



# PROFILE



2011 - 2021

"We may have different religions,  
different languages, different  
colored skin, but we all belong to  
one human race."

-Kofi Annan



# Identity

Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum is a Non-profit, Peacebuilding and Development organization founded in 2011 by Ndugwa Hassan & Ahmed Hadji after surviving the 2010 terrorist attack on the Kyadondo rugby grounds in Kampala, Uganda.

The organization works both directly and with grassroots peacebuilders and development actors to address root causes and effects of violent conflicts; breaking cycles of conflict, promoting healing, mending broken community relationships, fostering justice, and strengthening community defenses against violence.

Our work is Inspired by values of Peace, Justice, Compassion and Sacredness of human life.



# Overall Goal

To contribute towards building more resilient and just societies where every individual's right to peace, dignity, and prosperity is fulfilled.





# Specific Goals

- To address existing and emerging factors conducive to Violent Conflict & Violent Extremism.
- To produce high quality research and analysis to drive evidence-based peace & Security programing & policy making.
- To eliminate barriers & accelerate youth participation and leadership in the peace & security sector.
- To eliminate barriers & accelerate women's participation and leadership in the peace & security sector.
- To strengthen the capacity of religious leaders & institutions to contribute to peace & justice.
- To directly engage in initiatives to resolve violent conflict, and support post-conflict recovery and reconciliation.
- To build and strengthen partnerships & alliances for Peace.
- To build a competent, agile, resilient, and results driven team fit to deliver the institution's goals in an ever-evolving peace & security landscape.

# Issue Areas

## PEACEBUILDING

We believe that peacebuilding is a long-term vocation. It is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures. So, while we engage in resolution and management of immediate crises, we are equally focused on Conflict Transformation and Post-Conflict reconciliation that seeks to address deep rooted injustices and misconceptions that fuel deadly conflicts.

## VIOLENT EXTREMISM

We contribute to a better understanding of violent extremism issues around the region through our rigorous research projects and PVE Early warning initiatives. On the other hand, through dialogue and advocacy, we have helped shape national, regional, and global P/CVE policies. Additionally, through customized training, we have contributed to building the capacity of youth, youth workers, women, government leaders, and civil society actors around the region to prevent and respond to the threat of violent extremism.

## RELIGION & INTER-FAITH

Through Intra & Inter-faith Dialogues, Training, Gardening, and Sports projects, we have helped shape a better understanding of the influence of religion on conflict, rallied people of all faiths to work for peace, and facilitated new friendships among youth and adults of all faith backgrounds.

## GOVERNANCE & FRAGILITY

We understand the link between poor governance, fragility and social unrest. We work with likeminded actors to strengthen institutions of accountability and rule of law, resolving conflicts and overcoming fragility.

## YOUTH, PEACE & SECURITY

In recognition of the disproportionate impact of violent conflict on young people and their future, we build the capacity of young people to advance justice, and shape lasting peace in their communities.





# Issue Areas

A photograph of a man with long dreadlocks and sunglasses, wearing a blue and white striped shirt, speaking into a microphone. He is gesturing with his right hand. In the background, other people are visible, including a woman looking towards the camera.

## GENDER & PEACEBUILDING

Because Men and Women have differential experiences both during and post-conflict, and women in particular have a unique set of challenges related to peace & security, we strive to ensure gender issues are mainstreamed across our projects, that our research helps broaden the existing body of knowledge on Women, Peace, and Security, and that our advocacy achieves a better representation of women in both peace & security policy making and programming.

## LIVELIHOOD & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Economic exclusion and limited opportunities for economic advancement generate frustration and hopelessness that can easily be exploited to lure vulnerable youth and communities into acts of violence. Through Technical & Vocational Skills Training, Business Management Training, Mentorship, Coaching, Apprenticeship, and Financial Literacy, we employ multi-faceted livelihood and economic empowerment initiatives geared toward increasing access to job opportunities, market information, and other production assets for vulnerable communities.

## DERADICALIZATION, DISENGAGEMENT, REHABILITATION & RE-INTEGRATION

Our research projects have taught us that there are still significant gaps in rehabilitation and re-integration programming for former Violent Extremist Fighters outside of the criminal justice system which is contributing to high rates of recidivism. Beyond policy advocacy efforts around rehabilitation and reintegration, we are now testing new programs designed to improve the effectiveness of rehabilitation and reintegration interventions, helping individuals and families to disengage from violence and violent extremist ideas.

