



THE WSI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM - COHORT 1 BOOKLET

THE LEGACY OF THE 2024 COHORT

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Message of Gratitude

Dear Mentors, Mentees, Partners, and Friends,

As we close the chapter on an inspiring cohort, our hearts are full of gratitude. The journey of the 2024 mentorship program has been transformative.

To our **mentees**, thank you for showing up with curiosity, courage, and vulnerability. Your growth has been remarkable, and your willingness to learn, unlearn, and stretch beyond your comfort zones is the very essence of what this program aims to nurture.

To our **mentors**, we are deeply grateful for the time, wisdom, and love you poured into this journey. Your guidance created safe spaces for learning, your honesty sparked transformation, and your presence served as a constant reminder that leadership is indeed service.

To our **partners and supporters**, thank you for believing in the power of mentorship and investing in the dreams of young people. Your support made this program not just possible, but impactful. You stood beside us in belief and in action, and we do not take it for granted.

As a mentorship team, we have been inspired, stretched, and strengthened by the collective journey we've taken together. This cohort has reminded us that mentorship is not a one-way exchange, but a beautiful dance of mutual growth and discovery.

We hope this booklet serves as a celebration of your efforts, a reminder of your resilience, and a beacon of the possibilities that lie ahead.

**With Deep Appreciation,
The WSI Mentorship Program Team**

Message from the Founder

Dear Mentors, Mentees, and Partners,

When this mentorship program began, it was a simple dream; to create a community where students and early career professionals are supported to seamlessly transition into the career space, and to create a safe and empowering space where young people could connect, grow, and lead with purpose.

Today, looking back at the incredible journey of the 2024 cohort, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and pride.

This program was never meant to be just a series of sessions or check-ins. It was designed to be a journey of becoming; a journey of learning who we are, what we carry, and how we can meaningfully show up for ourselves and the world around us. Watching each of you grow, take bold steps, ask hard questions, and cheer one another on has been one of the most fulfilling parts of this work.

To our **mentees**, thank you for trusting this space and showing up with your full selves. Your courage to dream, to learn, and to evolve has been inspiring. Never stop asking questions. Never stop showing up.

To our **mentors**, thank you for giving generously of your time, wisdom, and heart. You reminded us all that true leadership is rooted in humility, service, and presence.

To our **partners and community**, thank you for standing with us. Your support is the quiet engine behind every success story in these pages.

This program is not perfect; and that's what makes it powerful. It is evolving, just like the people who journey through it. And as it continues to grow, may it always remain a space that believes in potential, honors process, and plants seeds of transformation.

Here's to legacy. Here's to purpose. Here's to community.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Esther Mercy Atim
Founder – WSI Uganda



Message from the Executive Director

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the inaugural cohort of our Mentor Program!

As Executive Director, I am absolutely thrilled to celebrate the successful completion of this milestone.

We launched this program with a vision of fostering connection, growth, and shared learning, and seeing the results of Cohort 1 has been truly inspiring.

This first cohort has been a pioneering group, setting the standard for future participants. You embraced the spirit of mentorship with enthusiasm, dedication, and a commitment to mutual growth. We've witnessed incredible transformations, powerful connections forged, and invaluable knowledge shared.

To our **mentees**: You took the initiative to invest in your development, sought guidance, and demonstrated a remarkable willingness to learn. You have grown, and we've seen the tangible results of your hard work.

To our **mentors**: Your generosity in sharing your expertise, your time, and your insights has been invaluable. You have empowered others, strengthened our organization, and left a lasting legacy.

This program booklet serves as a celebration of your achievements and a testament to the success of this first cohort. Within its pages, you'll find reflections on the program, testimonials from participants, and highlights of the key learnings and successes. We hope it serves as a reminder of the positive impact you've made. The success of Cohort 1 demonstrates the power of mentorship and reinforces our commitment to fostering a culture of continuous learning. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and commitment shown by everyone involved. You have laid a strong foundation for the future of this program, and we are excited to see it continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you again for your participation and your contributions. You have made a real difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your commitment to our organization.

With sincere appreciation,

Elizabeth Brenda Achola.

Executive Director – WSI-Uganda.



Organization Background



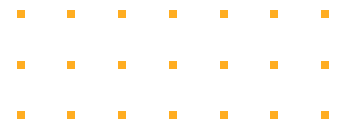
WSI-Uganda is a women-led not-for-profit organization dedicated to empowering the next generation of women leaders in Uganda's career space. Through leadership development, mentorship, career training, and advocacy, we equip women in institutions of higher learning and those in the early stages of their careers with the skills, networks, and opportunities needed to thrive.

In addition to fostering professional growth, we champion women's employment rights, advocating for equitable workplaces, fair labor policies, and inclusive career opportunities. Our programs are designed to not only support women in their academic and career journeys but also to drive systemic change that ensures a more just and supportive professional environment for all women.

