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FATHERS AS ALLIES IN DEVELOPMENT

Over the last few years, TLC Global Mission has concentrated on engaging fathers to operationalising the Male Engagement Strategy (2017) developed by the Government of Uganda to address the rising social epidemic of sexual and gender based violence usually meted out on the women and children.



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Cover Photo Credits: Father teaching his son and daughter how to bathe their baby (Thomas Munghono)

Acronyms

- CSO Civil Society Organisation
- CSR Corporate Social Responsibility
- EMB Engaging Men and Boys by Care International
- SGBV Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
- UNGC United Nations Global Compact



Executive Summary

Over the last two years, Uganda and the world at large have been recovering from the COVID-19 lockdown that ravaged economies and homes alike. Schools and Offices were closed for two years straight causing many to become bankrupt and close shop. Only a selected few essential skeleton services were allowed to operate to keep the nation running.

TLC Global Missions Uganda (TLCGM) has been a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact since 29-May-2014. We are a non-governmental organization that presents a Community on Engagement (CoE) every 2 years sharing the progress that we've made in implementing the ten Global Compact principles and, where appropriate, supporting UN goals through partnerships.

Our flagship project is **Meaningful Parent Engagement** (managing 10mn households of Uganda) starting with Fathers and Father figures. We are resurrecting the homestead model of *'mayumba kumi'* (ten households make a homestead). Our experience with working with women and children has led us to realise that there is vacuum in the socialisation of males. The boys grow up feeding off toxic masculinity and they end up as wife beaters, child abusers.

TLCGM is making social investments into long term collaborative partnerships that bring the boys and men back into a supportive care role. Many interventions have been hostile to men; treating them as assailants, brutes, callous, defects, and enemies of women and girls. One of these is the **f24 – Annual Father's Festival** in the month of June 2024. The event will be offline (in Kyenjojo Uganda) and online (internet); it is a PPPP public-private-people partnership between Kyenjojo District Local Government (*31 administrative units*), development partners (*300 civil society and businesses*) and the citizens of Kyenjojo (*500,000 of them*).

Currently, we have participated in two Global Compact surveys and attended two online Global Compact Events. The local network Uganda is yet to gain traction but we are reaching out to them for collective action.

CEO feeding his newborn baby at hospital

Commitment by the CEO to UN Global Compact

24-Sep-2023

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that TLC Global Mission - Uganda reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders (both internal and external) using our primary channels of communication (both online and offline). We commit to champion the cause of community systems strengthening through meaningful male engagement.

Join us on the journey of mobilizing parents (especially fathers) to be present, provide partner support and positive discipline.

Yours in service,

Tom Nelson MUNGHONO aka TaataDaniella (dad of Daniella) CEO, TLC Global Missions (Uganda) Father | Activist |Manager |Engineer

taataDaniella **THOMAS MUNGHONO** father, husband, leader

I am a social architect with a passion for building social enterprises ie, enterprises that create both profit and shared social value.

With 20+ years of working experience, I specialize in resurrecting dead, struggling and dying organizations.

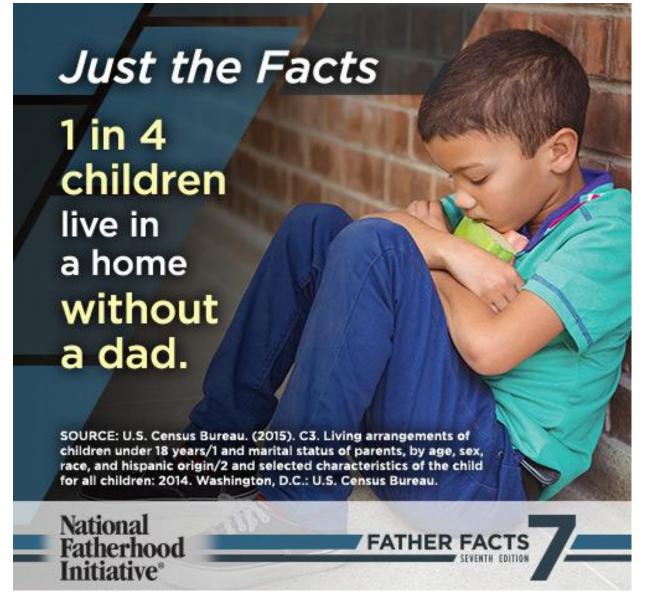
Currently I am a CEO-for-hire providing technical support for restructuring hospitals and health service providers all over Africa.

