

GIRL-H BRIDGE

Stories of Change



2021-2024

The **Girls Improving Resilience Through Livelihoods + Health (GIRL-H)** programme empowers and improves the well-being of adolescents and young people, with girls in priority, by addressing the barriers that limit their potential. The program employs a multi-pronged approach to equip participants with essential life skills, health information, basic literacy and numeracy, and financial literacy.

Our Methodology



Community-Based Approach

The program conducts community education sessions involving parents, local leaders, and influencers to challenge harmful social and gender norms, fostering an enabling environment where girls are valued and can exercise their rights.

Safe Spaces

The program establishes safe spaces for adolescents, where they can engage in structured sessions facilitated by trained mentors.



Economic Opportunities & Education

In partnership with public and private sector actors, GIRL-H connects participants to vocational training, savings groups, and livelihood opportunities, while also advocating for the re-enrollment of participants who choose to pursue formal education

Partnerships

GIRL-H collaborates with community-based organizations, government structures, and the private sector to co-design scalable and sustainable models.



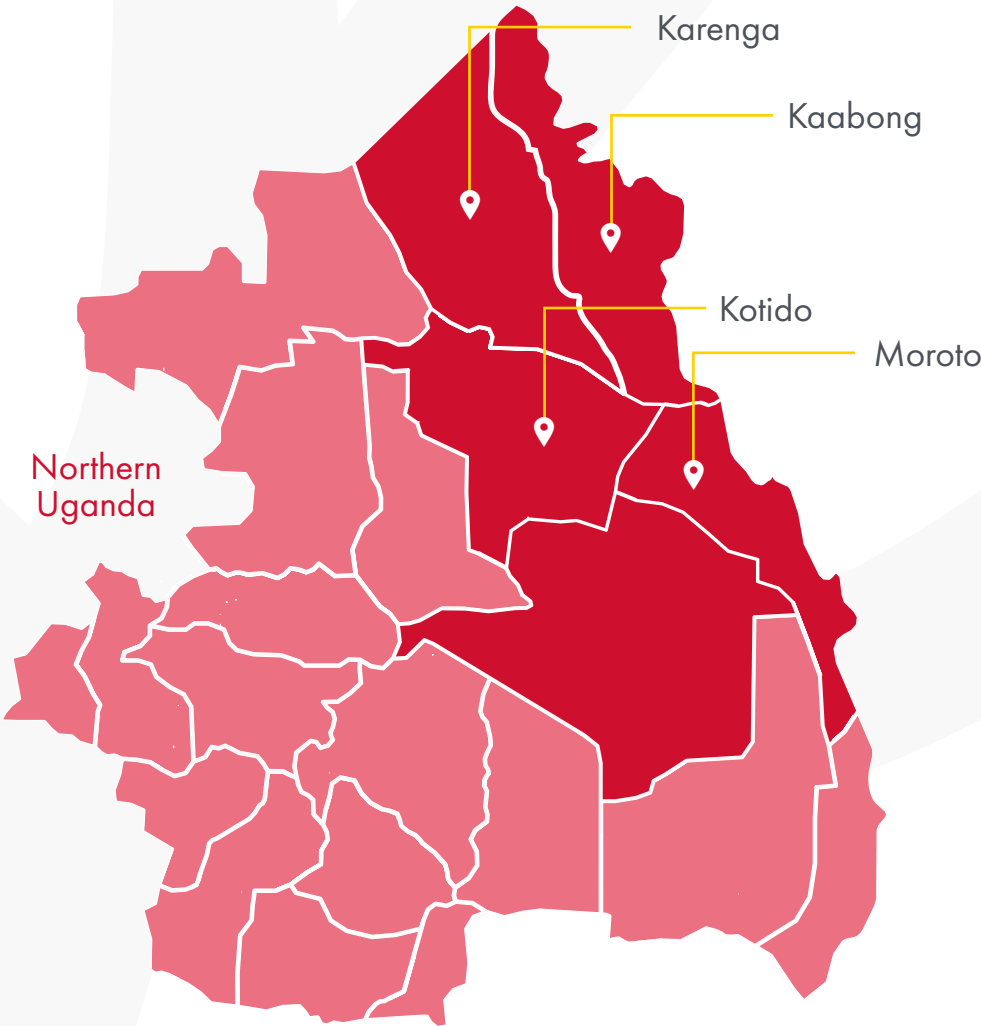
- 1. Community-Based Approach:** GIRL-H leverages community structures to implement its interventions effectively. The program conducts community education sessions to challenge harmful social and gender norms, fostering an enabling environment where girls are valued and can exercise their rights. By involving parents, local leaders, and influencers in these sessions, the program ensures that the broader community actively supports girls' empowerment.
- 2. Safe Spaces for Learning and Growth:** The program establishes safe spaces for adolescents, where they can engage in structured sessions facilitated by trained mentors. These sessions provide access to critical life skills, including financial literacy, sexual and reproductive health information, and basic literacy and numeracy. Safe spaces are designed to be inclusive, ensuring participants feel secure and supported throughout their learning journey.
- 3. Strengthening Economic Opportunities:** In partnership with public and private sector actors, GIRL-H connects participants to vocational training, savings groups, and livelihood opportunities. The program integrates the Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) methodology, enabling young people to build financial resilience while learning critical financial management skills. Additionally, trade fairs and market linkages are organized to enhance access to markets and financial services.
- 4. Partnering for Sustainability:** GIRL-H collaborates with community-based organizations, government structures, and the private sector to co-design scalable and sustainable models. By integrating program activities into existing systems, GIRL-H ensures long-term impact beyond direct implementation.
- 5. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adaptation:** The program employs a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress and measure outcomes. Regular feedback loops from participants and stakeholders enable continuous adaptation of activities to meet the evolving needs of communities.

