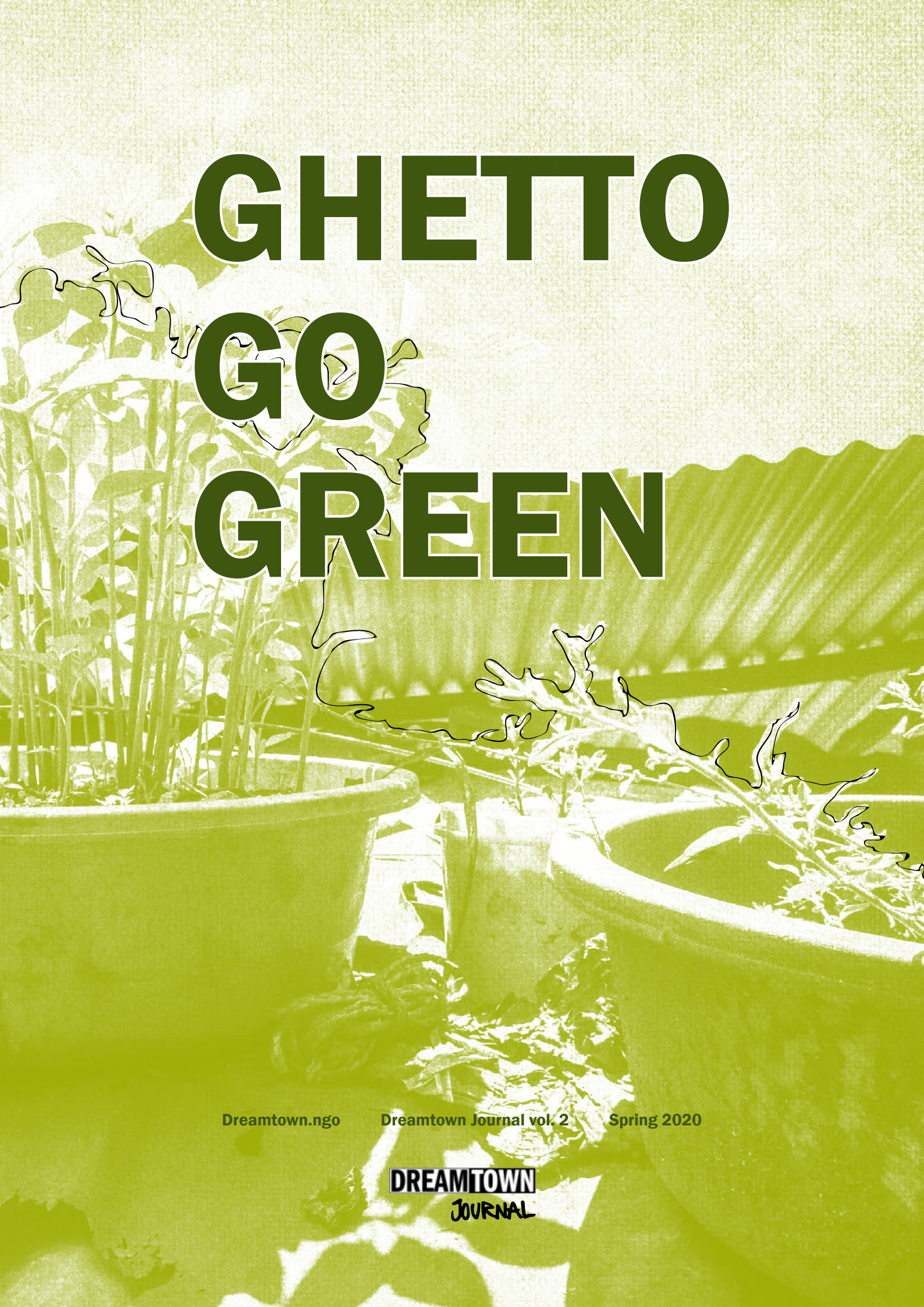




GHETTO GO GREEN



Dreamtown.ngo

Dreamtown Journal vol. 2

Spring 2020

DREAMTOWN
JOURNAL



Dreamtown Journal is a series of publications made by Dreamtown.

This publication is made by Stine Kronsted, Urban Designer at Dreamtown.

DREAMTOWN
JOURNAL

#GHETTOGOGREEN

Ghetto Go Green is a green urban movement set out to create a greener and more sustainable Kampala. Ghetto Go Green is about increasing the wellbeing and resilience of young people who live in vulnerable urban communities in Kampala's K-zones through innovative and youth-led climate change adaptation. This means increasing access to green public spaces. Engaging young people, their communities, and city authorities to come together and raise awareness of climate change. Inspiring pro-environmental behavior change. Creating multi-purpose green public spaces. And supporting young agripreneurs.

Ghetto Go Green aims to improve livelihood conditions for young people in Kampala's ghetto communities, and at the same time actively contribute towards environmental restoration in the K-zones. This means engaging in youth-led advocacy on policies and budget prioritization addressing the negative impacts of the climate crisis, and contributing to strengthening climate action in Kampala!

This is a snapshot of Ghetto Go Green, which is growing day by day. Told through pictures and voices of young people in Kampala. It is made with input from Dreamtown and Network for Active Citizens, with stories by their brilliant team of young community journalists.

