

REPORT ON WEST NILE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

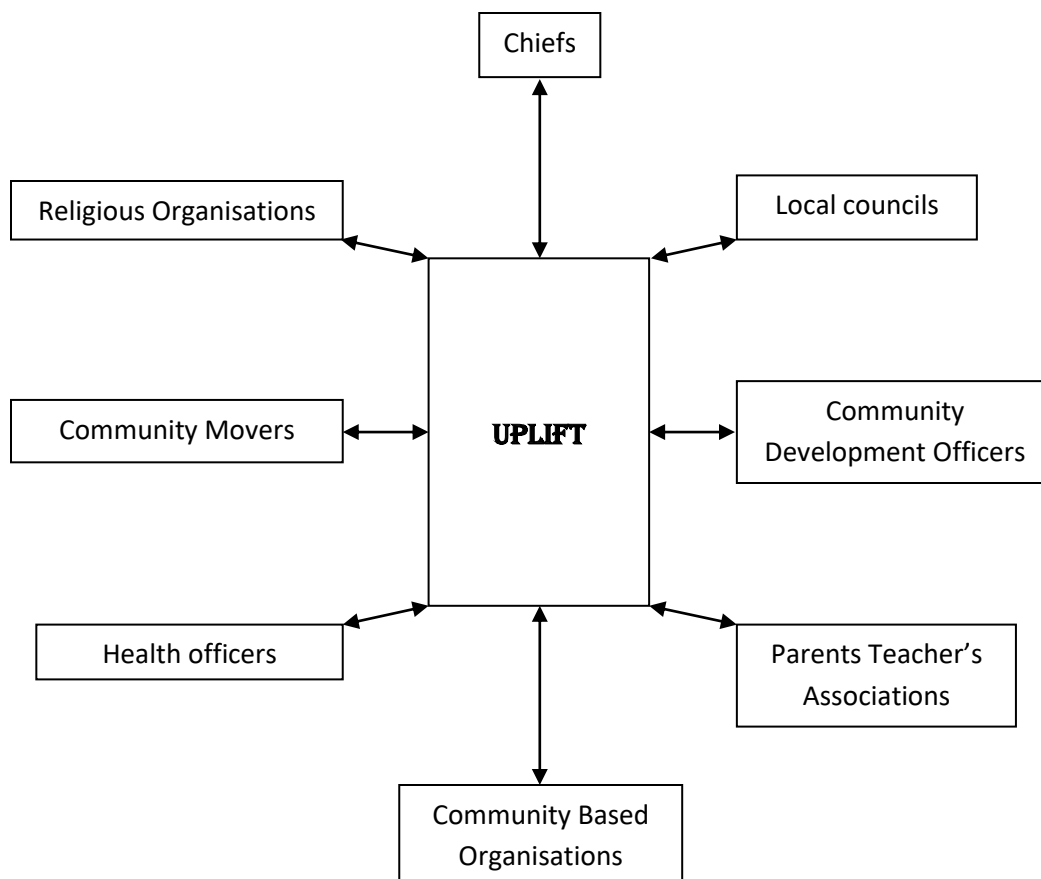
Project Description, Goals, Outputs, Covering The Year 2012

The first target group is illiterate adults in Abanga, Jangokoro, Kucwiny, and Atego Sub Counties. The project intends to contribute to the literacy Millennium goal of 50% increase in the number of literate people by 2015 by graduating at least 1000 learners every year. The second target group in these Sub Counties is boys and girls for moral education and community service.

During the current year UPLIFT Uganda will provide literacy training of 75 sessions to 1650 individuals, provide moral education to at least 500 boys and girls, and send 5 selected girls to a 9 month tailoring course in Nebbi and Zombo districts.

UPLIFT Uganda Main Activities

UPLIFT Uganda in Collaboration with local governments and nongovernmental organizations as shown below



will in 2012 train 1500 individuals who would have completed UPLIFT course in 32 literacy classes. The training will take 9 months with a total of 75 two hour sessions available for instruction per class. UPLIFT will also train 530 Youths who would have finished UPLIFT course in 23 moral education and community service classes. This training will also take 9 months with a total of 75 two hour sessions available for instruction per class.

The following are the activities to be carried out for the year 2012.

