



ANNUAL REPORT

2020

UGANDA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LINK

*Supporting vulnerable youth during the
COVID-19 Pandemic.*

WHO WE ARE!

Background

Uganda Youth Development Link is a not-for profit Organization which started in 1993 as a youth focused NGO. We have a long-standing record of providing holistic rehabilitation services to children and young people aged 10-24 years, including those that have been abused and exploited in commercial sex work, trafficking, worst forms of child labor, and sexual, physical, psychological and drug and substance abuse.

UYDEL employs holistic interventions to transform the lives of vulnerable children and young people. Among these include; socio-economic empowerment, advocacy activities, improving family and community resilience to poverty and resettlement and reintegration of street children.



Visit from the Ambassador of Japan at UYDEL Masooli Rehabilitation Centre.

Our Vision

A transformed society where children and young people live a good quality of life free from exploitation.

Our Mission

To enhance socio-economic transformation of disadvantaged young people through advocacy and skills development for self-reliance

Our values

- ◆ Respect for human rights
- ◆ Non-discrimination

- ◆ Transparency
- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Participation
- ◆ Team work

Programme Focus Areas

- ◆ Commercial sexual exploitation of children
- ◆ Child trafficking
- ◆ Alcohol, drug and substance abuse
- ◆ Sexual reproductive health and rights
- ◆ HIV prevention
- ◆ Child labor
- ◆ Social research.



UYDEL - OAK Foundation food support to the needy in the COVID-19 crisis.

Editorial Team's Message

It gives us great pleasure to be an integral part of this annual report, a communication method suited to the needs of the time which would carry messages to all concerned about important events, happenings and achievements of Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL).

Editorial Team

1. Mr. Kasirye Rogers
2. Mr. Rogers Mutaawe
3. Ms. Anna Nabulya
4. Ms. Barbara Nakijoba
5. Ms. Nakanwagi Caroline

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Message from the **Board Chairman**

I am delighted to introduce the Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL) Annual report 2020 on behalf of the Board of Trustees. This forgoing year had paused challenges in the implementation of the programmes due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lock-down. Nevertheless, we were able to reach and serve the vulnerable young people while observing the SOPs as guided by the Ministry of Health. We thank all our partners who supported our Covid-19 response initiatives that saved the beneficiaries during the distress times. Special thanks go to OAK Foundation, Lutheran World Federation, Professor Mary Jane Rotheram, UCLA Los Angeles, Rapid Response Fund, ECPAT France And Plan International Uganda.

We have taken stock of our Vision, mission, core values, and strategy and developed these further with our young people to make sure UYDEL delivers on its original ethos of being a truly children and youth centered institution. Our flagship programs this year have been Partnership projects such as DREAMS Project, which was implemented in Mityana and Luweero districts. It has promoted the HIV Prevention and Reproductive Health of AGYW supported by Mild May Uganda, and Makerere University Walter reed Project (MUWRP). It could not have been a better year, without a launch of Safe and Inclusive Cities Program in partnership with Plan International Uganda. Our partnership agreement with ECPAT France and AFD aimed to reduce vulnerability of children towards child sexual exploitation, by promoting and encouraging child Participation. Other funders include; IOGT-NTO Movement which has contributed on Alcohol Harm Prevention since the organization's embryonic years. This project aims at the reduction of alcohol use related harm; Lutheran World Federation (LWF) with financial support from Icelandic Church Aid is addressing the problem a huge unemployment and related income poverty problem especially among the youth living in the informal settlement. Terres des Hommes Netherlands (TdH-NL) has supported the engagement and advancing an integrated response of Urban Authorities and Local Governments to prevent and respond to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in greater Kampala and Wakiso districts. Finally, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) provided both financial and technical support to the establishment of coalitions from wide range of community 4 sectors to solve local alcohol, drug and substance abuse problems at the community level in Bwaise Kawempe and Nansana Division. I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all who contributed in so many ways to making the past year so successful. To our senior management team, old and new, for their support, advice and guidance; to our trustees, ambassadors for giving us their time and expertise; to the staff of UYDEL for their hard work and determination; to our loyal and dedicated volunteers who are such a valuable part of our team; to our government institutions and beneficiaries for good cooperation and unstinting support in registering incredible achievements. I hope that you will be inspired by our plans to help children and young people realize their full potential in a meaningful way. For, and on behalf, of the board of Trustees.

Yours Faithfully,

Mr. Nathan Twinomugisha.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees.



Kasirye Rogers,
Executive Director
UYDEL.

Message from the **Executive Director**

I am pleased to present the UYDEL Annual report 2020, which highlights the extraordinary work and key annual achievements. At the core, UYDEL adheres to the restoration of the socio-economic functioning of slum youth and other Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) through overarching core values such as: Non-discrimination, Transparency, Integrity, Participation and Team work. I am proud to mention UYDEL has had an exceptional year, filled with great achievements. To highlight a few examples, UYDEL rescued over 80 survivors of Human Trafficking, there was a 96% enrolment of adolescent girls on the DREAMS project, Thanks to our donors and other Implementing partners. UYDEL's approach to empower vulnerable children and young people resulted in increased number of young people reached.



Message from the **Deputy Director** **UYDEL**

The Fiscal year 2020 has been long and challenging but rewarding too and we are proud of the progress we have made thus far. As UYDEL, we are still growing bigger and better and are gradually making huge strides in making our dreams of ensuring that young people are free and safe from exploitation and abuse and can make informed health choices come true.

From a Team of over 80 vibrant, passionate, resilient and skilled full time staff, UYDEL would like to appreciate the efforts and support of the Community Leaders, Project Beneficiaries, our Partners, Donors and everyone within our esteemed networks, that enabled us build trust among the vulnerable youth and communities in Uganda during the COVID-19 Pandemic. We achieved these great milestones through collaborative partnerships that enabled us implement viable initiatives that benefited the communities and improved the livelihood and socio-behavioural reintegration of vulnerable young people in Uganda. That's how we responded with creativity and resolve to the greatest test of our careers, and that's how we'll continue to serve through collaboration in the future as we continue to build trust and accountability.

Yours in service.



Nabulya Anna,
Deputy Director UYDEL.

Introduction

The UYDEL annual report, 2020 included the different projects, activities and programmes that were implemented between January and December 2020. It also highlights the resources and funds entrusted to the Organization by different development partners and how these were utilized over the reporting period.