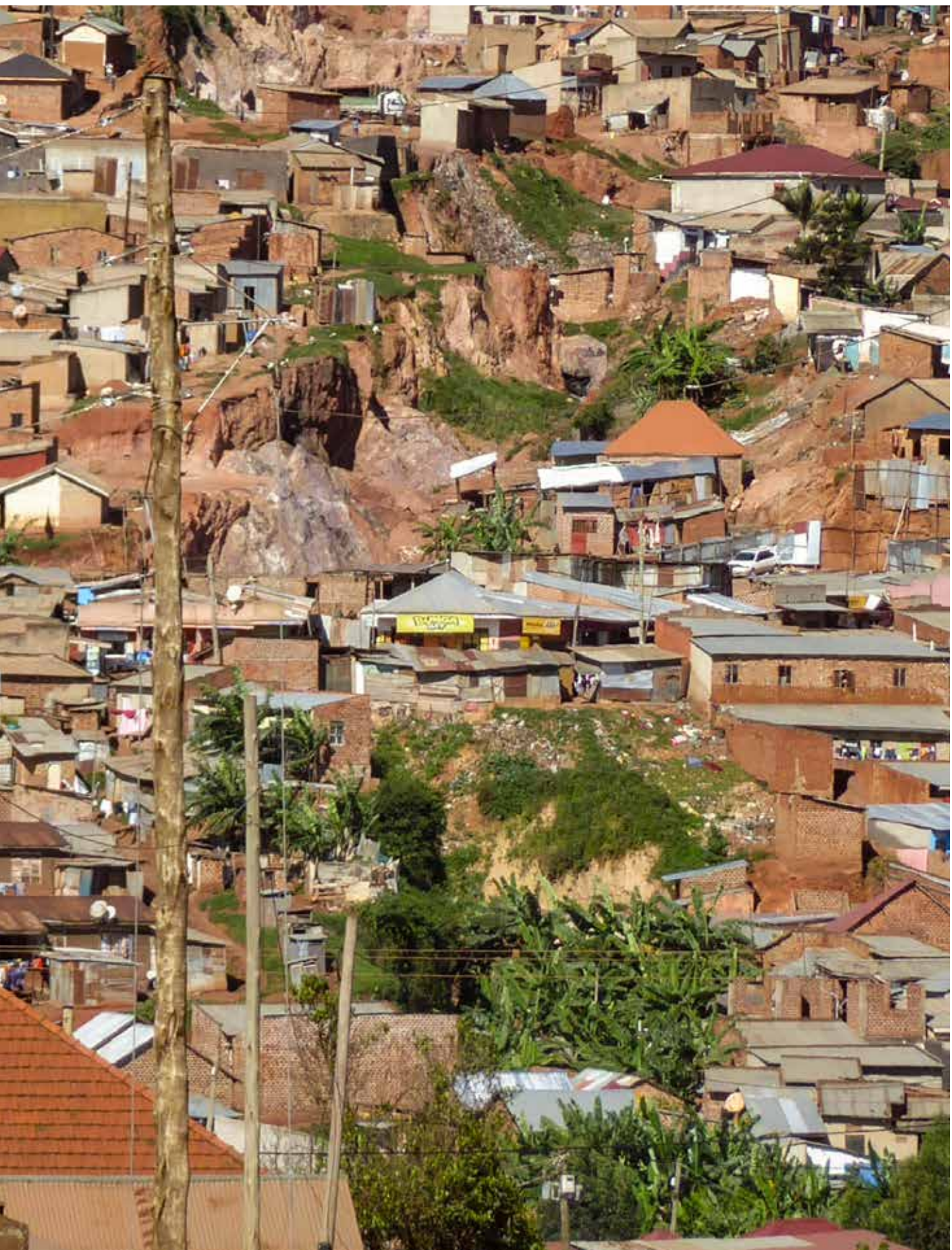


CONTENT

CONTEXT	Kampala - Climate Change	1-2
	Youth in the K-Zones	3-4
	Partnership - NAC and Dreamtown	5-6
	Community Journalism	7-8
GREEN CHANGE	Green Public Spaces	11-16
Story of change	<i>Wings for the Ghetto</i>	19
Story of change	<i>I am a Green City Influencer</i>	20
	Youth Gardens	21-22
GREEN FUTURE	I Year with Ghetto Go Green	25
	Upcoming Initiatives	26
Story of change	<i>Trained to Train</i>	27
Story of change	<i>The Gardens Have Preserved Our Ghetto Communities</i>	28
Story of change	<i>My Garden Has Completely Changed My Life</i>	29
Story of change	<i>The Dream to Become a Green Champion</i>	30
Story of change	<i>Having a Small Space or No Space Cannot Hinder You From Farming</i>	31-32
	COVID-19 Response	33-34

