



# Impact Report





# Our Mission

Toonda Cultural Community Center is committed to reducing poverty and improving the quality of life for youth and women in rural Uganda. Through our three core pillars—Women Empowerment, Education, and Arts & Culture—we create opportunities for sustainable development and self-sufficiency.

We believe in helping people help themselves by supporting self-organized community groups. Women's cooperatives in sewing, weaving, and catering generate income, while educational sponsorships and tutoring programs empower the next generation. Our open-air stage, library, and creative spaces foster artistic expression and cultural exchange, bringing together local and international talents.

Tourism initiatives such as drumming, dancing, weaving, and tailoring classes provide additional income for community members, while Airbnb stays help sustain Toonda's projects. Located in Kyakataama, 30 km from Fort Portal, Toonda serves as a vibrant hub where culture, education, and empowerment intersect to build an inclusive and sustainable future.

# Everyone deserves a place to *feel inspired*

While the last couple of years have brought many challenges, Toonda has remained committed to delivering opportunities to support the community elevation.



"We work with what is available –  
and make the most of it."

TOONDA empowers the  
community to find their own  
solutions: creative, collaborative,  
and with a future that lies in their  
own hands."

– Rayka

258

People impacted

257

Workshops delivered

22

Projects launched

## Projects

## Details

## Outcome

### Women Empowered

Supports 80 single mothers create a stable incomes, through sustainable income-generating initiatives.

- They have formed self-organized groups focused on sewing, basket weaving, and catering for events.
- The women's group is officially registered as a Community-Based Organization (CBO).
- Local women now produce for TK Maxx.

### Arts and Culture exchange.

Fosters artistic and cultural expression through collaborations with local and international artists.

- Delivered a variety of experiences in Art, Dance, Music and Drama
- Launched an annual Cultural Gala which is a regional folkloric dance competition, sponsored by the German Embassy in Kampala.

### Literacy Programmes

Reading and writing sessions for illiterate community members of all ages.

- Ten laptops and an online learning app open digital doors for young people in a rural setting.
- Offered digital literacy, workshops and children activities.

### Smart Kyakatama project

School sponsoring project with extra curricular activities for those kids at the center

- Over 70 young people have been supported so far in English and educational support.
- Improved social confidence and educational confidence, including some young people joining the job market and starting small businesses.

### Toonda Cultural Troop

Cultural and educational performances

- Domestic violence has reduced in families through play we do within the community
- The performances have enabled members to be able to support their basic needs.



# To date: highlights



2024 was a year of growth, resilience, and new opportunities at TOONDA. We finished and opened our community hub with a library with over 1,000 books, creating an inclusive learning space for all ages. Our weaving group reached a milestone by producing items for TK Maxx – a powerful step from training to real income. Ten laptops and a tailored learning app expanded access to digital education for rural youth. One of our proudest moments was Zungu's promotion. He came to TOONDA seven years ago as a boda boda delivery boy – today, through hard work, reliability, and deep commitment to the community, he has become a trusted team leader and project coordinator. Despite financial and structural challenges, we strengthened our network of local partnerships and stayed rooted in community-led development.

Today, we're proud that new projects are coming to us – a sign that our consistent presence, meaningful work, and trustworthiness are being recognized. These milestones reflect our core values: education, empowerment, and creativity. We are deeply grateful to all our supporters who believe in this vision.

## *Toonda Library*

Received 1,000+ donated books for our vibrant hub for reading, exchange, creativity, and community learning across all generations.

## *Kasana Lake House*

Built by our Swiss supporters, this rental property is co-hosted by Toonda, with a share in the income to support our sustainability.

## *Christmas Theater Trip*

8 young people got to travel to Kampala for a special "Aladin" theater performance and community celebration,

## *Team growing*

Officially promoted Zungu to Site manager with a competitive salary – from Boda delivery to Toonda Leadership.



# Empowerment Projects

## *Elevate*

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Toonda Cultural Community Center

[www.toonda.org](http://www.toonda.org)



# Projects Impact

Over the past seven years, our projects have enabled dozens of young people to complete school, develop practical skills, and launch small-scale income-generating ideas for young adults and women in need —all within a supportive and self-organized community environment.

