



UPLIFT UGANDA

2012

ANNUAL REPORT

Acronyms

UPLIFT	:	Uganda Programme of Literacy for Transformation
CDO	:	Community Development Officer
REEP	:	Rural Education Empowerment Project
NoRAD	:	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
CBO	:	Community Based Organisation
LitNet	:	Literacy Network
NAADS	:	National Agricultural Advisory Services
UBID	:	Uganda Bahai Institute for Development
CBF	:	Community Based Facilitator
CDD	:	Community Driven Development

Introduction

UPLIFT, Uganda (Limited) 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.

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

Within its period of operation, UPLIFT has registered a number of achievements. Success is attributed to the tireless effort and generous funding made by the *Friends of UPLIFT* and to the commitment of the Director, Coordinators and Mentors who have invaluable worked very hard, in recent years on a fully voluntary basis, towards the progress and sustenance of the programme.

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, including empowerment of women who constitute by far the largest percent of illiterates. Its formation came as a response to the call for adult literacy to contribute to:

- reduction of the 7 million illiterate adults in Uganda (71% of female adults in Nebbi District were illiterate – 2001 National statistics);
- 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 ran the Rural Education Empowerment Project – REEP, funded by the Norwegian Government through NORAD. The REEP Project ran for three years (2007/08/09). Within that period, UPLIFT graduated 6524 .

After the REEP project, some UPLIFT workers have been working 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 – from 2010/11/12 – 4871 learners became functionally literate out of which 4108 graduated with certificates.

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

UPLIFT Activities

Community meetings

Community meetings are held in locations where activities are to be commenced, to provide information about the program and to ensure community support. Training sessions are organized, enrollment carried out and mentors are identified and trained. In 2012 community meetings were held in areas of the new sub counties of Atego in Padyere and Abanga in Okoro.

[For further details re. sub-counties/areas, refer to appendix 2.]

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.



Refresher training is supplied for new mentors as well as those who have been formerly certified. Training sessions have been conducted on a monthly basis, helping mentors to reflect on their work both spiritually and physically.

Equally, the training of coordinators is conducted over a one year period as part of the formal mentor training program and on a one-to-one basis. In 2012, two potential coordinators were identified among the mentors: one in Okoro and one in Padyere counties. These trainee coordinators are still undergoing training and as well acting as assistant coordinators for their respective areas.

The core of these refresher trainings is the Interfaith meditation and discourse where quotations from different religions and thinkers are studied and later related to life-problem-solving situations. Mentors have commended the interfaith meditation as their source of inspiration to serve the programme because it has instilled in them a sense of ownership. Refresher courses for coordinators have been carried out by the Programme Director on a monthly basis – and on some occasions this past year, by telephone!

Community training is conducted by mentors in target areas. Local individuals are identified, enrolled and trained. In 2012 UPLIFT enrolled 1650 learners in the 4 sub-counties of Abanga, Jangokoro, Atego and Kucwiny, with 1484 learners completing the course and 1257 learners graduating with certificates. This was the highest percentage of learner dropouts as well as failed exams in the past three years. *[Refer to appendix 1.]*

This is due to the following reasons:

- Heavy rain fall that took place in the course of the year, making it difficult for learners to reach classes and/or making most learners busy with digging and cultivation.
- Some learners were refugees who had migrated from war areas especially in Congo and now they had gone back for resettlement.
- Sickness rendered many learners too weak to continue their classes.

- Some learners transferred from their places of literacy classes to far away places where they were unable to return to attend classes.
- Some learners felt that they were slow in learning so they decided to quit..
- Hunger also contributed to this situation as many could not manage to come to classes on empty stomachs and had to concentrate on looking for what to eat.
- Crop destruction by animals like monkeys also led to high dropouts since many learners spent much time watching over their gardens.

Resource centers

These are established to provide a point of local contact for course participants and others, training areas, storage of supplies and library services. Agwok Resource center has been maintained and has become more vital since it is largely being used by the junior youths as a meeting point, storage facility and also as an information centre.

Local Associations

These are formed by learners in collaboration with mentors as independent community-based organizations (CBOs). These CBOs have continued to work with UPLIFT and also network with other development agencies and local government to support continuing education and development. In 2012 16 new CBOs were formed – 6 CBOs in Zombo District and 10 CBOs in Nebbi District. These CBOs have registered great success in improving learners' lives.