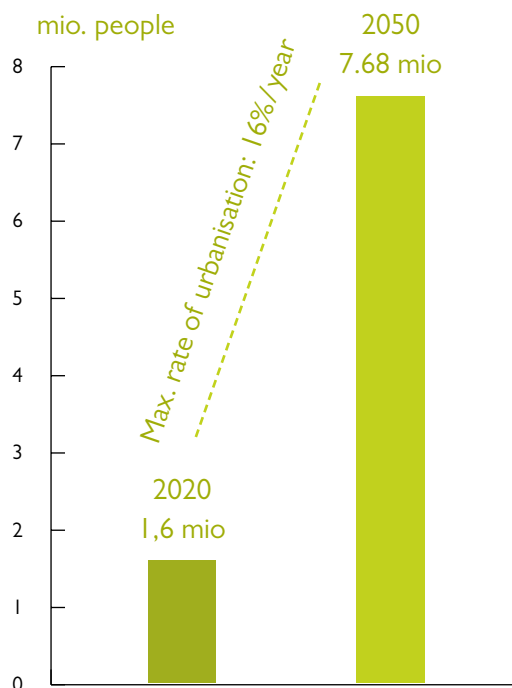
01. CONTEXT





KAMPALA

Uganda has a population of 45.7 million people, expected to approach 100 million by 2050 (Worldometer 2020; World Bank 2020). In addition to the country's high projections of population growth, it has one of the highest urban growth rates in the world, currently at 5.2 % (World Bank 2020). As of 2020, 26% of Uganda's population live in urban areas, expected to reach 44% by 2050 (Worldometer 2020; United Nations 2018). The rapid and unprecedented urbanisation experienced over the last decade in the capital, Kampala, has already created an uncontrolled urban growth, severely challenging the city's capacity to provide adequate housing, public services, green spaces, and decent job opportunities through economic livelihoods for its residents. Kampala's expansive growth has significantly degraded the quality of the wetlands and other key environmental assets of the city.



Source: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23311886.2016.1275949>

78 %

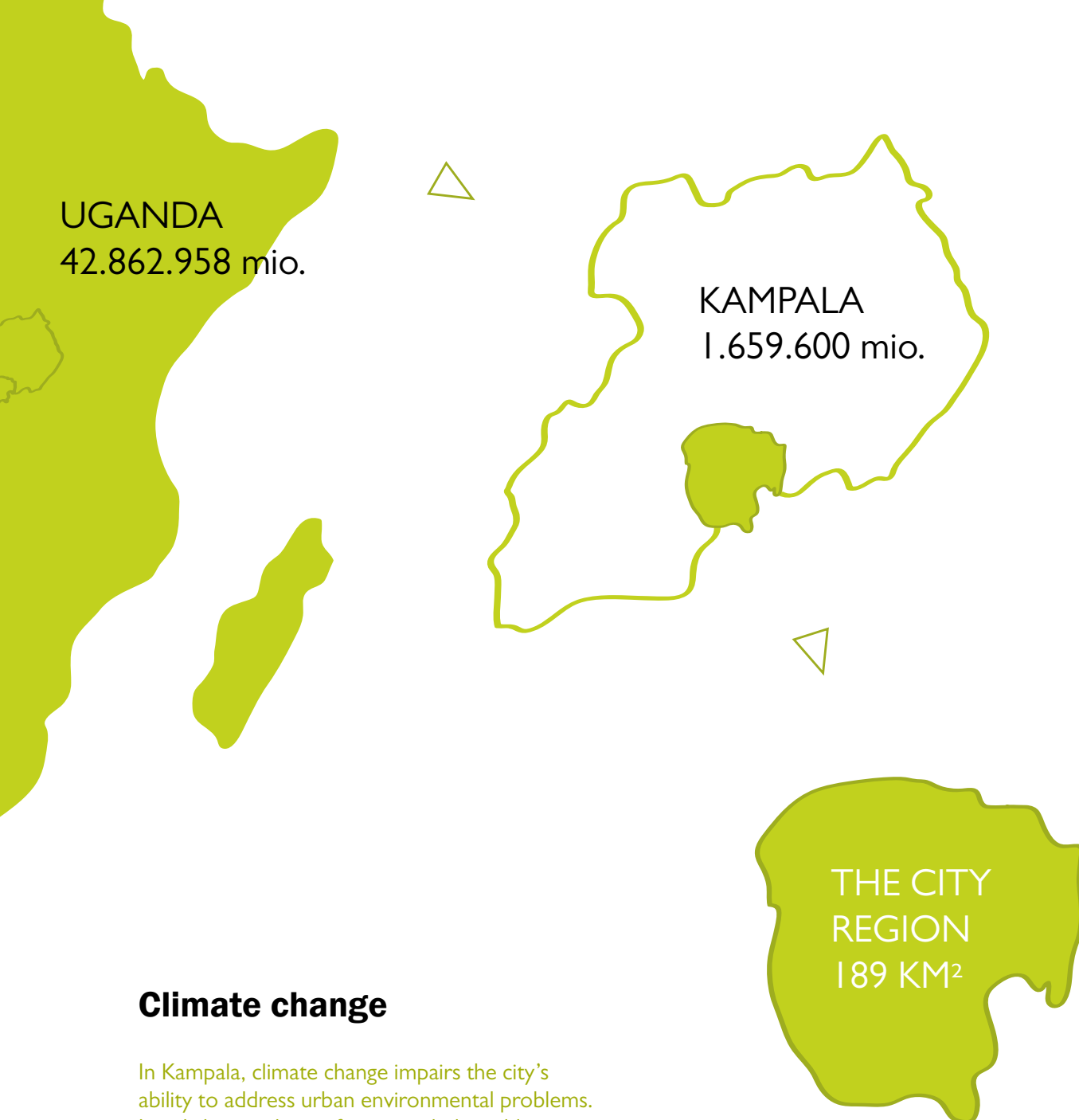
of Uganda's population is below 30 years old

Source: UBOS 2016

60 %

of Kampala's population live in informal settlements (See p. 11)

