

# UPLIFT UGANDA



# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

## **Acronyms**

UPLIFT	:	Uganda Programme of Literacy for Transformation
CDO	:	Community Development Officer
CBO	:	Community Based Organisation
CDD	:	Community Driven Development
CC	:	Community Connectors
FAL	:	Functional Adult Literacy
JYP	:	Junior Youth Programme
NAADS	:	National Agricultural Advisory Services
S/C	:	Sub County
P/S	:	Primary School

## **Introduction**

Uganda Programme of Literacy for Transformation (UPLIFT) 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. Over the years the success and sustainability of UPLIFT Uganda has largely depended on the voluntary service offered by its Coordinators and mentors, and the generous contributions from the friends of UPLIFT in Uganda, Canada and Norway. Within the period of UPLIFT's operation since the inception in 2001, both the quantity and quality of its work has advanced remarkably due to the efforts of all of those who have been involved. A peak was reached during a 3-year period with Norad funding (Norwegian government) and 3.000 learners completing the course (in 2009). Since then, the number has fluctuated between 1.500 and 2.000 learners enrolled and completing.

## **UPLIFT Activities**

### **Community meetings**

32 Community meetings were held in targeted locations where activities took place, to provide information about the program and to ensure community support. Training



*A community meeting in Ndeu*

sessions were organized, enrollment carried out and mentors were identified and trained. In Nebbi District 17 community meetings were held and 9 new mentors were identified for training. In Zombo District 15 community meetings were held and 11 new mentors were identified for training.

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

Training of new mentors was conducted. It consisted of a one week initial training in methodology, followed by informal on-the-job training and regular refresher courses throughout the year. A total of 20 trainee mentors were trained out of which 15 graduated with certificates.

Refresher courses were conducted for mentors, both new and formerly certified, by coordinators to help them reflect on their work both spiritually and practically.

The core of these refresher trainings is the Interfaith meditation where quotations from different religions and thinkers are studied and later related to life-problem-solving situations. Refresher training for the coordinators were carried out monthly by the Programme Director – on some occasions by telephone.

Both Coordinators and Mentors commended the interfaith meditation as their source of inspiration to serve the programme because it has instilled in them the spirit of volunteer service to the community as well as a sense of ownership.

### **Community training**

These were conducted by mentors under the supervision of coordinators in target areas. Local individuals are identified, enrolled and trained. In 2014 UPLIFT enrolled 1756 learners in the 2 districts of Zombo and Nebbi, with 1753 (99.8%) learners completing the course and 1681 (96%) learners graduating with certificates. This was the highest percentage of learners completing and graduating with certificates in the lifetime of the programme. [*Refer to appendix 1.*] The high performance was attributed to the following reasons:

- Mentors were very active and hardworking in both mobilizing the learners and attending classes.
- Generally, learners were also very active in attending and participating in classes.
- There was little sickness or death among the learners and their relatives, which enabled them to attend classes more regularly.
- The availability of food also played an important role because most of the time that learners would have otherwise spent in gardens digging, was spent in classes.
- The spirit of love and ownership exhibited by both learners and mentors more than ever before boosted their motivation to excel.
- Many Government FAL classes are no longer active in most parts of West Nile which made UPLIFT classes more popular, replacing some of the FAL classes in many areas.
- Tight monitoring of class activities by coordinators also made both learners and mentors more active in attending classes and accomplishing their respective tasks.

### **Resource centers**

Agwok Resource center has been maintained as a point of local contact for course participants and the community, training facility, storage of supplies and library services, 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. The office also acts as a meeting centre for all UPLIFT Board meetings.

