and providing psychosocial support to the children and youth while at play during their long stay at home as a result of COVID 19 Lock down and its effects,

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that led to the closure of schools for close to two years. The project looked at the children and youth health, social and physical safety, their leadership at the self-created pitches and who is accountable while there. We reached out to 50 direct beneficiaries, 35 were children, 15 youth and 5 girls. All the girls were children This was a pilot project that portrayed a need for organizational and psycho-social support for the children and Youth. We are continuing to mobilize resources with hope to continue with this project in future given that children and youth got used to their game and social networks, a routine that they may likely keep when they are back from school for holidays. The soft skills we passed on will still be relevant in this post COVID era.

Mbeleni implemented the leadership project to promote the well-being of refugee women, young girls and host communities through leadership skills building to enable them rebuild their lives and their families. This mentorship project was tailored to change the mind-set that women are not good in leadership. 20 women were reached out directly with a multiplier effect reaching more women in the community.

Mbeleni believes in movement building, collaboration, networking and capacity building. Mbeleni has worked on partnering with like-mind organizations for purposes of collaboration in activities that are in line with our objectives. We cherish participatory approaches to strengthen actions that are geared towards securing the wellbeing of vulnerable communities and bring sustainable and transformational change.

Partnerships

In a bid to respond to refugee plight, Mbeleni sought partnership with organizations who work on issues that address refugee concerns. Among the partners identified were Congolese Refugee Community in Uganda, (CRC) Refugee Law Project (RLP), International Refugee Rights Initiatives (IRRI), Youth sports Uganda, Game Connect, Katwe Primary School and Katwe Central LCI in Makindye division in Kampala and Katale-Busawuula in Kyengeru Town Council in Wakiso District

IRRI, one of our partners offers in-house advocacy and COVID-19 specific trainings to its partners. Mbeleni benefited from this arrangement when IRRI trained its staff and the Board on advocacy. Advocacy being one of the going concerns of Mbeleni, the training improved her capacity and awareness on how to handle issues of advocacy in engaging with authorities.

Mbeleni being a young organization in activities implementation, through partnerships with Wezesha Impact and YADNET, Mbeleni Foundation has enabled to build and strengthen its own capacity in improving youth livelihoods by building community capacities to address the challenges of unemployment through alternative livelihoods skilling.

Mbeleni joined the Urban Youth Engagement Forum, a network of organisations working with mainly Refugee Youth in Uganda. Mbeleni will grow its capacity in the area of networking and having joint activities. Through this forum, we have been invited to share spaces with other lead organisations like Norwegian Refugee Council in the Legal AID Clinic and Human Rights

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Centre Uganda where we were panelists on a Radio Talk Show. We are looking forward to more partnerships as members of this Forum.

Mbeleni's alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

Mbeleni shall align her activities with the UN Sustainable development agenda and specifically focus on addressing SDG, 3, 4, 5, 10, 16 and 17. We are also aware that most of the SDGs are crosscutting, addressing one leads to addressing another. Thus, all the 17 sustainable goals shall be addressed.



Our Partners



Reach us

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