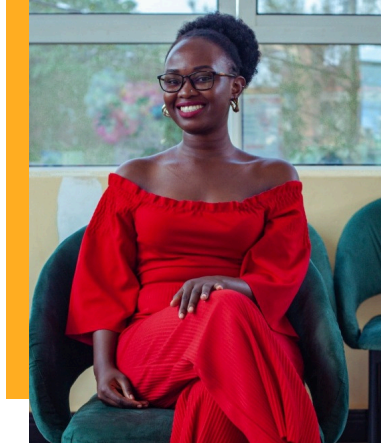
As Graca Machel, Humanitarian & Former First lady of Mozambique and South Africa wisely stated "To be a powerful woman means to have the possibility, the right & responsibility to make choices that better oneself & better one's community". In Uganda, while strides have been made in increasing women's political representation at local levels, the conditions for success in higher-level leadership roles across the public and private sectors remain challenging. Early-career women encounter persistent barriers, including cultural biases, limited access to mentorship and networking, and a critical lack of targeted leadership development. This disparity not only stifles individual potential but also hinders Uganda's broader economic and social advancement.

Our Leadership Development and Career Mentorship Programs are designed to create those very conditions for success, equipping young women in Universities and those in their early careers with the essential skills, confidence, and networks to break through these barriers.

The Mentorship Program Team



Achola Elizabeth Brenda
Executive Director



Epodoi Faith
Cohort Coordinator



Christine Ingeria
Program Officer

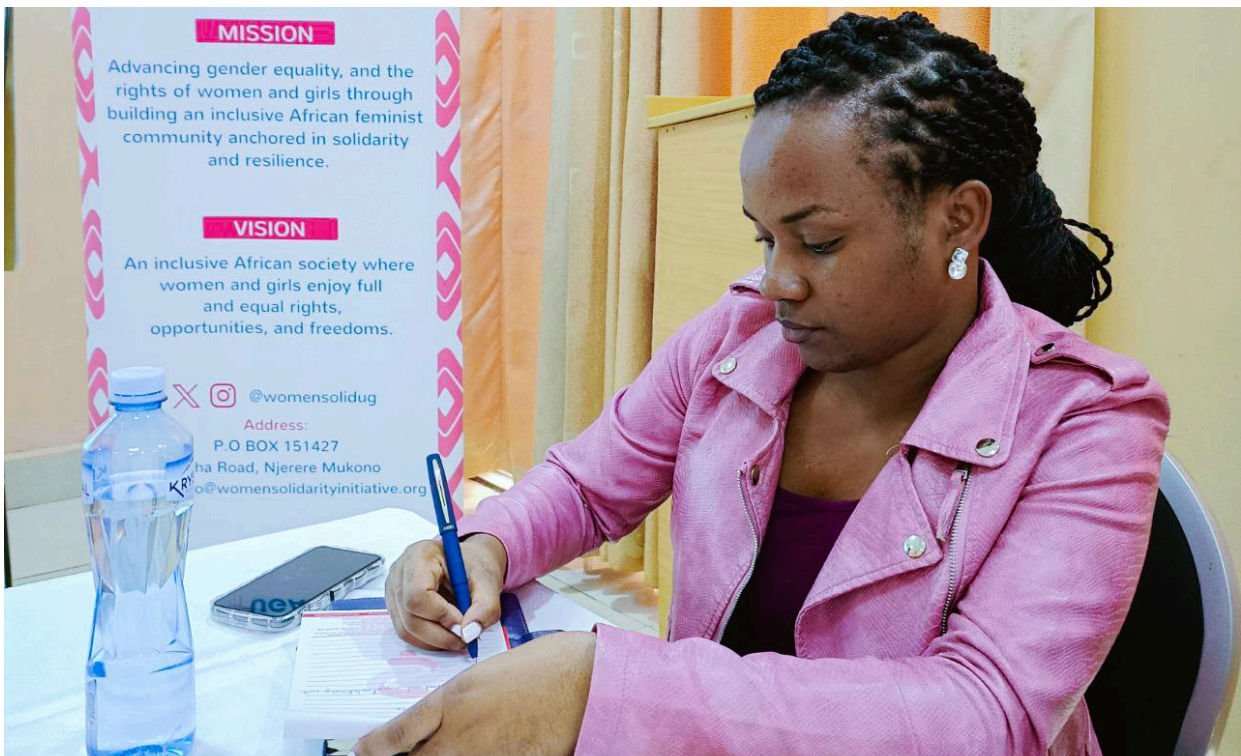


Lorna Nagawa
Communications and Advocacy Officer

Vision and Mission

Vision

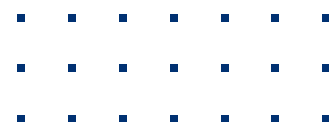
A future where young women in Uganda are confident, influential leaders driving positive change in the professional space and beyond.



Mission

To empower and equip young women in Uganda with the leadership skills, mentorship, and resources needed to excel in their academic pursuits and professional careers

Our Core Programs



1 Leadership Development

The Leadership Development program is designed to equip early-career women and students with the skills and mindset needed to become effective leaders in the workplace; ultimately succeeding and thriving in their careers. This program emphasizes cultivating essential leadership qualities such as confidence, decision-making, and communication. We cultivate confident, decisive, and communicative leaders, fostering self-awareness and empowering them to excel in academic, corporate, and entrepreneurial environments.

2 Career Advancement

The Career Advancement Program is dedicated to providing early career women and students the resources, strategies, and support they need to succeed and thrive in their careers. It covers key areas such as career mapping, public speaking, goal-setting, financial literacy, personal branding, Negotiating, and networking. Additionally, the program provides access to networking opportunities with industry leaders, helping women build valuable connections that can propel their careers forward.

