

elevator

**PROGRAM  
REPORT  
OCT 2019**

**Training & Employing  
Uganda's Young Adults  
in DESIGN, ARTS & TECH**



# PROVIDING PATHWAYS TO POSSIBILITIES

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We have just concluded yet another roller-coaster of a month here at Elevate. As we successfully managed to conclude the five (5) months training program of this second cohort of the Elevate program, this month is one for the books. The elevate program team takes delight in grooming the less fortunate by giving them opportunities to hone their skills in either one of the fields of Graphics Design, Web Development, Screen printing, Videography, and photography.

Elevate, like the name suggests strives to raise standards of both technical and social learning skills. As a result, we have successfully polished the second cohort of the elevate program in 2019. All our students successfully graduated in both technical and social skills, and we now greatly believe that they are well equipped with the knowledge and skills that can potentially make an impact in the working world.

At Elevate, we love preparing young people for career development in technology and entrepreneurship. "It is our obligation to make the students lifelong learners. This will enable them to be good examples as well as good technologists in the future."

As a result of this obligation, this month the era92 elevate team introduced a 2-day entrepreneurship boot camp entitled "era92 2Ds". The highly successful event aimed at equipping the attending youth with entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, and it did just that. The boot camp took place on the 22nd and 23rd of November 2019.

This report covers some of the highlights of November, 2019. We also talk about some of the things that inspire us to do what we do at Elevate while sharing common socio-cultural narratives from some of today's young people.





# From **FRUSTRATION** To **ILLUSTRATION**

**Karim**

Our Story of the Month opens in a very poignant fashion. This one begins with the unfortunate passing of a mother. Science and nature will agree that a mother is the most influential figure to a child growing up and without her, the calibration of the child's moral compass is left in the hands of an entire village.

The village, unfortunately, came in the wrong way for Ssenyonjo Karim. He was in his primary six when his life took an unexpected turn. In the year 2008, just one year after his mother passed on, Karim was

sent to the village to live with his grandmother. Things quickly turned ugly for the helpless lad. His grandmother was a well-known drunkard and a morally outlandish woman who owned a small bar in the village. Despite being alive and well, Karim's father wanted no part in his child's welfare. It turned out for the young boy that the only way to keep a roof over his head and a belly full of food was to bend to his new grandmother's rules. Every morning he would wake up to a daily routine of arranging tables and drinks at his grandmother's bar.



He spent all day and night in the bar attending to clients, cleaning and serving them drinks. This went on from dawn to dusk for several months and eventually several years. Now, the saying goes, "children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression." And eventually, Karim turned into an alcoholic at a tender age of 15 years. He started taking all sorts of drinks his grandmother sold in the bar.

And what made matters worse is that his grandmother cared less. Soon enough, he got plunged into peer groups of drug abuse and thieves in the village. Naturally, he started using drugs and frequently stole his grandmother's money from the counter just to fit into his new band of "friends". Eventually, he graduated from stealing from family to stealing from the village.

Poverty usually stimulates the most desperate measures of action. But for the case of Karim's father, this was not true. In fact, there was virtually no sign of action coming from his dad. Even when it was common knowledge that Karim had turned into a social misfit, his father offered no form of support toward his rehabilitation.

For the past five years, that is all Karim ever did. He lived a damaging, unproductive life for something that happened due to his father's irresponsibility. Gradually, the young man saw his world turn to ruins at a time when his mind was supposed to be focused on discovering his place in the world. But as fate would have it, he was soon found languishing in utter destitution in the slums of Kosovo by our team at Elevate.

Ssenyonjo Karim, currently 20 years of age, was recruited and started off with basic computer skills, which were later followed up with and education in Graphics Design. He is hopeful that one day, he will be good enough to start working for clients. Currently, he is working with the 92hands organization as a part-time graphics designer.



Drug abuse and theft in our society are absurdly synonymous with poverty. But Karim's story is just the tip of the iceberg. Only a handful of victims manage to find a second chance at living a responsible life, courtesy of the work of humanitarians and organizations like Elevate. Other brilliant young minds are not fortunate enough.

Interestingly, for someone that rubbed shoulders with hopelessness for so long, Karim sure does display a unique enthusiasm to learn and become better every day. We are excited that Karim has benefited from this program and will be graduating with the rest of the students under this program. Our aim is to continue impacting and changing the lives of people that God has put in our reach.

