



# ANNUAL PHILANTHROPY SYMPOSIUM 2025

Celebrating and reclaiming giving:  
centering local philanthropy in Uganda

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2025 MESTIL HOTEL



SCAN TO REGISTER



philanthropy  
for development



## SPEAKERS



### Dr. Moses Isooba

Dr. Moses Isooba is the Executive Director of the Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF) – a sharing and reflection platform of National and INGOs in Uganda. Prior to joining UNNGOF, Dr Isooba was a Governance Advisor with ActionAid Denmark. He also worked as the Programme Coordinator of the Civil and Political Rights Component of DANIDA's Human Rights and Good Governance Programme in Uganda.

He is currently a member of the Re-Imagining INGOs (RINGO) Social Lab – a group of Practitioners reimagining INGOs through disruption, innovation and systematic thinking. Under RINGO, Dr Isooba is the idea carrier of the Language and Lexicon prototype.



### Jacqueline Asiiimwe

Jacqueline Asiiimwe is a pioneering feminist, lawyer, and philanthropy leader who has spent nearly three decades advancing social justice, gender equity, and locally led development in Africa. She is the Founder and CEO of CivSource Africa, a Pan-African philanthropy support organization that places power and resources directly in the hands of communities.

Jacqueline has unapologetically championed feminist and gender-responsive approaches to financing, challenging extractive aid models and advocating for African agency in development conversations. She works at the intersection of gender justice, philanthropy, and systems change, using her platform to reimagine how giving can truly serve those it intends to uplift.



### Mr Francis Kamulegeya

A social entrepreneur and philanthropist with over 22 years of experience at PwC Uganda, where he served as the Country Senior Partner and was a member of the PwC Africa Governance Board.

He is the Director and Co-founder of Masaka School of the Deaf. He also serves as the Non-Executive Director at MTN Uganda and Chairman Board of Directors of I&M Bank, among other top-level governance roles.



## CHIEF GUEST: Hon. Betty Amongi



Hon. Betty Amongi Akena is Uganda's Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development and also serves as the Member of Parliament for Oyam South County in Oyam District. She has built a strong reputation as an advocate for community-led development and social justice. Her work has particularly focused on promoting gender equality and advancing the rights and welfare of women, children, and vulnerable communities.

In her current ministerial capacity, she has played a key role in shaping national policies on labour rights, social protection, and gender equity, while also representing Uganda at regional and international forums. She is also recognized for her philanthropic engagements, supporting education, health, and economic empowerment initiatives in underserved communities, especially in Northern Uganda.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Prof. Pamela Mbabazi



A Professor of Development Studies and currently the Executive Chairperson, National Planning Authority, a member of the Cabinet, and Advisor to the President. She has also recently been appointed to the Advisory Board of the Africa Hub for Warwick University.

Previously, Prof. Mbabazi has served as the Head of Research at the African Peace & Security Program of the African Union at the Institute for Peace & Security Studies, Addis Ababa University. She has also served as Professor of Development Studies at the Mbarara University of Science & Technology (MUST). Before that, she was the Deputy Vice Chancellor at the Mbarara University of Science & Technology (MUST), and the Dean of Faculty of Development Studies.

## Barbara Nahone Ajambo Kasibante



Barbara is an enrolled Advocate who has specialized in Taxation Law and Practice. She is a member of the Uganda Law Society, East Africa Law Society, East Africa Revenue Authorities Legal Sub-Committee, and the IMF – East African Community of Practice. She is also a Chartered Company Secretary (ICSA UK) and holds an Advanced Diploma in International Taxation (ADIT UK).

She is well-versed in Tax Litigation, Interpretation of Tax Laws, Formulation of Tax Policy, Drafting contracts, provision of legal guidance, stakeholder management, and Leadership. Barbara has handled over 200 taxation matters in the Tax Appeals Tribunal, the High Court, Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court of Uganda involving the Uganda Revenue Authority. She is currently employed as the Manager, Regional and International Taxation at the Legal Services and Board Affairs Department of Uganda Revenue Authority.

## Mr Steven Okello

Executive Director NGO Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs



**Paul Okitoi**

Head Economic and Strategic Planning at the National Planning Authority of Uganda ·

**Dr. Hamis Mugendawala**

Manager Policy Research and Innovation, National Planning Authority

**Richard Ssewakiryanga**

Executive Director at the Centre for Basic Research

**Jovia Nakitende**

Jovia is passionate and experienced in the promotion of maternal and newborn health through community-led breastfeeding and human breast milk donation initiatives. She is a great advocate for equitable access to safely donated breast milk for vulnerable newborns who need it to survive and thrive. Jovia has championed and advocated for the use of various non-cash forms of generosity, such as time, care work, peer support, and knowledge sharing as essential resources in saving lives and building resilient health systems. Her experience reflects how compassion and community networks can be powerful drivers of change beyond traditional financial giving.





### **Gerald Katabazi**

Founder, Volcano Coffee



### **Stella Kamakune**

Stella has been a community leader and director at Vermillion Foundation since 2021, a community-based organization advocating for persons with Autism and blood donation drives across Uganda. She is committed to transforming lives in her community and those around her.