## CARING FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE & THEIR FAMILIES

With a special focus on Victims of state torture, Survivors of Terrorism and their families, we are working with supportive and experienced staff to create pilot safe spaces for victims and survivors to heal, rejuvenate their spirit, find new passions, and live more meaningful and productive lives.

# Our Approach

## **TRAINING & EDUCATING FOR PEACE**

We provide a wide range of training, education, and knowledge sharing opportunities to build the capacity of individuals, institutions, and communities to address conditions conducive to violent conflict and violent extremism.

## **RESEARCH**

We invest resources in producing new knowledge that advances understanding of conflict dynamics and informs evidenced based peacebuilding and P/CVE programming.

## **DIALOGUE & ADVOCACY**

Through dialogue and strategic advocacy engagements, we help shape public policy and priorities that advance peace locally, nationally, regionally, and globally.

## **STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS**

We employ our expertise in communication to activities that persuade parties to conflict to disengage from violence and pursue a path of peace.

## **GARDENING & SPORTS 4 PEACE**

We harness the power of sport and gardening to celebrate the beauty of diversity, and to advance social inclusion, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and friendship among people of diverse cultures and backgrounds.

## **ART**

We engage in carefully selected and organized arts-based activities that foster positive behavioral change and uplift voices of the disempowered.



# Our Approach

## **EARLY WARNING & EARLY RESPONSE**

We work with local people who live in violence-prone areas that have better access to the best and most reliable information and understanding of the dynamics of conflict and violence to advance understanding of conflict dynamics, inform early warning & early response, and facilitate evidenced based programming.

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## **TRAUMA COUNSELLING**

We are piloting safe spaces where victims of torture, survivors of terrorism, and their families feel safe, listened to, cared for, and supported to achieve full recovery and live more productive and positive lives.

## **ALLIANCES & PARTNERSHIPS**

We work through our Friends of Peace Network, High School Peace Clubs, and regional partner networking forums and strategic alliances to further ideals of peace.

"The younger generation right now is mobilizing and organizing. We're moving away from a slacktivism if you will, where you're just reading an article or liking a post. Young people are actually getting on the front lines now."

-Ilwad Elman



# Our Programming Principles

- We believe conflicts can be resolved without violence.
- We collaborate and work with local communities that experience violence on a daily basis.
- We are guided by facts and our programming is evidence based.
- We seek sustainable results.
- We are open to learning, and share about what we learn.
- We are innovative, adaptable, and agile.

# Project Profile & Subsidiary Initiatives









**Strategic Objective :**  
**Addressing Existing and Emerging Factors Conducive to Violent Conflict & Violent Extremism Through Programming and Contributions to Policy Development**

**PROJECT PROFILE**



- **Strengthening Resilience against Violent Extremism Project in Uganda's Masaka, Lwengo, Kalungu, and Mpigi districts**-The goal of this 2-year project is to increase the capacity and collaboration of key stakeholders in government and civil society to reduce extremist recruitment and radicalization.
- **Enhancing Civic Engagement and Economic self-reliance for peaceful and violent free communities in Yumbe and Kampala districts project**- This 3-year multi-faceted project targets 36, 010 vulnerable male and female youth in Kampala and Yumbe districts. Project beneficiaries also include Refugee youth in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement.
- **Preventing Violent Extremism through Education: Nurturing for Peace Project** – This 2-year multifaceted project aimed to increase access to quality and relevant conflict-sensitive information and education that contributes to peace in Kampala District. The project reached over 150,000 youth through its physical and online engagements.
- **Sports for Peace**-Through periodic Friendly Soccer matches, and 2 community-based youth sports hubs situated in Eastern Uganda, UMYDF harnesses the power of Sports to strengthen community relationships and advance friendship among people of diverse cultures and backgrounds.
- **Gardening for Peace**- UMYDF established and maintains 2 Youth Inter-faith Peace Gardens in the Eastern Uganda districts of Mayuge and Bugiri to celebrate the beauty of diversity, to advance social inclusion, promote a sense of belonging, and undermine religiously motivated divisive narratives used to drive youth in the region into violent extremist activities.