Toonda is proud to have delivered a wide range of projects to support the community of X.

Our support has included the following:

- Supporting educational journeys
- Supporting Female entrepreneurs
- Supporting sustainability
- Supporting cultural exchange
- Supported digital awareness

Opened a community hub!

258

People benefited from Toonda support.



This project has helped my family.

I created and found a market for my product and now send my kids to school.

*Abbia- Toonda Weaver Chairwoman*

## Education Impact

Supported young people ranging 5 to 25 years of age access education and additional resources, over 50% of our educational beneficiaries aged between 15 – 25.

## Basic Needs impact

Supporting and responding to community members challenges to accessing basic needs, wellbeing, nutrition and health services.

## Employment Impact

Toonda support has supported community members equip themselves with skills ranging from food preparation to financial management, enabling more enterprising mindset and financial opportunities

## Community Impact

Toonda's support is integral to the local community with, impacting 450 households, with beneficiaries receiving support for 2 or 3 years.

# Artist Exchange

## Inspire

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## Artist Exchange

Art is not just about beauty. It is a powerful tool for expression, healing, and connection. In a rural context where voices are often unheard and resources limited, art becomes a language of its own—accessible, emotional, and transformative. Through painting, upcycling, digital design, or murals, young people here learn to express what they cannot yet say aloud. They grow in confidence, discover their strengths, and begin to see value in their own stories, heritage, and ideas. Workshops like these are more than creative activities. They are spaces of empowerment, where self-worth is painted into existence and dialogue happens without words. The exchange with artists from Kampala and beyond opens new perspectives, builds bridges between communities, and nurtures local talent. It is about learning, sharing, and imagining a future that feels possible.



*Love your community and your community will love you , share with your community and they will share with you , teach them , they will teach you too, each one teach one.*

Ruphin

Artist Visited

24

### Ruphin Haruna

Congolese-Ugandan painter. Taught fundamentals like perspective and free expression, sparking creativity, self-confidence, and cultural pride through hands-on painting sessions.

### Kisakka Samson

Digital artist from Kampala. Taught computer workshops using graphic software, boosting media skills, self-expression, and future-oriented digital creativity.

### Irene Jenilla

Young feminist painter from Kampala. Led upcycling workshops with children, expressing heritage and pride, empowering girls through creativity and storytelling

### Benjamin Mbula

Mural artist with Congolese roots. Led painting workshops on identity and personal storytelling, encouraging youth to express heritage through visual art.



# Finances

26.460 €

## FUNDING SUMMARY

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Donations   | € 8000   |
| Funding     | € 18.640 |
| Sponsorship | € 14.000 |

## REVENUES – ENTERPRISE

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Artist Sales | € 1,130.00 |
| AirBnB       | € 300.00   |



# Case Study

## Zungu's Story

*I appreciate and am grateful that I am now in the position to give back and support my community.*

Vincent (aka Zungu) –  
Toonda General Manager



## Zungu's Journey

Dropped out of school in Senior 2 due to lack of school fees and was driving boda boda to make an income. It was through his boda boda services that he met Rayka and her husband Eunice and became their most trusted boda. It became quickly visible to them that he had the capacity to do more than driving and deliveries. Because of his pro-active, positively curious, and helpful attitude he was hired to join Toonda as a site manager, before becoming the current general manager. This has not only expanded his professional opportunities, but he has also been able to send his daughter to school.



# Case Study

## Smart Kyakatama project

*Thanks to Toonda I was able to finish primary 7 and am now joining a project for Self-Development and Business.*

Adolf



## Adolf's Journey

Joined the educational support programme in 2018, as his parents weren't able to support him. Thanks to his German sponsors Anja and Herbert.

His mother joined the Women Empowerment group and started to make an income via tailoring and catering, so she could support her family financially.

Additionally, her husband Jonas was hired as project coordinator of Smart Kyakatama and director's assistant.

