

# UPLIFT UGANDA



2013

# ANNUAL REPORT

## **Acronyms**

AFARD	:	Agency for Accelerated Regional Development
UPLIFT	:	Uganda Programme of Literacy for Transformation
CDO	:	Community Development Officer
REEP	:	Rural Education Empowerment Project
NorSED	:	Norwegian Bahá'í Office of Social and Economic Development
NORAD	:	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
CBO	:	Community Based Organisation
LitNet	:	Literacy Network
NAADS	:	National Agricultural Advisory Services
UBID	:	Uganda Bahai Institute for Development
CDD	:	Community Driven Development
FUP	:	Friends of UPLIFT

## **Introduction**

The Uganda Programme of Literacy for Transformation is a non-governmental, non-profit organization committed to reducing illiteracy in the West Nile region of Uganda, as a contribution towards UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDG). It is believed by UPLIFT that literacy is vital before the introduction of any development programmes, if these programmes are to succeed. This belief stems from the fact that literacy provides the human resources needed for the development of programmes.

UPLIFT's primary target group is illiterate adults in Nebbi and Zombo Districts in Northwestern Uganda. Presently the programme operates in Kucwiny, Atego, Abanga, Nyape, Jangokoro and Zombo Sub counties. The first two are in Nebbi while the other four are in Zombo. In 2012 a junior youth course (→ p.7) was added to the programme.

Guiding principles for UPLIFT are:

- Education is a human right for all
- Work done in the spirit of service is worship
- Elimination of all forms of prejudice
- Consultation and universal participation
- The human person is the principal agent of development, not money and technology and
- Equal opportunities for men and women

With continued support by the *Friends of UPLIFT* and the commitment of the Director, Coordinators and Mentors – all working on a fully voluntary basis – UPLIFT's number of achievements in 2013 add significantly to earlier years' results.

## **Background**

THE UGANDA PROGRAMME OF LITERACY FOR TRANSFORMATION – UPLIFT – was formed in 2001 in response to the need for literacy training in Uganda as a basis for rural community development, emphasizing the empowerment of women who constitute by far the largest percent of illiterates. Its formation came as a response to the MDG in Uganda's national plan, calling for adult literacy to contribute to:

- reduction by 50% of the number of illiterate adults in Uganda (in the 2001 National statistics 71% of female adults in Nebbi District were illiterate);
- improve on the unfavorable health conditions in West Nile; and
- combat environmental degradation.

UPLIFT opened the programme in 2001 in Pajabar Village in Pakwach with 16 learners. By the end of the year there were 12 classes with 209 learners. With the assistance of many officials among them CDOs and Local Councils, the sensitization and mobilization process resulted in significant growth. Both the quantity and quality of the work has advanced remarkably due to the efforts of all of those who have been involved. In the early years, 2001-06, UPLIFT graduated 2458 learners with certificates out of the 4222 learners who completed the programme and became functionally literate.

In 2007 UPLIFT Uganda augmented its program with the Rural Education Empowerment Project (REEP), funded by NorSED and the Norwegian Government through NORAD. The project ran for three years (2007/08/09). Within that period UPLIFT graduated 6524.

After the REEP project, though reduced in number, all UPLIFT workers have gone back to serve in their respective capacities on a voluntary basis, with expenses toward learners' books, transport, and examination and certificates met by contributions from Friends of UPLIFT in Norway, Canada and Uganda. During this period – years 2010/11/12/13 – 6910 learners became functionally literate out of which 6027 graduated with certificates.

*[For a full statistical overview, refer to appendix 1.]*

## **UPLIFT Activities**

### **Community meetings**

These meetings were held in January and February 2013 to provide information about the programme, ensure community support and participation, identify new mentors, enroll new learners, make decisions on the venues of



*One of the community meetings*

classes, and stress the need for interfaith meditation to remove barriers of prejudice.

Results of the 33 community meetings were full moral support by the villagers and Local government, acquiring the initial sense of ownership of the programme, and the provision of free venues in schools, churches, community centres, and under trees.

### **Training of mentors and area coordinators**

Training of new mentors is conducted over a full year period, in the respective new area. It consists of a one week initial training in methodology, followed by periodic, informal on-the-job training and regular refresher courses throughout the year. The training of mentors takes two forms: 1). On-the-job training whereby trainee mentors/coordinators teach/coordinate classes side by side with experienced mentors/coordinators during the year; 2). The refresher courses which are conducted on a monthly basis.



*Refresher Course at Kucwiny*

In 2013, 24 new mentors were trained in both Zombo District and Nebbi District. Out of the 24 trainee mentors 21 mentors completed with certificates.

In 2012, two potential coordinators were identified among the mentors: one in Okoro and one in Padyere counties.

These trainee coordinators were in 2013 - and are still - acting as assistant coordinators for their respective areas.