	ACTIVITIES	ACTUAL
1	Community meetings will be held in Atego, Abanga, Kucwiny, and Jangokoro Sub Counties to provide Information on literacy and ensure Government and community support for the literacy provision	A total of 33 community meetings were held in the four Sub Counties There were also 33 venue meetings that were held in Schools, churches, community halls, and under trees
2	A total of 64 mentors will be recruited For literacy and youth program. 16 will Be new recruits. 48 will be recruited from The existing accredited mentors.	48 mentors are already engaged, 16 have completed the 5 day course and are now on the 9 month on job training
3	Two coordinators will be recruited from the accredited coordinators Two will be recruited as trainees from the Accredited mentors	Two accredited coordinators are already engaged and two are on 9 month on job training and also serve as voluntary assistant coordinators
4	Purchase 1600 books for the 2012 learners.	1600 books have already been and 1500 Distributed
5	Establish one area resource centre in Nebbi disdtrict to provide a point of contact for course participants, Supplies storage, and library services	The resource centre was established and is operational
6	Thirty two literacy classes will be Formed and will be conducted by accredited mentors	32 classes were established in Zombo and Nebbi districts and are operational

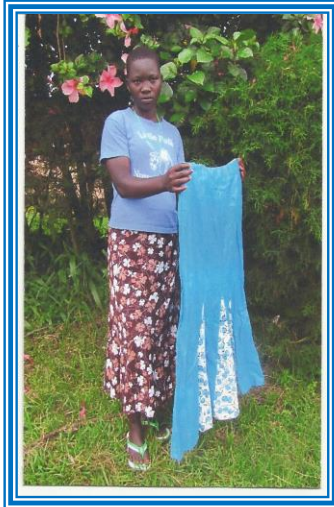
7	Purchase two netballs and 3 footballs for 23 youth classes. Study books will be provided by the Baha'i Faith	2 Netballs and 3 footballs were purchased and distributed
8	Purchase 4 bicycles 2 for coordinators and 2 for program officers	4 bicycles purchased and distributed
9	Produce a book on Interfaith for the mentors	Under preparation. Mentors are now using handouts
10	Plant 60000 trees for environmental Protection, firewood, and medicine (Neem)	30000 trees planted
11	Enroll 530 youth for 23 classes in Zombo and Nebbi Dstricts	28 youth classes formed and 530 enrolled
12	Enroll 1650 learners for 32 literacy classes in Zombo and Nebbi districts	1650 individuals enrolled. 40% in Jangokoro; 35% Kucwiny; 15% Abanga; 10% Atego
13	Conduct 9 refreshers for mentors and 9 for coordinators	6 refreshers held for mentors and 6 for coordinators

Concluding Remarks

Refreshers: Christian and Baha'i songs have now been formally introduced in refreshers for inspiration. All the songs carry a message of love, unity, peace, service, and God's glorification. The songs have been well received by both Christian and Baha'i mentors.

Mentors in Government and Non Government Institutions: Most mentors are now serving in government and nongovernmental organizations mainly in Local councils, Health, agriculture, schools, NGOs, CBOs, and Church. Notable among them are Wanirwoth Joice, Chairperson Kucwiny Sub County; Facan Alice, Nebbi district Councillor, Ayikuru Alex, Pastor; Ayenyo, Parish council.

Mobilization: Due to very strong religious prejudice which sometimes involved taking UPLIFT to local courts, its officials were not allowed to mobilize learners for classes in churches and community centres. Following the creation of a harmonious relationship, most UPLIFT activities are now held in churches and community centres.



Tailoring Course: UPLIFT has been strongly commended for taking 5 girls to tailoring course. And many girls look forward to the time they will have the opportunity to take the course as well. The 5 girls are now able to do simple tailoring work. They have decided to display their work at the forthcoming graduation ceremony.

One of the girls displaying her newly acquired skills in tailoring

Challenges: One of the UPLIFT main challenges is getting girls into literacy and youth classes. This is because many parents hold that girls' education is not important in that they are meant for marriage only; that young women must be encouraged to get married as soon as possible to produce many children; that girls are mainly for producing children and family care; and that girls should be busy with family work not with education.

Interviews

1. Odaga Makwel is a learner of Wakweketem Class in Jupandido Parish Jangokoro Sub County Zommo District. He Joined UPLIFT Classes in 2011.

Before you joined UPLIFT, how was your life?

Before I joined UPLIFT I was a drunkard who could not care for my family. I was completely ignorant of what ever happened in my life. E.g. I used not to pray, I didn't know how to read and write, I didn't know the causes of malaria; and I didn't know the benefit of education.

What is the life condition of the people who are not in UPLIFT?

The life of those who are not in UPLIFT is completely poor. E.g.

- they cannot keep their compounds clean
- they cannot do business due to lack of knowledge
- they don't know how to read and write

- they don't know the use of education
- they don't send their children to school

What is the difference between UPLIFT and other organizations?

the difference between UPLIFT and other organizations is that the other organizations take only one subject but in UPLIFT we teach Spiritual and material growth, e.g. interfaith in order to change our life towards good deeds: health services, agriculture, development, adult literacy.