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- **The Community Change Agents Program for the East & Horn of Africa-** Implemented in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Djibouti, and Somalia, this program aimed to increase awareness of violent extremism issues among various professionals who work with disillusioned youth on a daily basis and to boost their capacity to respond and to contribute to P/CVE. 200 professionals and community change agents from across East Africa and the Horn benefited from the program.
- **Theater for Peace-** Extremely Together-Uganda Chapter in partnership with Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum introduced 60 young people in peace clubs to art and theater as unconventional tools through which they can challenge hate speech, and address violent extremism.
- **Amani Leo** -focuses on promoting peace, delegitimizing hate speech and providing peaceful alternatives to the problems that inflame violence in Uganda through social media. Amani Leo has reached over 250,000 online views through its different posts and engagements. The initiative started as part of the global peer-to-peer challenge that engages young people around the world to counter online hate speech while creating awareness against violence and violent extremism.
- **Boda Boda Riders Training in Non-Violent Communication-** Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum has conducted trainings in non-violent communication for 60 boda boda riders drawn from different parts of Kampala district in response to the growing hooliganism and cases of mob violence among boda boda riders.
- Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum senior staff have actively provided advice for polishing the toolkit on early warning contribution to PVE by UNDP Regional Service Centre, African Union Commission, Peace and Security Department, CAERT/ASCRT, ECOWAS, IGAD and WANEP.





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- **Educators for Peace**-UMYDF in partnership with Uganda Muslim Teachers Associations designed and delivered workshops aimed at building the capacity of Muslim teachers and Head teachers to mainstream peacebuilding themes across their school curricular and help build a new generation of young peace builders.
- **Uganda National Strategy for Preventing & Countering Violent Extremism**- Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum (UMYDF) staff and team members were instrumental in supporting the National Technical Committee (NTC) of the Government of Uganda in drafting and validating Uganda's National Strategy for preventing and countering violent extremism from 2019-2020.
- **IGAD regional strategy for preventing and countering violent extremism**- Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum represented Ugandan CSOs working in P/CVE as part of the Uganda country delegation to Djibouti that validated of the Inter-Governmental Agency on Development (IGAD) regional strategy for P/CVE.
- **Developing the UNDP PVE App and Counter Narratives Toolkit for East and West Africa**- UMYDF senior staff have contributed content, and also participated in the validation of the UNDP PVE App and Counter Narratives Toolkit for East and West Africa.
- Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum senior team members contributed to the development of the Handbook of Good Practices to Support Victims' Associations in Africa and the Middle East under the United Nations Counter Terrorism Center -UNCCT



- **Youth Voices Matter Project-** Implemented in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in partnership with Akougook Initiative, the project sought to localize UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace & Security through building the capacity of national and local level institutions to engage refugee community youth in peacebuilding.
- **High school peace clubs-** Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum (UMYDF) has reached over 20,700 youth in several public and private schools in Central Uganda and West Nile through establishing peace clubs where it introduces both teachers and students to key skills in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and participatory action research.
- **Youth and Participatory Action Research Program-** Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum trains youth in Participatory Action Research (PAR) skills. Rather than look to outside influences for solutions, PAR projects put youth at the center of leading change. They are mentored to practically gather research information, analyze it, and generate practical and applied solutions which are driven by their community needs and aspirations.



**Strategic Objective :**  
**Eliminating Barriers &**  
**Accelerating Youth**  
**Participation and**  
**Leadership in the**  
**Peace & Security**  
**Sector.**

**PROJECT PROFILE**

- **Women Preventing Violent Extremism Project-** Implemented by UMYDF in partnership with Kenya based network Sisters Without Borders, this 3-year project was aimed at building the capacity of 48 women led organizations in preventing and responding to violent extremism. The project also sought to increase the influence of women on local and national level policies aimed at reducing the threat of violent extremism and helped create new channels of engagement for women leaders contributing to peace and the National Technical Committee on Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism. The project has also contributed to building the capacity of the members of the National Technical Committee on Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism in mainstreaming gender in P/CVE policy and programming. Additionally, the project runs an E-Networking forum for the alumni to continue to learn and exchange with each other, and continues to share resources for learning and improvement for the women leaders.
- TEDx Naguru Women- While GBV is not a core focus area of the institution, UMYDF recognizes its impact on women's leadership including in peacebuilding and occasionally partners with like-minded stakeholders to shine a light on the problem through organising TEDx sharing platforms.