As a blood driver, she and her team have successfully had blood drives in different communities for five years now, fronting the perspective of "You do not have to be a doctor to save a life." They have also extended Autism awareness services to various families.

Stella is also a certified marketer and practitioner, currently serving with Bakhresa Uganda. She uses these marketing skills to foster collaborations with different organizations and people concerning blood donations.



### **Dr. Steven Rwangyezi**

Founder, Ndere Group



### **Rtn. Rita Mitala**

A charter member and Past President of the Rotary Club of Kisugu - Victoria View. She is a Paul Harris Fellow. (PHF+3). She has served on the Club board for several years in the past. She is the current Rotary Cancer Run Chair for 2025. She is a member of the (RFEW) Rotary for Empowering Women Fellowship.

Rotarian Rita is currently a consultant specialising in governance, risk management, and compliance. She is also a certified transformative coach.

Rotarian Rita has served as a Director on several boards. She is currently a Board member of the Financial Intelligence Authority of Uganda (FIA) and Vice Chairperson of the Board of Old Mutual Insurance Uganda.





## Hope Nankunda

Nankunda is a Teacher and Counsellor by profession with 18 years' experience working closely with students in schools and parents in communities. She is the founder and Executive Director of Raising Teenagers Uganda, working to create safe spaces for young people with a strong emphasis on Menstrual Hygiene Management for the vulnerable Girl Child as well as Guidance and Counselling services for young people in schools and Communities.

She is a qualified Mentor through the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women, which stimulates change by empowering student activists and Leaders to engage in innovative projects and community service work.



## Esther Kalenzi

Esther Kalenzi is passionate about working with young people to contribute to positive social change in Uganda. She is the Founder and Team Leader of 40 Days Over 40 Smiles Foundation (4040), a volunteer-based non-profit organisation which provides literacy and educational resources for children in underserved communities.

Through 4040, she has capitalized on the use of crowdfunding to support at least 3,000 underprivileged children. Their work has engaged over 650 volunteers and thousands of other Ugandans, generously contributing resources, skills, and in-kind support.

Together with her team, Esther has raised over \$300,000 through local resource mobilisation over the years. With these funds, they have built a community resource centre, a community library and two dormitories.



## Omuk. Sam Dick Kasolo

Omuk. Sam Dick Kasolo is Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi's longest-serving press secretary, having held the role for over 30 years. Positioned at the heart of the Buganda Kingdom's communication framework, he coordinates media engagements and public relations. His commitment to serving the kingdom has earned him titles such as Ssaabakuunzi (chief mobiliser) and Omukukunavu (expert). He has served under different Buganda Kingdom premiers, implementing media strategies and championing initiatives that advance the kingdom's cultural heritage and developmental aspirations.



## Annemaaïke Kruisselbrink-Oweitu

The co-founder, former Uganda Country Director, and current Fundraising & Partnerships Coordinator of Backup Uganda. Backup Uganda develops inclusive, sustainable support for children with learning difficulties and disabilities and is based in Gulu, Northern Uganda. Together with her team, to date, she has raised over \$50,000 towards Backup Uganda's work through crowdfunding activities, including digital campaigns, local events, and ambassador approaches.

Born and raised in the Netherlands, Annemaaïke moved to Uganda in 2013 and has worked in the education sector ever since. She holds a Master's Degree in International Development Studies from Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, and has over 15 years of experience in the inclusive education sector, from direct support to learners to organizational management.





### **Emmanuel Ssekitto Kalule**

An "artist of artists" and the Founder of Faces Up Uganda, a for-impact organisation that extends life-transforming arts education and personal development opportunities to young people at the margins. He is a 2024 Mandela Washington Fellow from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, an alumnus of YALI East Africa, and a Western Union and Watson Institute Fellow. His organisation enables young people to use what they have (creativity) to get what they need (opportunities and income) to thrive in school and in life. He has received local and global recognition: in 2023, Faces Up Uganda, the organisation he leads, was named one of the 100 most innovative and scalable organisations by HundrED, Finland; he was also recognised as Africa Youth Leader of the Year in 2019 and featured in New Vision's Top 40 Under 40 in 2020.



### **Rehema Hassan Nambi**

Rehema is the COO, Smart Girls Uganda and a passionate STEM Advocate. An optimistic leader dedicated to empowering girls in STEM by giving back through mentorship, skills training, and innovation.



### **Brian Kagoro**

Brian Kagoro is managing director of Programs at the Open Society Foundations. He oversees a diverse portfolio of programmatic opportunities, helping to deliver on Open Society's strategic goals and ensuring that the Foundation's full portfolio of work remains balanced, inclusive, future-focused, and transformative. Kagoro previously served as Director of Justice and Intersectionality, responsible for guiding Open Society's global work to advance democratic freedoms and ensure accountability for human rights abuses. In that role, he developed and led the Foundations' strategy to redress abuses of power that undermine democratic practices and rights, and to advance policies that recognize and secure equal rights and just outcomes for underserved communities, including innovative initiatives on caste, racial, and gender justice. Prior, Kagoro was Director of Programs in Open Society's Africa Regional Office. He has played a key role in integrating intersectionality across all Open Society programs.