Adolf completed his primary education this year and has now joined YINNOH (Youth Innovation Hub) for a 3 months self-development and social enterprise project. He is gaining valuable skills in computer literacy and entrepreneurship as well as in English. Upon completion, he will receive a certificate and join further projects to develop his own social business.

# Case Study

Parent & Small business owner

*Toonds's support has changed mine and my family's lives for the better.*

Abbia



## *Abbias's Journey*

As a single mother of 6, she was struggling to support her family with no income. She approached Toonda to sponsor her son's education.

After Toonda's sponsorship, she joined the women empowerment group and started saving money with them. She attended leadership workshops and joined the weaving group, which chairperson she became. Meanwhile she's attending english classes at Toonda as well as basic computer skills classes.

Because TOONDA covered the school fees for one of her children, she can now use her own income to support the rest of the family and is taking any chance at the center to learn and grow.

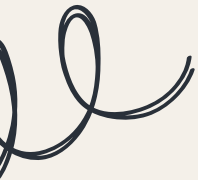


# Case Study

## Young Leader

Being in and out of school I didn't see a future for myself. But at Toonda I can try out new things and became very good in working in computers and even got into a mentoring program. Now I believe I have a future!

Shafik



## Shafik's Journey

17 years old Shafik grew up without a dad and a mum who decided to live her life in Kampala, irregularly sending money home. His sister helped raising him with the support of the neighbors in the trading center of the village. Due to lack of school fees he was in and out of school. When he came to Toonda he was known to be a teenage troublemaker. So we made him busy with taking over tasks at the center, proving that he can be a responsible young man, once given trust will try his best to not disappoint. He quickly found his talent in computer workshops and is now teaching computer classes to digital illiterate neighbors at Toonda. We connected him with a mentor from Tunaweza Innovation Hub, who's counseling him weekly. His aim is to start a digital based business, together with his mentor he's working on his self-development and is gaining more skills to reach his goal.



# Case Study

## Smart Kyakatama

*This has changed my life in ways she never imagined. I have been so inspired by the kindness and perseverance that shaped my own path, I hope to eager to pay it forward and help others overcome similar struggles.*

Suzan



### *Suzan's Journey*

The youngest child of 16 kids to her parents and on the verge of dropping out of school due to fees, she joined the educational support programme Smart Kyakatama at Toonda. Through the programme, she connected with generous individuals who supported her schooling. With this help, Suzan was able to continue her education and recently completed her Senior 6 level certificate program in Building and Construction.

