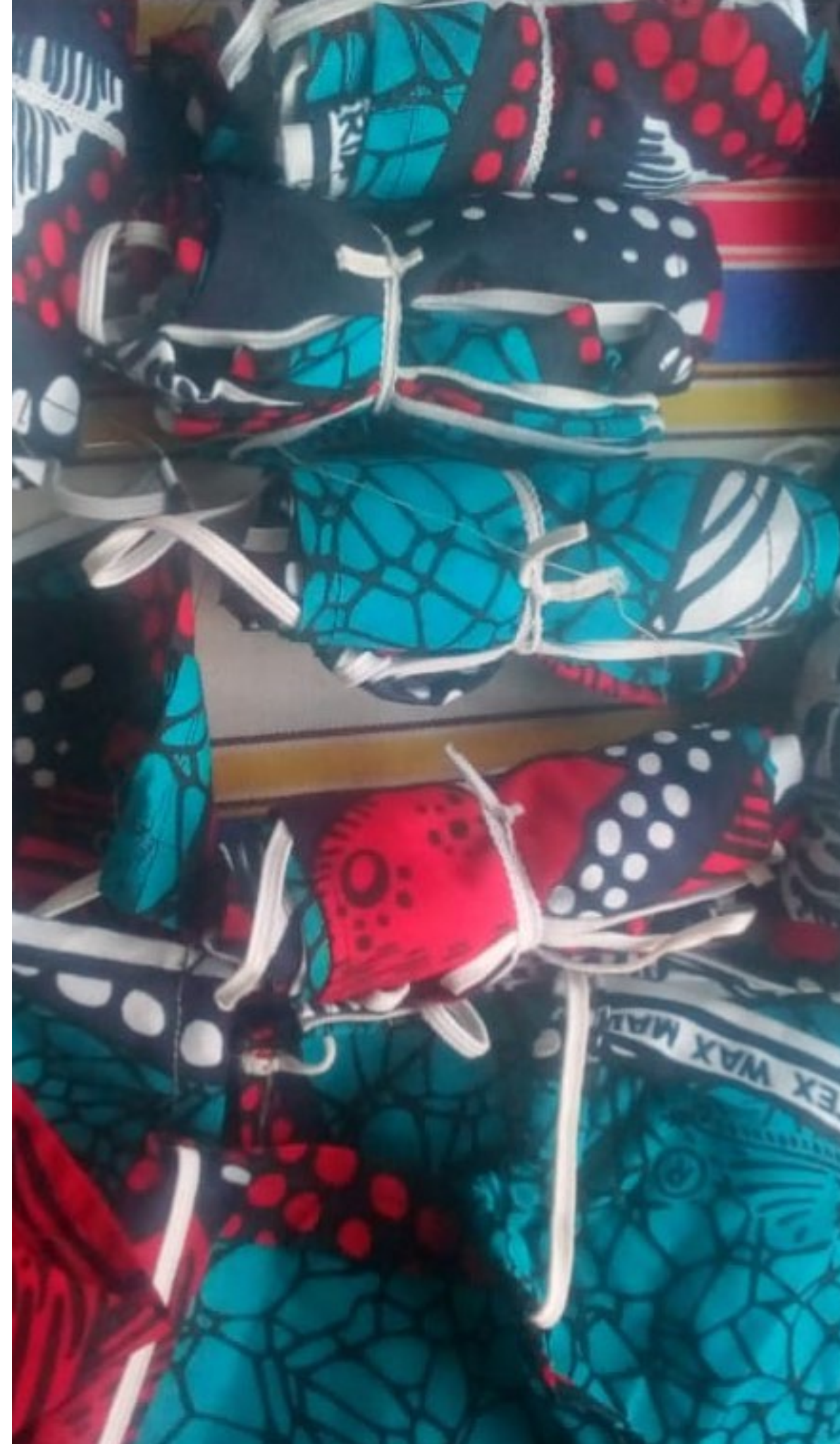




2021 Review



Welcome

Founder message

Lauren Exton

Director Followings
Foundation

I acknowledge the people of the Gumbaynggirr nation who are the traditional custodians of the land on which this report was prepared. I also pay respect to all Elders, past and present, and extend this respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait people from other nations across Australia.