**Strategic Objective :**  
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PROJECT PROFILE



- **East Africa Credible Voices Exchange Program** -With participants drawn from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Somalia, the program brought together religious leaders from different faith denominations and cultural leaders to share best practices, expertise, resources, and develop new effective strategies and programs to enhance their constituents' resistance to violent ideologies.
- **Skills Enhancement Program for Imams (SEPI)**- Implemented in partnership with the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), the program identified hardline Imams and enrolled them on a six-month program of religious pluralism, diversity, tolerance, conflict resolution, entrepreneurship, human rights and English language learning. 100 Imams, 25 of whom were Somali, from the cities of Kampala, Wakiso, Mbale and Tororo benefited from this program.
- **Social media & Digital Skills training for Imams** -70 imams took part in a series of local workshops where they were taught how to make the most of social media sites like Facebook in order to share religious knowledge, take questions, and reach out to a younger audience. The move was framed as a "preventative measure" to counteract those who are using the internet to recruit youngsters into VE activities.



**Strategic Objective :**  
**Strengthening the Capacity of Religious Leaders & Institutions to Contribute to Peace & Justice.**

**PROJECT PROFILE**



- **Standardizing Madrasa Education in Uganda-** UMYDF in partnership with the Education Department of the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council developed and launched a new primary curriculum for Madrasa schools in Uganda. The new curriculum is set to be the standard one for all Madrasas in the country ending the application and usage of other curricular that have been reportedly been manipulated to instill extremist beliefs among students. UMYDF has further supported the printing and distribution of the new curriculum countrywide.
- **Madrasa Tutors Skills Enhancement Project-** In partnership with the Islamic Call University College, UMYDF has so far trained and graduated 166 Sheikhs and Madrasa Tutors from across the different Muslim Districts in the new and improved Madrasa curriculum. In addition, the training Incorporates concepts of peace, conflict resolution, and participatory approaches to education to help the Madrasa Tutors design safe classroom spaces that promote belonging.




## **NATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR ISLAMIC EDUCATION (NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS)**

DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION AFFAIRS, UGANDA MUSLIM SUPREME COUNCIL (UMSC)

**Strategic Objective :**  
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 Capacity of Religious  
 Leaders & Institutions  
 to Contribute to Peace  
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**PROJECT PROFILE**

- **National Vulnerability Assessment of Mosques and Imams in Uganda.(2016)**
- **Radicalization and Violent Extremism in Uganda: Understanding the Emerging Realities (2016)**
- **The Impact of Peace and Conflict on Business in Uganda: Mapping Urban Conflict Drivers and Hotspots, Cases from Arua, Jinja, Kampala, Kasese, Lira and Mbale (2016).**
- **Violent Extremism in Eastern Uganda: Mapping at-risk groups vis a vis community influencer and assessing their vulnerabilities to VE in Eastern Uganda (2019).** Conducted by UMYDF in partnership with Wasafiri Consulting, United Religions Initiative, Muslim Center for Justice and Law, Allied Muslim Youth Uganda.
- **The impact of COVID-19 on Youth, Peace and Security (2020)** Conducted by UMYDF in partnership with Extremely Together, an Initiative of the Kofi Annan Foundation
- **Youth Influencer Mapping in Eastern Uganda (2020)** Conducted by UMYDF in partnership with Wasafiri Consulting, United Religions Initiative, Muslim Center for Justice and Law, Allied Muslim Youth Uganda.



**Strategic Objective :**  
**Producing High Quality**  
**Research and Analysis to**  
**Drive Evidence-Based Peace**  
**& Security Programing &**  
**Policy Making**

**PROJECT PROFILE**



- **Role of Lake Victoria in Facilitating VE in Eastern Africa: Buvuma hotspot Mapping (2020)** Conducted by UMYDF in partnership with Wasafiri Consulting, United Religions Initiative, and Muslim Center for Justice and Law.
- **Violent Extremism in Masaka Sub-region: Examining the Dynamics and Key Resilience factors for Individuals and Communities (2021)** Conducted by UMYDF in partnership with Creative Learning
- **Deepening Understanding of How Mass Illegal Detention and Torture of Salafi Religious Minorities Undermines the Rule of Law and Breeds Religious Intolerance (2021)**

**Strategic Objective :**  
**Producing High Quality  
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Drive Evidence-Based Peace  
& Security Programing &  
Policy Making**

**PROJECT PROFILE**



# Subsidiary Initiatives

# Katwe Skills Center

Katwe Skills Center is Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum's flagship Vocational and Business Skilling Initiative for at-risk and vulnerable youth drawn from Kampala's slum communities. The center seeks to provide them with positive livelihood development opportunities and address poverty among slum youth at risk of joining violent criminal gangs.

