



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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Executive Director's Remarks

The end of 2023 is a personal milestone as it marks the end of my first year as Executive Director of Coterie Development Initiative (CDI), and CDI first year as well. It has been a stimulating and eventful year for me and for Coterie Development Initiative. Our belief that the Community is key to meeting the SDGs, and the importance of collaboration and partnerships has only become stronger. We relentlessly continued our efforts to facilitate the catalytic role of community and strengthen its impact on the economy and livelihoods, always, with the support and collaboration of our members and partners.

Key deliverables and joint activities included celebrating the midway point of SDGs, the official recognition and award for our work on SDGs by Ambrosoli Think Tank, and partnership meeting with Aflatoun, among others.

Partnerships are central to our work and our strategic direction, and we continue to nurture our ongoing relationships while also forming new ones with institutions such as Ambrosoli Think Tank. I would like to thank our members and partners, whether existing or new, for their trust, engagement, and fruitful collaboration. We look forward to pursuing this collaboration in 2024 and beyond.

Today, you are over 2000 using our website services, more than 200 of you subscribing to our monthly newsletter and almost 500 of you follow us on social media. Many of you continued to participate in our flagship webinar series on SDGs which reflects our responsiveness to the challenges as well as the depth and breadth of expertise we are able to draw from on the country and beyond. This year we focused on Zero Hunger and sustainability in Africa. We would like to thank you for your continued engagement and loyalty which allows us to deliver on our mandate to share knowledge and advocate for the achievement of SDGs. We also appreciate your positive and constructive feedback which allows us to better deliver on our mandate.

In 2023, we also had the honor to welcome Hon Chemutai Evelyn, Ms. Hope Rwaganika, Rev Irene Akankwasa, Kojo Ablode (PhD) and Ass. Commissioner Moses Kasigwa to our Board. For their invaluable support and guidance, we are immensely grateful.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank the Secretariat staff for all their hard work and dedication this year. 2023 was indeed a stimulating and eventful year. We are prepared for an even more stimulating and impactful 2024. We have already put in place a strong pipeline of projects and events to be delivered. Stay tuned. By continuous learning, connecting and working together, we can and will collectively “meet the SDGs”!

On behalf of CDI, all our partners and myself, I wish you all a safe and peaceful new year, and I look forward to our ongoing collaboration in 2024.



DAISY OWOMUGASHO (PHD), EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Introduction

Coterie Development Initiative aims at creating a positive impact on the lives of the poor and marginalized, by creating opportunities for creativity, innovation, participation, growth and development.

Our Mission

To positively impact the lives of the poor and marginalised by creating opportunities for creativity, innovation, participation, growth and development."

Our Vision

Empowered, Creative and Thriving Communities leading lives of plenty

Our Objectives

- Create a culture that recognizes the importance of creativity in our communities
- Create structural and foundational enhancements to increase the capacity of the poor
- Support the poor to identify opportunities and undertake appropriate income generating activities that create a positive impact in their lives
- To strengthen the capacity of community groups and individuals to advocate for their rights and participate in policy making decisions and monitoring
- Empower communities to meet SDGs

In light of this mission, Coterie Development has undertaken and been involved in a number of activities. Throughout the year, we mobilized and supported communities for self-reliant action, encouraging community resilience and innovation, partnerships and fostering the cause of sustainable health and food systems for community development

Strategic Highlights

Work on SDGs

Coterie has been part of Uganda's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Uganda, like many countries around the world, has made significant strides in aligning its national development agenda with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations. The SDGs serve as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.