I am pleased to share with you the 2021 report of our ongoing partnership with Busubi Empowered Communities (BEC). This partnership brings to life our commitment to community development and sustainable poverty reduction.

In 2021, the global experience of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to hamper our efforts to travel to Uganda, but the Community and Learning Centre we built in rural Uganda kept on keeping on, offering weekly classes for adults and children in Agriculture, Tailoring, Performing Arts, Sports, Computer Studies.

These programs remained free to the community and were run seven days a week...

...until Uganda entered a second strict 42-day lockdown, just as many parts of the world were feeling they could see the light at the end of the tunnel.

At the time, an article in the Economist read: "In Namibia, Uganda and Zambia, among other places, oxygen is running out and hospital beds are full. The WHO calculates that, within weeks, the Africa-wide caseload of the third wave will surpass the peak of the second, which in turn was higher than the first".

When the lockdown ended and vaccines became more readily accessible, John was so excited that students were finally allowed to return to school - after being kept away for most of 2021.

With things opening back up, including the Centre, hydro-electricity to Busubi Empowered Community Centre was finally connected - a huge thank you to the teams of people and volunteers who helped us fundraise for that pre-pandemic.

With electricity came improved access time to the Centre's computers - which is great news because Computer Class is incredibly popular!

And the office at BEC got a desktop computer! After years relying on laptops and phones, a sturdy, constantly powered device has really levelled up the game of the centre staff by making reporting so much easier and more efficient!

As always, an enormous thank you to Rebecca Boon, our Creative Director (read about her Australia Day honour in our Q1 highlights), our dedicated Board Members, our donors, and everyone who has contributed in any way to the success of Followings Foundation over the past year. Most importantly, thank you to John, Shallon and Derrick and their team at BEC for excellent reporting, keeping our donors up to date and for striving to empower more people everyday!

In 2022, I look forward to growing our impact in the communities where we work and live, and continuing to make a difference around the world.

"I don't see any reason to be optimistic. What do you think the New Year will bring us?"

"I believe it will bring flowers."

"Really? Why?"

"Because I am planting flowers." - Cartoonist José María Nieto

And that is the energy we are bringing with us into 2022!

- Lauren Exton

Founder & Director

Staff (paid) and volunteers from Busubi Empowered Communities



John Ssentamu

Director



Shallon Nakimwero

Manager



Milly Nasejje

Tailoring



Ronald Nsubuga

Performing Arts



Pauline Namatovu

Hairdressing



Claire Nakimbugwe

Computers & Catering



Dr Brian Ssenkumba

Medical Volunteer



Paul Nkalubo

Agricultural Volunteer



Joshua Niyomugabo

Security



Derrick Ssebuggwano

Sports Coach Volunteer



Lydia Nasejje

Leadership Volunteer



Vincent Senge

Finance & Savings Volunteer

Foundation Objectives

Objectives

To continue to support and fiscally sponsor the staffing, resourcing and maintenance of BEC Learning Centre as they move towards becoming financially independent.

To increase the breadth of Followings Foundations' traditional corporate social responsibilities, ensuring the best possible social and developmental impact.

To create partnerships with non-government organisations and community groups addressing poverty, social disadvantage and environmental protection.

To continue to be an active ally against systemic racism in all its forms.

