



***FIRST QUARTER REPORT FOR 2024***  
***COVERING WOMEN DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY***  
***UGANDA CONCERN UK.***

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## 1.0.Introduction

This report covers all the activities that were planned to be done in the first quarter of 2024 January to March. Every year has its unique happenings and surprises and 2024 was not exceptional because the first two months of January and February had some good amount of rainfall in other years, these are normally the hottest months. The rainfall made community people very busy and this weather condition made it easy for people to do their activities without the fear of too much sunshine. There was also no much struggle for food in most families.

UWCM also was to receive some of our partners from Uganda Concern UK, which was a great motivation to both the staff and community members! Each community we monitored did not remain the same and it also makes UWCM to be respected because among all the other organizations that work in these communities, it is only UWCM who have donors come to visit every year! We therefore appreciate your commitment, support and dedication towards this organization.

### 2.0.Table 1: Planned activities and achievements.

No.	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned	Done	Not done
1.	Shelter construction to needy families	2	1	1
2.	School fees payment for needy children	31	34	-
3.	Scholastic materials support for needy children	31	30	1
4.	Psycho-social support to needy families.	25	31	-
5.	Water tanks revolving funds.	46	24	22
6.	Monitoring visits to community groups.	65	27	18
7.	International women's day celebrations	1	0	1
8.	IGA support for needy families/individuals in communities.	2	0	2
9.	Purchase of sewing machines.	2	3	-
10	Carry out training for leaders in clusters.	2	0	2
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### 2.1.Shelter construction.

**2.1.1** The first shelter was constructed for Francis Wangwe; a 44 year old man who was living in a rented house in a place called Namawanga. He was supposed to pay Ushs 20,000/- per month but he could not manage to do especially after he broke his leg. This occurred when part of the wall of a house he was constructing collapsed on him and this frustrated him very much because he has five children to take care of! UWCM came to know of his story through Irene Masaba the woman councillor of Busoba sub-county who is also the chairperson of Ramba Sifubi women group who met him in Busiu health center 3 when he broke his leg. He had no mature person to take care of him and so, it was his seven year old son, Denis who cared for him. Irene was

moved with compassion and that is how she connected him to UWCM. We started helping him with some psycho-social support towards medical bill payment, foodstuffs and even some clothing for the children. Irene also discovered that he had no place he could call a home and so she wrote to the office requesting for shelter construction, and due to the extent and the seriousness of his problems, he actually qualified for immediate intervention.

In 2017, UWCM bought land for the late Stephen Masela (who used to live in a place full of graves in Busoba) and when we wanted to construct for him a shelter, that is when we realized that he had relatives who were not there before. They started fighting over that land and so we refused to construct for him because we saw it bringing more problems than a solution. Unfortunately Stephen died last year and therefore we thought it was wise to give this piece of land to any other needy family instead of this land just remaining vacant and that is how we constructed a shelter for Francis and the family much as he didn't originate from that area but with recommendation from Irene.

In February, UWCM shifted Francis and his family from Namawanga to his new house in Busoba using the new land cruiser and the family was very grateful. **These were his words,** *"I didn't even dream that I would have a place I call home for my children. Thank you Irene for loving me and for being a mother both to me and my children! Thank you UWCM for all you do to vulnerable people like me. May God reward you."*

**2.1.2** The second shelter which is still under construction was for a 70 year old barren woman Nambuya Julina from Wabukhasa village, and she stays with a sister who has a grandson from a daughter who passed away. They all stay together in a two roomed shelter which is almost collapsing because termites have eaten up all the poles that hold the roof together. Much as she stays with her sister, Julina's life is very miserable because of her barrenness which in Africa is a big problem whereby such people are looked at as outcast or social misfits! The reason why the shelter has not been constructed is because compassion international started educating the sister's grandson and when they saw the house they were living in, they also decided to construct for him a permanent house and so the old one that they were staying in was demolished and so they shifted into Julina's house. They have not finished building the house and the piece of land is very small, there is no way we could pull this house down. So we are waiting for it to be completed so that they can all shift in. However, even when it's complete, it does not mean that they will allow Julina stay in their house for ever which was disturbing her and that is why she is very happy that she will eventually have a good house of her own that does not leak.

## **2.2. School fees payment**

During the quarter, 34 children were helped with fees and meals payment at all levels; in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. This has enabled them to settle in class and which also helps them to perform better.

## **2.3. Scholastic support**

Going to school without a book and a pen is like going to the garden without a hoe and that is why we supported these needy children with books, pens, pencils and mathematical sets especially for the candidates. Sometimes schools demand for reams of paper from the learners which are normally used for photocopying tests and since the parents or guardians don't afford, we end up buying for them.

## **2.4. Psycho-social support to needy families**

31 families were supported with funds for medical, burial, foodstuffs and also for wedding especially for the community people who work voluntarily for and with UWCM. In most cases, the people who receive the help have become part of the UWCM family. Someone like **Jackson** has to be supported with food because of the ARVs that he swallows and he must go for regular clinics. So even when he has not come, we make sure we look for him. What we decided to do is buy food stuffs like maize flour, rice, sugar salt and soap in large quantities so that in case they come to office we just give without telling them to go and come back which saves time and money because buying in whole sale is cheaper.