UYDEL continued to be guided by a five-year strategic plan (2019-2023) which ultimately aims at forging a better future for children and young people through:-

- ◆ Advocating for children and young peoples' rights.
- ◆ Improving Youth employability and economic opportunities.
- ◆ Improving family and community resilience to urban and rural poverty.
- ◆ Rehabilitation and reintegration of street children

Projects Implemented in 2020

DREAMS Project

The goal of the dreams project

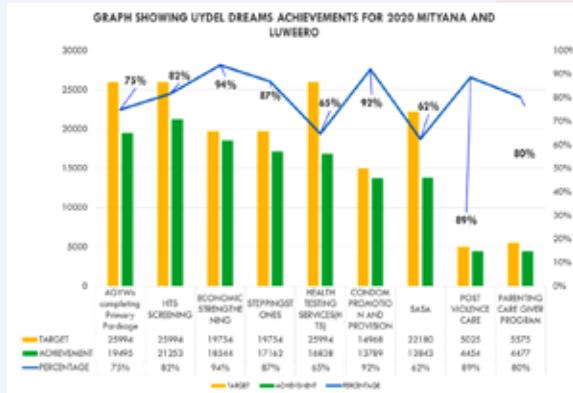
To contribute to the reduction in incidence of new HIV cases among vulnerable, at risk, Adolescent Girls and Young Women 10 - 24 in Mityana and Luwero districts of Central Uganda by bringing together evidence-based approaches that address the structural drivers that increase girls' and young women's HIV risk in a period of two years.

This project was concluded in October 2020, and we are very grateful to CDC in partnership with MildMay Uganda for their support in implementation of this project.

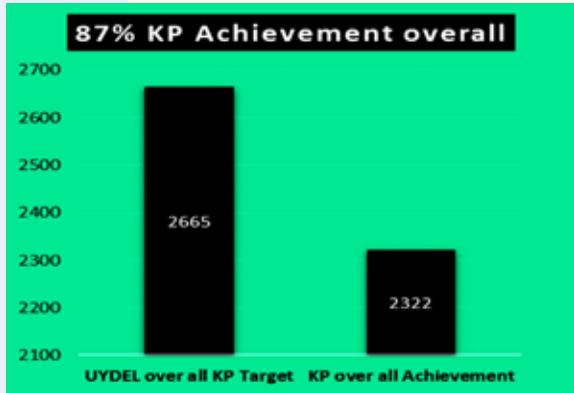
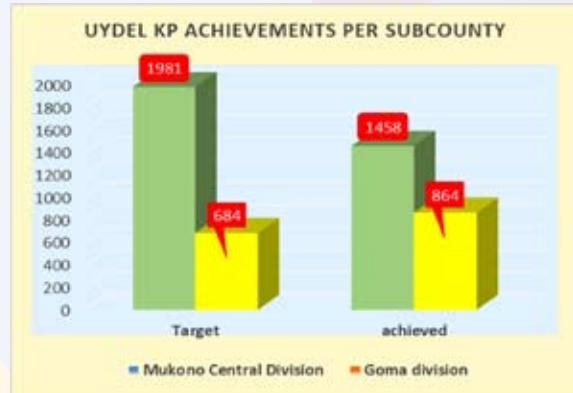
DREAMS Project Objectives

1. To economically empower vulnerable at risk AGYW and/or their caregivers to become self-reliant and reduce their vulnerability to risky sexual behavior and choices
2. To support vulnerable at risk AGYW to have the knowledge and skills to prevent risk and protect themselves against HIV infection, and proactively seek and access HIV prevention services through peer-led SBCC and mobilization
3. To engage vulnerable at risk AGYW to actively participate in the planning and delivery of HIV prevention in their areas through the Girls Engagement Forum (GEF).
4. To empower communities to be aware of, and to change harmful socio-cultural norms and practices which put AGYW to increased risk and exposure to HIV infection

UYDEL - DREAMS achievement 2020 in Mityana and Luweero



DREAMS PROJECT - Achievements in Mukono



Empowerment Project – supported by Lutheran World Federation/ Icelandic Church Aid

Project Goal

To strengthen the protection and rights of girls and young women engaged in commercial sex work in Kampala, and their children.

Key Objectives

1. Urban Vulnerable Youth in Kampala have increased access to employable skills, and their rights to economic development are respected and fulfilled by 2023.
2. Urban Vulnerable Youth in Kampala experience increased access to and utilization of youth friendly sexual reproductive health rights services and information by 2023

The specific objectives;

1. To protect and empower girls and young women engaged in commercial sex work in the slums of Kawempe socially and economically.
2. To strengthen the capacity of girls and women engaged in CSW in Kampala to advocate for the protection of their rights and their children.

The project major focus

Improving the lives of girls and young women engaged in commercial sex work in Kawempe Division that started: July 2018. End: June 2020. However, No Cost Extension secured due to COVID-19 pandemic, New Project End: Dec 2020. The project is Funded through the Danish National Collection - a Framework Agreement with Plan International Denmark - Total budget: DKK:1,678,641 (€225,320) Totaling UGX: 934,578,470.



UGX
934,578,470
spent on Improving the lives of girls and young women engaged in commercial sex work in Kawempe Division.

Empowerment Project Achievements



To strengthen the capacity of girls and women engaged in CSW in Kampala.

Human interest success story 1: (Halima Muwanika)



I never got a chance to see my father because he had abandoned my mother for another wife when I was only one year. This left me in the hands of a single mother that I always saw toiling in order to see that I and my other six siblings get something to eat. Since my mother was the only bread winner for the family, I dropped out of school in primary seven due to lack of school fees. I could always feel bad to see other children going to school yet for me I was staying home. Due to such a situation I got married at the age of 17 years.

A man I got married to was violent as he could always beat me and harass me in different ways. At times he could not leave me with money to buy food and besides that he also had other women. I left his home and left to start sleeping with a friend who introduced me to commercial sex work in order to buy the basic needs. I always saw my friend looking good with nice dresses and a smart phone and I got admired to her to also start doing the job she was engaging in. We could go and hang around a bar and we wait for our customers. On a particular day I could sleep with 3 to 4 men earning between 10,000 to 20,000 shillings. A friend introduced me to UYDEL and I got skills in Jewelry, crafts and crocheting skills. In a period of four months training I had started earning from Jewelry bags, bangles, wallets and other crafts product. I used to sell a bag between 40,000/= to 70,000/=, I could use this money to buy more beads and other items to make more bags. I graduated and got a certificate plus resettlement kits under Jewelry skill, the kits boasted my capital and profits since I increased on the number of bags, wallets, bangles and other products like door mats. I later got a job as a boutique attendant in Wandegeya trading centre where I earned 14,000/= daily. Still while in the boutique I continued selling and marketing my Jewelry products which increased on the customer base since I tapped into the opportunity of many clients who flocked the boutique to purchase clothes. I worked for one month only because my boss refused me to make the Jewelry bags from her shop and also to seek market from her customers. I managed to save 350,000/= from that job added savings worthy 500,000/= from my Jewelry products, bought more materials and continued working from my house. I get clients through advertising on social media a good practice learnt from my previous boss and my customers keep referring others for orders. In future I want to start up my own boutique dealing in clothes and Jewelry products. Am very grateful to UYDEL because I am a reformed person who is referred to as a good role model in my community, I am a responsible parent and can meet the needs of my family fairly as compared to days before joining the project. On a particular day I earn 40,000/= as profit when I sell more than two to three products. I am proud of the way am living now because I no longer look up to men to give me money for survival. From my savings I have been able to expand my business to making more different products to meet the demands of my customers. I received a lot of information on SRHR which has helped me make informed health choices and decisions free from exploitation and abuse.