Has interfaith changed your spiritual life?

Yes. Because:

- in my life, I was somebody who liked quarreling with others but now I don't.
- I used to be a person who do not respect God and even do not go for Sunday prayers, but now I usually go and I have become one of the leaders in church.

What changes has UPLIFT brought in the life mentors and community?

UPLIFT has brought the following in the life of mentor and community:

- they know the use of education
- they know how to cooperate and form groups
- they know the causes and prevention of malaria
- they know how one can develop
- most of the mentor and learners have gone back to school
- some of them have been elected as area councilors, some are heading the NAADS programs,
- they know how to use compost manure and planting their crops in lines to get good products.
- They are now spiritually and materially developed.

What is your opinion about UPLIFT?

Our opinion is that, it UPLIFT can continue being the best organisation because of its good function. There is much need for it and if additional subjects can be added e.g. teaching of AIDS prevention.

2. This interview was conducted in Jupamoro Class, Olago Parish, Kucwiny Sub County Nebbi District where Learners preferred a collective participation.

Before you joined UPLIFT, how was your life?

We were illiterate and uncooperative in the community. Many of us were not involved in children education, reading of bible in the church and participation in community meetings was difficult, I was wasting money on alcohol drinking, visiting bid towns was difficult, singing in meetings and keeping records was difficult, balanced diet was also a problem.

What is the life condition of the people who are not in UPLIFT?

- They are uncooperative
- They believe that women are for wealth
- They are alcohol drinkers
- They believe that paying of school fees is a wastage of money
- They have domestic violence in their homes
- They have a lot of prejudice based on religion, sex, tribe and sex.
- They are poor and will never make any change in their lives.

What is the difference between UPLIFT and other organizations?

The difference is that, in UPLIFT:

- there is interfaith programme
- monitoring is focused in the rural areas
- training of local facilitators
- learning materials are developed initially in the local language
- they work on both spiritual and material knowledge
- they encourage both men, women and their children to make progressive change in their lives
- there is no prejudice, whether on race, tribe, culture, gender, age, religion or sex.

Has interfaith changed your spiritual life?

Yes. The interfaith program has greatly changed our lives. Most of us used to believe in witch crafts which promoted hatred among ourselves, but through interfaith program we have learnt to be together and to love our neighbors.

The interfaith program has changed our spiritual lives. We used to have religious differences but now they are no longer there, we also used not to go to church but now we do.

What changes has UPLIFT brought in the life mentors and community?

UPLIFT has brought the following changes:

- environmental protection through tree planting
- formation of Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
- treatment of malaria
- Motivation of mentors and coordinators through provision of bicycles
- Training of mentors and coordinators through the interfaith programme
- Linking mentor to other organizations

What is your opinion about UPLIFT?

UPLIFT should continue its program and also extend to other sub counties. Addition of other subjects like English and Swahili. Introduction of other courses like carpentry, and computer training for mentors and coordinators. Assistance to mentors and coordinators and provision of motorcycles to coordinators.

3. Mentors, Oaikane Baptist, Akumu Eunice, Opoka Jilbert, and Anyolitho Lucy also give there testimonies.

They say that before joining UPLIFT life was very different. Oaikane Baptist, a mentor of Odarlembe Class in Jangokoro who joined UPLIFT in 2004, said that he was a drunkard and he had lost all the knowledge that he had. He admits that life was very difficult to him and he had no future. He however, says that since he joined UPLIFT life is now very different. 'Through refresher courses and training', he reiterate, 'I am now a facilitator with WENIPS program and I am also the chairperson of GOTA ,a program brought by the Catholics in the area.

Akumu Eunise is a mentor of Wekwasendra Class who joined UPLIFT in 2007. She says that before joining UPLIFT she was not known by any one because her level of education was very

low. However, she does not regret joining UPLIFT because of the knowledge she has acquired which has tremendously changed her life.' Through UPLIFT, am now a recognized person, I am a teacher in Kob centre and I am also a councilor at the sub county', she proudly narrates.

Opoka Jilbert, a mentor in Pir Anyim says that UPLIFT enabled him to become a FAL facilitator and also a health assistant, he further narrates that after realizing the importance of education, he was able to go back to school and now he has completed Senior Four (S. 4).

All mentors who gave their personal testimonies were thankful to UPLIFT because it was able to change their lives. They say that through refresher courses and interfaith program, both their spiritual and moral life styles have drastically changed. they also said that the unique program of UPLIFT has managed to change their communities where learners have gained wide knowledge in primary health care, sanitation, agriculture, business, development, savings and record keeping.

They pray for the continuation of UPLIFT since it is the only organization of its kind in West Nile and the only one which can up-lift their communities.