Followings Foundation Board

Rebecca Boon
Secretary



Lauren Exton
Treasurer



Liz Lynch
Director





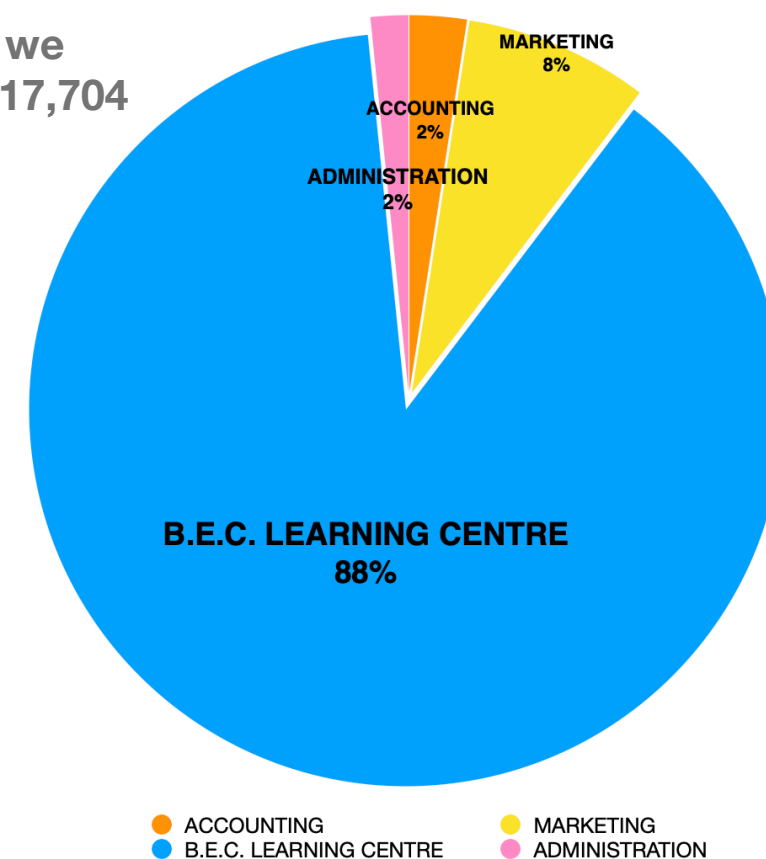
Fundraising & Spending

For every \$100 we raise,
\$88 goes directly to our project in Busubi, Uganda.

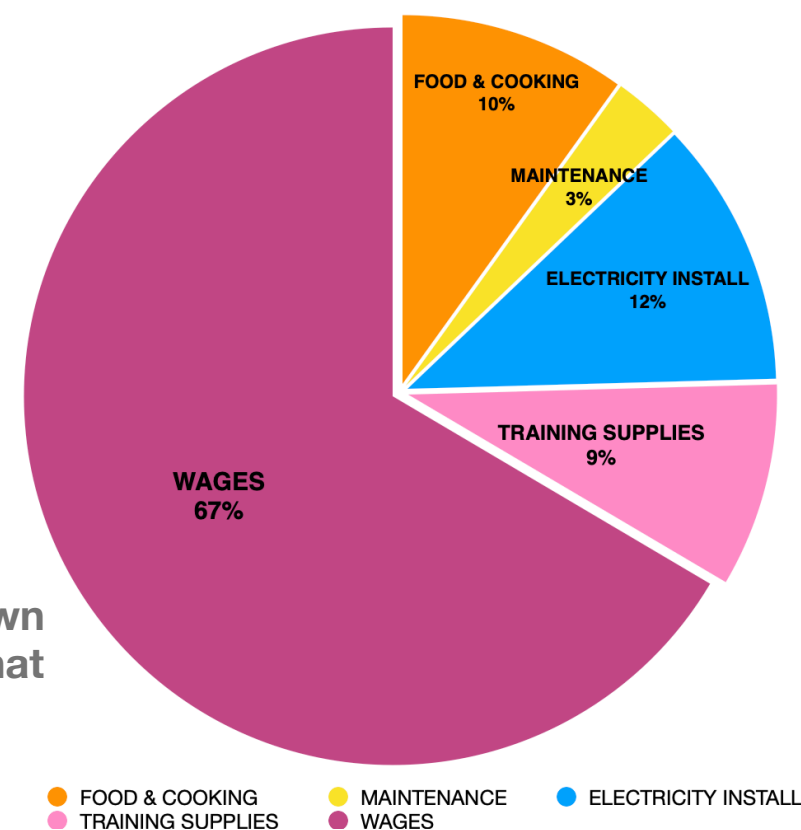
	TOTAL
Income	
Sales	17,704.82
Total Income	A\$17,704.82
GROSS PROFIT	A\$17,704.82
Expenses	
Accounting and bookkeeping	420.00
Advertising and marketing	1,351.65
Bank charges and fees	32.15
BEC Learning Centre	15,094.18
Telephone & internet expenses	243.58
Total Expenses	A\$17,141.56
Other Expenses	
Unrealised Gain or Loss	0.00
Other Expense	570.00
Total Other Expenses	A\$570.00
NET EARNINGS	A\$ -6.74