Of late, I have rediscovered my passion for mobilizing fathers towards national building; starting with being available for their families.

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Poster: Statistics on the social epidemic of fatherlessness

Background to TLC Global Missions

Over the last two years, Uganda and the world at large have been recovering from the COVID-19 lockdown that ravaged economies for two years. TLC Global Missions Uganda (TLCGM) has been a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact since 29-May-2014; 9 years ago. Registered in 2016 as an NGO that presents a Community on Engagement (CoE) every 2 years sharing the progress. Our flagship project is **f24 – Annual Father's Festival** that is part of our strategy to mobilize the 10mn households in Uganda towards social cause of child-friendly spaces. We are engaging fathers as allies and not as enemies of communication development.





Photo: TaataDaniella bathing his two babies

Triple Bottomline of Corporate Sustainability

The 10 pillars of the United Nations Global Compact

Over the last few years, TLCGM has managed to engage 5 potential participants across the echelons of society and they have expressed interest in joining the UN Global Compact:

- Academia: Uganda Martyrs University Nkozi (has 5 campuses across Uganda).
- Businesses engaged include: Centenary Bank (bank with the largest footprint in Uganda)
- **Cities** include Kayabwe Town Mayor/Town Clerk (the Equator town).
- CSO, Civil Society: Omukago Association for Welfare of Street Children Organisations
- **Public Sector** agencies included Kyenjojo District Local Government

B1. PEOPLE: Father as Ally

TLC has focused on creating safe spaces for children and women by addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence especially violence against women and children in Uganda as follows:

- 2023 Aug: Presented to 42 Councillors of Kyenjojo District Council who gazetted June as **Father's Month** starting with June 2024.
- 2023 Jun. Organised Kyenjojo Father's Month themed "my dad my hero". 305 fathers were reached in 30 days with 3 objectives -Appreciate, Build up and Challenge fathers to step up to their responsibility.
- 2023. Office of President: Review of Progress on Anti-Corruption Strategy at Kyenjojo.
- 2023. District **Case Conference** (Quarterly): a public-private partnership handling cases of sexual and gender based violence bringing together; 22 organisations attended.
- 2022. Organised Kyenjojo Father's Week 2022 with Care International Uganda; reaching 220 fathers. We deployed the EMB Approach - Engaging men and Boys as a tool for achieving gender equality in our interventions.
- 2022: Right to Education. Contributed to the design of Kibo
 Academy to serve 120 children at Kibo Village, Western Uganda.



Design of Children's School Facility at Kibo Village, Fort Portal.



10D causes of FATHER ABSENCE where are the fathers?

Father is... Dead: passed on Drunk: a drug addict Disconnected by inlaws Diaspora: at work abroad Diseased: down with illness Deployed far from the home Detached: unaware of a child Divorced: separated from wife Dreamer: couch potato on TV Disgraced: afraid to come home

Why target men? Men can/have/are... ...also abused in armed conflict ...control resources at all levels ...key roles in decision-making. ...easily be listened to by men ...custodians of bad practices. ...power to make change ...positions of leadership.



Special Focus on meaningful parent engagement

Our strategic focus is *Parent Engagement* (managing 10mn households of Uganda) starting with Fathers and Father figures. We are resurrecting the homestead model of *'mayumba kumi'* (ten households make a homestead). Our experience with working with women and children has led us to realise that there is vacuum in the socialisation of males.

The Father Absence Crisis in America

Research shows² when a child is raised in a father-absent home, they are affected in the following ways...



