

Dear friends,

This week we're in Uganda! By "we" I mean Friends of UPLIFT (Norway) and more precisely, our chairman Michael Vitols.\* He has left behind his home town Arendal, hosting its annual 'Arendalsuka' (A. Week) – with some 1.200 political and societal *events* – to visit 'UPLIFT family' (annually 1.500 *learners!*) and turn words into action. At this time of writing Michael has joined key UPLIFT workers in Nebbi and Zombo to assist with a survey to get an indication of how the lives of last year's graduated learners have changed (for the better?!) A questionnaire was worked out by our women's committee in consultation with UPLIFT, and this week sizable groups are gathered in both Districts to fill in the forms and discuss the issues in question.

The purpose is, as mentioned in recent FUP newsletters, to further document the results of the UPLIFT training, as perceived individually by the learners – effecting their own lives as well as their family and village. The survey will supplement the overall statistical summary of 2018 (under Articles and Reports in the [www.upliftvenner.no](http://www.upliftvenner.no) website). The idea is to repeat the exercise with the same groups a year from now and perhaps even one later year, so as to more concretely throw light on the outcome of UPLIFT's intervention.



*From UPLIFT Graduation last January: the excitement just seconds before being awarded the UPLIFT Certificate*



*12 friends of UPLIFT gathered in the 2019 Annual general meeting*

These aspects of evaluation were among the issues discussed during our FUP annual general meeting on June 30. The consultation also touched on the Health training manual, presently translated and soon to be tested in some classes this autumn. Among the ideas envisaged (and subsequently shared with UPLIFT) were the printing of a leaflet in a limited number of A5 class sets for rotation, – and picking out some key illustrations to be painted directly on village hut walls!

A standard item for AGM discussion is the UPLIFT budget. Though wholly for UPLIFT to decide and seek to implement, with Friends of UPLIFT being its chief funder, new activities / line items merit particular interest. This year's additions for Documentation, the Health training leaflet, and a purchase of 6 bicycles and a light motor cycle are all new to the budget, thus increasing it to 16.400 USD. The recommendation by the FUP board to aim for a contribution of 12.000 USD (vs. 11.000 last year) was approved. This constitutes  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the 2019 UPLIFT budget.

To add an anecdote: Our recent, August transfer of USD 3.000 (bringing this year's contribution so far to USD 7.500) was made possible not least due to earmarked donations in the name (and spirit) of the *father* of one of our members, who passed away – at the age of 102! He took special interest in the rights of women...

Warm and grateful greetings on behalf of the Board of Friends of UPLIFT,

Gunnar Lange-Nielsen