

## ICT for Youth Employability: Reducing vulnerability, improving self-reliance for vulnerable youth.

*“This training has helped many Kampabits alumni. The few alumni whom I know and see are doing well.” “If I had not come to Kampabits, I would still be on the street without a career”.*

Meet Susan Sitenda and Tongirwe Minallah Mustafa both Kampabits 2012 alumni and now Graphics designer and website developer respectively at the Kampabits design Agency (KDA). This is their story, about how far they have come as former beneficiary of ‘ICT for Youth Employability’.

Before joining Kampabits youth empowerment project, Minallah was working with Nubian advocacy (a community based organization involved in advocacy for the Nubian minority ethnic group) doing community work. He had dropped out of secondary school for lack of school fees.

Minallah recounts how increasing responsibilities prompted him to leave Uganda, and head to South Sudan to look for work. ***“It was frustrating to see colleagues progressing in school, and I couldn’t.” “So I went to earn a living so that I could go back to school. I learnt how to drive and begun driving a taxi.”***

Susan had returned from Kenya where she had been studying. She had reached the final year of her advanced secondary school, sat final exam but was unable to obtain her results because she could not afford it. She returned to Uganda where she volunteered at KIFAD (a local community based organization that provides support to People Living with HIV) while also washing clothes for anyone who could afford to pay her a few shillings. ***“The little pay I received, I used to support myself and my mother.”***

Susan’s showed much interest in computers. So at KIFAD she became a data entrant. ***“I wanted to learn computers, however I didn’t know anything about computers.” “I picked interest in graphics because everywhere I looked, graphics come first. One cannot construct a house before sketching it. So it is with products, events; they need graphics designed first.”***

Susan and Minallah were contacted by their CBOs and told that Kampabits was recruiting. They applied through their CBO and were admitted into Kampabit’s yearlong youth empowerment project, “ICT for Youth employability”. The project empowers vulnerable youth with employable skills and connects them with potential employers.



They speak about how the skills they acquired has turned their lives around. **“After graduation, I got employed on Nasser road as a graphics designer”** says Susan.

As for Minallah the ICT skills he acquired enabled him to specialize in website development, and subsequently worked at Webnet International Company and Chrystal Technologies Uganda as web developer after graduating from Kampabits.

## CREATING IMPACT THROUGH UNIQUE LEARNING.

‘ICT for Youth employability’ compliments ICT skills with entrepreneurship skills, Sexual and reproductive health skills, and life skills. **“I learnt Adobe suites programs in 2012. As a graphics designer at Kampabits design Agency, I am still using Adobe suites programs”**, according to Susan.

**“The impact of the trainers changed me. I remember a guest trainer from Nairobi; Wilson, who advised that it’s better to know everything about something, rather than know something about everything.”**  
**“So I decided to specialize in website development”** says Minallah.

The ICT skills taught are both marketable and technical and often challenge some of the beneficiary. Susan says credit should go to her trainers for their diligence to help slow learners comprehend what is taught. **“The trainers followed up with slow learners so that we were all on the same pace. They were there to make us understand in all situations.”**

Minallah’s advice to other youth facing difficulty in choosing a vocation is, **“If you are being taught many things, choose a part and know everything about that thing.”**

Susan wants to own a graphics design and web hosting company so she can support disadvantaged people. While Minallah wants to build his career as a web developer.

Kampabits would like to recognize the contribution of KIFAD and Nubian Advocacy Group who identified and recommended Susan and Minallah to Kampabits.