Now in its 4th year of operation, Katwe Skills Center has so far skilled over 650 youth in marketable trades of Hair dressing & Barbering, Electrical Wiring & Installation, Fashion & Design, Photography & Videography, Art & Crafts, and Phone Repair.



FCA Finn Church Aid



FCA Finn Church Aid



# Peace Gala & Awards

The Peace Gala & Awards are a Peace Exhibition and Ideas exchange platform for thought leaders and innovators in the fields of Peace, Security, and Humanitarian work.

At its climax, the gala features a premier awards event that celebrates grassroots, national, and international actors with outstanding achievements and contributions to the fields of Peace, Security, and Humanitarian work.

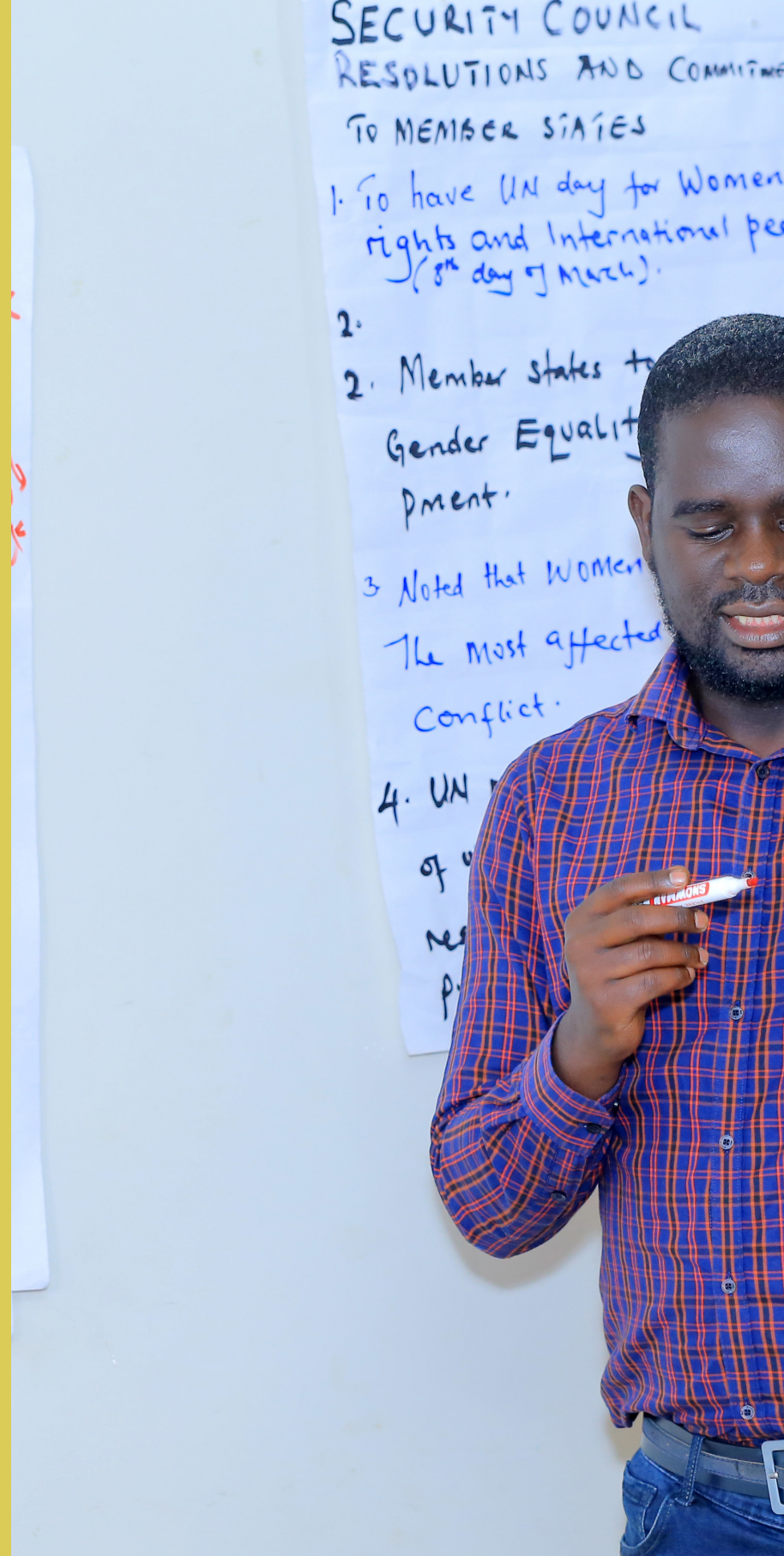




# Peace Learning Center

The Peace Learning Center provides foundational and specialized training in topical issues in the fields of Peacebuilding, Conflict Management & Transformation, Prevention of Violent Extremism, Countering of Violent Extremism, and Islam, Justice, Peace & Security. The center's training programs usually take 3 days- 4 weeks, and are delivered by leading subject experts across a wide range of peace & security related specializations.

The center will also open an E-Campus soon where it will continuously share educational and informational resources to further advance the professional and personal development of its alumni. All classes are highly interactive, experiential, and learner centered.





# Youth Inter-faith Peace Gardens and Sports Hubs

Planted by youth from over 7 religious sects and serving over 100,000 youth across the districts of Bugiri & Mayuge, the Youth Inter-faith Peace Gardens and Sports Hubs are a living monument to the ideals of Inter-faith Cooperation and friendship.

Through different community and sports events hosted at both gardens, the gardens are helping to reduce youth attraction to religiously motivated violent extremist activities.





"When individuals and families and communities, or even nations, come together around new found hope - and this hope translates into perceptible, tactile improvements in the quality of life - that new momentum can be unstoppable. The smile replaces the frown. Conversation replaces silence. Fear of the future is replaced by confidence to respond to its challenges."