Our Impact In Uganda

From 2021 to 2024, the GIRL-H program was implemented across four districts in Uganda’s Karamoja region: Moroto, Kotido, Kaabong, and Karenga. The program reached a total of 20,267 girls, of whom 17,062 became girl champions, while 7,479 transitioned into livelihoods, and 246 safe spaces were established to support their growth and development.

Additionally, 117 Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) were formed, providing thousands of adolescents with access to livelihood opportunities and financial services. These interventions have fostered a supportive environment where young people, especially girls, can exercise their rights and personal agency.

Through its targeted interventions, GIRL-H is addressing the root causes of inequality, creating transformative change, and paving the way for girls to build resilient and independent futures.



20,267
GIRLS REACHED

17,062
GIRL CHAMPIONS

7,479
TRANSITIONED
INTO LIVELIHOODS

246
SAFE SPACES
ESTABLISHED

117
SILC FORMED

Objective of the storybook:

The storybook aims to highlight the transformative impact of the GIRL-H program on adolescent girls, boys and young people through its focus on financial inclusion, and social behavioral change communications. The storybook will illustrate how these individuals have gained knowledge, skills, and opportunities to improve their lives.

The storybook will address the following learning questions:

1. Which financial inclusion strategies empower adolescent girls and young women most effectively?
2. How do these strategies contribute to individual and household well-being and resilience?
3. What role does SBCC play in altering social/gender norms that affect economic empowerment?

The storybook is aimed at key stakeholders including donors, development actors and the Government of Uganda.



“

Through the GIRL-H program, I learned how to manage my finances sustainably, count numbers, and make reusable pads to manage my menstrual hygiene. These are things I did not know before.

Anyese sewing clothes during the market day in her community



From Struggle to Success: Anyese's Journey of Transformation through the GIRL-H Program

Every Wednesday at 9 am, 19-year-old Anyese sets up her tailoring shop at the market day grounds in Rom Rom community, Kotido District. From the profit she earns sewing and selling clothes, Anyese has been able to improve her well-being as well as that of her family. On the weekly market days, Anyese makes a profit of 30,000 Uganda Shillings (US\$8). On non-market days, she earns 5,000 Uganda Shillings (US\$1.30). Out of her earnings, Anyese saves at least 4,000 Shillings (US\$1.09) every week, a practice she attributes to the financial management skills she learned through the GIRL-H program.

In the past, Anyese's parents faced financial difficulties that forced her to drop out of school in Primary 3. At just 16 years old, she began burning and selling charcoal, earning 12,000 Uganda Shillings (US\$3) per week, while also working on farms for as little as 2,000 Uganda Shillings (42 cents) per day. With her earnings, Anyese supported her elder brother's education and helped provide for her family's basic needs. Despite her efforts, she longed for an opportunity to build a career and improve her life.

