



NETWORK OF WOMEN  
IN AGRIBUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT

**NoWAD**

# Network of Women in Agribusiness and Development (NoWAD)

## **Profile**

2017

## Who we are

NoWAD is a social enterprise founded and registered in Uganda with the aim of empowering women and children as agents of positive change in development. The organization puts emphasis into restoring a self-supporting livelihood socially, mentally and economically to women and children who have been stricken with hardship due to poverty and aid dependence.

NoWAD works towards eliminating extreme hunger and poverty by empowering rural women and children with skills and tools that they can use to come up with solutions for their own challenges. We specially train women in agriculture value addition techniques with the aim of improving food security and increasing earning from agriculture. In most cases, rudimentary methods are used.

Network of Women in Agribusiness and Development (NoWAD) was officially formed in 2015 and registered in 2016 after 8 women from different backgrounds had been working together in different professions since 2012. The joining of hands had enabled us to reach a wider scope of deserving individuals. NoWAD is registered with the Registrar of Companies as a company limited by guarantee under registration number 229976.

NoWAD operates as a social enterprise with both free programs and commercial programs which make it possible for the organization to continue operating even without donor support.

## Why we exist

### **Problems / Issues identified in the target area.**

- Poor educational infrastructure facilities in the project areas
- Lack of awareness on health and hygienic conditions
- Malnutrition & Old age pensions
- Drinking water problems
- Inaccessibility of government health services
- Lack of effective implementation of tribal related Acts in the agency areas
- Spread of HIV/AIDs and other chronic and communicable diseases
- Lack of livelihood opportunities
- Gender inequality & Lack of equal wages
- Migration & Displacement
- Child labor problems.

## Strategies

In order to achieve our set objectives, we employ the following strategies:

- Mass meetings with the support of all working areas
- Work with Community Based Organizations ( CBO's) and like-minded organizations
- All our interventions have a component of community participation
- We have a strong communication strategy that incorporates social media platforms
- Convergence with different stakeholders and government line departments.
- Alliance building
- Strategic planning meetings on a monthly basis.

### Target Audience

NoWAD targets women and children because they are economically weakened and other vulnerable persons in society). Women empowerment and child centered activities are key issues of focus by NoWAD.

**Children:** To provide healthy personality development acquiring vocational skills and professional development for their sustainability. NoWAD also provides career guidance in targeted schools which is essential in choosing a suitable career path.

**Women:** Identifying disadvantaged women and providing with necessary skills and income as well as mobilizing them into self-help groups where they can continue getting mentorship and support from colleagues and the NoWAD team.

### Geographical Scope

Currently, NoWAD operates in two districts of Mityana and Wakiso. However, we intend to scale up our interventions to other districts starting from 2018. We also implement a few trainings in Kampala district for urban farmers.

### Mission

To transform the lives of Ugandan Women, youth and children and enhance their growth and development at household level by supporting self-help initiatives, and providing technical as well as development assistance that is required in bringing about change.

### Vision

To build up a system of empowered women, youth and children who believe in inclusive development and see themselves as positive agents of change.

## Theory of Change

At NoWAD, we look at the life of the woman holistically and our approach is one of empowerment. We believe that a woman is productive and does not need hand-outs but rather a helping hand. To this end, we teach women what they need to know in order to increase and improve their livelihoods and that of their families. We create opportunities where the women we work with can shine and grow stronger through showing them that knowledge is indeed power.

NoWAD believes in the power of women to change their lives and their communities. Yet many women are prevented from enjoying their full human rights because of poverty, discrimination and violence and inequality.

NoWAD is committed to empower women and children living in vulnerable households through Income generating projects (IGPs) to enable them to be in a better economic position to support their children and themselves with basic needs.

## Objectives of the Organization

- To unite women and children in agriculture and development initiatives towards achieving sustainable development.
- To provide a voice for women and children in the community in an effort to improve their standard of living.
- To drive a new era of development, productivity and growth by empowering women in Agribusiness and development.

## Founders' Profiles

NoWAD was founded by 7 professional women who had individual farming enterprises and had seen the challenges that women in agriculture face. Using their experience and networks, they set out to empower disadvantaged women with skills, information and tools that could potentially get them out of the poverty trap.

NAMES	NATIONALITY	AGE	GENDER	QUALIFICATIONS	EXPERIENCE	OTHER SKILLS
Fiona Luswata	Ugandan	38	Female	Social Scientist	15	Psychology, training
Ann Mary Kusiima	Uganda	38	Female	Public Health	15	Training & Project design and development,

						implementation, proposal writing
Sarah Nassimbwa	Ugandan	31	Female	Chartered Public Accountant	10	Communication
Maureen Twesigane	Ugandan	41	Female	Social Worker	15	Advocacy
Letitia Nassali	Ugandan	33	Female	Project Management	8	Community mobilization
Catherine Nyaburu	Ugandan	48	Female	Chartered Public Accountant	25	Auditing
Kampemuka Schola	Ugandan	35	Female	Development Management	10	Training & Monitoring and Evaluation

### Areas of Work

- Agribusiness, Nutrition and Food Security
- Personal financial management
- Empowerment of women, youth and children
- Gender Based Violence (GBV) – prevention and management
- Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLAs) – formation, governance and lending principles.
- Primary Health Education

### Areas of Expertise

Below are the different areas of NoWAD's expertise:

Field	No of years
Financial literacy	2
Financial management	3
Project based learning methods	6
Management training	4
Small and Medium Enterprises	7
Enterprises training	4
Agribusiness	8

### Current Projects

Below are the on-going projects that are being implemented by NoWAD:

1. Training in Value addition – mushrooms; avocado, vegetables
2. Establishment of school gardens in selected schools in Wakiso and Mityana
3. Training in Functional Adult Literacy (FAL)
4. Garbage management in Schools and communities
5. Mindset change programs in Wakiso and Mityana.
6. Formation of self-help groups at village level

### **Future projects**

The following are some of the future projects that NoWAD intends to implement:

1. Career guidance in schools and communities targeting the youth
2. Piggery and Dairy value chain management training in Wakiso district
3. Vocational training – soap and jelly making, making of briquettes
4. Feed the egg project

### **Partnerships**

NoWAD works together with District Local government (represented by the Community Development Officers) in Mityana and Wakiso district during implementation of planned programs. In Wakiso district, NoWAD has signed a 5 years MoU to build the capacity of farmers in dairy and piggery value chain management with a specific focus on successful farming on small spaces and in peri-urban areas.

Our inspiring start-up story has already featured in US-based social entrepreneur magazines namely: The Story Exchange ([www.storyexchange.com](http://www.storyexchange.com)) and the Story baar ([www.storybaar.com](http://www.storybaar.com)).

### **Sources of Funding**

Currently, most of NoWAD's activities and projects are funded by the founder members. However, NoWAD recently developed a number of programs where the target beneficiaries are required to pay some money in order to sustain operations of the organization and also raise funding for planned community outreaches.

## Bankers

NoWAD currently banks with Equity bank Uganda limited under the following details:

BENEFICIARY NAME:	Network of Women in Agribusiness and Development
ACCOUNT NUMBER:	1003200909182
BENEFICIARY BANK NAME:	Equity Bank Uganda Limited
SWIFT CODE:	EQBLUGKA

## Contact Details

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## Organogram