Source: <https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/KCCA-master-plan-city-flooding-traffic-Nakivubo-wetlands/688334-4600948-gt195f/index.html>



Climate change

In Kampala, climate change impairs the city's ability to address urban environmental problems. Local climate change factors include sudden increase or reduction in temperature and rainfall density and intensity, making it difficult to predict dry and rainy seasons. Intense rains and floods lead to severe degradation of the city's environmental assets. Changes in climatic conditions puts the city's drainage systems under immense pressure. And increased intensity of rains contributes to storm runoff levels that exceed the capacity of the city's infrastructure - exacerbating flooding and spread of pollution, as well as destruction of property and people's livelihoods and economic activities. This puts at risk the approximately 60% of Kampala's residents who live in informal settlements, many of which are situated in the lowland flood-prone areas. Areas most affected by flooding include the communities known as 'ghetto' communities or K-zones. Here, short but heavy rains cause serious effects such as landslides and mudslides.

Floods cause a number of problems, including decreased water availability, as many people do not have access to running water, and natural springs are contaminated. Roads and pathways are flooded, houses are destroyed, and water sources are contaminated by flooded pit latrines. This leads to various health issues such as outbreaks of cholera and typhoid and other water borne diseases. Due to heavy rains in the East African region, Lake Victoria has swollen to record levels, destroying infrastructure, farmland and crops, and property around the lake. The increase in rainfall is attributed to climate change or climate variability and has been accelerated by human activities, especially environmental degradation.

YOUTH IN THE K-ZONES

The K-zones is a large area of informal settlements in Kampala, in which communities are known as ghetto communities. The K-zones are densely populated and characterised by inadequate access to safe water and sanitation; lack of planning, storm drainage and waste collection; poor structural quality of housing; overcrowding; and lack of tenure security. Most of the youth in the K-zone area have low levels of education and suffer from unemployment and low income. Approximately 700.000 youths are ready to join the working force each year, however only 75.000 new jobs are created (World Bank 2020). This situation was worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic and the social distancing restrictions which affected most of the businesses, and therefore more youth lost their jobs.

The young people in the K-zones lack adequate knowledge about the effects of climate change on their lives, and how to address these challenges, although residents in Kampala's informal settlements are the people most affected. It is therefore paramount to create awareness in this youth about climate change and its impacts,

and to build on their capacity towards adaptation strategies, and increasing sustainable food productivity in the communities. The knowledge gap is a dual challenge, as there is a lack of knowledge both among youth in the K-zones, but also among decision makers.

Kyebando
Kirombe
Katwe
Kinawataka
Kunya
Kamwanji
Kitintale





Kyebando

Kinawataka

Kinya

Kitintale

Kamwanyi

Kirombe

Katwe

KAMPALA

Context | Risk-zones | p. 4

PARTNER-SHIP

NAC

Network for Active Citizens is a non-profit, community-driven development and advocacy organisation working with young people and community-based organisations to amplify their voices. Working with a community led social development approach, NAC builds capacities of citizens in vulnerable communities to influence pro-development programmes and policies as a sustainability strategy for socio economic well-being of marginalised youth. NAC's programmes cut across community journalism, policy, budget and local governance advocacy – empowering young people to enforce social accountability and engage in consultation for budget needs and priorities.

DREAMTOWN

Dreamtown is a Copenhagen based NGO, working for the wellbeing of young people in cities. We strive to improve the wellbeing of young people by creating safe, creative, and green spaces in slums, supporting livelihood and education opportunities, and supporting creative young activists in their strive for a better city. Dreamtown's work is interdisciplinary. Research guides the direction of our work. Action transforms communities. Stories broadcast the voices of young people. Dreamtown's work spans across Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Kenya, and all our projects are done in partnership with local grassroots, young activists, and other NGOs.

TOGETHER FOR A GREENER CITY

Dreamtown and Network for Active Citizens have worked together since 2019, where Ghetto Go Green was born. Together with young people, we want to transform ghetto communities in Kampala into green spaces and raise awareness about the negative impacts of the climate crisis. In many communities, the dangerous effects of flooding is a major concern. Due to the scarcity of space within cities, the competition for land use increases. This makes it harder to find room for green spaces which are important for creating a vibrant, attractive, and sustainable city. The focus on green space addresses issues that young people in vulnerable urban communities are faced with. This work includes supporting the development of green public parks and community gardens, urban agriculture, establishment of climate awareness hubs, and campaigns based on community journalism.



Dreamtown and NAC work together with creative and innovative young people in Kampala's K-zones to strengthen and expand the Ghetto Go Green platform.



Through trainings in communication for development, Dreamtown and NAC have trained community journalists to create and tell stories from their communities to influence policy making and positive social change.

COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

Community journalism is an approach to supporting young people to create and tell compelling stories on social issues from their communities to influence policy making and cause positive social change. As part of Ghetto Go Green, 40 community journalists have been skilled to create stories on climate change issues and other social concerns in their communities. Supported by mentors who are professional journalists, they continue to create compelling stories to be featured on social media, in national news media, and in publications like this one. Not only do these young community journalists create stories on social challenges, they create and tell stories on young innovators and problem solvers delivering solutions to social problems. This way, they inspire the rest of the community members to take responsibility and engage in community actions! Dreamtown and NAC train young community journalists in Communication for Development with participatory communication methods, video production, photography, and storytelling. The young journalists are encouraged to come together around the common agenda of climate change awareness raising and community involvement. NAC is also running social media campaigns using Facebook and Twitter to share information on Ghetto Go Green climate action activities, including support to aspiring young farmers to establish commercial urban gardens, and COVID-19 prevention messages in the ghetto communities.