-His Highness The Aga Khan IV



# Our Program Beneficiaries

- Youth in  
Secondary School
- University Students
- Refugee Youth
- Muslim Youth
- Women
- Returnees
- Victims of  
Terrorism
- Victims of Torture
- Teachers
- Madrasa Tutors
- Religious Leaders
- State Actors

# Our Reach in the East & Horn of Africa

- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Djibouti
- Somalia

# Our Reach in Uganda

- Kampala
- Wakiso
- Mukono
- Yumbe
- Mbale
- Tororo
- Bugiri
- Mayuge
- Nakasongola
- Jinja
- Iganga
- Namayingo
- Masaka
- Mpigi
- Kalungu
- Lwengo
- Buvuma





Partnerships &  
Alliances for Peace.

## Alliances for Peace.

- Civil Society Coalition Against Violent Extremism (CISCAVE)- We are founding members of this coalition and also served as its Co-Chair from 2019 -2021.
- Government of Uganda-Civil Society P/CVE Coordination Platform for Kampala Metropolitan Region – We are members and Co-Chairs of this platform
- Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum is a member of the Youth Coalition on Electoral Democracy
- Sisters without Borders Network -Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum is a founding Member & National host of the Sisters without Borders Network in Uganda
- Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum is a Leader and National host of Extremely Together in Uganda, an Initiative of the Kofi Anan Foundation
- Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum is a member of the Sub-Saharan Africa Working Group of The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers



# Partnerships for Peace

# OUR PARTNERS & DONORS THROUGH THE YEARS



**KENYA MUSLIM YOUTH ALLIANCE**



A Kofi Annan Foundation Initiative



**Sisters without Borders**



Towards a fairer, more peaceful world



**Empyrean Research**

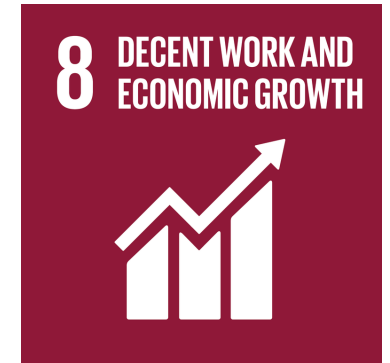


**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK**  
*Danida*



**uri**  
**HORN OF AFRICA**

Our work and interventions contribute to the following SDGs





"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

-Mother Teresa

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