Dr Owomugasho honored for promoti...
The certificate was awa...
parrotsug.com

Dr Owomugasho honored for promoting SDGs in Uganda <https://parrotsug.com/dr-owomugasho->

TOPIC:
SDG'S PROGRESS
Measuring its progress - towards The Economic Transformation of Uganda.
Will the 2030 Targeted Year be accomplished

DR. DAISY N. OWOMUGASHO
Chief Technical Director -
Mwazi Parliamentary Network on SDGs

THE POINT
Monday 03/07/2023
7:00pm - 8:50pm
WITH ANTHONY SSEBBAALE

smart24 Television

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Dr. Owomugasho made headlines in media when she was honoured for her work in SDGs

One of the key pillars of the SDGs is the eradication of poverty. Uganda has shown encouraging progress in this regard, with a notable decline in the percentage of the population living below the national poverty line. The government has implemented various social protection programs and initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality. Education is fundamental to achieving many of the SDGs, and Uganda has made commendable efforts to improve access to quality education for all. The country has seen an increase in primary school enrollment, and investment in vocational training and technical education has also expanded, providing young people with the skills needed to contribute to the country's development. Uganda has taken significant steps towards achieving gender equality

and empowering women and girls. Efforts to eliminate gender-based violence, ensure equal access to education and healthcare, and promote women's participation in decision-making processes have contributed to progress in this area. The SDGs emphasize the importance of promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. Uganda has implemented policies to support entrepreneurship, improve access to financial services, and enhance agricultural productivity, contributing to economic growth and job creation.

Uganda faces environmental challenges such as deforestation, soil erosion, and inadequate waste management. However, the government has prioritized environmental conservation and climate action, taking steps to promote sustainable land management, expand access to clean energy, and strengthen resilience to climate-related hazards.

The SDGs recognize the importance of global partnerships in achieving the ambitious targets set forth. Uganda has actively engaged with international organizations, development partners, and the private sector to mobilize resources, transfer knowledge, and build capacity to support the implementation of the SDGs. Uganda's progress towards achieving the SDGs is a testament to the government's commitment to sustainable development and improving the lives of its citizens. While challenges remain, the country's efforts to address poverty, inequality, education, gender empowerment, economic growth, environmental sustainability, and global partnerships are laying a solid foundation for a more prosperous and equitable future for all Ugandans.



The director was awarded a certificate for her tireless efforts in fostering SDGs with special attachment to community development. This was at a ceremony held at Serena Hotel- Kampala on the 17th September 2023.

Empowering Communities to achieve Sustainable Development Kabale

Our focal point persons in Kabale are actively involved in multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder forums for CSO platform members to advocate for Nutrition and WASH concerns raised at community level, to influence decision making, policy implementation and legislation in favor of overall community development.

Orientation meetings with Kabale district leadership were held. The District Leadership pledged support for Nutrition and WASH programs in the district; by integrating them into the local government budgets and creating spaces to talk about WASH and nutrition.

Sustainable development (SD) in Uganda relies heavily on community involvement. Empowering local communities to actively participate in the country's development agenda is vital for long-term progress and success. When communities are engaged and take ownership of development initiatives, the impact is more profound and sustainable. The involvement of local residents ensures that projects are tailored to meet the specific needs of the community, leading to greater effectiveness and efficiency in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And this is where Coterie has made its mark.

Communities in Uganda, like those in many developing nations, face numerous challenges that hinder their full participation in sustainable development efforts. Poverty, limited access to education, and inadequate infrastructure often create barriers that impede community involvement. To address these challenges, it's crucial to equip local residents with the necessary knowledge and skills to actively engage in development initiatives. This can be achieved through targeted educational programs, vocational training, and capacity-building workshops aimed at enhancing community members' understanding of sustainable development and their ability to contribute meaningfully.

In Kitumba and Kamuganguzi, a lot of people were facing malnutrition and stunting especially among the children under the age 5. It is against this background that the 2 sub counties were supported to establish demonstration gardens which would inspire the communities to copy and apply the same in their households. Seeds and seedlings of a variety of vegetables were procured and supplied to the community members as a way of making setting up vegetable gardening a success. Some of these vegetables included carrots, Spinach, egg plants, Nakatti, Eshwiga, Eshogye, pumpkins, iron rich beans, Vitamin A fortified sweet potatoes, spinach, and cabbages. Several groups recorded significantly higher produce.

Buranga Primary School was among the communities that copied the practice and made a similar school garden. That has now become a source of food for the school children to balance their diet with rich vegetables.