In 2021, we
 raised \$17,704



Breaking down
 the money that
 we send to
 BEC.



2021 Highlights

Q1

Australia Day Awards!

Our Creative Director, Rebecca Boon was honoured with an Australia Day award to recognise her enormous voluntary contribution to community, at home and abroad. Beck, as she is known as loved, was nominated through her workplace, QLD's Department of Transport and Main Roads. Beck has raised over \$10k herself and helped the foundation to raise in total over \$160k for the Busubi community. Her commitment to supporting and helping others, her dedication to her job and to her charitable work is an inspiration. We couldn't be more proud to have a human like Beck on our Executive Team and on our Board.

A sporty update from BEC!

Derrick and Shallon turned the front courtyard of next to the Centre into a temporary netball playground so as to avail female trainees a nearby ground to play netball from during their free time. With the help of trainees, goal posts were designed and put up. After tailoring classes in the evening, it has been very busy with staff joining trainees to play!

Beck & Lauren attend Future Women 2021

"Helping women connect, lead and learn". We're so grateful to Future Women for having this mission statement, and even more grateful for their sponsorship of Lauren and Beck to attend their annual leadership summit. Attended by incredible women making positive impacts across Australia and the globe - Beck and Lauren absorbed invaluable tips from leaders from all backgrounds, sectors and industries. Most importantly, they were reminded that we can and will change the world. And we won't be at it alone.

Storms

In March, Busubi was hit by a large storm that damaged both electrics in the learning centre and the solar power battery storage. The BEC team subsequently had a challenging time with office management and disruption to computer classes. While repairs were carried out, the brilliant reports the BEC team send through each day were greatly missed!

Q2

42-Day Lockdown

Uganda entered a second strict 42-day lockdown, just as many parts of the world were feeling as though they could see the light at the end of the tunnel. A lockdown in rural Uganda looked very different to a lockdown in a major global north metropolis. Access to food became near impossible and access to medical assistance - even harder. While many Australians and Americans could hop into cars or onto public transport to access basic needs, Ugandans battled with a permit system just to order a boda motorbike (the most common form of transport) to get to a medical clinic to avoid being fined or imprisoned for travelling outside their home village. The situation was dire and NGO's everywhere ramped up efforts to protect the most vulnerable from starvation and COVID19.

Food Boxes

It was determined that AUD\$3.70 would fund a relief package for one family, so we set about helping the 57 families in the village of Busubi that most needed assistance. Thanks to our donors, families safely received 4kg of maize flour, 2 kg of beans and 1 bar of soap. The support from our past volunteers, and their friends and family, is a demonstration of the connection that we have with our Uganda partners.



Q3

Lockdown learning materials

We provided learning materials for 89 children in rural Uganda with the following campaign...

\$4 donation per child. Every amount helps.

...after receiving this message from our Ugandan partners:

Dear Followings Foundation Supporters,

On behalf of the BEC Community, I convey my greetings and thank you for your continued support for the people of here. Almost two years have passed without any formal learning taking place in Uganda due to the pandemic. This has had a devastating impact on the learning process of the children - particularly rural based children. Many of them have grown to an age where it will be too late for them to return to school, others are becoming pregnant, and boys particularly are starting to develop a negative attitude towards education.

We believe that we can't allow this situation to continue - it's not good at all.