02. GREEN CHANGE





GREEN PUBLIC SPACES

As part of Ghetto Go Green, four public green spaces have been developed in the three K-zone communities Kinawataka, Kyebando, and Katwe. Access to public green space is scarce in these communities, yet, important for the city's environment and for people's wellbeing. Due to scarcity of space within cities, the competition for land use increases. This makes it harder to find

places for green spaces, especially in dense areas. In addition to local climate change adaptation, green spaces play an important social role for young people. Thus, in addition to the climate adaptive benefits, green spaces make cities more liveable and lovable by fostering inclusion and opportunities for social activities, improving air quality, and helping people become less alienated.



Xero es excero
ea id unt aut
quatur, odignam
aut eatqui de
sapedio ssimint is
corempo rempore
idustemqui cus,
comnient quodio.
Nequo quiae nime

“After visiting this green space of Kyebando, I got touched and decided to do a small backyard urban garden where we harvest vegetables (‘sukumawiki’) supplementing on family diet”
- Nakimuli Stella



GREEN PUBLIC SPACES

The public green spaces in Kinawataka, Kyebando, and Katwe have lounge areas, cover shade, internet access, and demo gardens. The areas are actively used by young people for arrange of different activities:

Spaces for studies: Young people who are students use the spaces to carry out remedial discussions as a measure of keeping themselves updated with their class subjects.

Civic space: Young people use the green spaces for discussion of issues that concern them, and share ideas for solutions to challenges facing their communities.

Space for urban farming: The public green spaces have gardens that provide inspiration and skills for innovative urban farming, using discarded plastic containers and vertical gardening systems.

Social space: The public green spaces now act as meeting points for young people for their leisure time, especially in the evening.

Space for knowledge: All the green public spaces have free access to internet. This means that young people can use the spaces to access information, news, and updates.

“We have never had a place where we as young people meet every day, all along it had been meeting along the streets which don’t give us conducive environment for our leisure time because of inconvenience caused by noise and also Division Authority chasing us all the time.”
- Mubiro Ivan, a regular user of the public green space in Kinawataka





Xero es excero ea id unt aut quatur, odignam aut eatqui de sapedio ssimint is corempo rempore idustemqui cus, comnient quodio. Nequo quiae nime nostis ut quosam quat esti quamus acceptaq uatur?



Xero es excero ea id unt aut quatur, odignam aut eatqui de sapedio ssimint is corempo rempore idustemqui cus, comnient quodio. Nequo quiae nime nostis ut quosam quat esti quamus acceptaq uatur? Ullia dignis eatio dolut moloria at rernat magnatur assitaquiam

“This space has provided us where we discuss issues regarding our needs as young people of Kinawataka. It has been instrumental for us young people to come together and share ideas that contribute to our wellbeing”

- Ssewanyana David, a member of the partner CBO of Kinawataka



Parciate comnis et aut acea es
quam eumqui dolenia conem quo



Parciate comnis et aut acea es quam eumqui dolenia conem quo exerferi nita core sita debist, qui sit dolut
ut ex excea nobis ma volestin porescimpe es sumquo cus et et doluptae

STORIES OF CHANGE

Green Change | p.17



“Could I have ever imagined that it’s possible to dress someone in a smile- so priceless, through telling their story?” (p. 27)

“Since my first Urban Farming training from NAC, I have led numerous community cleanups and Awareness Creation campaigns about climate change adaptation in my community and continue to do so.” (p. 28)

“I developed the idea of starting up a green space in my community of Kikubo with the aim of improving the climate change and the general livelihood of the community.” (p. 35)

“my family was able to get a balanced diet because of the vegetables I harvested from the garden.” (p. 37)

“I never take any space now for granted however small it may look; I just want to continue growing vegetables for the benefit of my family” (p. 37)

What inspired me is my ambition to become an environmental champion (p. 38)

“I was able to educate a lot of people and awaken them to see and appreciate the beauty and importance of a green environment.” (p. 38)

“I learned that having a small land space or no space cannot hinder you from doing farming. “ (p. 40)