Our Core Programs

3 Advocacy for Women's Employment Rights

We actively advocate for policies and practices that promote equitable workplaces, fair labor rights, and inclusive career opportunities for women.

Through research, campaigns, and partnerships with policymakers and organizations, we address systemic barriers to women's career progression.

4 Institutional Development

Institutional Development focuses on strengthening our own organization's capacity to deliver impactful programs, sustain long-term growth, and expand our reach. This includes organizational governance, strategic planning, resource mobilization, operational efficiency, staff capacity-building, and technology adoption.

By investing in Institutional Development, we ensure that our organization remains strong, adaptable, and sustainable; capable of driving meaningful change for women in Uganda's career landscape.

About The WSI Mentorship Program



The WSI Mentorship Program is a structured mentorship program that fosters learning, personal growth, and professional development through mentor-mentee relationships.

The mentorship program was founded to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world career success for students and early-career professionals.

As a young professional entering the workforce, our founder quickly realized that thriving in the workplace required more than just a degree; it required practical skills, networks, and mentorship. While some peers advanced quickly, others struggled, not because they lacked talent, but because they lacked access to guidance and strategic opportunities.

This program was created to ensure that early career professionals and students do not have to navigate their careers alone. We provide mentorship, career development resources, and a supportive community to help students and early-career professionals build confidence, gain essential workplace skills, and position themselves for success.

Through structured mentorship, hands-on learning, and meaningful connections, we empower young professionals to not just survive in the workplace, but to thrive.

Because when one of us rises, we all rise.

Objectives of The WSI Mentorship Program



- To cultivate transformative leadership through developing and enhancing the leadership capabilities of young professionals, empowering them to take on leadership roles within their organizations and communities.
- To foster economic independence and empowerment through equipping participants with the financial knowledge and entrepreneurial skills necessary to achieve economic independence and drive their own ventures
- To accelerate early career growth through supporting mentees in the initial stages of their careers, offering guidance, skills training and professional networking opportunities
- To create a sustainable mentorship ecosystem through establishing a continuous cycle of mentorship where mentees transition into mentor roles, ensuring the sustainability and expansion of the program's impact
- To build a robust network of female professionals through developing a strong, supportive network of women who actively champion each other's personal and professional growth, creating a lasting community of empowered female leaders

Cohort 1 at a Glance

**Total
Participants**

9 Mentors

12 Mentees



Start: 22nd June

Program Duration

**Graduation: 7th
September 2024**



Session Highlights

- Inaugural Mentor–Mentee Session
- **Session 1:** Self–Leadership and Personal Branding
- **Session 2:** Emotional Intelligence and the Art of Communication
- **Session 3:** Personal Strategic Planning
- Mentors Switch Day



- **Session 4:** Professional Development and Networking
- **Session 5:** Financial Literacy and Independence
- **Session 6:** Leadership and Resilience
- Graduation



Pictorial Highlights from the sessions



Pictorial Highlights from the sessions



Pictorial Highlights from the sessions



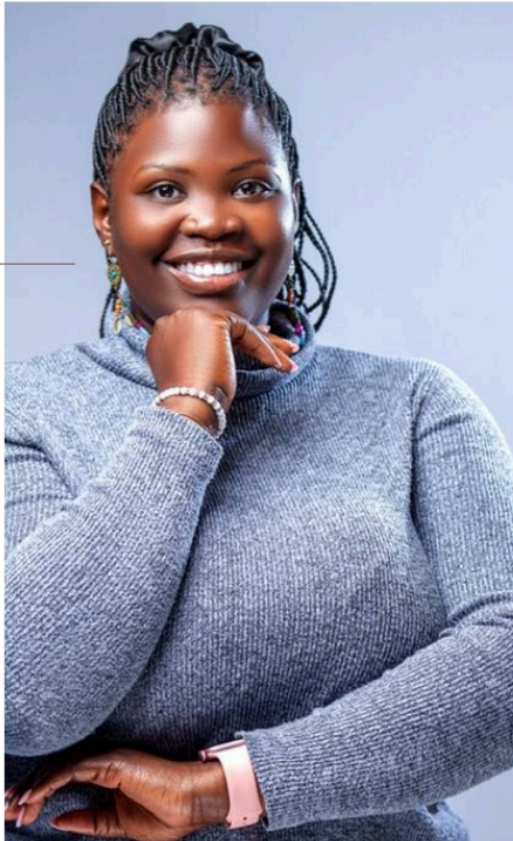
Pictorial Highlights from the sessions



Cohort 1 Guest Speakers



Women Solidarity Mentorship Program Cohort 1



Session 1: Self-Leadership and Personal Branding

GUEST SPEAKER

ALESI MAJORINE

Executive Director – Zoota Initiative for Development

DATE: Saturday 29th June 2024

TIME: 9:00am – 11:30am

VENUE: Online - Zoom

 womensolidarityinitiative.org

 [womensolidug](https://www.instagram.com/womensolidug)

Heartfelt gratitude to Alesi Majorine for the powerful and insightful session on self-leadership and personal branding. Your words challenged us to lead from within and embrace our unique value with confidence and intentionality. Thank you for pouring into us and leaving a lasting impact on this cohort.

