

Dear friends of UPLIFT !

Europe is changing. A significant, new awareness is spreading, politically at all levels and among people in general. Borders are being overrun by waves of migrants fleeing war and hopelessness, directly impacting our everyday lives.

Such was the case in northern Uganda, with a protracted civil war waged by Kony supporters, often targeting the civilian population and leading to a flood of internally driven refugees. Many found shelter near the West Nile area, bordering the districts that we have referred to as “UPLIFT territory”.

Six years ago several of UPLIFT’s Norwegian “friends” attended the graduation ceremony in Anaka. This is one of several villages that received internally driven refugees. UPLIFT helped train displaced youth – children of these same refugees that eventually settled and were integrated in local communities.



Now that peace has come to this region many of these refugees have chosen to remain in what has become their home. Those that have taken part in UPLIFT’s training are optimistic about the future. They can help out with developing their communities, without the fear of war. *Friends of UPLIFT* are part and parcel of this bond of support and encouragement, both locally and with links to Norway and other countries.

RECENT REPORT FROM UPLIFT

Reports from UPLIFT are encouraging. Recently, we received a letter from Dr. Hizzaya about “*learners’ progress*”.

Here is an excerpt:

They are more interested in learning than any other time in the history of UPLIFT. This pleases me very much, especially on remembering that when we started, learners had to be paid to attend classes. Moreover, UPLIFT had to pay all graduation expenses! Almost all learners are now able to read and write. I believe this speedy learning is due to greatly improved skills of teaching by the mentors.

Further on, about the mentors’ spirit of volunteerism:

The mentors are much more committed and inspired than in the past and today very few drop out [*faller fra*]. I was very satisfied by their participation and contributions in the refresher discussions. Thus, I was not surprised to learn that 5 mentors have been appointed as [local] counsellors and 5 learners as LC chairs. This has made UPLIFT very influential in the two districts.

Examinations will be conducted in November. Exam papers are being approved for printing. The next step is to prepare Graduation Certificates. To be printed in time, further financial support is required. Once confirmed, the names of graduates will appear separately on 1.500 certificates. A time-consuming task!



BREAKING NEWS: 'INFO' CARDS

When talking with friends and new acquaintances about Friends of UPLIFT, a common question is this: «Do you have a website»? The answer, of course, is “Yes, we do”. Now, instead of having to write it down each time on a scrap of paper, we have produced an info card (the size of a business card) that can be handed out. With a condensed text on the back, it comes in Norwegian and English version!

Shortly, we will be sending each member of «Friends of UPLIFT» a little batch of cards, in both versions. Our hope is that these cards can be a handy reminder to go into our website, as well as a tool to give others the opportunity to contribute.

Finally, two other reminders:

Don't forget that we have produced «gift certificates» that you can easily print out at home, directly from www.upliftvenner.no

To those of you on Facebook, share this news with your FB friends. You will find a link on the front page of our web site.

Warmest greetings to all from
'Friends of UPLIFT'!

Gunnar Lange-Nielsen
(secretary)



Venner av UPLIFT

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