Safe and inclusive Cities Project – Young women and men 15 - 25 years – Plan and Danida

Project Goal

Build a diverse and strong civil society in Kampala that influence urban governance and development processes and contribute to making the city safe and inclusive for young women and men.

Project Outcomes

- ◆ Safe Public Transport
- ◆ Safe Communities
- ◆ Decent Work
- ◆ Urban Governance

Safe and Inclusive Cities Project Achievements



Figure 1: Beneficiaries during electric wiring classes.

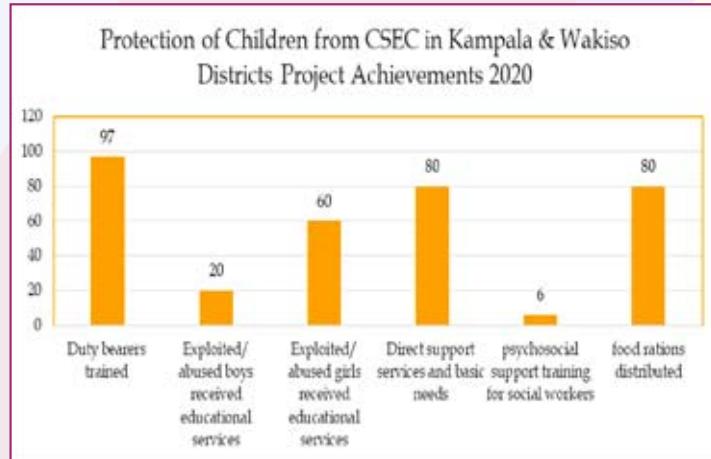


Protection of Children from CSEC in Kampala and Wakiso Districts Project

Goal of the CSEC Project:

To reduce Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children through raising awareness in schools and Provision of vocational skilling to 80 child victims of CSEC.

Engaging Urban Authorities and Local Governments to prevent and respond to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in greater Kampala and Wakiso districts



Goal of the GAA Project

To develop and strengthen a sustainable system aimed at elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Uganda by advancing an Integrated response involving Concerted efforts by Community and governance structures.

Project Achievements

1. The National Action Plan for child sexual abuse and exploitation was reviewed by the technical team of the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development and will be approved by the senior management team in early 2021.
2. In Makindye and Lubaga Divisions, committees consisting of youth were formed to champion advocacy issues of the girl child in the community. The committees are advocating for measures to curb the negative social norms and practices to protect girls from sexual exploitation. A clear reporting and referral pathway were created by the participants.
3. The community volunteers committed to continue reporting and referring cases of CSEC in the communities to UYDEL and other partner organizations in Nansana division.
4. A gender analysis report was developed with specific recommendations on how UYDEL can improve its programs in terms of gender responsiveness.

5. Twenty (20) entertainment centers are adhering to the codes of conduct on protection of girls from sexual abuse and exploitation in Makindye and Lubaga divisions. The centers are not employing children, Not selling alcohol to children and maintaining vigilance at the workplaces.
6. The chairman of boda riders committed and promised to continue working with the girls advocates to ensure that all those riders involved in abusing children and girls should be brought to justice

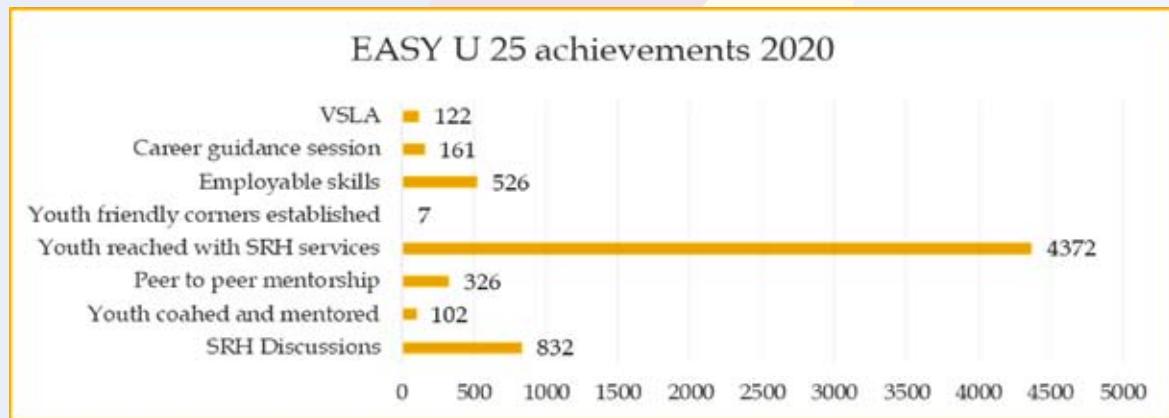
Enhancing Age-appropriate Adolescents Sexual Reproductive Health Services for Young People below 25 Years (EASY-U25) Project

Goal of the EASY-U25 Project

1. To increase access to and utilization of appropriate SRH information and services for 3,000 adolescents/youth by 2020
2. 500 teenagers have obtained decent and productive work by the end of June 2022.



Figure 2: Beneficiary who started a fish stall using the cash transfers provided by the EASY U 25 Project.



Human interest success story 2: (Carol Nabatanzi)



Carol Nabatanzi aged 24 years and a resident of Kazo Muganzilwazza a Kampala suburb. She is among the beneficiaries who were supported under Empowerment of vulnerable girls and young women's project used to survive through practising sex work. She acquired skills in hairdressing, cosmetology and Jewelry and later graduated with a certificate and also received resettlement kits which she used to start-up a salon in addition to rent fee and salon equipment she bought using her savings from the VSLA group (Village Saving and Loans Association) which comprised of project beneficiaries at the UYDEL Bwaise centre. She owns a salon known as **"PREPARED BEAUTY SALON"** and she is self-employed. She paid rent fee worthy five thousand shillings only (500,000/=) and when she

worked for just three weeks an outbreak of COVID 19 emerged which resulted into closure of businesses including salons that spent about four months before the lockdown was lifted to allow them operate again. This affected her so much since all that money paid as rent was put to waste yet she had to meet her basic needs of food, rent and medical care for herself and the two children.



While at the UYDEL Bwaise centre and in addition to the vocational skills acquired Carol also benefited from activities and services such as behavioural change sessions, counselling, street business toolkit, life skills training, career guidance, HIV counselling and testing, Financial literacy, Coaching and mentorship. She appreciates all the services received since they helped her withdraw from commercial sex work and she is now a transformed person. She adds that at the end of the first cycle of VSLA Carol had saved one hundred and eighty thousand shillings (UGX 180,000/=) which she used to buy braids and start plaiting customers which earned her additional income and resumed saving with the VSLA group known as **"Rock stars"**.