Cohort 1 Guest Speakers



Women Solidarity Mentorship Program Cohort 1



Session 2: Emotional Intelligence and the Art of Communication

GUEST SPEAKER

AYIKORU PATIENCE PONI

EU Youth Sounding Board
Member Uganda | Austrian Embassy
Development Cooperation

DATE: Saturday 6th July 2024

TIME: 8:00am - 10:30am

VENUE: Online - Zoom

 womensolidarityinitiative.org

 [womensolidug](https://www.instagram.com/womensolidug)

Heartfelt gratitude to Ayikoru Patience Poni for the enlightening session on Emotional Intelligence and the Art of Communication. Your guidance helped us better understand ourselves and others, and reminded us that how we connect, listen, and respond can shape the quality of our relationships and leadership. Thank you for equipping us with tools that will serve us far beyond this program.

Cohort 1 Guest Speakers



Women Solidarity Mentorship Program Cohort 1

Session 3: Personal Strategic Planning

GUEST SPEAKER

SYLVIA BOONABAANA

Author | Mentor – Girls for Girls
Uganda – STEM Chapter



DATE: Saturday 20th July 2024

TIME: 8:00am – 12:00pm

VENUE: Eureka Place Hotel

 womensolidarityinitiative.org

 [womensolidug](https://www.instagram.com/womensolidug)

Heartfelt gratitude to Sylvia Boonabaana for the impactful session on Personal Strategic Planning. Your insights challenged us to reflect, realign, and set intentional goals for our lives and careers. Thank you for empowering us to think long-term, act with purpose, and design paths that reflect both our values and our vision.

Cohort 1 Guest Speakers



Women Solidarity Mentorship Program Cohort 1



Session 4: Professional Development and Leveraging Networking

GUEST SPEAKER

PIMER PEACE MONICA

Founder and Executive Director- Nile Girls Forum

DATE: Saturday 27th July 2024

TIME: 9:00am – 11:30am

VENUE: Online - Zoom

 womensolidarityinitiative.org

 [womensolidug](https://www.instagram.com/womensolidug)

Heartfelt gratitude to Pimer Peace Monica for the impactful session on Professional Development and Leveraging Networking. Your practical insights and encouragement reminded us of the power of relationships, intentional growth, and showing up authentically in professional spaces. Thank you for equipping us with tools to build meaningful connections and advance with purpose.

Cohort 1 Guest Speakers



Women Solidarity Mentorship Program Cohort 1



Session 5: Financial Literacy and Independence

GUEST SPEAKER

ANN NAKIDDE

Finance Professional- CPA

DATE: Saturday 3rd Aug 2024

TIME: 9:00am – 11:30am

VENUE: Online - Zoom



womensolidarityinitiative.org



[womensolidug](https://www.instagram.com/womensolidug)

Heartfelt gratitude to Ann Nakidde for the enlightening session on Financial Literacy and Independence. Your guidance demystified money matters and empowered us to take control of our financial journeys with confidence and clarity. Thank you for inspiring us to make informed choices, build healthy financial habits, and pursue true financial freedom.

Cohort 1 Guest Speakers



Women Solidarity Mentorship Program Cohort 1



Session 6: Leadership and Resilience

GUEST SPEAKER

NAMUGERWA REGINA

Lawyer | Climate Justice Advocate | Rotaractor

DATE: Saturday 10th Aug 2024

TIME: 9:00am – 11:30am

VENUE: Online - Zoom

 womensolidarityinitiative.org

 [womensolidug](https://www.instagram.com/womensolidug)

Heartfelt gratitude to Namugerwa Regina for the powerful session on Leadership and Resilience. Your story and insights reminded us that true leadership is forged in moments of challenge, and resilience is the strength that carries us through. Thank you for inspiring us to lead with courage, integrity, and unwavering purpose.

Milestones Achieved

- **58%** of cohort 1 mentees **successfully completed the program and graduated.**
- **79%** of cohort 1 mentors **successfully completed the program as active participants.**
- **59%** of cohort 1 mentees who graduated **successfully transitioned into mentors who will serve in cohort 2.**



Cohort 1 Graduation

At the end of the program, we celebrated the incredible journey of all our mentees and mentors who had completed the program, with a special graduation ceremony. This was a moment of immense pride and accomplishment for everyone involved. The graduation marked the culmination of weeks of dedication, collaboration, and mutual learning.



We witnessed powerful mentoring relationships blossom, knowledge transfer that will shape our future, and personal transformations that are truly inspiring. Throughout the program, participants engaged in meaningful conversations, tackled challenges together, and celebrated each other's successes. We saw mentees grow in confidence and skill, and mentors rediscover their passion for leadership and development

To further acknowledge the extraordinary efforts and achievements of our participants, we presented awards for outstanding performance in several categories. These awards recognized:

a) Exceptional Dedication:

Awarded to participants who consistently went above and beyond in their commitment to the program by diligently attending all sessions, completing their homework, feedback forms in record time, and active participation in the program.