18.4 Million Children, 1 in 4, Without a Biological, Step, or Adoptive Father at Home¹

- 4x Greater Risk of Poverty
- More Likely to Have Behavioral Problems
- 2x Greater Risk of Infant Mortality
- More Likely to Go to Prison
- More Likely to Commit Crime
- 7x More Likely to Become Pregnant as a Teen
- More Likely to Face Abuse and Neglect
- More Likely to Abuse Drugs and Alcohol
- 2x More Likely to Suffer Obesity
- 2x more Likely to Drop Out of School

*U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Living anangements of children under 18 years old: 1960 to present. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau. *National Fatherhood Initiative* 2010. Father Facts: Eighth Edition. Germantown, MD: National Fatherhood Initiative*. The boys grow up feeding on toxic masculinity and they end up as child abusers. In 2017. Government of Uganda developed a Male Engagement for Strategy addressing Sexual and Gender based Violence.

TLCGM is making social investments into long term partnerships that bring boys and men back into а supportive care role. Many social interventions are hostile to men; treating them as assailants, brutes, defects. callous. and enemies.

Figure: The father absence crisis in America



F24, Annual Father's Festival, Jun 2024

F24 (Annual Father's Festival – Jun 2024) is a community support initiative championed by Thomas Munghono (aka TaataDaniella, Ateenyi) under the auspices of Kyenjojo District Local Government. In 116 years of Father's Day (on the third Sunday of June), Kyenjojo District Council is the first in the world to gazette June as a Father's Month. F24 is a public-private-people partnership between public sector (district) and private sector (200+ businesses, 200+ organisations, 500+ schools) and people (100k households). f23 (held in Jun 2023) reached 300+ fathers in 30 days with 3 objectives: appreciate, build up, and celebrate the fathers.



What is F24? Father's pitch deck includes ...

- **awards**: reward and recognize people and projects. 24 partners.
- brokerage: father-support initiatives/deals. 24 candid conversations
- caravan: absent/abusive to available. 24 trainings
- diary: document daily journal of fatherhood. 24 father activities
- **exodus**: \$/d (baby class/peasant) to \$/h (middle class/prosperity). 24 sessions

Why Kyenjojo FM (Father's Month)? Father as destiny helper

- Challenge of rising SGBV (sexual and gender-based violence) cases in Kyenjojo.
- **Council** of District gazetted June as Kyenjojo FM(Father's Month) in August 2023.
- **Convene** 24 lightning talks in TEDxFathers @Kyenjojo as an innovation district.
- **Showcase** 1 admin unit (of Kyenjojo) profiled everyday for 30 days of advocacy.
- Scale to Kyegegwa District (born Dec 2009); one of the 132 districts of Uganda.
- Social transformation with 100 fathers committing to spend 1hr/day with their children.

How is it done? Theory of social change to disrupt child poverty

- 2-sided collaboration between public with private sector (better performance).
- 20+ **communities** as admin units (bolder productivity targets).
- 200+ CSOs/ development partners (cheaper process of fundraising).
- 2000+ faith centres reaching fathers (faster pace of feedback and results).
- 20000+ cribs/households in Kyenjojo (smaller wastage of resources like PDM Funds)



Where will it be? At Kyenjojo district as a model of meaningful father engagement

- 30+ days of social action in engaging men and boys in June 2024.
- 30+ communities/ administrative units where fathers reside.
- 30+ champions of social change towards positive fatherhood.

When is it planned? Roadmap for Kyenjojo@24 leading up to a month of activities in June '24.

- 24 years of Kyenjojo (*created* on Nov 28th 2000).
- 24 topics/candid conversations on toxic masculinity
- 24 champions of good fatherhood/positive parenting

Who are the target beneficiaries? Father is a leader of the home

- 100+ years of Father's Day celebrations (*since 1910*)
- 100+ countries adopted FD (serving 1.5b fathers worldwide).
- 100 fathers/community (in 100k households of Kyenjojo).

