

5 March, 2021 | 'March letter' to friends of UPLIFT

Dear friends,

It is time for a new 'quarterly' (- has a certain ring of reliability, doesn't it?) a belated March version of the Norwegian 'February letter' from *Friends of UPLIFT* – to friends of UPLIFT!

To update, let us start by affirming that all the regular literacy courses—all 32 classes—have been running without interruption since they were resumed last fall. In addition, five classes are presently being trained in the health course, and as usual 6 learners are awarded scholarships for tailoring training.

So, out of the 1.320 learners there seems to be no drop-out due to the pandemic itself. Hopefully, as loss of job is not so severe in a rural farming population as in urban centres – and as long as this year's crops will not be ruined by rain flooding (like the one in 2019) –training will run as planned up to summer.

However (there's always a *but*), at our end, in Norway, I have to confess that our optimism to reach a goal of 12.000 USD in contributions by the end of 2020 was exaggerated. For the first time, we achieved only 2/3 of that goal. While hesitant to 'blame it' on the pandemic and a redirected attention by FUP members to other worthy causes, we are waiting to learn what the consequences may be for UPLIFT-budgeted activities.

'In the meantime', let us share a bit of news about a potentially fund-raising initiative in Norway. After rejoining a year ago the FOKUS umbrella organization (Forum for Women and Development), our Friends of UPLIFT women's committee have felt the need to enhance the gender profile. To accommodate their request, last month a new Friends of UPLIFT info/business card was produced, its 'logo' design as well as reverse side text updated. The emblem (with or without the website) can also be used for a letterhead or other printed material.

So, to help attract some new members and potential donations, you may request us to send by post a few cards – or a small batch (as a parcel with pricey postage), to share within a group. Full postal address, please!

## UPLIFT WOMEN



### Friends of UPLIFT

Partner to Uganda Programme of Literacy for Transformation

[www.upliftvenner.no](http://www.upliftvenner.no)

West Nile is one of the poorest regions in Uganda. Each year, UPLIFT trains 1,500 villagers to read and write. Three out of four are women. In addition, they learn about family health, to sustain the environment and to consult about social change. It is a process of empowerment; equality, rights and self-esteem. Thanks to volunteers who do most of the training, the cost of one year is 10 USD per learner.

Do you want to learn more?

*New card, standard credit card size.*

As to the Covid situation in West Nile region, so far the spread has been kept under control. To share an example from Paidha (Zombo) of precautionary measures last year: In order to avoid throng in the central town market, this was divided according to commodities, shifting half of them to two temporary new markets next to the public schools. Awkward, not to be able to get cassava and beans in one location, but it seems people have patiently obliged—

Spokesman for the vendors: "We are in total support of the new [gov't] changes and whoever is not comfortable should keep quiet".

Local chief of police: "...and whoever does not comply with the directives will be dealt with accordingly." 😊

Wishing all of you UPLIFT supporters better days to come, during yet another transition in history, with warmest greetings on behalf of Friends of UPLIFT (Norway),

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(secretary)

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*Too local and limited – when the market comes to you?*



*Before, and hopefully after... The market in Paidha is central and its commodities limitless, for everyone's tastes.*