Karim has been given an opportunity and a platform to make his dream come true and be in a position to own his life knowing that everything he has ever dreamed of can come to a reality. He has received mentorship and guidance through the Elevate program.





# elevate 19 GRADUATION



The fourth graduation under the elevate program, held on Sunday 17th November, ended on a happy and joyous note for the Elevate Program. As we officially came to the conclusion of the five (5) months of training in Graphics Designing, Photography, entrepreneurship and Videography as well as Web Designing and Development, we saw the fruits of our labor glimmer in a world that often needs a hand here and there.

The event, which took place at our new offices in Lunguja along Kalema Road, saw 30 of our students given Certificates of Award upon completion of their technical and entrepreneurship training under the program.

On this day we realized that the past three months that we have been providing pathways to possibilities to 30 youths from the slums of Kosovo and Katanga, 15 being part of the elevate program and 15 part of the tomorrow alive workshops. On the graduation we dined with totally different individuals from those that we recruited months ago our young people are completely transformed, empowered, filled with confidence and ready to start their careers that will transform their lives, families and communities.





# OUR ALUMNI “MAGGIE”

## A Product of Hope & Courage

We grew up in the slums where there was a lot of prostitution and drug abuse, seeing our peers getting married at a tender age, going to prisons for theft and robbery. But this is the opportunity that every youth needs out there, that they will look beyond there broken families, that they wouldn't be defined by the communities they were raised from. I am grateful to God that we have been able to get this opportunity. We wouldn't be the people we are now if not for era92 and elevate. Therefore, we don't want to stop in the slums of Kampala, want to take this opportunity to the whole world to all the places where people need such opportunities.

We are not stopping here, this is the beginning of a very long journey of Transformation and empowerment.

- MARGARET AHUMUZA



# From MOONSHINE to MOONSHOT

Destiny Joseph Kimbowa



**Its lack of opportunity not character or potential that undermines billions of people like Joseph at the lowest end of the economic spectrum.**

Like other young people Joseph grew up on the streets of Kosovo as a street thug, His story sounds like the plot of the post-apocalyptic movie Elysium, in which the distance between haves and have-nots is so great that the entire world looks like a giant slum, while rich people live on a floating space island.

At age of 19 Joseph made a girl pregnant, but despite the other boys that run away from girls after making them pregnant Joseph decided to do everything, With a young mother and small baby, Joseph had to figure out how to take care of his young family. Picking up trash was not enough, so he brewed and sold chang'a, a type of moonshine , brewing a potent kind of alcohol using dirty river water to make ends meet.

With all that he tried to do his family was the first thing that he was thinking of. Eventually, Joseph found a flier for

computer classes at a era92 elevate, He started with the basic computer classes, later on he got interested in Graphic designing In fact, Joseph has now worked with 7 local churches in and around the slums of Kosovo with the help of one of era92 mentors. He shared with Trinity recently that everything in his life has changed thanks to the skills that enable him to work. As his career is picking up Joseph is continuing to shoot for the moon, with his niche to work with local churches solving their branding and printing needs, Joseph is willing to hustle.

He has started earning many times the average salary for someone with his background, and he is planning to leave the slum after six months to live in a proper furnished house with his wife and daughter.

***This is the type of transformation we see, on average, across era92. We move young people from \$2 a day to \$15 a day and see them invest their earnings in exactly the kind of things we want to see, like safe housing and nutritious food. They often spend on education for themselves or their family members, and on health care. They're even able to open up savings accounts.***



# “Joseph Shared this on his facebook”



## Joseph gave his life to Christ at Zeal Fellowship

Through our Zeal Fellowship that happen twice a month, dedicated to raise more servant and God fearing youth destiny happed to give his life to Christ and now he is fellowshiping at Word of life community church.

His love for Christ is acting as an example for other young people under this program, he is continously encouraging his friends to come and jointhe fellowship,

## Joseph is Shooting for the moon.

Joseph's dream now is to land his hands on a nice computer/laptop that will enable him to sharpen his skills and also work from any where on his clients.

His goal is to sign up with more 20+ churches that will give him enough work by June 2020.