Right; Buhumba farmers harvesting carrots; Left; Pupils of Buranga Primary school in their garden.

Demonstration gardening has greatly improved people's livelihoods unlike before. People have got some food and additional income for more developments. Thanks to CII for the opportunity. These gardens don't consume a lot of space and can have variety of food stuffs that are readily available whenever needed. Almost every household in the 2 sub counties has a backyard garden. This has significantly reduced malnutrition and stunting among children in the community.

Community involvement in sustainable development fosters a sense of ownership and accountability among local residents. When communities actively participate in decision-making processes and project implementation, they are more likely to take responsibility for the outcomes. Inclusive community involvement is essential for achieving sustainable development in Uganda. It's important to recognize and embrace the diversity of perspectives, experiences, and needs within local communities. By ensuring that all voices are heard and valued, development initiatives can be more comprehensive and responsive to the unique challenges and opportunities present in different contexts. Embracing inclusivity also promotes social cohesion, unity, and mutual respect, which are foundational elements for sustainable progress.

Community involvement is a cornerstone of achieving sustainable development in Uganda. By empowering local communities, strengthening capacities, fostering partnerships, promoting ownership, and embracing inclusivity, the country can make significant strides towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals. As we continue to work towards a more sustainable future, it's imperative to prioritize the active participation of communities at the grassroots level, recognizing their pivotal role in driving positive change and shaping the nation's development trajectory.

The 14th Annual Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health

The Executive Director, Coterie, participated as a Panelist in the 14th Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) Conference organized under the theme: "Building the Capacity of African Policy Makers for Achieving UHC and SDGs: The Role of Parliamentarians". The two-day meeting was held at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda in February 2023. The Conference was attended by Parliamentarians and technical officers from Benin, Burundi, Chad, Eswatini, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Civil Society Organizations and Development Partners in attendance were PATH, MSUG and MSI, CEHURD, AMREF Health Africa, ACHEST, UNFPA, ECSA Health Community, Samasha, Africa Network for SDGs, EAC Secretariat, EQUINET, UNFPA and COMMAT.

The Meeting objectives were, among others; to Provide space for capacity building and constructive discussions between and among African parliamentarians, including technocrats, researchers and civil society; Deliberate on priority policy interventions, build and sustain the momentum for political will, national ownership and support in order to consolidate the gains made towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals; Provide opportunity for sharing good practices and lessons learned in advancing achievement of SDGs including progress registered by countries; and Provide space for facilitating networking with other regional implementers;



Membership to Ambrosoli Think Tank

Achieving sustainable development in Uganda requires collaborative partnerships between local communities, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders. By fostering these partnerships, it becomes possible to leverage collective resources, expertise, and knowledge to address complex development issues. When communities, government bodies, and organizations work together towards common goals, the impact of their efforts is amplified, leading to meaningful and lasting change. Coterie Development Initiative has been collaborating with Ambrosoli Think Tank

Listening to the former Minister Tarsis Kabwegyere in one of the Think Tank Meetings



Participation in the Empretec69 Program

The program is meant to identify promising entrepreneurs, to provide them with training aimed at developing their entrepreneurial traits and their understanding of basic business procedures, to give them access to appropriate advisory services, and to link them with trade partners nationally as well as internationally. The technical assistance is facilitated by UNCTAD.

By strengthening national institutional capacities, EMPRETEC aims at developing a local entrepreneurial culture, the creation of new business ventures, and the growth and expansion of existing SMEs, which in turn would lead to the diversification of the national economy and the creation of employment opportunities.