### **Local associations**

These were formed by learners in collaboration with mentors as independent community-based organizations (CBOs). CBOs have continued to work under the supervision of UPLIFT and also network with other development agencies and local government to support development programmes. In Zombo District for example, Naguru God Fearing Group from Atiak and Anyono Group from Onyono are involved in a Goat Rearing Project; Angaba CBO from Angaba and Naguru CBO from Jangokoro are fish farmers and Asina Group was given 5 cows under CDD. In Nebbi District, Mungutimo Group from Ndew and Yesu-Lara Group from Atego were given grants under CDD for goat rearing; and Jumere-neperi group from Kucwiny was given 8 Bee hives by CC (Community Connectors). A total of 33 new CBOs were formed in both Zombo and Nebbi District. These CBOs have registered great success in improving learners' lives.

### **Junior Youth Programme**



*Junior youths performing at the Graduation*

illiterate.

The JYP has continued to play a vital role in building moral character and practical skills needed for the youths in serving the local community. In 2014, [a record of] 800 junior youths were enlisted in the West Nile, out of which 350 were from Zombo District and 450 youths were from Nebbi District. 552 were girls. The biggest percentage of the junior youths were

### Junior Youth statistics 2014

District	No. enrolled	No. of girls	% Girls	Illiterate	% Illiterates
Nebbi	450	302	67%	300	66.7%
Zombo	350	250	71.4%	240	66.6%

The junior youths and the community at large continued to commend the JYP for its vital role in giving them the opportunity to change their lives. The illiterates have been able to interact with the literates to share experiences which, the illiterates say, has been a source of inspiration to them in realising the importance of education. The structured football and netball activities have also helped them to develop their skills.



*A JY netball team in Zombo*

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

As part of the JYP, the Tailoring programme is designed to equip youths with vocational skills and prepare them for a sustainable life. In 2014, 6 junior youths were sponsored by UPLIFT and undertook a tailoring course: Manuela Wango-Ic, Irine Anefua and Abert Anegiu were from Zombo District; and Owech Maureen, Akumu Secilia and Irachan Gladys were from Nebbi District. All of them successfully completed the course and were presented with certificates.

### **Proficiency Tests**

These were carried out in all literacy class locations in November. Proficiency tests were conducted in 32 centers in both districts. Learners who achieved proficiency were 1748 (99.5%) out of 1753 learners who completed the course, out of these, 887 were from Nebbi District and 869 were from Zombo District. The total number of women who attended proficiency tests was 1157 out of the 1155. Proficiency tests were supervised by UPLIFT mentors, coordinators and a government official from each of the respective sub-counties.

### **Graduation Ceremony**

The ceremony took place on January 15th at Omoyo Primary School Ndew Sub-County, where local



*Learners performing at the Graduation*

government officials and other dignitaries attended. The chief guest was Hon. Anywar-Rach Joshua, MP Padyere County. 1681 learners, 6 junior youths (tailors) and 15



*A new Trophy donated by FUP*

educators (*mentors*) were awarded with certificates. Out of those who receive certificates, 1104 learners – two thirds – are women.

A brand new cup (donated by Icelandic members of Friends of UPLIFT and replacing the old one) was presented to the best performing County and this time it was given to Ndeu Sub-County, Padyere County in Nebbi District. The ceremony was duly described in a report (the 2015

‘February letter’) from the Friends of UPLIFT in Norway.

## **UPLIFT COLLABORATION**

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

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



*UPLIFT-Norway partnership*

These are a group consisting of Norwegian, Canadian and Ugandan friends who realized the need and the desirability for the programme to survive and continue. These friends have continued contributing funds toward the financial requirements of the programme, which has 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, CDD, and others. It has also co-signed UPLIFT certificates awarded to both mentors and learners, and it sometimes provides training materials like blackboards, chalk and others. The Local government also contributed to the graduation ceremony of UPLIFT learners.