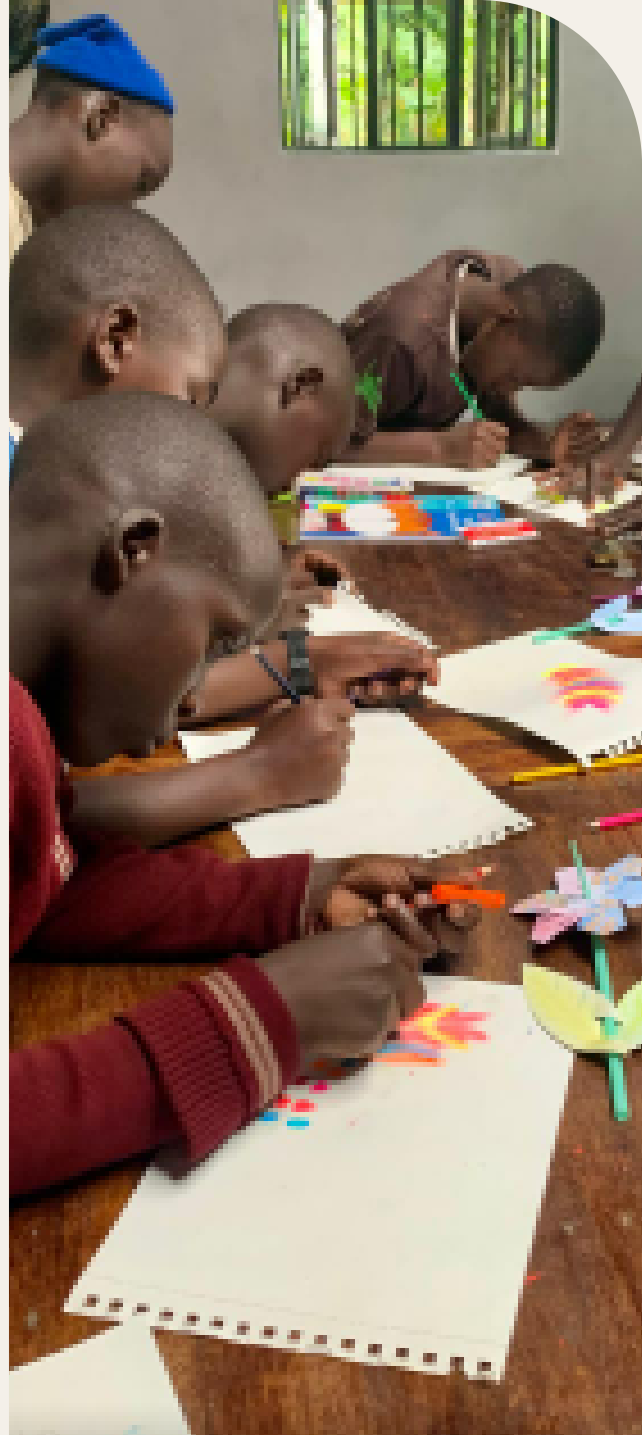


# Lessons Learned.

**Tailoring Group:** The group struggled to attract new learners who could contribute financially to cover materials. Without enough participants, the group couldn't continue.

**Literacy Group:** Our literacy class faced irregular attendance, which made consistent teaching difficult and eventually led to a pause.

**Education Sponsorship:** Since Covid local schools raised tuition almost every term, which reached a level for our sponsors, where they couldn't increase their support. This threatened our ability to continue helping all children. We negotiated with school directors to keep fees stable for our sponsored students.



## Insights gained...

- Community outreach must be ongoing and varied. In future, we aim to link vocational groups more directly to income opportunities to boost participation.
- Adult learners need more flexible formats and motivational incentives. We're exploring more informal, interest-based learning sessions moving forward.
- Transparent dialogue and local partnerships can offer low-cost solutions. In future, we'll engage earlier and build emergency buffers.



# We'd like to introduce an exciting New Partnership



## *Kasana Lake House*

In a unique community project, our friends built a beautiful two-story house by the crater lake. With three double rooms, cozy spaces to relax, a generous garden, a great kitchen, and an incredible view, it has since welcomed guests right in our neighborhood.

Guests who book directly through TOONDA contribute more: 50% of the nightly rate supports our work.

Bookings via Airbnb contribute 33%.

[www.lakehouse-uganda.com](http://www.lakehouse-uganda.com)



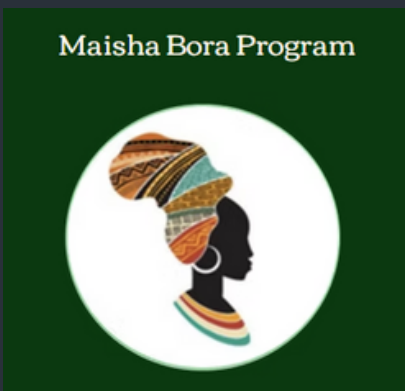


# We'd like to introduce an exciting New Partnership



## YINNOH

Youth Innovation Hub dedicated to unleashing the untapped economic potential of refugees and marginalized individuals in Uganda.



## Youth Initiative: Maisha Bora

Providing local mentoring programme with a curriculum provides comprehensive life skills-based reproductive health and STI and HIV/AIDS prevention education to young people in Uganda.



## Planetary services

Volunteer programme that is connecting Toonda to skilled international volunteers.

**Special thanks to our private donors!**

# Introducing Toonda Library



We are excited to have officially launched our Community Hub, including a Library and Laptops.

This hub will be integral to our work to build and support the community.

We forward to hosting more...

