

[Home](#)[About Us](#)[Women's Ministry](#)[Children's Ministry](#)[Adolescent Girls](#)[CBEI](#)[CCMP](#)[LAMPS](#)[IPEC](#)[UWCM Partners](#)[Staff](#)[Contact UWCM](#)[Open All](#) | [Close All](#)

## UGANDA WOMEN CONCERN MINISTRY

### Empowering Women For Sustainable Development

Please note: you've reached the website for UWCM, based in Uganda



For full details of projects funded and supported by the UK registered charity, visit [Uganda Concern UK](#)

Uganda Women Concern Ministry (UWCM) is an indigenous Christian organisation and works with all people regardless of their faith or religious affiliation. UWCM was established by Mrs Edith Wakumire to assist and empower people living in poverty, particularly those affected by AIDS.

The organisation focuses on rural communities near Mbale in the east of Uganda and offers hope to those in need through practical, emotional and spiritual support. Uganda Women Concern Ministry was officially registered in October 1991 with National NGO Board with Reg. No. 9514/552. UWCM is currently working in Eastern Uganda (Elgon Zone) in the districts of Mbale, Sironko, Manafwa, Bududa, Bulambuli, Kapchorwa. In 2013-2014 we extended our services to Abim in Karamoja and Drucilla Balaba in Kabale under UN Women Fund for Gender Equality.

UWCM is a service and advocacy Organization with departments consisting of the women, children, Church and Community Development Programme, and Finance/Administration. It is located in a rural setting, 8 km (5miles) on Mbale-Tororo Road., Wabukhasa village, Bukhumwa Parish, Bumbobi Sub-county, Mbale District, Eastern Uganda.

We embark on capacity building activities for our communities. These activities are to equip the communities with knowledge and skills of initiating, managing and sustaining their community based projects/activities.



Detailed information about the work of UWCM

[Home](#)  
[About Us](#)  
[Women's Ministry](#)  
[Children's Ministry](#)  
[Adolescent Girls](#)  
[CBEI](#)  
[CCMP](#)  
[LAMPS](#)  
[IPEC](#)  
[UWCM Partners](#)  
[Staff](#)  
[Contact UWCM](#)

Open All | Close All

**Vision**

"Empowered Society for Sustainable Development"

This postulates UWCM as a centre of excellence in creating sustainability, seeking out communities to live a highly dignified life as God intended.

**Mission** "To empower the most vulnerable women, children and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) by Promoting a safe natural environment, Basic Primary health care, Economic Empowerment, Education and Capacity building through grass root community structures"

UWCM is guided by five broad **objectives**:

1. To increase the understanding of women, children and PLWHAs about their problems, rights, responsibilities and abilities so that they can take action to improve their situation
2. To improve the capacity of women, children and their families to address needs and execute their rights in a sustainable way.
3. To contribute towards influencing policies, structures and attitudes that oppress women, children and PLWHAs and to create an enabling environment for them to lead fulfilled lives.
4. Build the capacity of children and their families to undertake their education and psychosocial needs.
5. To improve the learning/teaching environment for better performance of children at risk in disadvantaged areas.

UWCM undertakes the following **activities**:

- Building the capacity of communities through participatory approach.
- Women empowerment through education, skills development, provision of access to resources.
- Networking and collaboration with other Development Partners.
- Participatory problem identification and action planning (needs assessment).
- Community education and capacity building on prevention of HIV and AIDS to mitigate the impact of HIV on Communities.
- Promotion of rights of most vulnerable groups especially women, children
- Access OVC to educational opportunities, care and protection.
- Elimination of the worst Forms of Child Labor
- Community education on the prevention of HIV and AIDS and malaria.
- Provision of psycho-socio support to OVC.
- Promoting child advocacy and participation.
- Local resource mobilization and utilization.
- Monitoring and evaluation of activities

Although a number of key staff are employed, the work of UWCM is replicated through women's groups and teams of church-based community volunteers.



These committed volunteers receive training in many skills including how to set up, manage and sustain income-generating projects to restore people's dignity and independence, and how to care for the most needy individuals or families in their villages.