Top Right, ED Coterie giving a vote of thanks at the closing of the Empretec69 training workshop; Top Right; Cutting the Cake to mark the closing of the Empretec69 training workshop



ED Coterie receiving a certificate from the Executive Director – Enterprise Uganda Mr. Ocici at the end of the Empretec69 training workshop

Coterie Development Initiatives has been key in supporting regional development



ED Coterie with the Outgoing Steering Committee Launch of the South Western Uganda Regional Development Forum Strategy 2020-2030 and Investment Plan 2023-2025. The launch was officiated by the Minister of Local Government Mr. Rapahel Magyezi, and attended by the leadership – LCV Chairperson, Speaker, Planner, and CSO representative from 16 districts of Western Uganda. Dr Owomugasho has been on the steering Committee since its inception in 2018. To move the development agenda forward, the forum developed a 10-year development plan 2020 – 2030 to improve the quality of life with an average household income of UGX 20m/annually by 2030. Coterie will operate within this strategic plan in partnership with the SWRDF

The journey has just started with LPPA/GSI, so looking forward to working together and having tangible impact on ground. The Ministry of Local Government was very positive. CDI will continue to tap in this opportunity.



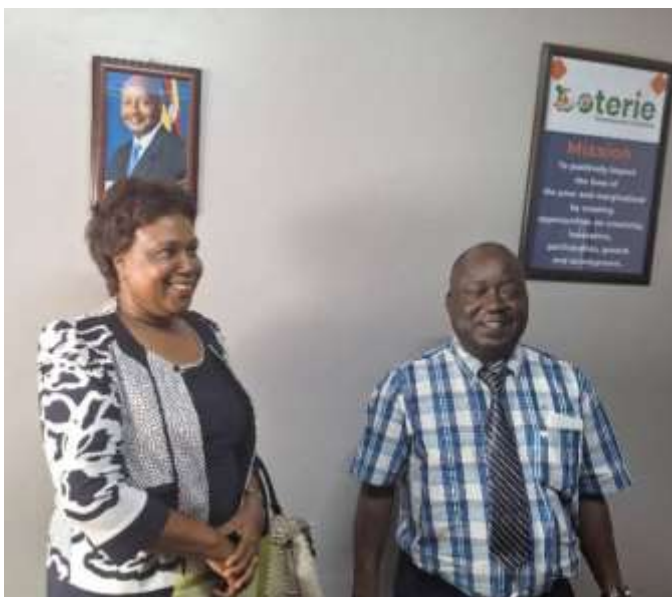
Memorandum of Understanding with Kampala Capital City Authority

Coterie Development Initiative hosted the KCCA Community Development Supervisor, Mr. Oloit John Michael, who has commended us on our work, presence and visibility in the community. He encouraged us to always partner with KCCA in any development undertaking the organization would get involved in.



Coterie Development Initiative was honored to receive the Community Development Officer Kampala City City Authority, who was satisfied with the operations of the organisation.

Later, Coterie signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with KCCA to partner in implementing activities in Kampala



Training on Leadership, Governance, & Resource Mobilization

Coterie Development Initiative was excited to participate in the Makerere University School of Public Health, Center of Excellence for Sustainable Health (CESH) EXCLUSIVE training for Executive Directors and Board Chairpersons. The training further offered insights into achieving Sustainable Development Goals in the Health Sector, and all other sectors since all are interconnected .



Prospective Collaboration with Aflatoun International

As a critical stakeholder in young people's development in Uganda, and in bid to expand our partnership and reach, we met with Grace Saba, the Regional Coordinator for Anglophone Africa, Aflatoun International. Aflatoun International is a dynamic network of partner organisations, teachers, supporters and staff offering social and financial education to millions of children and young people worldwide, and empowering them to make positive change for a more equitable world. Aflatoun International is based in the Netherlands, and is working with over 300 partner organisations in 102 countries across the world. Our Executive Director, Dr. Owomugasho participated in the meeting held 10th October, 2023 at Silver Springs Bugolobi, Kampala. Coterie looks forward to a fruitful partnership with Aflatoun.



Top Right – some Members of the meeting with the Regional Coordinator Aflatoun; Top Left – The Regional Coordinator in the Middle, third from left. ED Coterie is second from Left

Membership to Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association Limited (UWEAL)



Attended the 10th Women in Business Leaders' Conference, under the theme **Digitalization Advancing Women in Trade**. This conference provided us an opportunity to expand our network and how to expand our reach through digitalization. It was also a unique opportunity to pitch to financial institutions and investors.