- Poetry readings
- Book Clubs
- Community Club
- Film Club
- Community events
- Workshops

*Special thanks  
to private donors  
that supported  
the building of  
our hub.*

**Books supplier: Books4Africa**

**Banner Designer: RBE Solutions/  
Raffaella Lequeux.**





# 2025 Plans



We will continue to respond to the needs of our community through new and ongoing initiatives, including:

- Advance Computer literacy and english proficiency
- inspire female leaders,
- promote wellbeing and safer communities
- Promote preventative health care
- Facilitate culture and skills exchange

We aim to strengthen existing partnerships and explore new collaborations to further expand our local impact in digital education, cultural tourism, and skills-based training. Deepen community ownership, increase income-generating opportunities, and continue building TOONDA as a model for sustainable rural development led from within.



## *Women Leaders Circle*

Female Leadership Program offering skills trainings led by successful businesswomen from our region.



## *Youth Summer Camp*

An enriching and memorable experience for young people in the local community that foster critical thinking, creativity, and teamwork



## *Mental Health Mens Group*

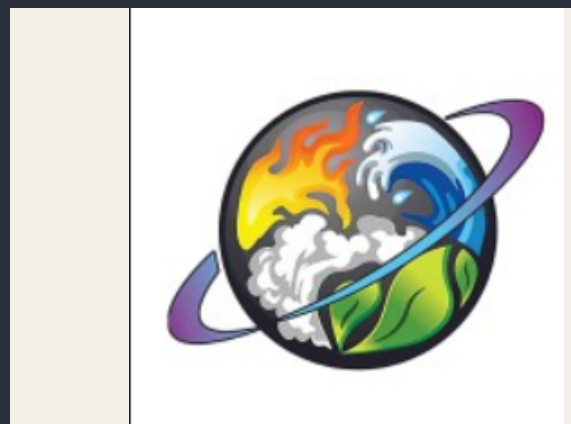
Mental Health Support for both women and men, promoting emotional wellbeing and safer community spaces



## *Artist Residency*

Connect local and international creatives for cultural exchange and community engagement

# We'd like to thank all our donors for their *generous support*



## Acknowledgements

Thanks to **Impactoverse** for their support and innovative approach learning meeting real-world impact.

- Creating a digital learning project connected to a real-life challenge at TOONDA.
- Built a prototype app for TOONDA in partnership with MI4Good – a tool co-developed by learners and experts.



# We'd like to thank all our donors for their *generous support*



**S > LT FOUNDATION**  
Connecting artists around the world.

## *Acknowledgements*

Thanks to the **SYLT Foundation** for commitment to promoting dialogue and healing through art and storytelling and painting.

- **Delivered storytelling workshop at Toonda, providing support with narrative, as well as providing therapeutic insight.**
- **Supported artists from South Africa to participate in residencies, providing mentoring and inspiration to local youth and women through creative writing.**



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our donors for their  
*generous support*



**RWENZORI  
SUSTAINABLE  
TRADE CENTRE**

### *Acknowledgements*

Thanks to **Rwenzori Sustainable Trade Centre** that supports Fair trade, sustainable skills, and empowerment for women, and for providing support to our Womens Group.

- Collaborated with **TOONDA** to provide local youth and artisans with training, fair income, and community-driven development through eco-social entrepreneurship.
- connected with international contacts leading to securing opportunities with european companies and markets **TK MAX**, scaling their businesses.





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## *Acknowledgements*

Thanks to **Kampala Amateur Dramatics society (KADS)** for their support and their passion for inspiring theatre lovers and nurturing future superstars, **KADS** serves as a vibrant platform for artistic expression, community building, and shared joy in storytelling.

- **invited and supported 8 lucky Toonda Youth to visit Kampala for their Christmas Special play.**
- **Through out 2024, they donated a income from entrance fee to Toonda.**





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**ZONTA**  
FOUNDATION  
FOR WOMEN