This was awarded to mentees; **Tumugonze Olga Naomi** and **Wirica Fiona Patricia** (in her absentia).



b) Most Proactive Mentee:

This award recognized a mentee who consistently went above and beyond throughout the program; showing initiative, dedication, and a deep commitment to their personal and professional growth. She stood out for her eagerness to engage fully in every session, ask thoughtful questions, and apply feedback with intentionality.

She took initiative not only in their own development but also in actively contributing to discussions, volunteering for tasks, and seeking out extra resources and opportunities to learn. This was awarded to mentee; **Nanvubya Benah**



c) Mentee of the Cohort:

This award was our highest recognition for a mentee who embodied the heart, values, and vision of the mentorship program throughout the entire journey. This award was given to the mentee who demonstrated exceptional growth, commitment, and consistency.

She showed up with purpose, engaged deeply with their mentor, embraced every opportunity to learn, and inspired others by simply being intentional, reflective, and authentic.

Her journey was marked by a clear transformation; not only in knowledge and confidence but in how they led themselves and contributed to the cohort experience. This was awarded to mentee; **Tumugonze Olga Naomi**



d) Mentor of the Cohort:

This award honored the mentor who went above and beyond in their role; consistently showing up with wisdom, empathy, and unwavering commitment to their mentees' growth.

She demonstrated exceptional dedication, offering not just guidance but also presence, patience, and genuine care. She actively engaged in the program, provided timely support, and created an empowering space for learning and reflection. Her mentorship went beyond scheduled sessions, she was intentional, resourceful, and fully invested in her mentees' journeys.

This was awarded to mentor; **Elizabeth Brenda Achola**



Pictorial Highlights from the Cohort 1 Graduation



Pictorial Highlights from the Cohort 1 Graduation



Pictorial Highlights from the Cohort 1 Graduation



Pictorial Highlights from the Cohort 1 Graduation



Pictorial Highlights from the Cohort 1 Graduation



MENTOR - MENTTEE PROFILES AND POST PROGRAM REFLECTIONS



This section offers a snapshot of the mentors and mentees who made this cohort special, along with their reflections on the journey. It captures the growth, connections, and key lessons that emerged through their shared mentorship experience.



Elizabeth Brenda Achola - Mentor



Elizabeth Brenda Achola is a trained Ugandan legal and human rights practitioner and Certified Project Manager. As of February 2025, she was appointed as the Executive Director of Women Solidarity Initiative (WSI)-Uganda, where she provides strategic leadership, driving organizational sustainability and advocating for gender justice in leadership and addition to championing women's employment rights, advocating for equitable workplaces, fair labour policies, and inclusive career opportunities. Her expertise spans strategic litigation, advocacy, mentorship and program management, with a dedicated focus on empowering vulnerable women and girls.

Liz holds an LLB (Hons) from Uganda Christian University, post-graduate diploma in legal practice from the Law Development Centre in Kampala, Uganda and a Professional Certification in Project Management. Outside of her legal and leadership work, Liz enjoys the arts, including reading novels, writing, connecting with nature, dancing, and exploring the world through photography.

Most Valuable Lesson Learnt: Learning never stops and there is literally always something to learn every day, from everyone.

Most Memorable Moment: The mentee exchange session was great as it enabled get the chance to meet another young person and guide, as she also guided me, so we were both literally learning from each other which was really great. I also loved the graduation ceremony, especially where the mentees shared their journeys and experiences throughout the program.

What has changed since the Program; A lot has changed for me. This was my first time mentoring and the experience gave me more confidence and audacity. I have been challenging myself ever since the program ended to go out there and take on more leadership roles, be more proactive in everything that i do, to be loud and intentional about where I want my life to go and be. This wasn't always the case for me, as I always feared to dare, for lack of a better word. I have so far taken on 2 leadership roles, taken 3 online courses, and so much more.

Advice to Future Cohort: Just do it, and do it afraid.

Quote: "Mentorship opens doors to a plethora of benefits for individuals and organizations"



Namukose Mariam - Mentor

Mariam is an Associate at Crane Associated Advocates and the Head of Projects at Kyuka Adventures.

She is a youth leader and former Guild president at Islamic University in Uganda. She is passionate about empowering young women to take on leadership roles in their communities. She has been a mentor with Salam Africa, she served as the vice president for African Union Youth Assembly Ugandan Chapter, Guild President Islamic University in Uganda females campus, and many other mentorship roles.

Her main focus has always been the need for quality education for the girl child and women empowerment.

Most Valuable Lesson Learnt: There is always something you can learn from every single person you meet, whether they're younger than you or older.

Most Memorable Moment: The one memorable experience for me is the day I met all the mentors and mentees of the cohort at the graduation ceremony. It was nice putting faces to the wonderful voices I had heard throughout the program. Not to forget how cheerful and appreciative every participant sounded as they made their personal reflections and lessons learned

What has changed since the Program; After realizing how one person can wholly impact the life of another human being from just a few sessions of talking, I took it upon myself to continue talking to any random young girl who I feel needs guidance and support in anyway. That indeed was the impact of the program. And about the set goals, I have achieved some and still pursuing others, the goals I set were so big that they require me to continue doing consistent habits to get through

Advice to Future Cohort: For mentors, ALWAYS remember that your mentees future is in your hands for the period of the mentorship and she should be part and parcel of your life's program during the program beyond the allocated meet-up times.