WINGS FOR THE GHETTO

Words by Claire Zerida Balungi

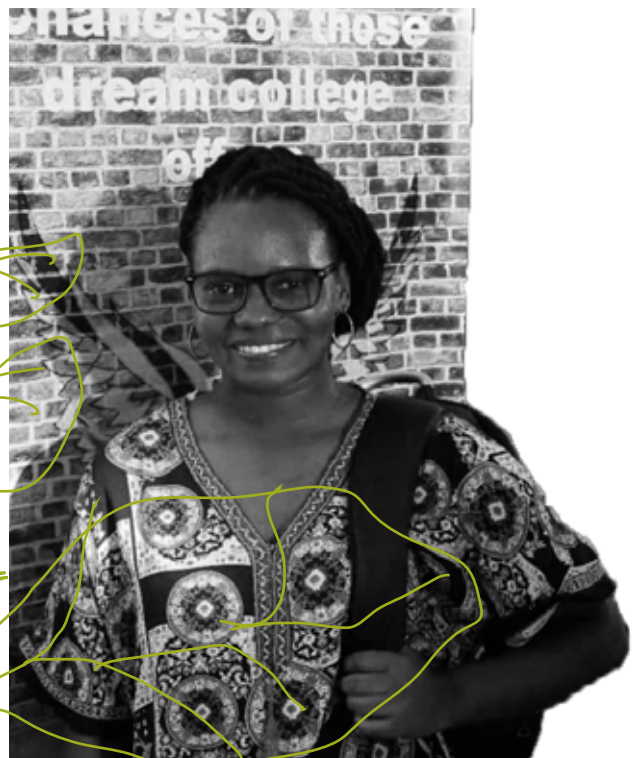
Do you ever find yourself replaying moments you consider worth, that you spent doing something to grow your community even by a tiny leap? There are conversations that stun us because they've been crafted in so much humor, we can't stop laughing, but they don't live on as great memories as much as the ones we get a chance to raise our voices in, so that others can get a meal for the day. These moments were made possible, for me, by the Communication for Development workshop, enabled by Dreamtown.

If you've lived or used a ghetto shortcut to get to the next street, you know how lowly, desperate and unamusing the situation in these communities looks, just by sight. You don't have to ask so many questions to understand the needs of the folks who stay there. Wait a second. Could I have ever imagined that it's possible to dress someone in a smile- so priceless, through telling their story? Tell you what... I did!

It takes positive energy, a little sharp unblinking eye that does the best observation called the camera, and of course, the right words to engage community members in a conversation directed towards 'development for us all'.

The opportunity to engage... It was like a freeze moment that kept hopes high... Remember, Emily Dickinson tells us that hope is the thing with feathers... I wanted to fly, but the thrill is even better when you fly along with other birds. I was given wings in the workshop where I learned to tell stories with purpose. With this power, I gave some of my wings to ghetto communities, by including them in my chapter of thrills of development. I talked! I shot! I wrote! Friend, we have thriving urban gardens that give us food for the day because Morten from Dreamtown came down here and gave me a voice through the workshop facilitation. Our communities are cleaner now because I took the initiative to preach against poor disposal of plastics. The Ghetto has gone Green! It is settled... for now. But I'm still telling stories; it's a skill that will never die. I live for the tales. And before I tell all that say success, I won't rest.

These moments... And others... I replay and retell, each time life closes in on me. Life is unforgiving, but hope is indeed the thing with feathers. **We tire, but never stop to fly!**



I AM A GREEN CITY INFLUENCER

Words by Nakandi Mastula

I am a Community Journalist and a Green Champion from Katwe K-zone. Because of the Ghetto Go Green Project, I have been able to learn how to write compelling climate change stories about my community of Katwe.

I have gained more knowledge on the influence of social media towards changing communities. I have also benefitted from the urban farming training and since then shared the knowledge with my fellow young people in Katwe who have ended up practising urban farming themselves.

“Since my first Urban Farming training from NAC, I have led numerous community cleanups and Awareness Creation campaigns about climate change adaptation in my community and continue to do so.”

I am forever indebted to Ghetto Go Green Project.



YOUTH GARDENS

As part of Ghetto Go Green, young people develop their own urban gardens – based on training in urban agriculture and inspired by other young agripreneurs. The gardens are all creative in their own way. And they make use of different techniques, suitable to the space they need to fit. No space is too small – and we continue to see young people take up the challenge and make use of the space around them to grow their own urban garden. Spinach, sukumawiki, onions, egg plants, strawberry, amaranth, mint, lemongrass, tomatoes, beans... the list goes on

an on. The gardens provide the young people and their families with a sustainable and healthy supplement to their diet, and generate income when vegetables are sold. The gardens also inspire neighboring community members, and every single garden is a contribution to greening the city.

Name, 23 years old,
Kinawataka



Name, 23 years old, Kuido



Spinach, sukumawiki, onions, egg plants, strawberry, amaranth, mint, lemongrass, tomatoes, beans...

No space is too small – and we continue to see young people take up the challenge and make use of the space around them to grow their own urban garden.

Name, 23 years old, Katwe



Name, 23 years old,
Kinawataka







03. GREEN FUTURE

1 YEAR WITH GHETTO GO GREEN

Ghetto Go Green does not end here! The movement continues. In just 1 year, we have developed 4 public green spaces, more than 40 young people have established their own urban gardens, 30 community journalists are actively sharing stories on climate change, and NAC's Youth Climate Resource Center hosts regular trainings on the green rooftop in Kampala. Starting 2021, Ghetto Go Green will expand to seven communities in Kampala, creating more green spaces – and more green opportunities. We invite all interested actors to join us and make the #GhettoGoGreen!

40

youth gardens
have been
made

80

trainings
have been
conducted

80

youth involved
in Ghetto Go
Green

April 2019

- Start up of partnership between Dreamtown and NAC

November 2019

- Campaign started: Green and Safe Cities 4 All

October 2019

- Inception workshop Kampala

November 2019

- Training in Community Journalism Kampala

Building of youth gardens ►

UPCOMING INITIATIVES

Community School of Urban Farming:

Provides hands-on skills training to young people interested in urban agriculture. There is high demand in the communities on knowledge about how to set up green spaces, urban gardens, and recycle/upcycle domestic products. The school of urban farming will train young people in climate smart urban agriculture and climate change adaptation, as a mobile school traveling around the K-zones.

