

April 25, 2014

Dear Friends of UPLIFT!

Here is our April letter, together with two exciting reports. They clearly show how local villagers and UPLIFT's teachers are becoming the true owners of UPLIFT.

The first document is UPLIFT's 2013 Annual Report. It proudly describes last year's achievements, with interesting observations such as: *"men have become more interested in literacy after realizing the empowerment of their women and the importance and benefits of education."*

Or facts like: *"... ten thousand trees were planted for environmental protection."*

The second document is a numerical status report for the first three months of the year. It shows the intensive level of activity in preparation for this year's training. One example is 33 village meetings held to inform local inhabitants of the UPLIFT program! Note also the grateful response UPLIFT is being accorded for its work.

On our part, as Friends of UPLIFT, we made another transfer of USD 1.000 to UPLIFT in the beginning of April, reaching one third of our commitment this year. We hope to contribute a total of USD 10.000, as we did in 2013.



Focus during a village meeting – open to all!

Many of you are familiar with the African habit of “short-forming” names – using “acronyms” instead of full titles when referring to organizations, documents and such. For the Board of the Friends of UPLIFT, April has truly been a month of acronyms. Here is a small sample of some we have been working with this past while.

UPLIFT (Uganda Programme of Literacy For Transformation) has asked **FUP** (Friends of UPLIFT, in Norwegian **VUP**) to assist in writing an **MoU** (Memorandum of Understanding) and new **AoA**'s (Articles of Association), in order to renew registration of UPLIFT as an **NGO** (non-governmental organisation) with its specialized **FAL**-program (Functional Adult Literacy) and with **MDG** (Millennium Development Goals) as a benchmark.

The Board of the Friends of UPLIFT is assisting UPLIFT with technical and editorial advice in the process of formulating new documents to govern and regulate UPLIFT activities. In short, proposed changes will relocate the UPLIFT Board from the capital city Kampala to Nebbi District where the training is being conducted. It means that the Board will be based in Nebbi, elected in an annual general meeting, and it entails the formal registration of changes to the UPLIFT Constitution and the signing of a new cooperative agreement between UPLIFT and Friends of UPLIFT (Norway).

The main purpose is to establish stronger local ownership among those who benefit from UPLIFT activities. These changes will also help to identify potential new leaders and ensure a sustainable organisation and future for UPLIFT.

On an end-note, let us remind you of our own upcoming Annual General Meeting. This is our best opportunity to meet and discuss challenges and matters close to heart. Documents will be sent to you prior to the meeting, but please take note of the date: Sunday June 15th, at midday. If in doubt whether to attend: there will be lunch and inspiring video clips from our project visit to Uganda last January. It is through your interest and commitment that «Friends of UPLIFT» can continue to support the good work being done in Uganda.



Keeping focus – now, the men too

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Warmest greetings on behalf of
the Board of the Friends of UPLIFT

Gunnar



A mentor's bicycle, carrying a treasure: the UPLIFT textbook