When the GIRL-H program was introduced in Kotido District in 2021, Anyese saw how it was transforming the lives of her peers and felt inspired to join. With her parents' encouragement, she enrolled in the program, where she actively participated in weekly safe space sessions. These sessions covered a variety of topics, including basic numeracy, business skills, savings and financial management, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender-based violence (GBV), and reporting mechanisms for addressing risks to sexual and reproductive health.

Reflecting on her experience, Anyese shares:

"Through the GIRL-H program, I learned how to manage my finances sustainably, count numbers, and make reusable pads to manage my menstrual hygiene. These

are things I did not know before.”

After completing the three-month foundational training, the GIRL-H team encouraged Anyese and her fellow participants to identify vocational skills aligned with their interests and aspirations. Inspired by this guidance, Anyese selected tailoring—a passion she had nurtured for years. Through GIRL-H’s vocational training initiative, Anyese enrolled at a local institute, where she received hands-on tailoring training. Upon completing her training, GIRL-H provided her with startup resources, including a sewing machine and materials, as well as mentorship to support her in establishing her business.

Today, Anyese has turned her skills into a sustainable livelihood. Her tailoring business has significantly improved her family’s well-being and given her the financial independence she always desired. She now dreams of expanding her business and diversifying her income by starting a retail shop alongside her tailoring work.

“I want to expand and diversify my tailoring business while helping other girls in my community learn skills to support themselves,” she shares.

As a young leader in her community, Anyese now mentors her peers, encouraging them to use technical skills and financial literacy to create better opportunities for themselves. Her story is a testament to the transformative power of the GIRL-H program, which aims to address the root causes of inequality and build pathways for young people—especially girls—to achieve resilient and independent futures.

“

I want to expand and diversify my tailoring business while helping other girls in my community learn skills to support themselves.



Grace plaiting one of her clients



Grace's Path to Empowerment: A Success Story Through the GIRL-H Program

After completing her Primary 7 in 2021, Grace dreamed of continuing her education and progressing to secondary school. However, due to the financial constraints faced by her household, Grace was unable to pursue further education. It was during this challenging time that she learned about the GIRL-H program, which would later provide her with the opportunity to develop new skills and transform her life.

“When I returned home from boarding school, I learnt that my mother had encountered legal challenges. As our mother was the sole caregiver, my siblings and I could no longer meet our needs. During this difficult time, I also became pregnant, which led me to abandon my studies and focus on finding ways to support our household,” Grace explains.

As the eldest of five siblings, sixteen-year-old Grace was forced to take on the role of caregiver. She began working in gardens, earning a daily income of 8,000 Uganda Shillings (\$2). However, with such a minimal income, Grace could only afford to provide a few basic needs for her family.

Despite these challenges, Grace still desired to further her education, at least through vocational training. Fortunately, the GIRL-H program, implemented by Mercy Corps Uganda in partnership with Nakere Rural Women Activists in Kotido district, began just in time for Grace and her peers in the community of Kamour.

“The little income I was earning was not enough to cover all our needs. In 2022, while I was talking to a neighbor, she introduced me to the GIRL-H program,” Grace recalls.

Grace’s first instinct was to enroll in the program, seeing it as the opportunity she needed to develop herself. Through the GIRL-H program, Grace participated in three months of training that covered basic numeracy, business skills, savings and financial management, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender-based violence (GBV), and reporting mechanisms for addressing risks to sexual and reproductive health.

Once the three-month training concluded, Grace and her fellow participants were encouraged to select a vocational training course aligned with their interests. With sponsorship from the GIRL-H program, Grace pursued six months of hairdressing

training. Armed with advanced skills and newfound confidence, Grace began offering hairdressing services to her community, turning her passion into a sustainable livelihood.

Today, she is a well-known hairdresser in her community, earning a daily income of at least 20,000 Uganda Shillings (US\$5.46). In contrast to her previous earnings, Grace is now able to not only meet her family’s basic needs but also save a portion of her income.

The eighteen-year-old attributes her transformation and the income-generating skills she now possesses to the support she received from Nakere Rural Women Activists (NARWOA) and Mercy Corps Uganda. Grace is one of the 9,000 girls in Kotido district whose lives have been positively impacted by the GIRL-H program since 2022.

“

The little income I was earning was not enough to cover all our needs. In 2022, while I was talking to a neighbor, she introduced me to the GIRL-H program.



“

I used to live in a small, collapsing house, but with the money I earned from my business, I built a better home for my family. It makes me proud to show others that they can achieve the same.

