

Annual report UECD Switzerland 2021/22

Dear sponsors, members, patrons and interested parties

Since the AGM on 24 April 2021, the Executive Board has met three times regularly and also exchanged information bilaterally. We met once under the guidance of the Innovage consultants for the organizational development process (OD process) and once held a board-to-board meeting on the OD process via Zoom. Following the two Zoom meetings with the sponsors and students in the previous association year, we held three such Zoom meetings this year. At the end of December, we invited the sponsors to the African Queen restaurant. Unfortunately, Obed, who is doing his Human Rights Master's in The Hague, was unable to attend because he fell ill with coronavirus.

The composition of the Executive Board remains constant. At the beginning of the year, Ursula decided to take a break until the end of May for health reasons. By then, she wants to be clear about her use of resources.

Donations

We had a lucky year with donations. The Rotary Club of Basel transferred CHF 33,000 to us from the Christmas campaign. The Rotary Club of Switzerland featured us prominently in its April newsletter and included us on its list of recommended development projects - in other words, it made an appeal for donations to all Rotary clubs in Switzerland. The theme of the Rotarians this year is "Empowerment for Women", which is in line with our goal. If anyone knows a Rotary club or is a member, now is a good time to ask if we can make an appearance. The President of the RCCH is making his international network available to us and is willing to provide a letter of recommendation for any student who wishes to join a Ugandan Rotary Club. This network is important as our students do not have such networks. Ronald is already a member of a club in Kampala.

We have received a donation of CHF 500 from Isabelle's father Dialog AG Bern.

Students and sponsors

We accepted the last students Faith and Brenda in 2019, they started studying at the KIU in January 2020, then corona caught up with us and we were unable to accept any new students in 2020. We had to make sure that the six existing students got through the period well. It was extremely difficult for them as the universities were either in lockdown or they could only study online. The students had travelled back to their relatives in the villages, where they had free accommodation and food. Nobody lost a semester, which is a good achievement given the unstable internet connections. All 6 are well organized. **Patience K.**, sponsored by Ronald, graduated with a Bachelor in Logistic & Procurement from Makerere University. **Monica** had a second road accident, this time a public bus she was travelling in from the village to Kampala for her final exams overturned. She suffered few injuries, but it triggered her serious Bodo Bodo accident from 2017. We are paying for her trauma therapy and physiotherapy. She successfully completed her bachelor's degree in law, just as she continued her studies after 2.5 months in a coma with serious surgery, without losing a semester. She is a strong-willed woman. She is starting law school (LSD) in September 22 after an internship of 7 months in a law firm. **Andrew** is a 4th year, 2nd semester, medical student at KIU and is passionate and dedicated to his profession. He also represents the students on the board in Uganda. **Bridget** is also a 4th year, 2nd semester medical student at KIU. She has made up for the lost year by completing 2 semesters in one. She picked herself up and realized that she could only master the rigours of her studies by working hard. Both medical students work in hospitals on a regular basis. **Faith is in her** 2nd year, 2nd semester, studying educational science at the KIU. She has survived a bout of typhoid fever. **Brenda** is also studying law at KIU in her 2nd year, 2nd semester, and shares a room with Faith.

2 new sponsors, Brigitta Loretan and Ursula from the Board, have each decided to finance a student. **Beatrice**, Brigitta's student, started studying agricultural engineering at Makerere University in January. We are already familiarizing her with the role of climate activist. For Ursula, we choose one of the three students still in the admission process. Gisela and I have decided to finance a student together. **Ayiko** is also studying economics at Makerere University. Both mentioned in their bio that they want to fight against corruption.

As mentioned, thanks to the donation from the Rotary Club Basel, we will be able to take on three more students this year. We are still looking for members who are willing to live the cultural exchange via video talks and e-mail - part of our concept. All students will again be assigned Ugandan mentors who will accompany them during their studies.

This year's three video talks with the sponsors and students have made increasingly relaxed conversations possible, despite unstable internet in rural areas. We will post the recordings on YouTube under Events on the website for a month so that everyone can watch them. They are very personal statements and an interesting dynamic on both sides. Adah from the UECD Uganda board is participating as Vice and Obed as President, and Isabelle and I from the UECD Switzerland board are moderating. The aim of these meetings is for both sides to set up Zoom meetings with each other after a few meetings in order to maintain the exchange.