For the mentees, make sure that you try your best to put into action some of the lessons that will be taught you in order for you to benefit from the program. Just Listening and listening in every session without action won't benefit you really

Quote: "There is always something to learn from every single individual you meet"



Asizu Georginah - Mentor

Asizu Georgina is a women's and human rights advocate who embodies the spirit of empowerment and advocacy. As the projects Coordinator at Irise East Africa, Programs Associate at Period Equity Africa, and Founding Director of Children's Hope Foundation Arua, she dedicates herself to advocating for women's human rights and uplifting underprivileged children through education scholarships under her organization.

Her background includes Girls for Girls Mentorship Program Stars 3 Cohort, Delegate of the 4th Pan African Youth Conference and being an alumni of the Advocacy for Reproductive Justice (ARJA) Cohort 3 2023. She also serves as a mentor with Girls for Girls (G4G) Uganda.

Most Valuable Lesson Learnt: There's power and magic in intentionality and consistency

Most Memorable Moment: The goal setting exercise was amazing and practical

What has changed since the Program: I have achieved several goals I set during the program, have become very intentional about everything that's when you get stuff moving

Advice to Future Cohort: Be intentional and present (always ensure to show up and show out) you have no idea how you're impacting a girl's life

Quote: "Intentions play a crucial part to your success as an individual – set realistic goals and slowly act on them one step at a time"

Paget Owembabazi - Mentor



Paget Owembabazi is a distinguished attorney and intellectual property consultant with an unwavering commitment to empowering businesses through strategic intellectual property (IP) management. Holding a Bachelor of Laws Degree and a Master's Degree in IP and Development Policy from the esteemed Korea Development Institute School of Public Policy and Management, Paget's expertise lies in the strategic intersection of intellectual property, innovation policy, and legal technology. She is an active member of the Global Intellectual Property Alliance (GLIPA), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) ADR Young, the East African Law Society, and the Uganda Law Society. As the Founder and lead consultant at OASIS IP Consultancy, Paget leads initiatives to assist businesses in harnessing IP for business growth. Additionally, she is the Managing Director at Advocates Connect, a pioneering legal technology startup focused on enhancing legal practice efficiency and promoting justice innovation in Uganda.

Most Valuable Lesson Learnt: The most valuable lesson I learned was that mentorship is a two-way experience; I gained just as much insight and growth from my mentee as I hope she did from me. Mentorship is also a team effort, I learnt so much from the fellow mentors and the mentees.

Most Memorable Moment: A memorable moment was when my mentee shared her progress and lessons learned with the group. Seeing her confidence and belief in herself grow was incredibly rewarding. It was even more memorable when she achieved a personal goal we had set during the program after the program. It showed progress and I was truly excited for her

What has changed since the Program: Since completing the program, I've become more confident in my leadership and communication skills. I also achieved my goal of becoming a better listener and mentor to other girls outside the program.

Advice to Future Cohort: Be patient and willing to learn, have clear goals for the mentorship program, and keep track of your progress. Mentorship is not just about giving and receiving advice but also about growing together and creating a meaningful connection.

Quote: "Mentorship is about inspiring growth, both in others and in yourself".



Brenda Oyella Obina - Mentor

Brenda Oyella Obina is a dynamic professional specializing in financial analysis, risk, and compliance, with extensive experience in regulatory assessments, internal controls, and financial management. She currently works at the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), where she plays a key role in monitoring and promoting competitive practices within the communications sector. Previously, Brenda was a Senior Associate at PwC Uganda Ltd, where she provided independent assurance on governance, risk, and compliance matters, helping organizations strengthen their financial and regulatory frameworks.

Brenda is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Makerere University Business School, which she is set to complete in October 2025. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the same institution and an Advanced Certificate in Foreign Policy Analysis.

Most Valuable Lesson Learnt: Being intentional about everything you do.

Most Memorable Moment: The session on personal strategic planning by Sylvia Boonabaana.

What has changed since the Program: I have definitely got more confident. I changed the way I set my goals to reflect all the different parts of my life.

Advice to Future Cohort: To participate actively in all the sessions and be open to learn.

Quote: "Success is not accidental; it is the result of intentional actions, clarity of purpose, and unwavering commitment to one's goals".



Hellena Sakisa - Mentor

Hellena Sakisa is a Youth Representative at the Association of African Women for Research and Development. She is a young leader who is passionate about creating positive and transformative change in society through creating a safe environment for women, girls, and youth to actively participate in areas of leadership and governance. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Development Studies from Makerere University. While at Makerere she served in capacities of committee member of the 88th guild government under the Ministry of Gender, Integrity and Ethics and also a student peer trainer under the Makerere University Gender Mainstreaming Directorate. She has also been part of leadership and mentorship programs; Girls for Girls mentorship program, women in leadership mentorship program, Aspire Leadership Program and the African Youth Leadership Forum. She has worked as the Programs Lead with Dwona Initiative and an Apprentice with Femme Forte.

Most Valuable Lesson Learnt: To do it afraid. A common factor that arose from every guest speaker we had, was that to achieve their set goals and be able to share their failure and success stories, they had to do it afraid.

Most Memorable Moment: The moment the mentees picked random mentors to have conversations with it was such a nice platform to learn.