*Lolem Lucy, 31
posing for a photo
besides her pile of
bricks ready to sell*

Brick by Brick: Lucy's journey from Stay-at-Home Mother to Business Owner and Community Mentor.

Lucy stands proudly beside a pile of bricks, a product of her hard work and determination. Her journey from a stay-at-home mother to an empowered entrepreneur and community mentor is an inspiring story of transformation fueled by the Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) approach of the GIRL-H program.

"Before joining GIRL-H in 2022, I was a stay-at-home mother with no income of my own. I depended entirely on my husband for everything, and life felt like it had no direction. However, after attending a community gathering where the GIRL-H program was introduced, I decided to enroll, and since then, my life has never been the same," Lucy shares.

Through the three months of GIRL-H SBCC sessions that Lucy attended, she was introduced to new perspectives on critical issues such as gender-based violence, restrictive gender and social norms, and the importance of respecting elders and spouses, and building self-esteem and self-confidence. Among these topics, the most significant lesson for Lucy was learning how to manage and respond to domestic violence.

"Before, arguments at home would overwhelm me, and I did not know how to handle the situation. The SBCC sessions helped me see that I could rise above these challenges, take control of my life, and create a better future for my family. Now, I know how to manage conflicts and focus on solutions instead of feeling helpless."

Another profound change Lucy experienced through the SBCC approach was overcoming her shyness and gaining confidence. "I used to feel small and insecure, afraid to speak up or share my ideas because I thought people were gossiping about me. But the GIRL-H training helped me recognize my worth and taught me how to interact with others."

The program's interactive SBCC methods—group discussions, role-plays, and goal-setting exercises—allowed Lucy to build her confidence and find her voice. "Today, I can speak up, share my story, and even teach others. I am proud of who

I have become.”

The GIRL-H training did not only aim to change Lucy’s mindset—it provided her and fellow participants with practical skills in business and financial management. These skills became the foundation of Lucy’s brick-making business, transforming her into a financially empowered woman. “I began saving from the small training allowances provided during the GIRL-H meetings. Once I had accumulated enough savings, I hired seven workers to assist me in laying bricks on my land. Given the high demand for bricks in my community, I was able to sell the finished products and earned an income of 2,000,000 UGX,” Lucy proudly explains.

With her newfound income, Lucy is now able to provide for her children’s school fees, food, and medical care. “This business is more than just a source of income—it’s an asset that has changed our lives,” she says.

The GIRL-H approach empowered Lucy to not only improve her own life but also to become a mentor to others in her community. She shares her knowledge on topics like hygiene, goal setting, and making reusable pads with girls and women.

“Even if not, everyone comes to my sessions, I focus on those who show up. Seeing them learn and grow is my biggest joy,” Lucy says. She also motivates women to take small, meaningful steps toward financial independence. “I tell them that even if their business is small, they should do it with one heart. Small beginnings can lead to big achievements.”

“I used to live in a small, collapsing house, but with the money I earned from my business, I built a better home for my family. It makes me proud to show others that they can achieve the same,” she proudly states.

Even beyond the GIRL-H program, Lucy continues to embody its principles and advocates for more women to embrace change. “This program gave me the skills and confidence to stand on my own.”

Her advice to other women is simple but powerful: “Attend community meetings and learn from others. If a fellow woman can achieve something, so can you. Stand firm and believe in yourself. Even without a formal job, you can create opportunities through hard work and determination.”

From a stay-at-home mother to a thriving entrepreneur and mentor, Lucy is now a beacon of hope and resilience in her community.



**Raising a generation resilient to
limiting gender and social norms:
Paska's story**

Growing up in Kaabong district, Paska faced significant challenges shaped by deeply ingrained gender and social norms. At the age of 14, she was married off, without the opportunity to complete her education or acquire income-generating skills. Additionally, she lacked basic knowledge of her sexual and reproductive health. By this time, Paska was already a mother to two young children, shouldering responsibilities far beyond her years. However, upon learning about the GIRL-H program, Paska saw it as an opportunity to overcome these limiting norms and create a better future for herself.

These circumstances reflect the reality for many adolescent girls in Kaabong and the wider Karamoja region, where restrictive social and gender norms often limit opportunities for girls to thrive. Early marriage, gender-based violence, and lack of access to education or financial resources are widespread, perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality.