Board of Directors UECD Uganda

The board in Uganda also holds its meetings via video talks. The interviews with applicants took place on site. The coronavirus period was not easy for Board members either. The schools were closed, which led to a shortage of money for Susan as an employed secondary school teacher without a salary. Philipp offered to pay off her debts so that she could start work debt-free when the schools opened. She has a young son; her mother and partner became ill and were no longer able to support her. To ensure that Susan is proactive and that we are not just good people, but want to work on structural changes, we requested a business plan for the second half of the support by the summer, which she must present to us during our visit to Uganda. She can get support for this from our Ugandan job coach. She is happy about this decision and ready to fulfil the condition.

Jacqueline unfortunately lost her baby boy at 7 months, which saddened us all. The reason was high blood pressure, which forced her to have a caesarean section. After 7 days in the incubator, the baby died.

Adah has changed jobs. She has moved from the betting company to a telecoms company.

Cathy completed her Masters in Gender and International Development at the University of Warwick in the UK.

Formation of a new organisational structure for UECD Uganda

At the request of the alumnae and alumni for more autonomy and officialization, we will register UECD Uganda - an emancipation step towards independence, which we are very pleased about. We decided on the organizational form of a non-profit company Ltd by guarantee. This means reaching agreement on the content of the constitution of the new company, concluding service agreements, clarifying cooperation and roles, defining decision-making competences, and formulating a cooperation agreement for the cooperation between our NGO UECD Switzerland, based in Zurich - which will remain in existence - and the newly registered non-profit company Ltd by guarantee in Uganda, based in Kampala. The advantage of this is that the alumnae and alumni will have more freedom of decision and will not only be operational service providers of our NGO UECD Switzerland, but will have a company account that is not in their personal names but in the name of the company. This will allow Ugandan sponsors to be approached more officially and Ugandan donations to be self-managed in Kampala. Until the new company has been found, we will probably continue to fundraise. With this emancipative step, we will develop as an organization from the pioneer phase to the differentiation phase. Structurally, we will do everything we can to ensure that the personal relationships that are so important to us in the exchange of cultures remain intact.

UECD Switzerland Board of Directors Activities in the new association year

We are in the process of professionalizing our Board work. **All Board members are** continuing to look out for new sponsors and new donations. In addition to the day-to-day transfer of funds, bookkeeping and the annual accounts, **Alex will be** reorganizing the administration. To this end, new software has been purchased to simplify the administration of members and the creation of invoices and tax confirmations. He is organizing the expenses for the trip to Uganda in 2022 and is prepared to accompany a student who does not have a sponsor but is financed by donations. **Isabelle** will layout the two newsletters and involve journalists. She will also write a report about the Uganda trip this summer and support Eva in the presentation at the Rotary Club Basel. **Brigit will** write the minutes at the MV 2022, coach 2 students in their job search via Zoom if necessary and look for interesting news in Uganda, which Isabelle will link to in the newsletters. I organize the trip to Uganda and plan the workshop with all Ugandans with Alex and Isabelle, who are coming along. In autumn, I

will give an account of what we are doing with the money at the Rotary Club Basel, and, with Isabelle's support, I will give a presentation on the UECD project. In addition to the day-to-day business in contact with the Board in Uganda, I will be moderating the OE process that we are conducting this year.

Trip to Uganda with board members, sponsors, and filmmakers

From 4 to 18 July, a delegation of UECD board members and sponsors will meet the board members and students in Uganda. We will exchange ideas, hold a joint workshop, go on safari, visit a refugee camp, visit their places together with the students and organize other activities. In addition to the 9 Swiss students, 8 students and 4 Board Members Uganda will be travelling with us on the safari. All board members and the students will take part in the workshop.

Many thanks to our current sponsors Philipp, Elisabeth, Annemarie, Marianne, Mirjam, Gisela, Brigitta and Ursula - without you we would not have any students in UECD.

We would also like to thank our two webmasters Hannes Studer and Peter Wyss, who always keep our website up to date. It is beautifully and clearly organized.

Many thanks also go to the Innovage team, Peter Angehrn and Ruedi Schmid, who continue to support us as required. Thanks also to Daniela Erb, our fundraising advisor. We are very grateful to Dirk Stingelin for his commitment as auditor.

That was it. Thank you all for your commitment. Let's keep up the good work.

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