Junior Youth Programme UPLIFT UGANDA embarked in 2011 on a supplementary programme for the purpose of building moral character and practical skills to put to use in service to the local community. After two years 973 junior youths have been enlisted in the West Nile, out of which 473 were from Zombo District and 500 youths were from Nebbi District. 640 are girls. The age bracket is from 12 to 18 years, in which a majority are between 12 and 15 in both areas. Interestingly, 73% of the junior youth enlisted in Zombo District were illiterates who dropped out in P.1, P.2 , P.3 and P.4. In Nebbi District it was practically inverse; about the same percentage were literate.

The numbers for the two years are broken down as shown in the table:

Junior Youth statistics 2011 + 2012

District	No.Enrolled	No.Of Girls	% Girls	Illiterate	% Illiterates	Secondary Sch, Youths
Nebbi	500	350	70%	150	30%	60
Zombo	473	290	61%	345	73%	0

The number of youths, enrolled for the JY programme in the same period, who attended Secondary School [ungdomsskole] was very limited; 60 in Nebbi District and 0 in Zombo.

It was reported that the reason for this is because most of these youths are beyond age.

In a survey, youths said that since they joined the programme, their lives have greatly changed. They say that the programme has helped them to:



Zombo District Junior Youths



Nebbi District Junior Youths

- Transform morally and spiritually through ethics and interfaith training.
- Train collaboration through learning how to play football and netball
- Gain confidence to speak in public. *“Nimungu, Fortunate and Okumu, Godwin can now speak in public!”*
- Realize the importance of education. *“Dorin Afoyorwoth is now encouraged to read and write.”*
- Form groups which have enabled them to carry out modest income-generating activities, e.g. digging for others to get money
- Improve their English speaking and writing abilities
- Work in unity as a group
- Earn the respect and support of their families, elders and local communities

The Tailoring programme

A part of the Junior Youth Programme is designed to equip youths with vocational skills and prepare them for a sustainable life. 5 young girls were supported by UPLIFT and undertook a tailoring course: 2 from Zombo District and 3 from Nebbi District.

All of them successfully completed the



One of the tailoring youths



Inspecting 'cement bag' dress cut !

course and were presented with certificates. They are now working – partly for money and partly in training other girls in their local village areas. These few are now better off, but also ‘centres’ for new development and “uplifting the quality of human life”.

Proficiency Tests

These are carried out in all learner-group locations every year in November. Proficiency tests were conducted in 32 centers in both districts. 1462 learners, out of 1484 learners who completed the course, attended the proficiency tests – 754 from Nebbi District and 708 from Zombo District. The total number of women who attended proficiency tests was 1024 out of the 1125. Proficiency tests were supervised by UPLIFT mentors, coordinators and a government official from each of the respective sub counties.

Graduation Ceremonies

The ceremony has been carried out yearly, where local government officials and other dignitaries attend. Learners and Educators are awarded with certificates. These are co-signed by government officials and UPLIFT



Awarding certificates to learners



Learners performing at Graduation

This year the graduation ceremony was held on the high ground of Pacero Primary School in the new sub-county of Atego in Nebbi district. 1257 learners were awarded with certificates out of the 1462 learners who completed the course. Out of these, 855 learners were female.



Cup received by Zombo Coordinator

In the same ceremony, a cup (donated by LitNet) was presented to the best performing County and this time it was given to Okoro County Zombo District which was also the defending champion.

UPLIFT COLLABORATION

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

The Friends of UPLIFT

These are a group consisting mainly of Norwegian friends but also of other supporters who realized the need and the desirability for the programme to survive and continue. These friends have been contributing since the phasing out of the REEP project. Their continued generosity with an increased budget in 2012 enabled UPLIFT to successfully complete the year's activities for both the main literacy programme and the junior youth programme.

The Local Government

The government has collaborated with UPLIFT in a number of ways. It has helped the learners-generated CBOs by incorporating them in its programmes, such as the NAADS agricultural programme, UNADAN, and others. Furthermore it has provided grants and tree seedlings to CBOs; it co-signs UPLIFT certificates awarded to both mentors and learners, and it sometimes provides training materials like blackboards, chalk and others. The Local government also contributes to the graduation ceremony of UPLIFT learners.