Seamaul Undong workshop for experts

The Executive Director, Coterie, Dr. Owomugasho participated in the Seamaul Undong workshop for experts that was officially opened by the Global President Seamaul Undong from Korea. It was also attended by the Deputy Ambassador, Korea Embassy in Uganda, the Chairperson Seamaul Undong, Uganda, Engineer Kyeyune; Uganda Coordinator Dr. Stephen Kayongo; Officials from Ministry of Local Government and other dignitaries and academics. Coterie is exploring partnerships with SMU.



Top Right is the ED Coterie, participating in the workshop; Top Left is the Global President SU; and Below is the Chairperson Seamaul Undong, Uganda, Engineer Kyeyune giving his remarks

National Forestry Authority (NFA) Stakeholders' Meeting

On December 15 2023, all Forestry Stakeholders in Uganda converged at National Forestry Authority Offices in Bugolobi to discuss some of the issues affecting the Forestry sector in Uganda. NFA was established under section 52 of The National Forestry and Tree Planting Act and launched on the 26th April 2004. NFA is mandated to; "Manage Central Forest Reserves on a sustainable basis and to supply high quality forestry-related products and services to government, local communities and the private sector" NFA licenses several businesses such as Commercial forestry; Agri-tourism; Central Forest Management (CFM) and Land allocation.



ED- Coterie attending the NFA meeting

Some of the issues highlighted in the meeting that have policy implications that affect communities include:

- o Ban from selling charcoal from the north
- o Some species are banned from export such as African tree
- o Agro forestry is not allowed at all in central forest reserves
- o In line with ban on exports of materials without value addition like minerals, other material include charcoal
- o Thinking of diversification in forestry to include bamboo
- o No export of ungraded timber by timber certified grader- committee in place to determine whether to lift or maintain the ban
- o Community Forest management
- o When harvesting ensure to maintain the wetlands
- o Upward revision of ground rate fees structures in CFR by 12% in rural areas, and 50% for those with forests within a 50km radius from a City

It was also noted that Uganda was turning into a eucalyptus country, as most people were turning to eucalyptus growing because of its fast maturity and therefore profitability, compared to most other species.

The Christmas Spirit

For many, Christmas holidays are a time full of love, joy and celebration. Illnesses can sometimes get in the way of these good times. Caregivers, and the sick people they look after, may become exhausted and isolated from friends and family due to the need for constant care. But for some, the holidays may be extra special- that was how it was for the women in Namuwongo Health Centre 111 located in one of the poorest suburbs in Kampala. 10 women delivered 2 days before Christmas. And these were gifted with a bucket with essentials for new mothers.



Right ED Coterie Dr. Owomugasho distributing Christmas gifts to Mothers. Left, Nurse at KCCA HCIII showing the Visiting team a Doppler that is critical in deliveries., and one of the key items needed at the Health Centre

Risk Taking as part of Decision making

Taking calculated risks entails deliberately calculating risk and evaluating alternatives; taking action to reduce risks and or control outcomes; and placing oneself in situations involving a challenge of moderate risk.



ED Coterie Dr. Owomugasho taking part in a rope throwing calculated risk exercise during the Empretec Training.

Scaling up Nutrition- Civil Society Network

In October 2022, the office of The Prime Minister kick-started efforts to bring together and strengthen civil societies that are implementing nutrition related interventions that contribute both directly and indirectly towards nutritional outcomes. Coterie Development Initiative, participated as a SUNCSN stakeholder, in the 18th December meeting and discussion on the institutionalization of the SUNCSN to develop forward looking actions towards expanding the network membership and regularizing the SUNCSN. steering committee.

The network brings together civil societies that relate to nutrition on different levels such as Trade, Health, Governance and Education; with the vision to Engage, Inspire and Invest. A number of gaps were identified in the nutrition sector that include among other; (i) The need to extend nutrition to the local governments (ii) Need to mobilize and onboard members; and (iii) Capacity building for members in nutritional advocacy. There was a call for all to support in implementation of the nutritional strategy, and to mobilize other members to join the network.



Dedicated to Empowering Communities to Meet the Sustainable Development Goals

One Initiative at a time



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