Human interest success story 2:



When the lockdown restrictions on salons was lifted by the President, the salons were reopened and allowed to operate again, she was able to get four clients daily hence able to save forty thousand shillings only (40,000/=) after deducting on the capital money, the money she earns as profits is being saved in the VSLA group and another informal social saving group. Carol has a dream of making a wholesale for braids, wigs, weaves and cosmetics products in future thus increase and accumulate on her capital and profits. She wants to expand her business to occupy two rooms. Her profits range between fifteen thousand to eighty thousand shillings only daily. Carol also employs one of the project beneficiaries (Namakula Rosette) who also acquired hairdressing and cosmetology skills at the UYDEL

Bwaise Centre. Her major challenge is high rent which is three hundred thousand shillings monthly (300,000/=). She applies the knowledge and skills acquired from the Street Business Tool Kit training some of the skills to operate her business, these include saving, customer care, business naming, business branding and even when she was choosing the location for her salon, she wanted a strategic place, she maintains good hygiene, sanitation and record keeping to track profits, savings and expenditures.

She needs more salon equipment and materials to boast her profits and offer comprehensive services to her customers such as bridal, pedicure and manicure. She has future plans of starting up a hardware selling building materials.

She is very grateful to the Uganda Youth Development Link especially the Bwaise staff who helped her achieve her dream of becoming a hairdresser with currently a business capital worth four million shillings (4,000,000/=). In order to boast her business, she also sells shoes.

PARLE Project (Participation of Children and Youth in Africa for a Network Against Sexual Exploitation of Children – ECPAT France)

Project Objectives

1. To reduce vulnerability of children towards child sexual exploitation by promoting child participation.
2. To Push forward politics, legislations and programs of fight against child sexual exploitation at national, regional and international level.

PARLE Project Achievements 2020

| Activity | Target | Achievements |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Conduct a refresher training for peer educators | 46 peer educators | 15 peer educators participated in the refresher training |
| Conduct community Peer-led sessions | 6 peer -led sessions | 60 young people were reached during the 6 cohorts of the sessions |
| Conduct Peer review meetings | 46 peer educators | 15 peer educators participated in the review meeting |
| Provide food relief items to survivors of CSEC | 100 PPEs | 70 survivors of CSEC were provided with food relief items, non-medical face masks |
| Provide Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) to survivors of CSEC | 100 people | 70 survivors of CSEC were provided with non-medical face masks |
| Conduct an E- workshop among key National stakeholders working on CSEC issues | 25 people | 15 Key stakeholders including CSOs, government, private sector participated in the workshop |
| Conduct an E-workshop to increase reporting on Online CSEC during the COVID-19 Pandemic | 80 people | 54 key stakeholders including CSOs, government, private sector participated in the workshop |

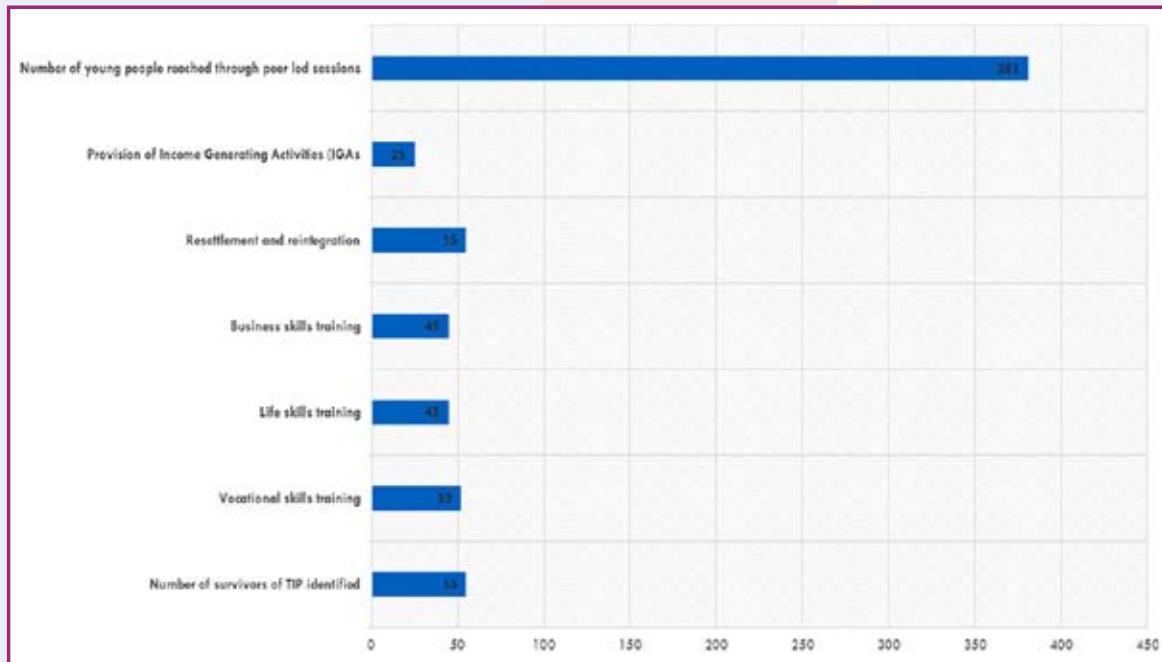
Direct Assistance and Protection to Victims of Trafficking in Persons

Project Objectives

1. To rescue, rehabilitate and enhance socio economic livelihood opportunities for 120 survivors of human trafficking in Kampala and Mukono districts by the end of 2020.
2. To empower survivors of trafficking with knowledge on their rights and life skills to protect themselves from child trafficking and other associated rights violations to reduce their vulnerability to future trafficking in Kampala and Mukono districts by the end of 2020.
3. To reintegrate and re-unify the 120 survivors of human trafficking with their families, communities and independent living in Kampala and Mukono districts by the end of 2020.



Project achievements 2020



Girls Empowering Girls Programme

Objective:

To safeguard that girls, transition safely, educated and empowered into later adolescence and adulthood, seeking greater inclusion and protection through strengthening socio-economic prospects.

Project Achievements



Social Research

UYDEL in collaboration with John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York USA commenced a study intended to measure the prevalence of both forced begging and sex trafficking in Kampala, Uganda from October 2019 to December 2020. There is believed to be some overlap between those who are forced to beg and those who are forced to trade sex. The objectives of the study are to (1) provide baseline prevalence estimates for both individuals forced to beg and individuals forced to trade sex, including an estimate for any overlap between the two; (2) document the characteristics of both of these populations, including demographics, how and why they got involved in begging and/ or the sex trade, what their experiences are like and any help seeking behavior. Over 1500 surveys and 125 qualitative interviews were conducted.

Direct Assistance and Protection to Victims of Trafficking in Persons

Project Objectives

1. To rescue, rehabilitate and enhance socio-economic livelihood opportunities for 120 survivors of human trafficking in Kampala and Mukono districts by the end of 2020.

2. To empower survivors of trafficking with knowledge on their rights and life skills to protect themselves from child trafficking and other associated rights violations to reduce their vulnerability to future trafficking in Kampala and Mukono districts by the end of 2020.
3. To reintegrate and re-unify the 120 survivors of human trafficking with their families, communities and independent living in Kampala and Mukono districts by the end of 2020.

Project Achievements (2020)



Alcohol Harm Prevention Project

This project was implemented in Mende and Gombe divisions targeting the political leadership especially decision makers in local, district governments and various interest groups (NGOs, Faith Based and community groups) who were largely uninformed about harmful effect of alcohol on the population.