What has changed since the Program: Challenging myself to do better.

Advice to Future Cohort: Get more intentional about creating a long-term relationship with your mentee

Quote: "We radiate a lot of light when we come together as women".



Ritah Nakyanzi - Mentor

Ritah is a public health specialist. She has worked at Women's Hospital International in Bukoto. She later moved to Intrahealth International as a district Technical Officer Karamoja under the USAID RHITES-E project supporting mainly elimination of mother to child transfer of HIV/AIDS (EMTCT).

She then worked with CUAMM-Doctors Africa as the RMNCAH Advisor and Team Lead (Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescents Health). Ritah currently works with Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric Foundation supporting health systems strengthening.

Ritah is passionate about adolescent health and career development for young women.

Most Valuable Lesson Learnt: Personal branding is key for success

Most Memorable Moment: Interacting with my mentees.

What has changed since the Program: Being more international with communication and emotional intelligence.

Advice to Future Cohort: They need to be more intentional if they are to benefit from the program.

Quote: "People who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, Are the ones who do". – Rob Siltanen



Tumugonze Olga Naomi - Mentee

Tumugonze Olga Naomi is an accomplished Advocate and Legal and Compliance professional driven by a profound love for people and a commitment to servant leadership. With a focus on creating lasting solutions, she is dedicated to making a meaningful impact in the lives of those she serves.

At the core of her work is her unwavering faith in Jesus, which inspires her to boldly pursue her purpose and calling. She is also an avid reader and writer, that finds joy and inspiration in the tranquility of quiet, quaint spaces. Olga believes that true fulfillment comes from serving others with compassion and integrity.

Her mission as an advocate is to foster positive change and ensure that her efforts leave a significant lasting mark in this world.

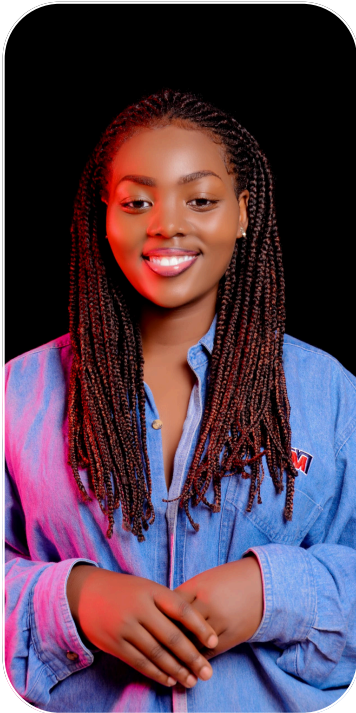
Most Valuable Lesson Learnt: To do it afraid. A common factor that arose from every guest speaker we had, was that to achieve their set goals and be able to share their failure and success stories, they had to do it afraid.

Most Memorable Moment: Vision and goal setting. That was my defining moment in the program. I got insights into what it really means to have a vision for yourself while putting in place short- and long-term goals to help you realize the same. This, I have carried forward to this day.

What has changed since the Program: I started writing professionally. Something I had wanted to do for a long time. I managed to publish one article on my Substack page and I plan on publishing more. But starting was what I needed to do, and I did. I'm proud of that and I'm confident in achieving more of my goals in time to come.

Advice to Future Cohort: Seize the opportunities that present themselves for you to grow and evolve, and be open minded about each one. The sky is not even the limit! Shoot beyond it. You will be surprised the impact these will have on you in both the short and long run. WSI did that for me and I hope you find that for yourself too.

Quote: "Every opportunity to learn, is an opportunity for you to find solutions to problems and challenges and then go on to invent or reinvent oneself while drawing inspiration from the successful experiences of others."



Benah Nanvubya- Mentee

Benah recently completed a Bachelors Degree in Social Sciences majoring in Gender Studies from Makerere University.

She is interested in empowering women and fighting for their rights. She loves watching movies, cooking, reading, listening to stories, nature, and beautiful sceneries.

She is the Chief Executive Officer of Ennah Cakes and Pastries; a business she started

Most Valuable Lesson Learnt: I learned to never leave a conference without speaking up, so every time I met people, I speak up in that my presence is recognized

Most Memorable Moment: Our graduation ceremony was the best feeling

What has changed since the Program: ; I have achieved many of my goals, and now I am the C.E.O of Ennah Cakes and Pastries; a business I started

Advice to Future Cohort: I would advise them to always have the will to participate in the program

Quote: "The market is enough for everyone"



Mukyala Irene Aidah- Mentee

Mukyala Irene Aidah is a passionate and dedicated individual committed to creating positive change in her community. With a strong focus on youth empowerment, gender equality and sustainable development, and social justice, Irene actively seeks opportunities to engage, educate, and inspire others. Through her work and volunteer experiences, Irene has developed a unique blend of skills, knowledge, and perspectives that enable her to effectively collaborate with diverse stakeholders and drive meaningful impact.

She is a 4th year law student at Uganda Christian University, an all round student who has taken on different opportunities.

Most Valuable Lesson Learnt: Self branding and Financial. Empowered by the wisdom of my mentor, I discovered my voice, clarified my vision, and unleashed my potential. The mentorship was a transformative journey of self-discovery, growth, and empowerment, illuminating my path and fueling my passions. With guidance, support, and unwavering belief, my mentor helped me unlock my strengths, confront my fears, and rise into my power.