In 2022, while searching for food for her family, Paska stumbled upon a community gathering where a Mercy Corps Uganda program officer was speaking about the GIRL-H program. The program's goal is to transform the lives of adolescent girls by building their knowledge, skills, and confidence to challenge harmful social norms and improve their overall well-being.

Inspired by the potential impact of the program, Paska was determined to enroll. Despite initial hesitation from her husband, she effectively communicated the program's benefits and successfully gained his support.

Upon joining, Paska participated in sessions covering sexual and reproductive health, basic literacy, numeracy, financial literacy, and business skills. Within three months, her mindset and perspective had shifted dramatically.

"I can now read, write, and manage basic calculations. With the small amount of money that my husband could give me for household expenses, I began saving 500 shillings (0.14 USD) each day. Over the course of 12 months, I used these savings to start a small retail shop near my home, applying the financial management skills I learned. This has steadily improved my well-being and that of my family," Paska shares.

Today, Paska earns a daily income of at least 20,000 shillings from her shop. This

year, she has saved 400,000 Uganda shillings (USD \$105) and continues to grow her business, which sells essential household goods to her neighbors. Her income has allowed her to purchase food for her family and save for her children's education.

In addition to economic empowerment, the GIRL-H program provided Paska and her peers with valuable knowledge about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, empowering them to challenge harmful gender norms that restrict their potential. Among the many lessons Paska learned, she considers this to be the most impactful. Since then, Paska has actively engaged in advocating for girls' rights in her community, sharing her knowledge and encouraging others to stand up for their well-being.

Paska has become a peer educator and is recognized as a role model for other girls in her community. She participates in community discussions facilitated by mentors, where she teaches adolescent girls about menstrual hygiene, personal health, and their rights.

"I participate in community discussions and teach girls how to manage their menstrual cycles and personal hygiene," Paska explains. "I want to ensure they have access to the knowledge I didn't have growing up."

For Paska, the program has been life changing. "Joining the GIRL-H program is the best decision I have ever made," she says. "I am grateful to Mercy Corps for their support to our community. I hope more adolescents in our community continue to be empowered, so they too can transform their lives positively."

Paska's journey demonstrates that, with the right opportunities and support, adolescent girls can rise above limiting gender and social norms and build a brighter, more resilient future for themselves and their communities.

“ I participate in community discussions and teach girls how to manage their menstrual cycles and personal hygiene. ”



“

...we share responsibilities—Sofia handles our household while I manage our shop, and we work as a team to take care of our family.

A Partnership Transformed: Sofia & Mathias' Story

"When the program came to our village, I did not know what to expect," recalls Sofia. "At first, I was just curious, but when my husband and I started attending the sessions together in 2022, our entire relationship changed."

Through the GIRL-H interactive lessons, Sofia and her husband learned about respectful gender roles, communication, goal setting, teamwork in marriage, as well as business and financial management. When asked about her key takeaway, Sofia highlighted the lessons on improving communication and teamwork within her marriage. She shares, "The program taught us the importance of sharing responsibilities at home. My husband began assisting with household chores—cooking, fetching water, and even purchasing everything I needed after I gave birth. It was something I had never witnessed in other homes."

Today, Sofia describes her household as peaceful and cooperative, and she credits GIRL-H for the positive shift.

Sofia's husband, Mathias, had this to say:

"Before GIRL-H, I did not know anything about saving or how to work with my wife as a partner. Through the program, I learned how a husband and wife can manage their home together. Now, we share responsibilities—Sofia handles our household while I manage our shop, and we work as a team to take care of our family."

One of the key lessons Mathias took away from the sessions on financial inclusion was diversifying income. "Before, I ran a shop for two years, but theft was a big problem. After learning about savings and investments from GIRL-H, I decided not to put all my money in one place. I bought land, and now my wife and I also do poultry farming. It's been very successful, and I'm grateful for the knowledge we gained."

As entrepreneurs, the GIRL-H program introduced Mathias and Sofia to a savings group in their community, composed of 30 fellow GIRL-H participants. The program

provided them with a grinding mill and a savings box to help manage their finances together. “When we buy five litres of fuel for 30,000 UGX (US\$8.19), we can earn 82,000 UGX (US\$22.38) from grinding cassava and sorghum for people in the community,” explains Sofia. “As a savings group, we each save 2,000 UGX (55 cents) weekly, and now our total savings amount to 2,561,000 UGX (US\$700)!”

