

Frauen Initiative Report 2021-2022



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Who are we?

Frauen Initiative Uganda is a youth-led community organization started in 2020 and officially incorporated in 2021 in Uganda with the sole purpose of providing a safe space for survivors of sexual violence. The services provided by Frauen Initiative are emergency support in form of access to Rape kits and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis. Frauen Initiative also provides access to psychological and legal aid to victims of sexual violence and seeks to engage the community on ways to curb sexual assault cases and educate children and youth on the subject. All services are paid for by Frauen Initiative Uganda. Frauen Initiative Uganda currently runs on funds donated through crowd sourcing efforts and subscriptions from members.

What do we do?

As frauen we provide assistance to victims of sexual violence with medical, psychological and legal aid. We also provide a space where they can start their healing process while they pursue legal action if they want to. We seek to do more than just provide for the victims but also to empower them to take control of their lives and not be held back by the unfortunate sexual violence they've had to go through. The main focus is Victims of sexual violence but the outreaches will target the general community. We do not discriminate or tolerate any discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender, religion, race or disability.

“Youth-led women’s community in Uganda providing a safe space for victims & survivors of sexual violence.”

Our wins

Started in 2020, in June 2022 we are celebrating two years of Frauen and this second year has had us make a number of notable achievements as an organization.

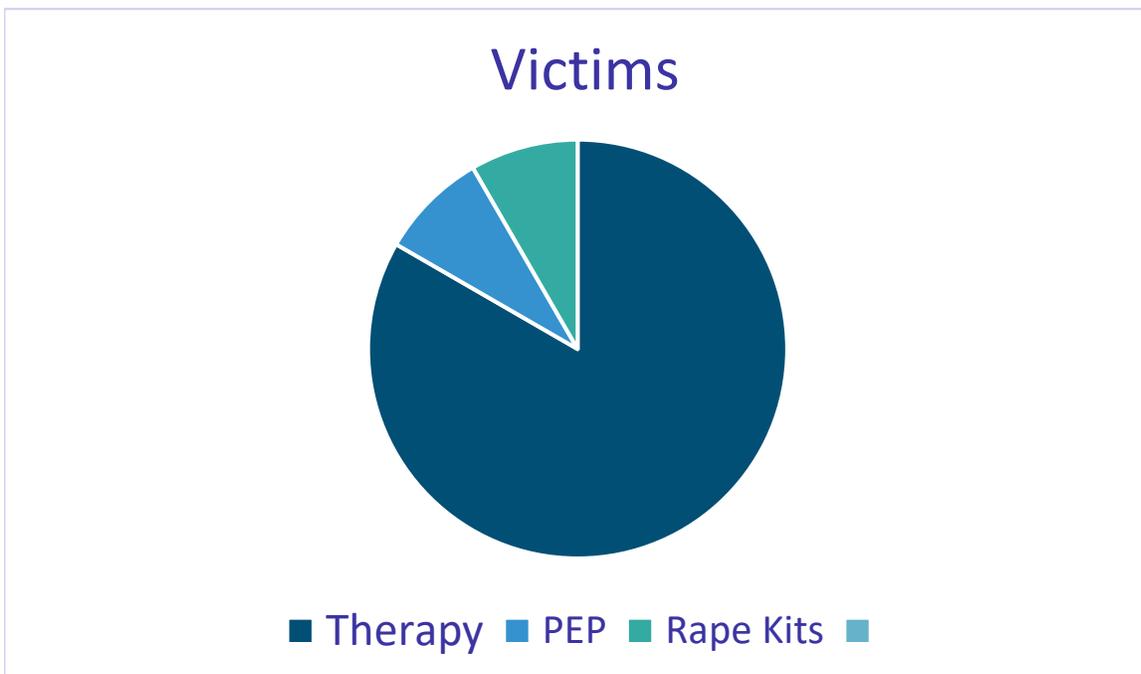
As a charity organization we rely on donations from the general public to enable us do our work. The funds acquired from the donations; that are done through a various number of ways; are used to pay to for therapy, medical and legal aid for our victims. In the year June 2021- June 2022 Frauen has received donations totaling up to 2,817,140ugx, 2,000,000ugx in Partnership with Yambi foundation to provide group therapy for 10 survivors and victims of sexual violence, 590,000ugx from a charity movie night held at Bight of Benin that was supported by Chabiez party services, 917000ugx from Africa To The World from the sale of 15 editions of the RetroCassette #000 Pride NfT. Not all donations were monetary, we also received a number boxes of Pads in support of the Period Poverty campaign.

Our wins are not limited to funding, in the second year of operation Frauen Initiative has been able to acquire a website, fraueninitiativeuganda.org . The website has increased our outreach as we were previously relying on social media and word of mouth to spread awareness about our services, methods of donation, various campaigns, team members and contact information. The website also has links to a number of different articles that provide information on rape culture, sexual assault and violence, consent but to mention a few.

In our second year, we have been able to establish different partnerships with various organizations that have assisted us in fundraising and service provision. Our partnership with Women's Probono Initiative has enabled us to provide legal assistance to some of our victims. We started the Period Poverty campaign with Model Peace Forum to provide menstrual products to girls in Koboko and Lamwo districts in Northern Uganda. We also partnered with Youth Baraza, Love to give foundation to provide free breast cancer screening to incarcerated women and staff at Luzira Prison. We also established

a partnership with Ark Wellness Hub to provide free services for victims of sexual violence. The agreed upon services are PEP, STI screening, HIV testing, psychotherapy, contraceptives and breast cancer screening.

As of June 2022, we have been able to assist 35 victims. The victims received a variety of services, ranging from therapy to rape kits and various tests after assault. One therapy session costs 80,000 UGX as we were able to receive a subsidized cost from the therapists we work with. Victims were also provided with Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) after possible exposure to HIV. One dose of PEP costs 160,000 UGX.



Challenges

Like any other organization, Frauen Initiative has faced a number of obstacles. The issues faced by the organization mostly fall along the lines of funding and manpower.

Even though we have been successful in the mobilization of the funds as mention previously, we are still facing an issue of funding as the donations coming in are not as extensive as we would like them too. As we solely rely on donations and grants, the organization does not have a fixed stream of income. Through the full utilization of our social media, we hope to reach an even wider audience in our next year of operation in order to meet our donation targets.

Therapy is our main service provided and therefore we receive a greater number of victims who require this service than any other we provide. However, we do not have an inhouse therapist yet and we are still outsourcing the service, this has created a backlog of victims not receiving therapy as quickly as possible simply because the therapists are sometimes fully booked.

Another challenge faced by Frauen Initiative is the lack of awareness around sexual violence and the impact of sexual assault on mental health. Through our twitter page @FrauenUg we have been able to host spaces that we use to try and educate the masses on these issues, however it is not enough and we hope that this year we shall be able to reach more people and spread awareness in order to change the mindset that is present in the Ugandan community.

What next for Frauen Initiative?

In the future we look to:

- Widen the scope of access for victims of sexual violence to services that will cater for their needs at no cost for them while also expanding the base of our operations to the greater East African region.
- Create more awareness concerning sexual violence within different communities.
- A safe space for sexual violence victims where they learn how to cope, grown social support networks and are able to make great strides with their mental health.
- Push for a responsive government policy to the needs of the victims and survivors and structural changes within the police system to handle victims of sexual violence better.

Frauen Initiative Uganda hopes to positively impact the lives of people who have been victims of sexual violence. Frauen Initiative Uganda seeks to not only provide help to victims of sexual violence, but it also hopes to create a community with better understanding of sexual violence, how it manifests and how to curb the rise of it in Uganda. Any support provided will make a significant difference.