Environmental psychology: Focus on the effect which the urban and natural environment has on human well-being and on how to change behaviour towards being pro-environmental. The link between environmental psychology and climate change adaptation and nature restoration is important in addressing climate change in urban areas, looking at the relation between individuals and their surroundings.

Digital urban agriculture: An Interactive Voice Response Technology tool will provide demand driven crop management services to young people who undertake urban agriculture and contribute to the development of green spaces. The tool will be tailored to the needs of the young urban small-scale farmers in the communities.

Green saving and investment clubs: Young people will be organized into green saving and investment clubs to allow pooling of savings and

access to growth capital. The young people in the clubs will be provided with business mentoring and advisory in their established (or upcoming) green enterprises to help them build confidence and navigate green business management.

Youth-led Agro Input Bank: Will produce seedlings, clay vessels, and organic pesticides and fertilizers for distribution to support young people to establish urban gardens. The YLAB will raise seedlings and keep them safe from pests. Community members will learn to raise seedlings and grow vertical and horizontal gardens, and help collect raw and wasteful materials to upcycle.

Community youth parliaments: The developed green public spaces will host community youth parliaments where young people and city authorities' duty bearers interact and discuss climate issues and solutions. Local leaders will be invited to engage with youth and discuss climate change, green enterprise, and challenges of sanitation, drainage, and flooding.

Youth Go Budget App: The purpose of the app is to collect youth priorities to inform and influence resource allocation to climate change actions. The app helps generate position papers that are submitted to respective district local government authorities for consideration. Focus will be on budget needs and priorities in the water and environment sector, where climate change is categorized.

December 2019

- Community Climate Cinema

January 2020

- Building of 3 green public spaces (p. 11-16)

January 2020

- Building of Youth Climate Resource Center

June 2020

- COVID-19 response

November 2020

- Support granted to scale up Ghetto Go Green

TRAINED TO TRAIN

Words by Bukenya Shushan

My name is Bukenya Shushan. After attending the Ghetto Go Green training from Network For Active Citizens, I developed the idea of starting up a green space in my community of Kikubo with the aim of improving the climate change and the general livelihood of the community.

When the Covid-19 pandemic struck, I started a Community Based Organisation (CBO) to engage and involve the youths in our community to cope with Covid-19. We have been busy training the young people with different hands-on skills that can help them to make something out for themselves even amidst this lockdown.

And as a praise report, we are going to graduate a number of youths we trained during this Covid-19 lockdown on the 30th of October 2020.

“When the Covid-19 pandemic struck, I started a Community Based Organisation (CBO) to engage and involve the youths in our community to cope with Covid-19.”



THE GARDENS HAVE PRESERVED OUR GHETTO COMMUNITIES

My name is Stanley Kamoga, the TEAM leader of Children And Youth Empowerment Link (CAYEL). We are glad to be of the implementing partners of the Ghetto Go Green project.

We have managed to reach so many young people with information and skills on urban farming since the beginning of this project. And over 20 community leaders have been given seedlings to start their own green spaces.

During the Covid-19 period alone, the project has kept so many young people busy making livelihood out of the skills we have imparted in them thus deterring them from engaging in crimes-related activities. And with the information we have given our young people, we know that the environment around the ghetto areas of Kyebando and the entire Kanyanya communities is being preserved.

We are looking forward to the extension of this project to continue benefitting the lives of many more young people in our ghettos communities of Kanyanya and Kyebando areas.

Thank you so much

Words by Stanley Kamoga

“We have managed to reach so many young people with information and skills on urban farming since the beginning of this project.”



MY GARDEN HAS COMPLETELY CHANGED MY LIFE

Words by Tino Deborah

When I lost my job due to Covid-19 outbreak, I decided to keep myself occupied and productive in my small green space, it was all I needed because it was all I had. My small garden was all there was in my possession to continue providing food for my small family. So, I opted to grow tomatoes and sukuma wiki in cement bags, onions, entuula (egg-plants), green paper and some maize.

This garden has benefited me a lot: my family was able to get a balanced diet because of the vegetables I harvested from the garden. I was able to save some little money, the money I would have spent on tomatoes and onions.

Importantly, I have also motivated my fellow women to do the same, and many they started their own gardens.

Above all, my life has completely changed... I never take any space now for granted however small it may look; I just want to continue growing vegetables for the benefit of my family.

Tino Deborah, 23



“I never take any space now for granted however small it may look; I just want to continue growing vegetables for the benefit of my family”

THE DREAM TO BECOME A GREEN CHAMPION

Words by Lyombya Andrew

My name is Lyombya Andrew, a member of the Christian Youth Missionary Group Kinawataka. What inspired me is my ambition to become an environmental champion in relation to my organisation's mission. Secondly, in my community I reside next to wetlands in the slum areas of Katoogo in Mbuya in Kinawataka zone 1. In this area due to rural migration in my community there has been high increase in settlement of

different people over the years thus leading to limited land-space because of high population density. I was motivated to make a difference in this densely populated community through small-space urban agriculture. And I am glad that through the Ghetto Go Green project, I was able to educate a lot of people and awaken them to see and appreciate the beauty and importance of a green environment.