### ***Community Connectors***

This is an NGO which has worked with UPLIFT CBOs by enabling them to start development projects. CC provided 8 bee hives to Jumer-neperi Group among others in Kucwiny Sub-County.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

In 2014 UPLIFT registered the following achievements:



*Learners celebrating their victory.*

- 1753 learners became functionally literate (see Appendix 1) and are able to apply the skills they gained from UPLIFT, to improve their lives
- A successful graduation ceremony in which 1681 learners graduated
- 6 junior youths went for a tailoring course and successfully graduated
- Over 8000 trees were planted for

- UPLIFT has continued to supply the community with skilled personnel. Both mentors and learners have been appointed to serve, in these different areas:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>REPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Oaikane Beatrice	Mentor	Chairperson Circle	Zombo
Akumu Unis	Mentor	Secretary for Production	Jangokoro
Onyuth Patrick	Mentor	Chairman VHT	Nyapea S/C
Aldo John	Learner	Chairman PTA	Asina P/S
Otuga Lucy	Leaner	Chairperson business community	Zombo T/C
Obinu Irin	Learner	Member VHT	Asina
Ongiera Jesca	Leaner	Office attendant	Kucwiny S/C headquarters
Okello John	Learner	Watchman	Ndew S/C headquarters



- 33 CBOs were formed by UPLIFT learners, 16 in Zombo and 17 in Nebbi. Most of these have been incorporated into development programmes e.g. Asina Group was registered under the CDD programme and was given 5 cows; Ajei Central Group was given a poultry project under the CDD programme; Mungutimo Group of Ndew was given a grant under the CDD to start a coffee plantation project.
- The CBOs promoted a culture of saving among the people since many have started saving schemes where they pool money together and lend it to members for development activities.
- UPLIFT has been recognized as the major adult literacy provider in West Nile since most FAL classes are less active and UPLIFT is gradually replacing them.

**CHALLENGES** This year UPLIFT did not face many challenges other than lack of transportation for mentors who walk long distances to reach their classes.

## **CONCLUSION**

With increased commitment of coordinators and mentors to serve; learners to attend and Friends of UPLIFT to contribute, UPLIFT has continued to meet the literacy needs of the people of west Nile with great success. All UPLIFT programmes have been embraced by learners and government officials, with an outcry even from within the already covered areas to continue its activities.

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

KEY INDICATORS	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 number	
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002/1	2001-2012
No. of Educators trained	20	24	9	10	14	79	31	61	0	0	20	40	70	334
No. of Educators accredited	15	21	5	6	13	55	18	27	0	0	21	33		178
Number of classes during the period	32	37	32	31	38	74	66	69	45	50	35	41	33	514
Average sessions per month per class	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	8	8	8	5	5	85
Per-cent Women enrolled	66%	64%	68%	79%	76%	81%	80%	79%	86%	85%	94%	82%	88%	82%
learner enrollment (note 1)	1756	2049	1650	1537	1893	3445	2967	2792	1358	1744	891	948	1059	20284
Learners unable to complete course(note 2).	2	10	166	9	34	441	177	227	366	472	260	256	424	2832
Learners completing the course	1753	2039	1484	1528	1859	3004	2790	2565	992	1272	631	692	635	17452
Per cent of learners completing the course	99.8%	99.5%	90%	99%	98%	87%	94%	92%	73%	73%	71%	73%	60%	83%
Number of learners sitting for tests	1748	2011	1462	1527	1802	2539	2418	2402	690	733	417	367	251	14608
Per cent of learners registering for tests	99.5%	98.6%	99%	100%	97%	85%	87%	94%	70%	58%	66%	53%	40%	77%
Number of graduating with certificates	1681	1919	1257	1282	1569	2369	2140	2015	671	593	333	266	181	12676
Per cent of learners with certificates	95.7%	94.1%	85%	84%	84%	79%	77%	79%	68%	47%	53%	38%	29%	66%
CBOs formed	33	9	16		25	7	6	10	14	10	15	9	6	118

*[For full-page printout, make a copy of this page and rotate to horizontal format]*

**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	651	236	00	00	650	236	650	231	622	228	01	00	4435
ZOMBO	506	363	01	01	505	362	505	362	482	349	00	00	4345
SUB TOTAL	1157	599	01	01	1155	598	1155	593	1104	577	00	00	8780
GRAND TOTAL	1756		02		1753		1748		1681		01		8780