Project goal

To contribute to the reduction of alcohol use related harm and sale to young people in targeted communities through supporting the development of enforceable evidence based by laws by 2021.

Overall Project Outcomes

- a) Restrictive alcohol bylaws are enforced in Mende and Gombe divisions by 2021.
- b) Increased actions among stakeholders that has contributed to reduced alcohol harm and access among young people
- c) Improved quality of reports, research and sharing of experiences with stakeholders
- d) Organizational capacity developed and documentation sharing experiences of the project intervention by 2021.

Achievements for Alcohol Harm Prevention project

1. Have been able to reach out to 840 community members with messages on alcohol harm preventing, 425 in Gombe division and 415 in Mende sub-counties through community sessions on alcohol harm (220 male and 620 female).
2. Alcohol by law for Mende Sub-county was enacted, validated and now awaiting approval in the Sub-county council.
3. 52 representatives of community-based organizations were trained on how to mainstream and incorporate alcohol prevention messages during lobby and advocacy.
4. Supported 61 community stakeholders participate in online webinars as information sharing platforms and also capacity building to respond to cases of alcohol related harms
5. Undertook social media campaigns on face book, Instagram and twitter about prevention of alcohol use and GBV during this COVID crisis period which enabled to reach out a great number of audiences even outside our target area.
6. Working with the Nansana Municipality COVID response team we ably reached 56 villages with prevention of COVID19 in relation to alcohol prevention messages as increase in alcohol use had been greatly reported
7. Successfully conducted 4 radio talk shows on Tiger FM and CBS to discuss the situation of alcohol abuse among young people during the COVID-19 lock down and cleared myths surrounding using of alcohol in relation to prevention of COVID-19.
8. 16 cases of domestic violence in relation to uncontrolled alcohol use were responded to and referred to the proper authorities (CDO's office and Police) to follow the due process of the law.

UYDEL Masooli Rehabilitation Centre

First and foremost, we would like to acknowledge Professor Mary Jane Rotheram from the University of California Los Angeles for pioneering the starting of UYDEL Masooli rehabilitation Centre. We commend her for the continued support towards supporting over 3000 vulnerable disadvantaged slum youth in Kampala, Uganda. We are indeed grateful for all your efforts and endless endeavors to support UYDEL.



Figure 3: Peer to peer group led sessions at Masooli.

In here we shall provide a brief description of activities that were conducted at the UYDEL Masooli Rehabilitation center for the year 2020. The world over was faced with the COVID-19 pandemic and as a response measure, the Government of Uganda announced a lock-down in March which halted the project activities at the UYDEL Masooli Rehabilitation Centre. The immediate impacts of COVID-19 on the projects that were operating were: Closure of educational institutions resulted into closure of UYDEL spaces including Masooli Drop-in Centre where the beneficiaries were being supported. Restrictions on public movements, in person meetings and public gatherings halted implementation of the project activities especially those that involve community engagement. We had two projects operating namely: PARLE project and the Anti-child trafficking project.

| Number of young people for the year 2020 (Mid-March before the lock down) | | Number of social workers | | Number of Artisans | |
|--|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 55 | 47 | 04 | 06 | 06 | 04 |
| TOTAL | 102 | TOTAL | 10 | TOTAL | 10 |

Support staff

One (1) security guard, one (1) health worker and one (1) female cook staff.

One on one counseling

Since each social worker is attached to 10 young people at the Centre, Individual counseling was conducted on a daily basis. It's through these sessions that the young people easily open up hence more treatment interventions conducted.

The Group Client Education (GCE)

These sessions are group-based approach with the young people. Whilst one on one counseling, every day the beneficiaries at Masooli have a GCE session. The sessions are now led by beneficiaries themselves as a way of attaining communication skills. They have conducted GCE Sessions and some of the topics they have discussed include health seeking behavior, personal Hygiene, Behavioral change and discipline. The GCE Sessions are largely conducted using a learner centered and participatory learning approaches giving room to the participants to air out their views in line with the topic of the day.

Japan's Ambassador to Uganda hosted by UYDEL

On the 10th September 2020 the Japanese Ambassador Mr. Kazuaki Kamede visited the UYDEL Masooli Rehabilitation Centre. The main purpose of the visit was to understand how UYDEL does its rehabilitation program and results so far. It's should be recalled that the Embassy of Japan through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human

Security Projects (GGP) in fiscal year 2006. This grant enabled us construct the main classroom block where vocational skills trainings are held for the beneficiaries. It was interesting as he visited all the classrooms to see how each of the vocational skills at the Centre is conducted..

Directorate of Industrial Training Examinations (DIT)

The young people sat for their DIT Examination from the different Centres including Kamwokya, Banda, Nakulabye, Makindye and Masooli. Over 50 young people from the different UYDEL centers participated in the assessment.



Figure 4: *L-R the Japan's Ambassador with the girls of the tailoring class, standing with the UYDEL administration team.*



Figure 5: *Beneficiaries undertaking DIT Examinations at Masooli center.*

Making of Non-medical face masks



Figure 6: Sewing non medical face masks at Masooli Centre during the COVID-19 period.

Sports Activities

As one way of occupying the young people and an alternative to drugs and substance abuse, every evening we engage both girls and boys in sports. We also receive visiting teams from the nearby areas of Masooli who come for football matches at our playground. Sports activities are good as they help us keep healthy and



Figure 7: The young people during the annual sports gala.

fit. We also use sports to equip the young people with life skills through the use of the Lineup Live up sports program developed by UNODC. This sports program helps to prevent crime, violence and Drug Abuse among young people and its integrated within the projects being implemented.

Music, Dance and Drama

This is one of the most liked activities at the

Centre. Both girls and boys engaged in Drama shows within the Centre and in the community outreaches. It's also used as therapy and enables young people to open up freely as they relax their mind.



Figure 8: Both girls and boys during the Music Dance and Drama activities.

UYDEL's COVID-19 Response

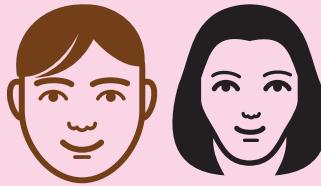
The COVID-19 pandemic globally has had a devastating impact especially in low income countries like Uganda who have fragile health care systems and can't manage many cases. Uganda has only 52 ICUs in the country and all money for other services was diverted to health spending and social welfare was not essential. Corona virus cases stand at 732 as of 6/18/2020 with zero deaths, 420 recovered. Governments declared lock-down and everything stood at stand still for over 75 days. Children and their families depending on small informal business closed, capital eaten up and didn't know what to happen next. The initial 14 days of lock down in March, 2020 appeared manageable, until the extension and then things became worse. Children and their families depending



Over **1,500** young people were served daily in our Drop-in Centers during the COVID-19 Response.

on small informal business closed, capital eaten up and the future became uncertain. This has raised the poverty levels of vulnerable young men and women in their households making their feeding and survival difficult. It is estimated that another 3 million Ugandans are expected to fall into abject poverty, increasing the number to 23 million people. In addition to that, those that were also supported by their parents/guardians are also no longer working and in order to support their life continuity and also reduce on young people's susceptibility to violence, UYDEL organized the response to COVID-19 Crisis package.