Lyombya Andrew, 23



NO
SPACE
TOO
SMALL

HAVING A SMALL SPACE OR NO SPACE CANNOT HINDER YOU FROM FARMING

Words by David Ssewanyana

I am David Ssewanyana, it all started from the training we had in February at NAC on urban agriculture, phasing and urban mitigation. From that training, I learned that having a small land space or no space cannot hinder you from doing farming. And then when we visited John Paul Lwaga's farm, I was inspired more when I saw him planting on the rooftop of a flat.

I have seen so many benefits from my green space gardens, from earning some income out of the sales of my vegetables to earning from trainings I conduct on urban farming. The vegetables are source of foods rich in vitamins which give our bodies resistance against diseases. At a family level, we have had a reduction in our daily expenditure because now we are saving money that would have gone into buying vegetables. Lastly, my green garden has exposed me to a wider network of people doing something similar in our country, for such, I have been recently been nominated for an award winning Environmental Protection Promotion and emerged among the top 5.

The impact the garden has had on the community is by far so great. And of late, we have seen the children taking up shade in the green space to revise their books and other community members relaxing and enjoying the natural breeze from the same spot.

“I learned that having a small land space or no space cannot hinder you from doing farming”

David Ssewanyana, 23,



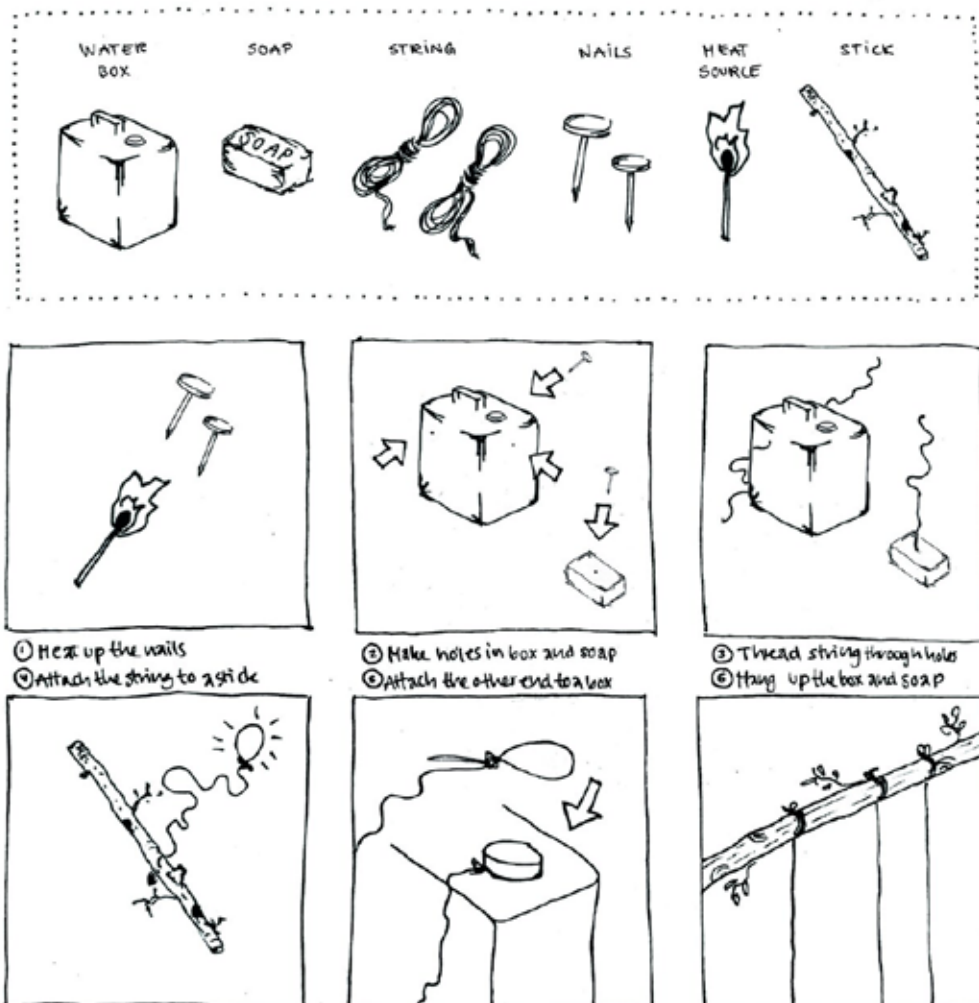
COVID-19 RESPONSE

- TIPPY TAPS IN THE K-ZONES

Have you ever heard about a tippy tap?

Tippy taps are a safe solution for hand washing, as they do not require hands to touch anywhere when washing them. Regular water tanks require to touch the tap handle to open and close, which acts as a contact surface. At the same time, tippy taps are a low-tech solution and cheap to set up, using local materials. This makes them a smart way to stay safe during the COVID-19 outbreak in places where access to water sources are limited. The implications of a COVID-19 outbreak in informal settlements can be disastrous for the urban poor. In the absence of affordable and quality public healthcare, they run the risk of disease and impoverishment.

With support from Civil Society in Development and Bestseller Foundation, Dreamtown and Network for Active Citizens have supported building "Tippy Taps" as hand washing facilities in the green public spaces developed as part of Ghetto Go Green and at household level in Kampala's K-zones. Part of this intervention is also to raise public awareness in the communities on how to reduce risk of infection by providing information on COVID-19, using public service announcements and infographics. Even though the building of the tippy taps is motivated by the COVID-19 outbreak, the innovation will be useful in the green public spaces long after the virus is over.





Tippy tap hand washing station installed in Kinawataka community.



