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GENDER MAINSTREAMING DIRECTORATE (GMD)

FEMALE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION RESOURCE MOBILIZATION CAMPAIGN

Since 2001, Makerere University, through the Gender Mainstreaming Directorate, has been supporting bright but socio-economically disadvantaged girls in Uganda to undertake various degree programmes at Makerere University. To date, 1,156 have been supported and 975 beneficiaries have graduated. This has been made possible by various partners namely: The Carnegie Corporation of New York, MS JD Global Education Fund, DFCU Bank, Joshua Mugenyi Foundation, The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Uganda and individuals of good will. The number that has been supported is very small compared to the need that has been identified over time through the application and selection process. For example;

- a) From 2001 to 2006 the total number of applicants received was 9,719 and out of these only 691 were awarded. This was 8% of the total applicants.
- b) In 2016/ 2017 and 2017/18 academic year, 6,414 applications were received and 456 were awarded. This was 7% of the applicants.

Overall 92% of the applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds missed the opportunity indicating a great unmet need.

In response GMD found it necessary to launch a 10 year fund raising campaign to support more disadvantaged females to benefit from and sustain the scholarship. The fundraising campaign is code named ***“Drop a ‘coin’ and forever change a life”*** and is being supported by the Female Scholarship Alumni (as the primary beneficiaries, who have so far raised 30 million Uganda shillings), Makerere University community and well-wishers who support the cause for gender equality and women’s empowerment through education.

The idea is to nurture local philanthropy and contribute to Makerere University’s Community Engagement Strategy by increasing access to university education through scholarships. The target is to raise at least 15 billion Uganda Shillings over a 10-year period and support 500 scholars, (50 per year) to study at Makerere University. On average it costs 10,000,000 per year to sponsor one student for a three-year academic programme. This translates into $10,000,000 \times 3 \times 50 \times 10 = 15,000,000,000$.