Most Memorable Moment: That moment with Patience and also the time of switching mentors and Mentees over a short period

What has changed since the Program: I have indeed gained some of my goals. Such as professional growth and finance management

Advice to Future Cohort: Mentorship is not just about certifications and sessions but rather make it count in life because it gives a formulation call it basis



Shiba Amanyire- Mentee

Shiba Amanyire, aged 25, is a Ugandan graduate from Makerere University, a social scientist by profession and gender equality activist. She currently works with Action for Development (ACFODE).

She is also a part time data collector and entrepreneur (She sells thrifted dresses and also a hair stylist).

Most Valuable Lesson Learnt: I learnt various things including intentional networking when in a room of opportunities, reading as many self-help books, journaling, saving and avoiding unnecessary spending.

Most Memorable Moment: The program itself was a memorable experience because through it I got ideas that I'm using today in my daily life routine, for example I got an awesome mentor, I am practicing journaling, I always make sure to say a word or two when I am in meetings or workshops etc

What has changed since the Program: Yes, I am now an intentional saver, I try to stay up to date through reading a lot though I have back slid a bit I still try to read something every day.

Advice to Future Cohort: To be consistent because sometimes we have these life changing ideas in our heads but we procrastinate or start today and stop on day three.

Quote: "When you are about to quit, pause and think about why you started."

OTHER MENTEES



Mukisa Sharon

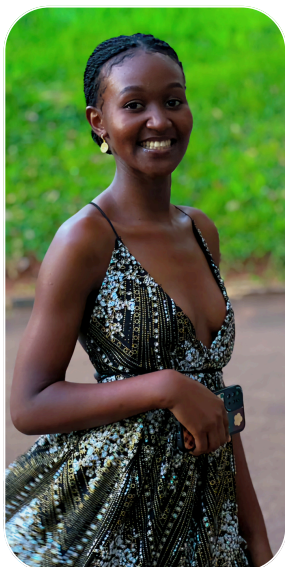
Mukisa Sharon is a law student at Uganda Christian University. She is the Public Relations Officer of the Guild Electoral Commission of the current Guild government at Uganda Christian University. She also volunteers with Red-Cross Mukono and U-report Uganda, a UNICEF Platform. She is also the co-founder of All for Love Charity, a young initiative aimed at bettering lives of women, children, and those suffering from cancer.



Wirica Fiona Patricia

Fiona recently completed a Bachelor's Degree in Business Statistics from Makerere University Business School (MUBS).

Her interests lie in creating ideas that could make lives better for people in different life aspects.



Mary Gloria Nakajjubi

Mary is a final year student of Veterinary Medicine at Makerere University and the Chairperson of Mary Stuart Hall Makerere University. She loves animals, especially dogs.

She is passionate about leadership and capacity building for young women vying to be leaders.

OTHER MENTEES



Tracy Kayhul Lebogang

Tracy is currently pursuing Electrical Engineering at Makerere University.

She is very passionate about her course and she looks forward to working as an Electrical Engineer after her studies. She is also passionate about learning new things and growing as an individual.



Nankindu Merisha

Nankindu Merisha recently completed a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from Makerere University.

She also volunteers with Uganda Prisons Services



Martha Murungi

Martha Murungi is a born again Christian who loves everything to do with public speaking especially with the intent of impacting other people's lives. She loves reading and inspiring others to do better.

She is driven by the curiosity of the 'whys' of things. She is also multi-talented and engages in various initiatives including business.

Key Takeaways & Advice for Cohort 2

Be proactive: Take charge of your mentorship experience by asking questions, setting goals, and seeking feedback.

Engage fully: Attend sessions, participate in discussions, and stay open to learning.

Build meaningful relationships: Beyond mentorship, create lasting connections with your peers and mentors.

Stay accountable: Set clear goals and track your progress throughout the program.

Be intentional: For whatever you decide to do in life, do it with all the energy you have and be intentional so you avoid being all over the place. This also helps you to stay committed and focused on the main vision.

Do it Afraid: Fear is an enemy of progress so, do not give in to that fearful voice in your head, challenge yourself to do whatever you set your mind to, however scary it is. You can never know what's on the other side, unless you try.

Communication is key: To benefit fully from the program, both mentee and mentors must fully be intentional about communicating with one another, use whatever means you have at your disposal to stay in touch with each other and the program in general.

Next Steps & Staying Connected

As we welcome Cohort 2, we encourage all alumni to stay engaged and support each other beyond the program.

Here's how:

- **Join the Alumni Network:** Stay in touch and continue learning together
- **Mentor Future Cohorts:** Consider giving back by mentoring in future cohorts
- **Attend Events & Workshops:** Keep growing through ongoing sessions

We look forward to seeing Cohort 2 thrive!



"This is not the end of the journey; it's just the beginning of impact." **The WSI Mentorship Team**

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Social Media Platforms:

X/Twitter: @womensolidug

Instagram: @womensolidug

LinkedIn: Women Solidarity Initiative Uganda

Youtube: Women Solidarity Initiative Uganda

Tiktok: @womensolidarityinitiativ