# What Our Graduant Says:

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*I personally have been in the photography class and am strongly, confidently and officially enter in the men world of photography, am previledged that this has introduced me to different people and now I not only have skills in Photography and videography but I know it .*

*To add on that I am exposed to media houses and this has helped to groom my confidence and getting more friends and connections, my wish is help more young girls enter this creative and visual field.*

**Elevate has set me on a new pathway to succeed!**

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**Elizabeth**



## Activating Entrepreneurial Potential & Helping Young People Start Their Dream Ventures

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"era92 2Ds" era92 two days Startup is a mini project under the elevate program that equips young people with entrepreneurship skills and knowledge." On the 22nd – 23rd of November, the era92 elevate team took on 40 youths from the different areas tutoring them through the stages of formulating good business ideas, writing proper business plans and guiding them on individual practical approaches on how to execute their plans.

The startup ran for 2 days and took place in the new elevate hub located in our new offices in Lungujja along Kalema Road. It was amazing catching new entrepreneurship skills and knowledge from the best "21st century business" trainer Mr. Kagoda Rogers

As elevate, in a bid to continue impacting the youths with up-to-date digital skills, yet again we held a massive and blastful entrepreneurship boot camp. We were so blessed and happy to have with us Mr. Roger and Mr. Herbert the finest entrepreneurial gurus in the industry today.

It was a spellbinding experience to see these great and enlighten men ushering modern entrepreneurship skills and knowledge unto the youths. Having seen young adults gain these valuable skills was amazing. The youths dubbed this as one of the best educational boot camps ever attended.

It was really amazing how fast the youths were equipped and as they managed to come up with their own business ideas and even went on and pitched their ideas to the investors. It was a whole new experience and eye opening moment for both the youths and the elevate program as we hope to continue carrying out these workshops.



# BUSINESS IDEAS THAT STOOD OUT

These are the different business ideas that were developed by the youth who attended the era92 2Ds boot camp. And they are as follows:



## Drop Watt.

Deals with developing an electronic device that keeps track of the usage of electricity in electronic appliances. And it helps to prevent the problem of short circuits.



## Pick and polish.

In this case, one collects dumped old scrap, both home and office scrap cleans them and produces products that are useful and re-sellable.



## Kambo cases.

This here deals with collecting old or unwanted phone cases and come up with a new designed or styled phone case that can be sold at the end of the day. This also enables to preserve the environment by recycling wasted cases into useable materials and Julius will be employing other disabled youth.





# WHAT I LEARNT FROM THE 2DS

"Am very grateful for the information that has been passed onto us. When i was coming, i expected some kind of business summit, but i was very surprised we were been tasked to think according to the 21st Century era. The idealist business kind of thinking which is all together new. I don't have to do a proposal or business plan in order to start a business. I can simply do a one page business model canvas with my business all figured out. I am thankful to the era92 management and to our facilitators for charging us and igniting our minds."

- DOMINIC SSEGAWA







**TALENT EXISTS  
EVERYWHERE,  
BUT OPPORTUNITY  
IS NOT AS PERVASIVE.**

## CONCLUSION

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It has been a great journey and together with Impact Nations, we will continue to move forward on increasing equitable access to learning and opportunity for youth in Underserved Communities and also to unleash compassion and innovation.”

Thank God we finally made it to the end of the program this november already we are seeing different young people than those we recruited months ago. The program has a considerably strong social impact on the lives of these youth, some of them are getting hired by our social enterprise, some are going to apprenticeship and many are getting on their journey to become entrepreneurs / starting freelancing careers.

Our Biggest lesson this year is the realisation that “Talent exists every where, but opportunity is not as purvasive”, our young people have been exeptionally talented but what they lacked was the opportunity and it would be normal for us to undermine the poor because of their sitution but we have learnt that its lack of opportunity, not character nor potential that undermines the millions of young people at the lowest end of the economic spectrum.

We are still on the mission to close the Opportunity Divide by ensuring that young adults gain the skills, experiences, and support that will empower them to reach their potential through careers, start businesses and even achieve higher education.

Additionally, we are grateful to have, by our side, Impact Nations with whom we share this big vision of rescuing, transforming, and providing pathways to possibilities to those in need. The program keeps advancing and is confident that it will only get better with time.



CREATIVITY



novation

19

elevate

era92

elevate  
PROGRAM

In partnership with

impactnations  
- rescuing lives