Our entire 9 Drop in centers/safe spaces were closed following enforcement of the lock-down on the country and over 2000 slum youth and poor children scattered and a few went home. We received distress calls from some of our 1,500 young people we serve daily in our drop-in centers that life had become unbearable, there was a lot of hunger, and some violence was inflicted on children. Children trying to cope in the pandemic were far worse off and some sexually exploited in exchange for food and other basic needs like clothing, food, shelter and sanitary pads. There was a spike and increase of sexual



15 million school going children in Uganda are stuck home following the closure of schools.

exploitation and abuse of children in the informal settlement and slums. Gladly we requested for support from OAK Foundation, Rapid Response Fund, Plan Uganda, the Lutheran World Federation, ECPAT France, and Professor Mary Jane Rotheram (UCLA) who responded positively to this emergency to assist and help over 1500 children in Kampala city who were scattered in the city.

Online Child Sexual Exploitation in Uganda

The Corona Virus Pandemic is putting children more at risk of online sexual exploitation. Girls are particularly more vulnerable as they account for 90%



Figure 9: Protective gears (sanitizers & gloves) and IEC material for sensitization against gender-based violence and spread of the Corona virus.

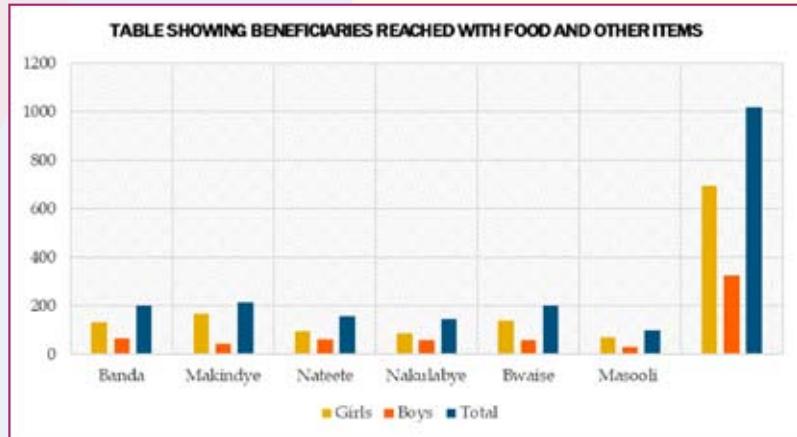
of those featured in online child abuse materials. Globally, there has been an increase in traffic searching for child sexual abuse content. This is a result of people having to stay at home during lock down. Lock-down globally has meant people are spending more time online and the volume of digital content being produced is increasing exponentially, making it harder to scrutinize. Distributors of child sexual exploitation material are becoming emboldened and are targeting mainstream platforms to reach wider audiences. Over 15 million school going children in Uganda are stuck home following the closure of schools. This has left many vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Sexual predators are taking advantage of the children who are spending more unsupervised time online and exploiting them through sexual coercion and sextortion.

The situation is worsened by digitalization where smart phones and high-speed internet have become very affordable and accessible. Children world over own smart phones, tablets and laptops. This makes new young users susceptible to exploitation as they are naïve and unable to spot dangers.

Meanwhile, minors trapped at home with abusive relatives have become victims of the live-stream sex abuse trade and other lucrative forms of cybersex trafficking including rape. This has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis that has pushed millions of families back into extreme poverty. Due to the lock down, some of the traditional coping mechanisms and support systems available to the most vulnerable children and families are currently inaccessible especially now that schools are closed, and churches are not holding services. Many of the trusted adult figures who often are able to detect early signs of abuse, and/or help families to cope with added stress, are out of reach during the lock-down. In response, UYDEL in partnership with Rapid Response Fund and other partners have issued and distributed IEC materials with

responsive reporting portals and hotlines where community members can report cases of abuse.

This relief food comprised on 5kgs of maize flour, 3kgs of rice, 3kgs of beans, 60ml of hand sanitizer, 2 bars of soap, and 1 face mask. As part of skills building and empowering our young girls with livelihood skills, the young girls under rehabilitation were given an opportunity to learn how to sew face masks of various shapes and sizes under the guidance of the tailoring instructor. These Face masks are now mandatory and required to use in public place at all times even in the lock down. Others got Cash Transfers.



Support from other Donors/Partners

| Rapid Response Fund | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| No. | Items Distributed | Quantity |
| 1. | Food support (maize flour) (5kgs) | 1500 bags |
| 2. | Rice (5kgs) | 1000 bags |
| 3. | Beans (3kgs) | 1355 bags |
| 4. | Sanitizer 60mls | 818 pieces |
| 5. | Face masks | 1200 pieces |
| ECPAT FRANCE | | |
| No. | Items Distributed | Quantity |
| 1. | Food support (maize flour) (5kgs) | 300 bags |
| 2. | Beans (3kgs) | 290 bags |
| MARY JANE ROTHERAM | | |
| No. | Items Distributed | Quantity |
| 1. | Food support (maize flour) (5kgs) | 615 bags |
| 2. | Beans (3kgs) | 372 bags |
| 3. | Food support (maize flour) (5kgs) | 226 bags |
| 4. | Beans (3kgs) | 226 bags |
| PLAN INTERNATIONAL UGANDA | | |
| No. | Items Distributed | Quantity |
| 1. | Cash Transfers worth UGX (100,000) | 332 youth supported |
| 2. | Hand washing cans with stands | 20 |

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------|----------------|
| 3. | Posters | 2000 posters |
| 4. | Stickers | 2000 stickers |
| 5. | Thermometer | 6 pieces |
| 6. | Jerry cans of liquid soap | 16 (5 Litres) |
| | | 20 (20 Litres) |
| 7. | Gumboots | 31 pairs |
| 8. | Examination gloves | 45 boxes |
| 9. | Face masks | 6 boxes |
| 10. | Hand sanitizers | 53 boxes |
| | | 3 (500 ml) |
| 11. | Sevostat | 36 pieces |
| 12. | Washing soap | 20 boxes |

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION/BREAD FOR THE WORLD

| No. | Items Distributed | Quantity |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 1. | Designing and printing of A2 posters on COVID19 | 3500 posters |
| 2. | Designing and printing of A5 stickers on COVID-19, alcohol and Gender based violence | 3000 stickers |
| 3. | Develop Spot messages on COVID- 19, alcohol and Gender Based violence mitigation for radio and Television | 2 messages |
| 4. | Purchase of Materials to make artisanal face masks at the UYDEL drop -in centres in the tailoring class (Bitengi, mending of sewing machines, elastic bands and other accessories) to be made in 4 UYDEL drop-in centres by tailoring class | 1 lot |
| 5. | Gum boots | 50 boots |
| 6. | Infra-red Thermometer (Non-contact) | 5 pieces |
| 7. | Examination gloves | 350 boxes |

| | | |
|-----|--|---------------------|
| 8. | Hand Sanitizer (Saraya) | 50 bottles (500 ml) |
| 9. | Liquid Soap | 50 Jerry cans |
| 10. | Dettol | 50 Jerry cans |
| 11. | Set of branded outdoor hand washing cans with stands | 50 cans |
| 12. | Food support (maize) | 300 bags (10kgs) |
| 13. | Purchase of sanitary towels for vulnerable girls | 1000 packets |
| 14. | Cash Transfers/ cash subsidies to youth and families | 200 people |
| 15. | Airtime and internet bundles for staff to support follow up of youth and beneficiaries based on case trackers and through peer educators on phone and messages | 18 people |
| 16. | Fuel costs to support travels and purchases and distribution of supplies and equipment | 900 Litres |
| 17. | Food Support (Beans) | 300 bags (3Kgs) |



Figure 10: Picture showing some of the food generously donated by our Partners LWF/BROT.