### **Emmanuel Njuki**

Country Legal & Corporate Affairs Lead,  
Nile Breweries





### **Annabel Ogwang-Okot**

The Chief Executive Officer of the Centenary Group Foundation and a highly respected gender and governance expert with over 23 years of experience. Annabel's expertise lies in women's economic empowerment and community finance, having supported grassroots financial ecosystems including savings groups, SACCOs, and cooperatives. She has led large-scale programs on rights-based development and social accountability and played a critical role in expanding access to finance for women entrepreneurs under the World Bank-funded GROW Project.



### **Dr. Winnie Nabiddo**

A seasoned Economist and Educator with a Ph.D. in Economics from Makerere University, an M.A. in Economics from the University of Nairobi, and a B.A. in Education (with a major in Economics) from Makerere University.

Currently serving as the Head of Monitoring Evaluation and Compliance at Uganda's National Planning Authority (NPA), she is the technical coordinator responsible for designing and progress reporting on the Results framework and the evaluation of the National Development Plan (NDP), the Manifesto, Directives and Vision 2040, as well as monitor international agendas like SDGs, Regional frameworks to include the Agenda 2063. She is the technical lead in producing the Annual Budget Certificate of Compliance for the NDP, covering the entire government and addressing cross-cutting issues, including SDGs, HIV/AIDS, Gender, HRBA, disability, and climate change, among others.



### **Dr Stigmata Tenga**

Stigmata is the Executive Director of the Africa Philanthropy Network (APN), the only continent-wide network of organizations focused on building a multi-stakeholder infrastructure of African philanthropy ecosystem actors. Previously, Stigmata worked as a process consultant and development facilitator, bridging civil society with government, private and international development partners. She holds a PhD in Social Anthropology and over twenty years' worth of experience, building bridges to advance equitable and inclusive development, engaging stakeholders in the system to gain trust and genuine representation. Stigmata is a co-founder and the president of the Tanzania Foundation for Civil Society, and she serves on several civil society and corporate governance boards.



### **Leonard Okello**

Leonard Okello is the Chief Executive Officer of the Uhuru Institute for Social Development, an organization promoting citizens' collective action for social and economic empowerment, defense of human rights, and nurturing democratic practice. He is a political scientist with extensive local and international service in development work, advocacy, and campaigns for health, democracy, and accountability. While at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Oxfam International, Leonard led the Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Process through which the Poverty Eradication Action Plan, the Poverty Action Fund, the Plan for Modernising Agriculture, the National Agricultural Advisory Services, and the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund were designed.

Leonard later joined Actionaid International as the International Head for HIV/AIDS Programmes, where he actively led the universal access to treatment campaigns.





### **Grace Maingi**

Grace is the Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) Executive Director. KCDF focuses on working with communities to enhance their resilience through sustainable development approaches and addressing social justice issues. KCDF believes that sustainable change is possible when communities are at the center of their own development and in charge of finding their solutions. KCDF is a strong proponent for community philanthropy and creating an enabling environment for citizens and civil society to flourish. Grace is a human rights lawyer who has dedicated her work to the not-for-profit sector over the last twenty-three years due to her belief in the need for equality and justice in society.

### **Modern Karema Musiimenta**



The Uganda Country Director STIR Education & Founder of the MENTA Leadership Academy. In his Country Director role, he is the head of the leadership team at the country office. He is mainly in charge of program strategy, government relations and strategic partnerships, and people and culture. Before this he was the Head of National Programs at Educate! Uganda, Head of Program Implementation at Educate! Rwanda, Program Manager at Educate! Uganda, General Manager at Jobconnect Ltd, and Branch Operations Manager at the National Social Security Fund. This is over a 21-year period. He also serves at various Boards at district, national and regional bodies, among others the Regional Educational Learning Initiative (RELI AFRICA) where he serves a Board member representing Uganda, Second Chance Foundation and Train Up a Leader where he serves as Board Chair, Mbarara Community Hospital, Evelyn Health Training Institute and the where he serves as a member, and Birere Mixed Primary School (where he serves as Chairperson School Management Committee).

### **Twesigye Jackson Kaguri**



After studying at Makerere University and serving as a visiting scholar in Human Rights Advocacy at Columbia University, Jackson returned to his community with a mission. In 2001, honoring a promise to his dying brother to educate his children, he founded The Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project.

Nyaka provides free education, healthcare, nutrition, clean water, and holistic support for grandmothers raising these children. Through schools, libraries, a health clinic, a farm, and a grandmothers' program, Nyaka strengthens entire communities. Jackson's leadership has earned global recognition, including being named a CNN Hero, winning the Waislitz Global Citizen Award, and being featured in Time Magazine's "Power of One" series. In 2022-23, he was honored as an Advanced Leadership Initiative Fellow at Harvard University.

### **HE. Frederieke Quispel**



Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Uganda