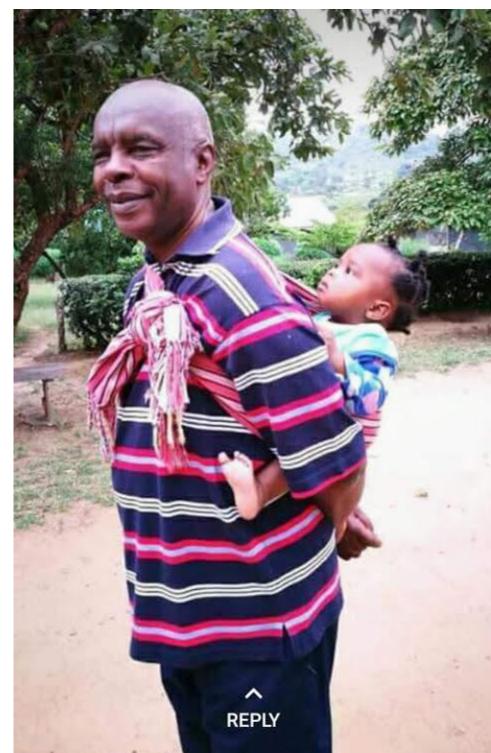


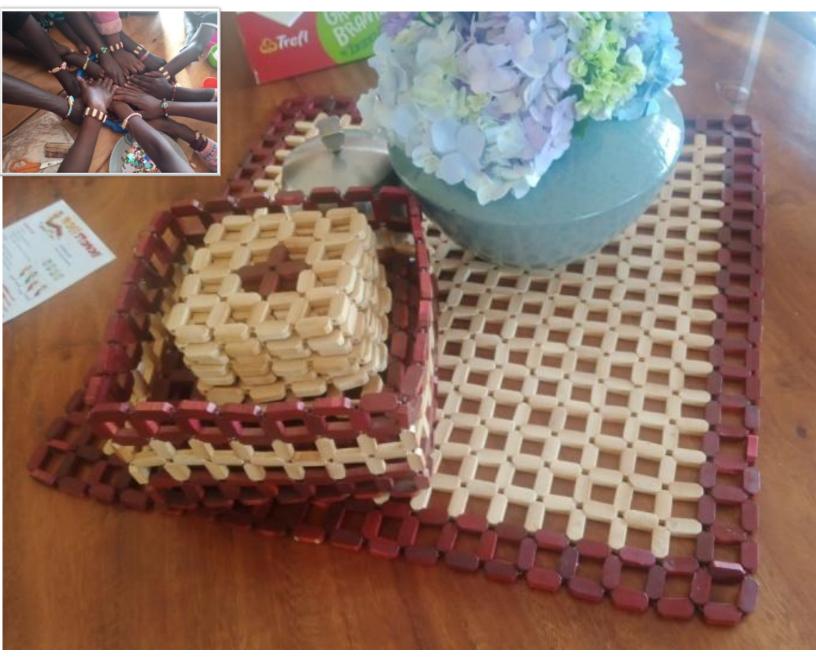
Photo: Father in South Africa carrying his baby

In conclusion, stronger families make stronger societies. This is a call to men and boys to come back home; this is the **great homecoming** of men.



B2. PLANET: bamboo enterprise as a sustainable business

At TLC, we believe in being good stewards of this planet; it's our home. We have invested in green enterprise for sustainable livelihood for families. Bamboo grass was chosen as a viable material for mass producing handicrafts for export. Post COVID-19, we have zeroed on bamboo which has over 10000 applications in everyday life from handicraft to herbal medicine. The future plan is do value chain ie, from farm (bamboo as carbon sink) to fork (bamboo shoots as food *'kaMalewa'* by the baMasaaba of Mbale in Eastern Uganda).