**Integrated Literacy training** In this year local individuals were identified, enrolled and trained in literacy skills. A total number of 2049 learners were registered in the 7 sub-counties of Zombo TC, Nyapea, Abanga, Jangokoro, Atego, Alwi and Kucwiny, with 2039 learners completing the course and 1919 learners graduating with certificates. Unlike last year the percentage of learner dropouts was very low. *[Refer to appendix 1.]*. Unlike the prior years, the percentage of men (36% this year, last year it was 34%) attending classes has increased. This was due to the fact that men have become more interested in literacy after realizing the empowerment of their women and the importance and benefits of education.

## **Proficiency Tests**

Proficiency tests were carried out in 37 centers in both districts. 2011 learners, out of 2039 learners who completed the course, attended the proficiency tests – 1052 from Nebbi District and 997 from Zombo District. Proficiency tests were supervised by UPLIFT mentors, coordinators and a government official from each of the respective sub-counties.

## **Graduation Ceremonies**

Two graduation ceremonies were held, a mini graduation was held at Komkech, Kucwiny, where teaching methodology was demonstrated by UPLIFT mentors. The main graduation Ceremony was at Nyapea Sub County Headquarters where



*Awarding certificates to learners*

local government officials and other dignitaries attended. 1919 Learners and 21

Educators were awarded with certificates presented to them by the LC IV chairman of Zombo and the Zombo District Member of Parliament, Ms. Kwiywiny Grace.



*Learners performing at the Graduation*

In the same ceremony, a cup (donated by LitNet) was presented to the best performing County and this time it was given to Padyere County, Nebbi District.

## **Resource centers**

Even this year the availability of a resource centre has continued to play its vital role of providing a point of local contact for course participants and others, storage of supplies and library services. Some of the Junior youths have continued to utilize Agwok resource centre and its facilities as a meeting and activities-planning centre.

## **Local Associations**

One of the ways of making UPLIFT Programme sustainable is through the formation of Community Based Organisations (CBO's). These CBOs have continued to work with UPLIFT and also network with other development agencies and local government to support continuing education and development. This year 9 new CBOs were formed – 3 CBOs in Zombo District and 6 CBOs in Nebbi District. Through these CBOs learners have been able to acquire more skills in money saving, development activities, loan management, they have also promoted unity and cooperation among the learners.

**Junior Youth Programme** In 2013, 720 junior youths were enlisted in the West Nile, out of which 360 were from Zombo District and 360 youths were from Nebbi District. 454 are girls. The age bracket is from 12 to 18 years, in which majority are between 12 and 15 in both areas. There were 524 youths with education level between P.3 and P.7

### **Junior Youth statistics 2013**

<b>District</b>	<b>No.Enrolled</b>	<b>No.Of Girls</b>	<b>% Girls</b>	<b>Illiterate</b>	<b>P.3 – P7</b>	<b>Secondary Sch, Youths</b>
<b>Nebbi</b>	360	216	60%	68	284	8
<b>Zombo</b>	360	238	66%	110	240	10

The number of youths, enrolled for the JY programme in the same period, who attended Secondary School was very limited 8 in Nebbi District and 10 in Zombo.

The youth programme has continued to help the West Nile youths shape their lives through moral and spiritual transformation, collaboration by playing football and netball, improvement in writing and reading skills, gaining confidence to speak in public, realization of the importance of education, followed by the formation of a large number of groups – all of which has enabled them to serve their communities as well as carry out modest income-generating activities.

### ***The Tailoring programme***

The tailoring Programme was designed to equip youths with vocational skills and



prepare them for a sustainable life. 4 young girls and 2 young boys were supported by UPLIFT and undertook a tailoring course: 2 girls and 1 boy were from Zombo District and 2 girls and 1 boy were from Nebbi District.

All of them successfully completed the course and were presented with certificates. 5 girls who were supported by UPLIFT from the previous year were given sewing machines, by one of the Friends, which they are required to pay on a hire purchase basis.

### ***Football and Netball***

There was intensification of games this year (2013) among the junior youths. 25 footballs and 25 netballs were purchased and distributed among different groups of youths in both Nebbi and Zombo Districts. Local competitions among the groups were conducted in the course of the year and, as one of the activities of the mini-graduation conducted on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2014 at Komkech village in Kucwiny Sub County, two sets of teams from Nebbi and Zombo Districts – girl’s netball and boy’s football teams – met in the finals. A cup donated by Icelandic youths, through the mobilization of Mr. Edvard Jonsson (member of the Friends of UPLIFT), was awarded to the winning teams – much to their surprise – to be safeguarded in turns by the boys and girls. An exercise in collaboration!

## **UPLIFT COLLABORATION**

UPLIFT has collaborated with diverse partners who have greatly helped it realize its goals.

### ***The Friends of UPLIFT***



The friends of UPLIFT have continued their financial support towards the activities of the programme. UPLIFT is grateful for their generosity and commends the work done by FUP Norway to establish a handsome website and to encourage more members to

come on board this year.