During the quarter we lost one of the former UWCM chairpersons of the board, **Rev. (Mrs). Grace Bwayo** with some condolence to the family to help during the burial but at the same time we celebrated with **Rev. Buyi** during the wedding ceremony with his second wife after the death of his first one who left him with seven children and he was finding life very hard.

**Samuel Muniafu** was also very sick and he was admitted in Bushikori health unit and since he is part of UWCM family due to his vulnerability, we had to settle the hospital bills.

## **2.5. Revolving funds for water tanks**

As it was discussed last quarter by the cluster leaders, we expected the entire 5 clusters that benefited from water tank revolving fund to channel this money to groups but not all the clusters managed to do it. Bufumbo cluster happened to be the only one that fully managed to channel these funds to all its ten (10) groups without any problem.

In Simu cluster, only five groups out of ten got the fund and in Bumugusha, seven groups managed to get. At least every group that received the fund gave their 10% contribution before receiving its share and it was such fun to see how the groups' representatives were happy while receiving the funds.

Sisiyi and Sotti cluster had challenges because most members who borrowed this money were still waiting to be paid for the coffee they sold to different dealers and especially the Bugisu Co-operative union (BCU) but they promised to do it in the month of May.

However, there were some quarrels from some members who used to be part of these groups that received the funds but had left and when lists of the beneficiaries were being compiled; their names were not among the beneficiaries. When they heard that the money was finally at group level, they came back thinking that they would be considered but it was too late. It is actually a blessing in disguise because it has taught members to always be patient and remain in their groups during good and bad times. This therefore necessitated us to have a special meeting with group and cluster leaders to discuss the best way to handle this fund and we came up with the following resolutions.

- ✓No new member was allowed to join the group after hearing that getting the revolving fund.
- ✓In case a member passes on, the next of kin would benefit from the fund and get a water tank.
- ✓Each cluster should have a team to monitor on the progress of the revolving fund and give an updated report to members in every quarter.

## **2.6. Monitoring visits**

During the quarter, several groups were monitored and there were lots of developmental activities that took place in the homes of these group members and this has resulted to the formation of new groups at least from every community. Most of these group members in almost all communities are women although there are some groups that have few men. The aim of forming these groups is to ensure that families are well taken care of in all aspects and that lives are transformed holistically.

In Wabukhasa village, **Wabunyala women group** was monitored and it's doing very well and it has a different like saving and credit whereby most of them borrow money to do small business like liquid soap making, mats and basket kneading using papyrus materials and beads, table cloth embroidery, necklaces and ear-rings making and fresh food and grocery selling which they sell to members after saving. They also contribute some little money for buying food for the needy in their community who they identify as most vulnerable.

One of the people they have been helping is a very young widow, Rachael whose husband was murdered in a cold blood and was thrown at the roadside in 2020 leaving her with two sons, Joshua who is now 8 years, and a very jolly son of 12 (Innocent) who has cerebral palsy. Rachael also developed a stroke and became paralyzed on the left side of her body and therefore it becomes very difficult for her to take care of innocent who cannot sit neither talk although he understands everything and so she needs continuous support since she can't do anything much due to her condition. The group needs close monitoring and training because the members have not fully understood group dynamics but it is a promising group and if well guided it can do better.

When **Kibanda cluster** was monitored, we discovered that their savings project was doing well but the leaders were not doing much to help the people at the group level but we encouraged them to be good stewards of people's money as well as being faithful in serving the community with all diligence. Most of the leaders had contributed to the collapsing of many groups by borrowing money without putting any interest and more so not paying it back in time and this discouraged many members..

In **Bududa**, we monitored the tailoring club of teenage mothers and young people which so far has graduated more than 60 members in the first phase and have enrolled more 30 trainees for the second phase. They meet every day afternoon because they cannot afford to be there the whole day since most of the girls have babies who they either carry to class or leave them at home and they need to go back and cook for them, yet most of them travel for a very long distance. They have one committed instructor who is just a volunteer and so keeping her the whole day without pay yet she also has a family to take care of is not good!

**Bumugusha cluster** happens to be one of the best performing groups and during the monitoring visit, we found **Malanga Patrick**, 57 year old man who used to work in Kenya and when he came back, he found when his land had been taken up by his only brother. He therefore resulted to stay in a nearby cave where he does everything. Much as he looks normal, he is mentally disturbed and the story goes that when he went to Kenya, his employer who used to kill people and put them in sacks, used him to go and throw these dead bodies in forests and so it seems like the spirits of the dead keep disturbing him!

### **Special donations**

Several families and individuals were helped to meet various needs with a special donation from our well-wishers and partners.