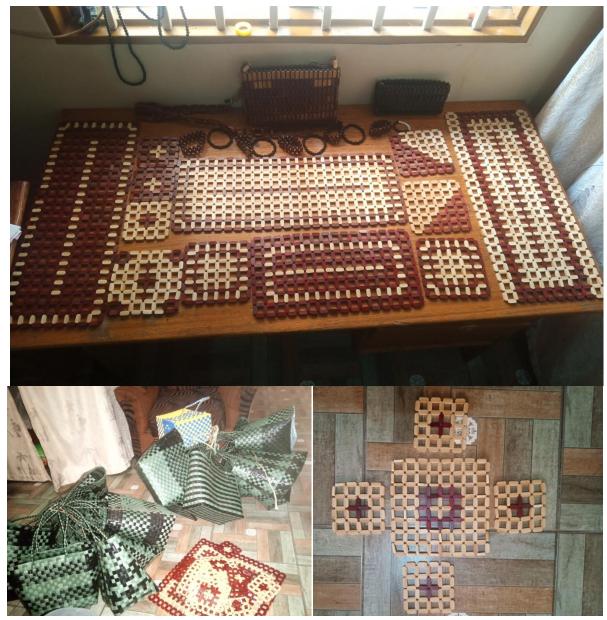


A set of hand-made bamboo tablemats for a dining table(L); and bangles (inset) at Kyenjojo



B3. PROFIT: from peasants to producers

Uganda is in Sub-Saharan Africa which is known for low-income, resource-rich nations. As part of building family resilience to economic shocks; TLCGM took on a task of transforming the peasants into producers. We are targeting to produce for the growing middle class market (domestic) and the export market. We managed to identify craft making groups (groups of weavers called 'weaverbirds') for capacity building. We trained a group of 20 family representatives (18 women, 2 men) in weaving bamboo beads into tablemats at True Salvation Church, Rwamukoora (Kyenjojo). It is now a craft production centre.



(Top) Display of different designs of bamboo tablemats; (L) Shopping bags, (R) Set of tablemats





Home-based Crafts: (L) 'Ndiiro' millet basket;

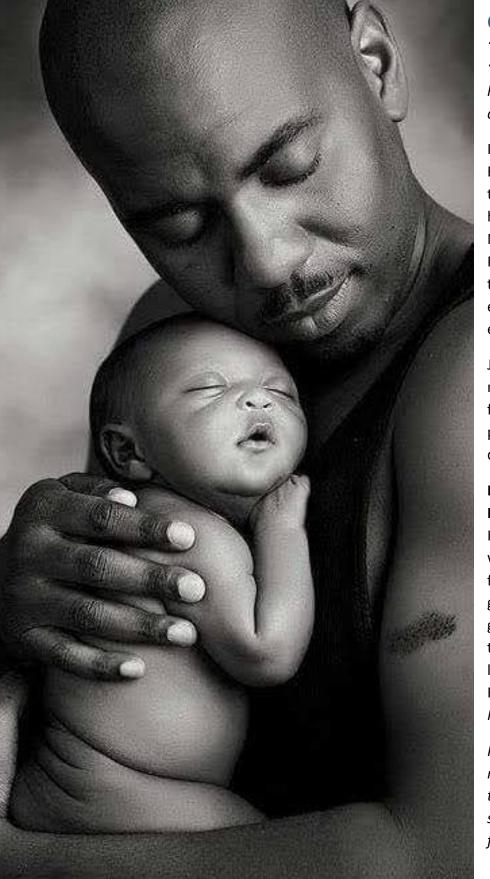
(R) Mother and daughter in a cake class



Home-based industry: cake (L)

(R) Children attending Pottery class on market day





Conclusion: Call to Action 'Nanyini kigwa yakiweebuula' ie, "It is the bad deeds of owner/ head of the house that bear the deepest shame on his family"

In this Communication of Engagement, we have described the actions that our organization has taken to support the United Nations Global Compact and its Principles. We are championing the cause of parent engagement especially meaningful male engagement.

Join us on the journey of mobilizing parents (especially fathers) to be present, provide partner support and positive discipline.

F24 – the Annual Father's **Festival** was inspired by the International Father's Day (June) which is a holiday of honouring fathers and father figures (uncles, grandparents). Father's Month gives individuals and corporates the opportunity to express their love to these special people; Fathers. We have upgraded from *Father's Day to Father's Month*.

Photo: Father carrying his newborn baby on the bare chest to increase her chances of survival; baby drawing warmth from daddy's body.