

28 April 2015

Dear friends of UPLIFT !

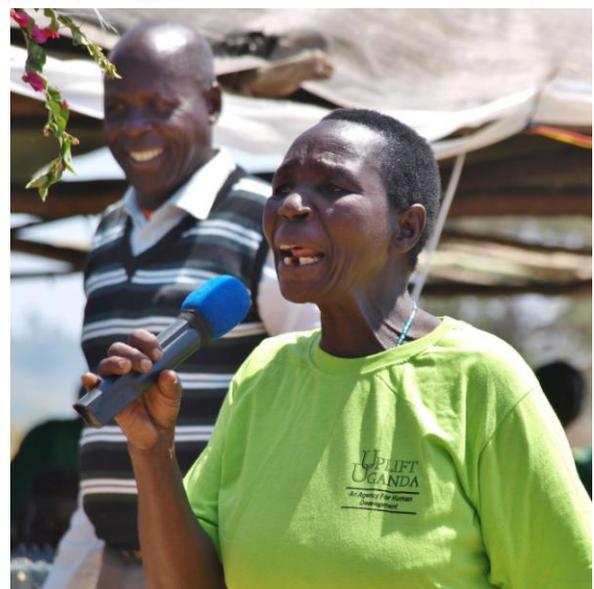
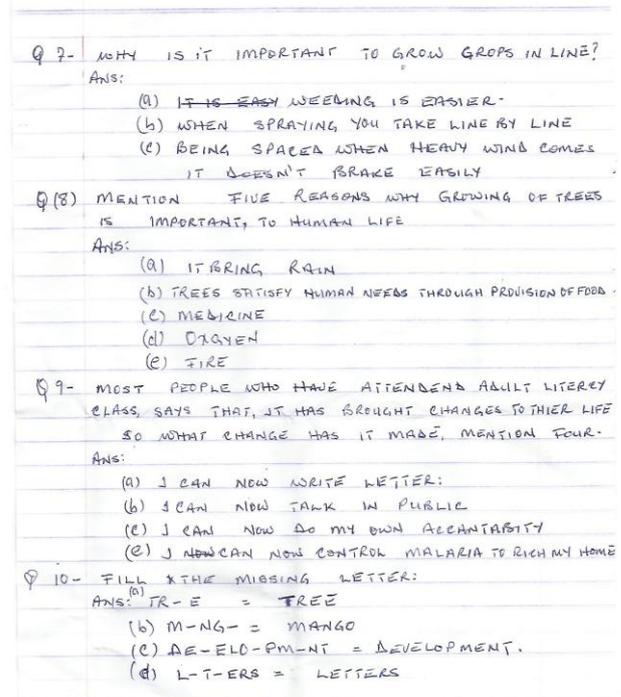
It is springtime in Norway, and here comes a new sign of life, just in time to count as 'the April letter'. It should show up soon on the FUP website – do refer a friend to it!

We have delayed for a very good reason. Only last week-end we received a special greeting from Nebbi which we have been waiting to include in this letter. After the shining results of the year 2014 learners, referred in the *February letter*, we thought it might be of interest to share an example of the written examination! Some may have wondered how reading and writing skills are being assessed and knowledge of life improvement is evaluated in order for a learner to pass the exam. The issue of a 'certificate' is a source of pride and self-confidence which we who take reading and writing for granted can hardly imagine.

You may imagine, however, that it takes a while for the desired example to find its way into this letter. First, locate one locally (Nebbi), then translate it in English from *Alur*, before sending it by bus to be picked up by Mark from the driver in Kampala, so that he may scan and send the 'document'.



Shown below is a facsimile of 'page 2', in the fine hand of an UPLIFT coordinator's translation (- we should have asked for the original too, for comparison and a crash course in Alur!) Please find attached both pages as pdf. They will be also posted on the website under *Reports/2015*.



With a young role model, an old woman now speaks in public

The way it works, then, is that the understanding and use of the writing may at the same time demonstrate the practical relevance for self and community. ('Devel'pment', by the way, is one of the first English *concepts* one learns in Uganda). This integrated training is a main key to the successful results of the UPLIFT learners. An example from an earlier year's exam questions relates to the role of prayer and work in daily life. Even with short questions and answers the subject matter reveals a fairly advanced language skill for a 'primary' (P4?) pupil – achieved in less than a year. For a 'refresher', let us refer to the description by Dr. Hizzaya of the second key– a syllabic alphabet –in the 2014 June letter.

At the time of writing this letter first in Norwegian, the shocking news was circulated around the globe of yet another natural disaster. The earthquake in Nepal brought to mind a reference made to the tragedy in the Philippines, in the 2013 'December letter'. And again we may choose to view UPLIFT's effort to combat poverty – however modest in scope – as complementing the parallel effort to provide urgent relief, within the greater perspective of human solidarity. For the responsible world citizen, the concern is never either/or, it must of necessity be both/and – to mend with compassion and develop with optimism.

And so, the Friends of UPLIFT at this Norwegian 'outpost' on the globe, while being also in a position to contribute to victims of far removed disaster, will loyally keep up their support to UPLIFT at another outpost; Nebbi and Zombo are far away, and yet, not so far? Among the many issues discussed in the recent meeting of the FUP Board (somehow closing the perceived geographical gap) we shall mention two. At our end, we shall hold our annual general meeting, two weeks earlier than the preceding years. Please mark the date, we are looking forward to a creative meeting. Agenda and annual report will follow. At the African end, more importantly, an initiative for an UPLIFT strategic planning workshop is on the table and will be concretized in the next few months. It is meant to be an opportunity to stop and reflect as well as look ahead, when UPLIFT is passing the big milestone of 2015 – the end stage of its work toward the first UN Millennium Goals.

In closing, as usual, – two words about the 'flow of funds'. By end of April incoming donations are just short of NOK 20.000, (= 2.500 USD) which corresponds to one third of our pledged contribution to UPLIFT in 2015. A new fundraising effort in Canada is hoped to make up for the 'discrepancy' vs. last year's pledge, due to weakened NOK exchange rate. Another 9 members, please, and we'll be fifty in Norway!

Spring greetings from
Friends of UPLIFT (Norway),
Gunnar Lange-Nielsen



Mother Africa!