These savings have been life-changing for Sofia and Mathias. “As members of the savings group, we have access to borrow funds. My wife and I utilized this opportunity to borrow money and purchase a heifer, which has since given birth to a calf. This has provided us with milk for our family’s consumption and an additional source of income. Similarly, other group members have used loans to start small businesses, support their households, and even repay their loans while earning a profit,” Mathias says.

Empowered by the GIRL-H program, Mathias has become a mentor and leader in the community. He now helps other families learn about goal setting, saving, and managing businesses. “I want everyone to understand that even small savings can create big changes,” he says.

Sofia echoes this sentiment: “This program changed our lives. Before GIRL-H, I did not know how to save or grow a business. Now, we are not just surviving—we are thriving. My husband and I even built our home on the land we bought, and we’ve inspired others in the village to join savings groups.”

Both Sofia and Mathias express deep gratitude to Mercy Corps and the GIRL-H program for bringing knowledge and opportunity to their community.

Mathias adds, “This program gave us the tools to improve our lives, and we’re ready to keep learning and growing.”



A Stitch of Hope: Paska's Journey
to Self-Reliance

“

They said the program would teach us business and financial skills while also providing support to attain vocational skills such as tailoring, catering, and hairdressing. Believing this could change my life, I decided to join.

At just 20 years old, Paska has already overcome challenges that would discourage many. Forced to drop out of school after primary seven due to lack of financial support, Paska spent her teenage years at home with her parents, feeling stuck and unsure of her future.

Her turning point came in 2022 when the GIRL-H program was introduced to her community. “The mentors came to our homes and told us about the program,” Paska recalls. “They said the program would teach us business and financial skills while also providing support to attain vocational skills such as tailoring, catering, and hairdressing. Believing this could change my life, I decided to join.”

Paska participated in the three-month safe space sessions, which covered topics such as financial and business management, goal setting, and building self-confidence, among others. Upon completing the training, and with sponsorship from the GIRL-H program, Paska further enrolled in a three-month tailoring course at Matany Vocational Institute in Napak District. She learned how to make shirts, dresses, and skirts, skills that would soon become the foundation of her future. “Tailoring stood out to me because there were not enough tailors in our community,” she explains. “I knew there would be a ready market for my work, and I would not need to travel long distances to earn money.”

Upon completing her vocational training, GIRL-H provided Paska with a sewing machine, fabric, and threads, empowering her to start her own business. It wasn't long before she began creating beautiful clothes for her neighbours. “I made

dresses, shirts, and skirts, and I sold everything I made,” she says. “The money helped me buy food for my family, especially since we could not harvest much from our garden due to poor rains.”

During peak seasons like Christmas, Paska earns as much as UGX 60,000 a week. “I sell a child’s dress for UGX 10,000 if the materials are available,” she shares. “The little money I earn, I use it right away to support my family.”

Despite the challenges of running a business in a small village, Paska remains optimistic. Her dream is to grow her tailoring business so she can provide for herself, her household, and her future children. “As long as I have enough money, I will keep buying new materials to make more clothes,” she says.

Paska’s journey also highlights the importance of savings. Although most saving groups in her community have closed, she and others plan to restart one soon. “It is important to save for emergencies and business growth,” she acknowledges.

Looking back, Paska is deeply grateful for the support she received from GIRL-H. “I want to thank the GIRL-H program for giving me the skills and tools to build a better life,” she says with a smile. “Now, I can support myself and my family, and I’m proud of the work I do.”

“

Now, I can support myself and my family, and I’m proud of the work I do.



“

They asked those interested in joining vocational schools to stand up, I got up because I saw this as my chance to make something of myself.

Forging Forward: Philip's Story of Determined Transformation

At just 21 years old, Philip from Kaabong District has become a symbol of resilience and hope for his family and community through the GIRL-H program. However, his journey was far from easy.

In 2019, at the age of 18, Philip's education came to an abrupt halt when he was studying in primary seven. Financial struggles made it impossible for him to continue. "There was no money for me to continue with school," he recalls.

Everything changed when the GIRL-H program reached his community in 2021. During a community meeting organized by the program, Philip learned about its opportunities and decided to join as a participant. Over the course of three months, he underwent training in a comprehensive curriculum that covered topics such as financial literacy, business skills, decision making, and gender roles.