The Minister of Education recently announced that Schools will not reopen until all teachers and students that are 18 years and above are fully vaccinated. Unfortunately, the country doesn't have enough vaccines to have all that population vaccinated in any reasonable amount of time - we are so far behind the rest of the world. We have calculated that we can provide learning materials to 200 children at 1,750,000/= Uganda Shillings. The boy in the photo is my son, he is lucky that I am a teacher, but many other children don't have that support - I am glad I can be of service to them, too. Kind regards, John Ssentamu.

(That's \$4 per child to get this important program started and I'm confident we can make that happen. Even though many Australians are also in lockdown, perhaps this is an opportunity to take your family on a small journey outside the walls of your home and remind ourselves of the feeling we get when we make a difference to the lives of others.)

Q4

Hydro-electricity finally delivered to Busubi

After many delays and two and a half years since our initial deposit was made, the electricity poles finally reached all the way to the Learning Centre and also gave 35 homes access to electricity. What a milestone!

Computer class report - October 2021

"Trainer Twaha arrived on time and found trainees ready in the study room trying to practice what they learned previously. Because of the big number of trainees, we decided practical work would be done in turns by trainees for each of them to have hands on. Many trainees especially those who were in schools where Computer subjects are taught have appreciated the way it's taught here at the BEC Center saying it's more hands on than in their schools which has enabled them to learn more how to use a computer than before."

- Shallon, assistant manager

Hairdressing trainer report - November 2021

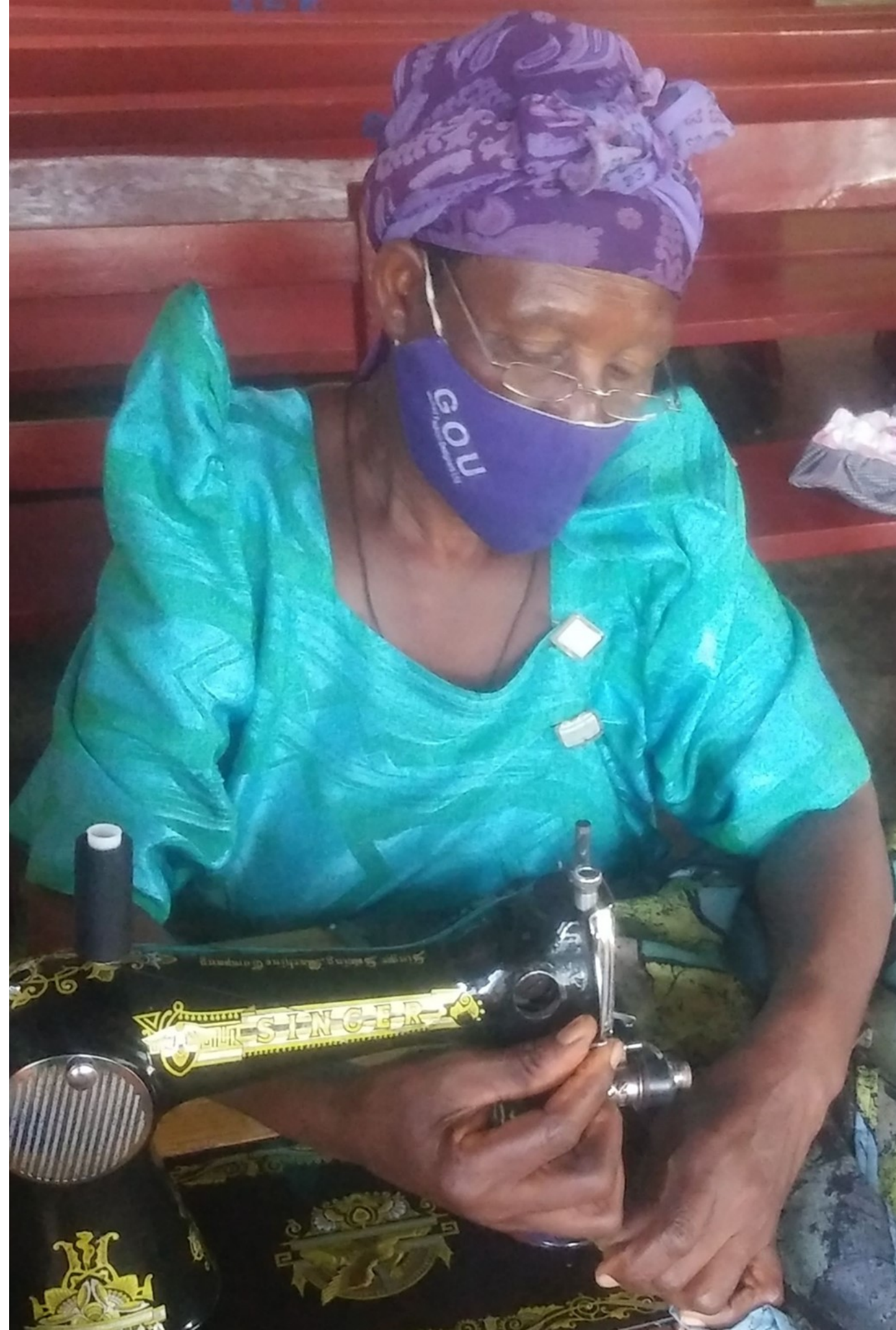
"Monday and Tuesday were successful with a good number of trainees - around 35. Old trainees are continuing to perfect the skill accordingly. This week we have registered some new trainees and among them is the two younger mothers between 15 and 16 years and they are to train with their little babies because they have no one to take care of them at their home when they come for training. These girls became pregnant during Covid19 lockdown in 2020 when they stopped schooling. We have counselled and encouraged them and thanked them for the decision they made to join the Center to be skilled so as to be empowered for a meaningful life."