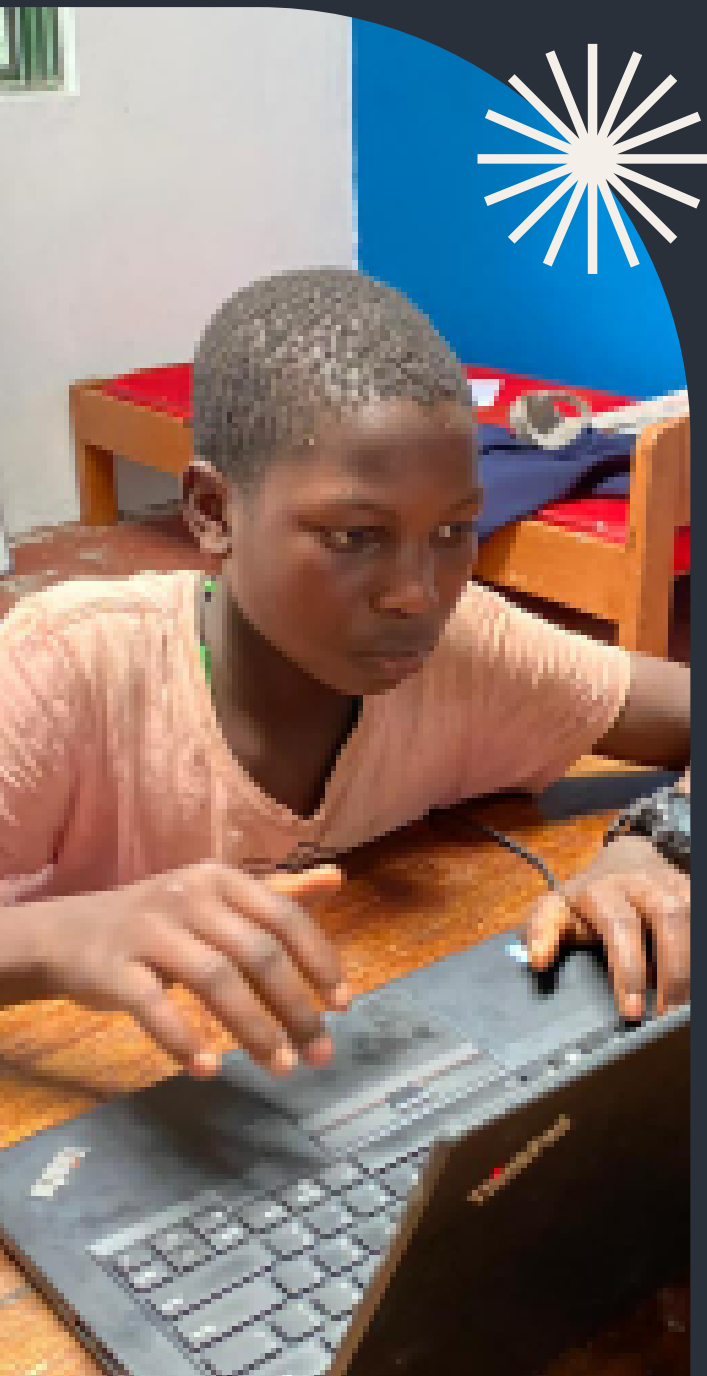
## *Acknowledgements*

Thanks to Zonta Club Hamburg for their support and continued commitment to Women empowering women – globally and locally.

- Hosted Toonda's Founder and Director, offering an opportunity to present and share the work of the charity, amplifying our work in germany.
- Supported our women's group with funding to buy pigs and goats, creating sustainable income for materials and self-organized projects.



# We'd like to thank all our donors for their *generous support*



**GROUNDBREAKER**

## *Acknowledgements*

Thanks to **Groundbreaker** for their support and commitment to equipping young women with skills in Software Engineering and AI to launch impactful careers in tech, opening doors for digital futures for Ugandan women.

- **Supported our campaign to secure laptops for TOONDA, successfully securing 10 laptops!**
- **Mentored young women in tech, creating pathways into digital careers through workshops, presentations and partnerships.**



# We'd like to thank all our donors for their *generous support*



german  
cooperation

DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

## Acknowledgements

Thanks to the German Embassy alliance/  
cooperation work in Uganda and their  
continued support of Toonda initiatives.

- Supported german artist in coming to and staying with us for 1 month
- Sponsored out cultural gala of traditional dance, music and drama







Thank you for your  
continued support.





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