Building upon this progress, the program enrolled Philip and his peers in vocational training. "They asked those interested in joining vocational schools to stand up," Philip recalls. "I got up because I saw this as my chance to make something of myself."

In 2021, Philip joined St. Daniel Naoi Moroto Vocational Training Institute with sponsorship from the GIRL-H program to study welding—a skill he had never imagined mastering but believed could set him apart in his community. "I chose welding because there are no mobile welders in my area, not even in Kapedo. It was an opportunity to do something unique," he explains.

While three of his peers dropped out due to the challenges of welding Philip persevered. "I remember one of the things we were taught was how to be resilient and persevere to achieve our goals. So, I endured because I knew this was my only chance to create a better life," he says with pride.

After completing six months of vocational training, Philip was ready to put his newly acquired knowledge to use. His starting point was a lesson he learned during the three-month GIRL-H safe space sessions: financial management and saving. "We

were taught how to save money and manage it wisely,” he says.

Today, Philip runs a welding business, repairing motorcycles, metal items, and even making doors when materials are available. On average, he earns UGX 200,000 per month, saving UGX 15,000 weekly and contributing UGX 2,000 to welfare. By mid-2024, he had saved UGX 500,000 and used loans to reinvest in his business.

“This work has transformed my life,” Philip shares. “Before, I could not afford to buy food or support my family. Now, I help by buying food, assisting with farming, and paying school fees for my younger siblings.”

Philip’s business is more than just a source of income; it’s a beacon of hope for his family. As the youngest of six siblings, he is currently funding the education of two of his brothers, a responsibility he takes seriously.

Looking ahead, Philip has big dreams. “I want to expand my business, buy more welding materials, and take on bigger projects,” he says. “With this business, I will be able to educate my siblings and improve our lives.”

Philip is deeply grateful to GIRL-H and Mercy Corps for giving him this opportunity. “I thank the Mercy Corps office and GIRL-H for taking me to school and helping me acquire this technical skill. It has changed everything for me and my family,” he says with a smile.

Through his determination and the support of the GIRL-H program, Philip has forged a brighter future, proving that with the right opportunities, young people can break barriers and thrive.

“

Before, I could not afford to buy food or support my family. Now, I help by buying food, assisting with farming, and paying school fees for my younger siblings.

Conclusion

These stories highlight the transformative impact of the GIRL-H program in addressing challenges that hinder the progress of adolescent girls and young people. Through tailored interventions focusing on financial inclusion, Social Behavioral Change Communications, and Private Public Partnerships, GIRL-H has empowered individuals, families, and communities to break cycles of poverty and inequality.

These stories demonstrate the program's tangible outcomes: improved household income through entrepreneurship, strengthened family dynamics rooted in shared responsibilities, and increased knowledge that enables women and girls to advocate for their rights and well-being. From Paska's inspiring journey to financial independence to Sofia and Mathias's remarkable partnership in building a thriving family business, these personal accounts are a testament to the resilience and potential of the communities we serve.

The GIRL-H program is not just about individual empowerment but about creating ripple effects that foster systemic change in the wider community. These stories are a clear call to action for stakeholders and funders to continue investing in programs that address the unique challenges faced by adolescent girls and their families, ensuring they have the resources, skills, and knowledge to thrive.

We urge our stakeholders to join us in scaling these efforts, extending support to more vulnerable communities, and deepening the program's reach. Together, we can amplify the impact of GIRL-H, transforming lives and building resilient communities across Uganda and beyond.

Let's continue to unlock opportunities for adolescent girls, one community at a time. Your support makes this possible.

Contacts

DAVID GATARE

Country Director
Mercy Corps | Uganda
dgatare@mercycorps.org

JAMES LOVE

Director of Programmes
Mercy Corps | Uganda
jlove@mercycorps.org

ESTHER KAPEL

GIRL-H Program Manager | Uganda
ekapel@mercycorps.org

ESTHER MUSA

GIRL-H Program Director
emusa@mercycorps.org

About Mercy Corps

Mercy Corps is a leading global organization powered by the belief that a better world is possible. In disaster, in hardship, in more than 40 countries around the world, we partner to put bold solutions into action — helping people triumph over adversity and build stronger communities from within. Now, and for the future.



Kampala Head Office

Plot 1085, Tank Hill By-pass, Kiwafu
Road, Muyenga, Kampala