- Shallon, assistant manager

Looking ahead

Some of our goals for 2022

- Complete BEC's first business to business tailoring contract
- Gain further recognition as a trusted grassroots charity
- Partner with organisations who share our values
- **Get BEC to the Quidditch World Cup!**



Social Media



Follow Followings!

When you engage with our posts by sharing them or commenting on them, we can reach more supporters!

 @followings.love

 @followings.foundation

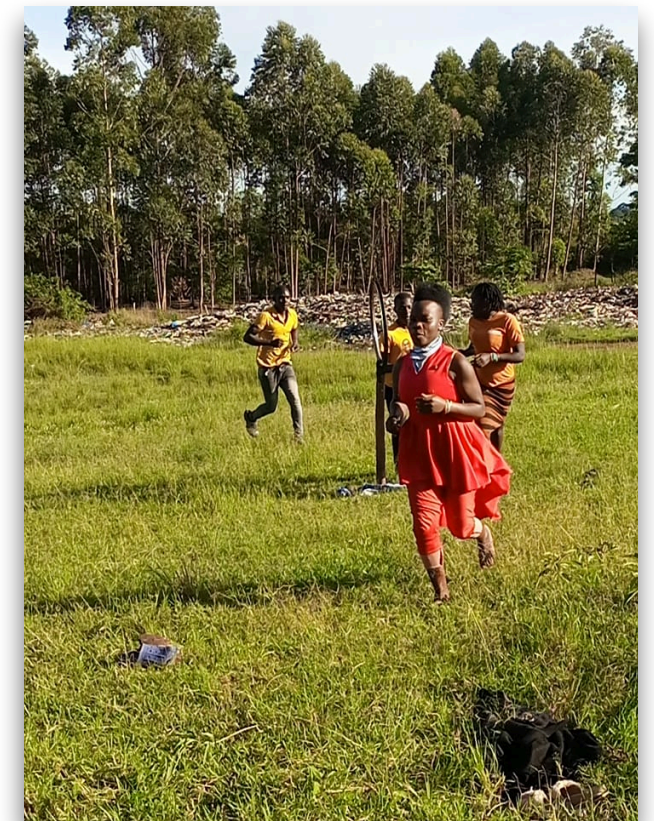
 Followings Foundation



2021
in
pictures



2021 in pictures





followings
foundation

Leap now, your wings will follow.