COVID 19 Response by OAK Foundation

In a time like this never experienced before over 20 million young people were hardest hit in Uganda. UYDEL received a donation from OAK Foundation towards support for procurement and distribution of food

relief and other basic necessities to young people to contribute to their welfare and also prevent infections of COVID 19 in the communities. This was part of OAK Foundation's global efforts to generously invest resources to support the vulnerable poor during the lock down.

It's worth noting during the COVID 19 most of the young girls and boys were not working, had no other jobs and majority were still training in our 12 vocational skills drop in centers and safe spaces across the country. The absence of incomes raised the poverty levels of vulnerable young men and women in their households making their feeding and survival difficult and very challenging. Whereas

people in rural areas could access food, in the city one needed to have money to buy food.

Some boys were subjected to child labour and harsh working conditions. Since they are desperate, they were



Above: The store with bags of rice, beans and maize flour ready for distribution.



Above L-R: Some of the young girls after receiving food relief items, sanitisers, soap and face masks at Bwaise and Banda drop in centers respectively.

moving in the community looking for jobs to work at construction sites, fetching water among others. Some men have abandoned their responsibilities and left their families because they don't have any money to feed their children. Parents/guardians and beneficiaries were grateful and appreciative for the support given to them since most of them were dying of hunger. This was expressed through phone calls to social workers appreciating the food packages received. They narrated that they had taken long without eating three meals a day. Helping children to cope to new life and adjust after COVID 19 is very demanding task requiring a breadth of interventions pegged to the children, peers, family and in the communities. Resilience building activities can be broad but must be a regularly done as stints of trauma can come and attack the survivor, disappear and may come again to the survivor if NGO social workers are not prepared.

| UYDEL COVID 19 RESPONSE WITH SUPPORT FROM OAK FOUNDATION | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| No. | Items Distributed | Quantity |
| 1. | Food support (maize flour) (5kgs) | 1,500 bags |
| 2. | Rice (5kgs) | 1,000 bags |
| 3. | Beans (3kgs) | 1,355 bags |
| 4. | Hand Sanitizers (60mls) | 818 pieces |
| 5. | Face masks | 1200 pieces |

Conclusion

In conclusion, the staff together with the beneficiaries with great pleasure thank the management of UYDEL and RAPID RESPONSE FUND for the continuing support right from the years back especially this assistance during the Corona Virus pandemic. Overall the activity was a success and positive feedback was received as beneficiaries showed gratitude for the support received they received and utilized the funds to improve the quality of their lives.



Figure 10: Beneficiaries undertaking Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) examinations at UYDEL Masooli Rehabilitation Centre.

Human interest success story 3: (Ngunu Jackie)



Jackie reviewing her record keeping book and also weighs chicken while at her shop.

I stopped schooling when I was in Senior Three. After I had left school the situation of living was so bad and I called my friend to come and pick me from the village in order to come to Kampala and start working. When I reached Kampala we searched for a job but in vain and the available job for me was to work as a bar attendant earning 5,000 shillings daily. To supplement on the little money I was getting from the bar, my friends advised me to join karaoke because they had a karaoke dancing group and I was earning 5,000UGX per show. I

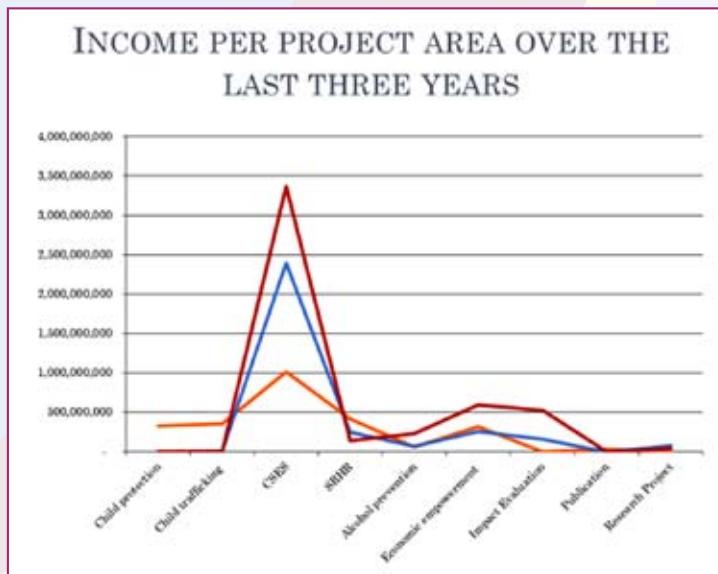
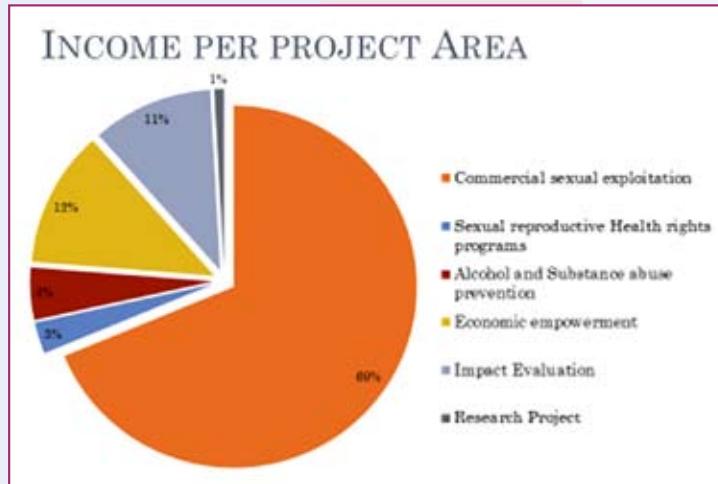
won't forget my first time when I performed at the show because I felt shy but my friends gave me alcohol in order to gain confidence such that I stand on stage. We could perform on stage in the different bars and whenever a certain man got attracted to one of us, he could see our boss and pay him such that anyone of us has sex with him. I got interested in the behavior because we could get money and at times we could move to different areas to meet our customers. We could also snatch the customer's wallets whenever they were drunk after sleeping with them. On a particular day I could sleep with five to six men (clients) and earn between 55,000 shillings to 60,000 shillings daily.