Elizabeth Buyi who is a finalist at Uganda Christian University (UCU) Mbale campus was helped with some money to rent her a room for three months. Previously, she used to stay with some of her friends but now she was doing her teaching practice from a different area and so her father could not afford to pay her fees as well as cater for her accommodation and so she had given up! We were able to buy for her the basic needs to start life and she and the family are very grateful for the support.

Three sewing machines were bought but we only gave one to Wabunyala women group from Wabukhasa village. They have a very instrumental member in the group, Mary Wanyela who

makes different items using hands and she knows how to use a machine. So sometimes she is hired by people to train them on how to make re-usable pads, mats and bags yet she cannot train her own group members since they don't have a machine. So during the monitoring visit, they presented this request to office and we thank God their request was granted.

**James from Bufumbo cluster**, the old man whom we constructed for a shelter received two plastic chairs, a charcoal stove and other essential items for his new house. **Michael from Nabiwutulu** also got chairs and a goat.

**Rachael and her son Innocent** started their physiotherapy of which they go every Monday and we managed to get for innocent a special chair to sit on to make his back normal again. The doctors also advised that if it would be possible we would get a wheel chair for him which might cost around 600,000/=, and this could ease his movement especially taking him to church such that he gets used to other children and play with them to cope before he gets better and start walking on his own! Rachael's condition is also improving since she started the physiotherapy sessions and taking the medicine that was prescribed for her. She is now a very happy woman whose hope has been restored.

## **2.7. International women's day celebrations**

UWCM used to participate in the celebrations of the women's day but since COVID-19 struck, we no longer participate and yet it used to help many community people get exposure and learn many developmental ideas. We would therefore request with the availability of funds to continue participating in some of these events.

### **Success story**

In Bududa, the tailoring learners who graduated testified that they now have hope because they are able to make some clothes especially school uniforms for children which enables them meet the basic need for their young ones. They said if only they had enough machines and other accessories, they can make enough money. So this is a project that has given hope to the teenage girls especially those that drop out of school due to early pregnancy and also those whose parents don't have enough money to take them to secondary schools or university. Therefore the community appreciates this training.

One of the learners has now become a trainer which is a huge milestone for the group and she is now able to help the other trainers in case she is not available thus ensuring continuous training.

A 32 year old, **Nasio Violet and her husband Webisa Rogers** who have 4 children are enjoying the benefit of being in a savings group of Nabiwutulu cluster. Violet managed to get some little money from her savings, bought 1 sachet of onion seeds and when the onions were ready, she harvested six bags which she sold and bought a piece of land. She later on bought a sewing machine which she uses to make uniforms for school going children after getting her savings from the group. On top of that, she bought a cow of 700,000/-, gets manure for the crops as well as milk for her children and she is now educating her children without fear of them being chased away for fees. She thanks God for UWCM that started the savings programs in communities because she is no longer a beggar but can even help her husband do his business.

### **Appreciation**

Finally, no more pushing or getting stuck on the way because of the poor condition of vehicles! There is nothing as bad and heart breaking than when a planned activity is postponed because of getting stuck on the way or when the vehicle cannot reach due to poor impassable roads and more so when the vehicle breaks down! It is also very discouraging, disappointing and shameful

when staff keep pushing an organization vehicle which keeps getting stuck on the road due to worn out tyres!

Therefore, as UWCM staff, we don't have enough words to express the joy we have upon receiving a brand new land cruiser UBP 510Z. Together with our community members from all our area of operation appreciate the members of Gospel Mission Faversham church together with Uganda concern UK partners and all the well-wishers for their continuous support through fund and friend raising to ensure that God's work continues through this ministry as we fulfill Jesus' ministry in Matthew 25: 40.

### **Challenges**

- Most leaders have forgotten their roles and responsibility which discourages members.
- Too much chronic sicknesses especially cancer and due to certain beliefs and superstition, women shy away from going for screening yet it is free!
- Too many needy vulnerable children in communities who need help.
- Very many snakes at office especially during this rainy season, and sometimes they crawl into offices and it is scary. Yes, we try to spray around but it is becoming unbearable!

### **Way forward**

- Urgent training for group leaders.
- Proper mobilization and sensitization to community members in partnership with government workers about chronic diseases.

### **Prayer Points:**

- Pray for a smooth leadership transition of UWCM.
- Pray for staff health. Robert got involved in a traffic accident on 18<sup>th</sup> April and sustained injuries and is being treated for that matter. He was knocked from behind by another speeding motorcycle just on his way to town but we thank God for saving his life.
- The rains continue and in certain parts there are floods and waters overflowing the banks, bad and impassable roads, threats and signs of landslides, diseases e.g. outbreak of red eyes and families have become more vulnerable.

### **Second quarter activity work plan (April to June 2024)**

<b>No.</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
1.	Shelter construction		X	X
2.	Fees payment for needy children		X	
3.	Scholastic support		X	
4.	Psycho-social support	X	X	X
5.	IGA support		X	X
6.	Revolving Fund	X	X	
7.	Monitoring Visits	X	X	X
8.	Refresher Training		X	X