The moral support expressed by the fact that a whole delegation of 8 came from Norway and Iceland to participate in the recent January Graduation ceremony was much appreciated by the now extended “UPLIFT family”.



### ***The Local Government***

The government has continued its collaboration with UPLIFT in a number of ways. Many CBOs have been included in Local Government programmes, such as the NAADS agricultural programme, UNADAN, and others.; local authorities participated in the evaluation of the exam papers and co-signed UPLIFT certificate awarded to both mentors and learners, and provided some training materials, like chalk and others. The Local government also contributed to the graduation ceremony of UPLIFT learners.

### **AFARD**

At the request of AFARD ( Agency for Accelerated Regional Development) working to improve agricultural practices in West Nile region, UPLIFT conducted pilot literacy classes for 4 of their training groups. These classes were conducted in the sub counties of Alwi in Nebbi district; and in Zombo TC and Nyapea in Zombo District.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

In conclusion for the year 2013, UPLIFT registered a number of achievements:

- 2039 learners became functionally literate (see Appendix 1). In addition they were enabled to apply the skills they gained from UPLIFT, for the good of their families and local communities.
- UPLIFT conducted a successful graduation ceremony (January 2014) in which 1919 learners graduated.  
*[For numbers and percentages from enrolment to certificates, go to Appendix 1.]*
- The Junior Youth Programme is successfully established, bringing the number of enlisted youths to 720 this year.
- 6 junior youths (4girls and 2 boys) were sent for a tailoring course and successfully graduated
- Some ten thousand trees were planted for environmental protection
- UPLIFT has continued to supply Local Government with skilled personnel. Both mentors and learners have been appointed by local government to serve in different areas. Ayenyo Magret was elected the area councilor for Kucwiny and Kumakech Charles was elected secretary for youth for Nyaravur Sub county.

- 9 CBOs were formed by UPLIFT learners. Most of these have been incorporated into government programmes: e.g. Wacid Anyim was registered under CDD; Wakwesandura Group was given a poultry project by UNADAN. These CBOs have also continued to promote a culture of saving among the people since many groups have started saving schemes where they pool money together and lend it to members for development activities.
- The increased financial support from the Friends of UPLIFT enabled the programme to successfully complete its targeted goals.

## **CONCLUSION**

One of the important contributions that UPLIFT has made to the learners is the midwife role in their realization that it is they themselves who are the principal agents of development - not money and/or reliance on modern technology.

## Appendix 1 : LITERACY PROGRAM STATISTICS SUMMARY (2001 - 2013)

<b>KEY INDICATORS</b>	Current classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Total classes
	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002/1	2001-2013
No. of Educators trained	24	9	10	14	79	31	61	0	0	20	40	70	358
No. of Educators accredited	21	5	6	13	55	18	27	0	0	21	33		199
Number of classes during the period	37	32	31	38	74	66	69	45	50	35	41	33	551
Average sessions per month per class	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	8	8	8	5	5	7.75
Per-cent Women enrolled	64%	68%	79%	76%	81%	80%	79%	86%	85%	94%	82%	88%	80%
learner enrollment (note 1)	2049	1650	1537	1893	3445	2967	2792	1358	1744	891	948	1059	22333
Learners unable to complete course(note 2).	10	166	9	34	441	177	227	366	472	260	256	424	2842
Learners completing the course	2039	1484	1528	1859	3004	2790	2565	992	1272	631	692	635	19491
Per cent of learners completing the course	99.5%	90%	99%	98%	87%	94%	92%	73%	73%	71%	73%	60%	84%
Number of learners sitting for tests	2011	1462	1527	1802	2539	2418	2402	690	733	417	367	251	16619
Per cent of learners registering for tests	99%	99%	100%	97%	85%	87%	94%	70%	58%	66%	53%	40%	79%
Number of graduating with certificates	1919	1257	1282	1569	2369	2140	2015	671	593	333	266	181	14595
Per cent of learners with certificates	94%	85%	84%	84%	79%	77%	79%	68%	47%	53%	38%	29%	68%
CBOs	9	16		25	7	6	10	14	10	15	9	6	118

### **NOTES**

1. Drop outs are included with those who are unable to attend more than 30 sessions and also considered unable to complete the course

2. Estimate an average of 2hrs of instruction per session.

**Appendix 2: WEST NILE END OF COURSE STATISTICS SUMMARY 2013**

DISTRICT	NUMBER ENROLLED		DROP OUTS		NUMBER COMPLETED		NUMBER ATTENDED EXAMS		NUMBER CERTIFIED		NUMBER DIED		NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
ZOMBO	590	407	6	4	584	403	580	403	527	368	0	0	5284
NEBBI	714	338	0	0	714	338	695	333	695	329	0	0	5348
SUB TOTAL	1304	745	6	4	1298	741	1275	736	1222	697	0	0	10632
GRAND TOTAL	2049		10		2039		2011		1919		0		10632