I was identified by a UYDEL peer educator and I visited the centre for enrollment and further support. While at the UYDEL Bwaise Centre, I belonged to the Rock Star Saving Group and this is where I developed a saving culture, the savings I accumulated is what I supplemented with the other saving from the bank which was paid by Café Javas on a monthly basis, I earned 300,000/= salary and 18000/= daily allowance and started up a chicken selling business in the name of "M & J chicken products". I acquired additional skills in bakery and cookery which I hope to utilize to start up a snacks centre or shop.

She pays a rent fee of 120,000/= monthly inclusive of electricity and she is now able to earn 27,500 shillings daily and able to accumulate a profit of 45,939 shillings weekly. With the skills I acquired, I get contracts from the outside catering services to bake cakes and also make Pilao and my contract is worth 400,000 shillings. I can now care for myself by providing my basic needs together with my son. I also thank the UYDEL staff for giving me empowering me with information especially sexual reproductive health rights which I apply to protect myself from acquiring HIV and other STDs, unwanted pregnancies. I was trained as a peer educator and advocate thus I am a change agent in the communities where I live or work but still I appreciate UYDEL staff especially the social workers who supported me with behavioral change messages through counseling, trainings such as life skills and street smart that enabled me to set goals in life

UYDEL's Financial Status

Income per project Area



International Conferences attended by UYDEL staff in 2020

Mr. Rogers Kasirye attended the following International conferences in 2020

- ◆ Vienna NGO Meeting-March 2020
- ◆ Commission on Narcotic Drugs, March 2020
- ◆ In January he attended a meeting in Colombo.
- ◆ WFAD Meeting in Vienna, March 2020; *Mr. Rogers Kasirye was appointed as the Vice President of The World Federation against Drugs in charge of Africa region.*
- ◆ UYDEL hosted the World Federation against Drugs workshop earlier in February 2020. The workshop was mainly focusing on Primary Prevention.
- ◆ UYDEL staff were trained on Therapeutic Communities strategy by Dr. Sushma. The training was organized by World Federation of Therapeutic communities in partnership with Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL).



Figure 12: UYDEL Staff and WFTC representatives during the training in Masooli.



Figure 13: Mr. Kinobi Moses (Front row) in a group photo during the global sports event in Vienna Austria.

- ◆ The event under the Lineup Live up sports-based prevention program was organized from 22nd to 23rd January 2020 at the UN International Centre Vienna Austria. Uganda was represented by Mr. Kinobi Moses, social worker at Uganda Youth Development Link and as a result of attending the conference; we received a grant to conduct the sports activities in Uganda.



Figure 14: Ms. Barbara Nakijoba in the middle row on the extreme right.

- ◆ Ms. Barbara Nakijoba represented the views of African youth and shared UYDEL'S good practices in crime prevention at the Education for Justice Initiative of the Doha Declaration for engaging Civil Society in crime organized by UNODC Civil Society Unit.
- ◆ Barbara also represented UYDEL at the International Security and Conflict Analysis Network -ISCAN Launch. For more information about ISCAN visit <https://iscan-int.org/about-solve-2/>
- ◆ Ms. Barbara Nakijoba also benefited from the Ban-Ki-Moon Centre for global citizens program 2020. And her proposed project of Reducing violence in urban communities of Rubaga Division was addressing Goal 16 of Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.



Figure 15: Message from Ms. Barbara Nakijoba.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

UYDEL has special consultative status with ECOSOC.

Capacity Building

- ◆ UYDEL hosted the World Federation against Drugs workshop earlier in February 2020. The workshop was mainly focusing on Primary Prevention.
- ◆ UYDEL staff were trained on Therapeutic Communities strategy by Dr. Sushma. The training was organized by World Federation of Therapeutic communities in partnership with Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL).

International Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals (ISSUP) Uganda Chapter

ISSUP Uganda Chapter is now a formally established and operative as an ISSUP National Chapter. It is part of the Global International Society of Substance Use Professionals - ISSUP. The Uganda Chapter is hosted by Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL). The Chapter organized a Webinar on “Family Based Interventions during COVID-19 in a Low Resource Setting” on 25th November 2020 which was Facilitated by Giovanni Capello of UNODC. We continued to post articles on the ISSUP network platform and Drug Addiction Free Africa Website. The chapter Partnered with Uganda Alcohol Policy Alliance to organise the 2nd Uganda Alcohol Policy conference in November 2020. We plan to launch the Uganda Chapter in July 2021 where members and the global family shall participate virtually. This will be an avenue for will promote the sharing of information and best practice updates in the field of substance use prevention, treatment and recovery within Uganda, as well as creating a platform for the sharing of information with other Chapters and their members throughout the world.

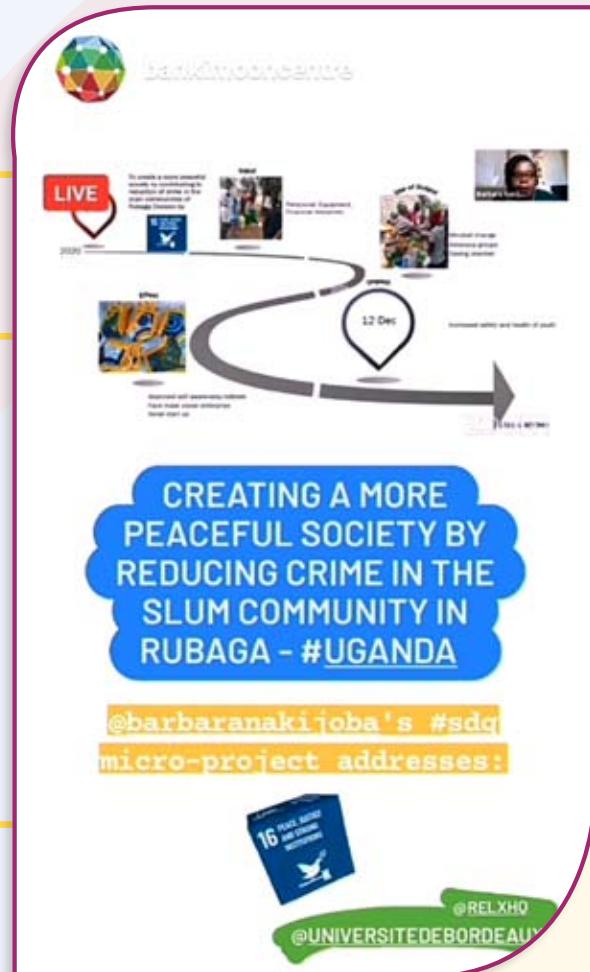


Figure 16: Barbara's proposed SDG Micro Project.

Our Special Partners

Special thanks goes to our partners who provided resources, capacity building, research and technical support as mentioned below:-



PROFESSOR MARY JANE ROTHERAM-UCLA

World Therapeutic Communities
Dalgarno Institute - ECPAT International



Rapid Response
Fund



IOGT·NTO·MOVEMENT



UNITED NATIONS
TRUST FUND FOR VICTIMS
OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING





UGANDA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LINK

Supporting vulnerable youth during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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