UBID

UPLIFT has initiated collaboration with the Uganda Baha'i Institute for Development (UBID) which has agreed to supply the Junior Youth Programme with training materials.

ACHIEVEMENTS

2012 was a year of success for UPLIFT. To sum up this year's registered achievements:

- 1484 learners became functionally literate (see Appendix 1). In addition they were enabled to apply the skills they gained from UPLIFT, to improve their lives
- UPLIFT conducted a successful graduation ceremony in which 1257 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 957
- 5 junior youths (girls) were sent for a tailoring course and successfully graduated
- Several 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. Ngabiroch Festo, a mentor of UPLIFT, was promoted by the Local Government as a Community Based Facilitator (CBF) mobilising farmers at Parish level to improve agricultural methods under NAADS.
- 16 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.

Overall outputs of the programme (2001-2012), of significant effect on poverty reduction

- 21,000 learners can read, write and do elementary Book Keeping
- 75 community based organizations with an income of more than 1,000,000 Ugsh are engaged in local development in their respective areas
- 7,087 learners have learned to treat malaria
- 6,500 learners use composting and 300 mentors are trained to teach others
- 850 learners are serving with Local Governmet, NAADS, Health etc...
- 80,000 trees have been planted to prevent soil erosion
- 1 resource center has been created and maintained for access to information on literacy and other measures of poverty reduction
- There is increased awareness of the need for collaboration, unity, and freedom from prejudice
- 5 youths trained in tailoring and are teaching new assistants to become tailors
The tailors are also making an income through sewing school uniforms.

CHALLENGES

- The rainy season made it difficult for both learners and mentors to attend classes.
- High number of learner dropouts due to sickness, hunger, rain, etc.
- Lack of transportation for mentors who walk long distances to reach their classes.
- Hardship of inadequate transport for district coordinators going to remote areas.

CONCLUSION

UPLIFT has continued to meet the literacy needs of the people of west Nile with great success. The addition of the junior youth programme was embraced by everyone in the region. The success of the whole UPLIFT programme is attributed to the generosity of the Friends of UPLIFT and their loyal support, the spirit of volunteerism among the mentors, coordinators and the management, the tireless effort and sacrifice made by the Programme Director, the sense of ownership exhibited by all the parties and – not least – the commitment of all to see that UPLIFT survives.

Appendix 1 : LITERACY PROGRAM STATISTICS SUMMARY (2001 – 2012)

KEY INDICATORS	REEP project/ Norad years											Total number 2001- 2012
	Current classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	Prior classes	
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002/1	
No. of Educators trained	9	10	14	79	31	61	0	0	20	40	70	334
No. of Educators accredited	5	6	13	55	18	27	0	0	21	33		178
Number of classes during the period	32	31	38	74	66	69	45	50	35	41	33	514
Average sessions per month per class	8	8	8	9	9	9	8	8	8	5	5	85
Per-cent Women enrolled	68%	79%	76%	81%	80%	79%	86%	85%	94%	82%	88%	82%
learner enrollment (note 1)	1650	1537	1893	3445	2967	2792	1358	1744	891	948	1059	20284
Learners unable to complete course(note 2).	166	9	34	441	177	227	366	472	260	256	424	2832
Learners completing the course	1484	1528	1859	3004	2790	2565	992	1272	631	692	635	17452
Per cent of learners completing the course	90%	99%	98%	87%	94%	92%	73%	73%	71%	73%	60%	83%
Number of learners sitting for tests	1462	1527	1802	2539	2418	2402	690	733	417	367	251	14608
Per cent of learners registering for tests	99%	100%	97%	85%	87%	94%	70%	58%	66%	53%	40%	77%
Number of graduating with certificates	1257	1282	1569	2369	2140	2015	671	593	333	266	181	12676
Per cent of learners with certificates	85%	84%	84%	79%	77%	79%	68%	47%	53%	38%	29%	66%
CBOs formed	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.

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Appendix 2: WEST NILE END OF COURSE STATISTICS SUMMARY 2012

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	
NEBBI	646	191	45	38	601	153	601	153	482	126	0	0	25359
ZOMBO	479	334	56	27	423	307	411	297	373	276	0	0	61293
SUB TOTAL	1125	525	101	65	1024	460	1012	450	855	402	0	0	86652
GRAND TOTAL	1650		166		1484		1462		1257		0		86652