Many communities are in the remote foothills of Mount Elgon where access to any other support is minimal or absent.



In 1998, Edith Wakumire was invited to New York to be presented with the United Nations Certificate to commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty presented to Edith Wakumire for her achievements, courage and inspiration in contributing to the fight against poverty.'

Edith Wakumire also received the World Vision International Robert W. Pierce Award for Christian Service for the year 2000

**Our Achievements**

- Empowered women's groups with income generating activities and many now run successful micro-finance schemes. Out of the proceeds of these activities, they are able to support their families, meet their children's school needs and support other women in the community. There are currently 15 groups, with 30 members in each group.
- Many women have been empowered to take on leadership positions at all local government levels.
- Several thousand orphaned and vulnerable children have been supported with both formal and vocational educational skills.
- Mobilised and trained community volunteers to support People Living With AIDS (PLWAs), orphaned and needy children. Currently 13 Community Mobilisation Teams (CMTs) with approx 30 members in each.
- Received the 1998 United Nations Award for the fight against poverty in the community.
- Received the World Vision International Robert W. Pierce Award for Christian Service for the year 2000.
- Supported hundreds of women through UN funded Functional Adult Literacy classes.
- UWCM is recognised locally, nationally and internationally in the efforts of working in and with rural communities.

**CORE VALUES:**

- Dignity: We recognize the uniqueness and intrinsic (inherent) worth of every person above all things.
- Integrity: We shall consistently serve our people with honesty, truthfulness, fairness, transparency, accountability, due diligence and responsibility.
- Innovativeness: We believe the best practices are never static therefore open to creativity and cost effective approaches that can speed up the process of improving quality of life of the vulnerable persons.
- Team Work: We shall promote team effort, interdependence and trust in the execution of our duties and build on the partnership to achieve our set goals.
- Cognitive to Diversity: We recognize the richness of diversity of Human beings, culture, attitude, beliefs, values and developmental approaches.



Home

About Us

Women's Ministry

Women's Projects

Mobilisation Teams

Children's Ministry

Adolescent Girls

CCMP

LAMPS

IPIC

UWCM Partners

Staff

Contact UWCM

Open All | Close All

Initially UWCM trained and supported individual women on how to live positively with HIV/AIDS and these women then went out to encourage and help other women and their families within their communities. They offered spiritual and emotional support, as well as advice on basic healthcare and nutrition.

This then evolved into larger groups of (20) women supported by UWCM and they are encouraged to start small income-generating projects, eg selling vegetables, dried fish, eggs, goat rearing. UWCM encourage the groups to care for orphans in their communities.

UWCM staff visit every couple of months to run training workshops for all groups to encourage and to encourage and learn from each other. Some of these Women's Groups are now quite strong and self-sufficient.

The women's department exists to support the most vulnerable women, teenage mothers, families infected and affected by HIV and AIDS and the general community to live positively with HIV and AIDS. This is mainly done through capacity building at various levels in a number of activities that help bring about sustainable development and transformation in the lives and communities.

It is important to note that all the programmes in the department are community based and are at the grassroots level. Programmes undertaken are holistic in nature so as to bring about sustainable development and transformation of women, teenage mothers, families infected and affected by HIV and AIDS and the general community.

The department has 5 main Programmes namely:

- Women empowerment through women groups
- Single teenage mothers
- Community Managed Micro Finance
- Church and community Empowerment to respond to their needs using locally available resources
- Community Managed Micro Finance

#### i) Training for women groups

These trainings aim at empowering women with knowledge and skills for self reliance. Issues covered include women's health, HIV/AIDS, IGA (Income Generation Activity) management and local resource mobilisation, project cycle management, the art of saving, money, spending money, etc. During the training, women are helped to realize their rights and responsibilities.

#### ii) Social support activities

These activities focus on improving the quality of life of the marginalized women, children and people living with HIV and AIDS. They include:

- Family support with basic household items such as clothing, blankets, cooking pots, etc.
- Shelter improvement for marginalized widows, women, orphaned and vulnerable children and some of the people living with HIV and AIDS.

#### iii) IGA empowerment

These activities focus on improving productivity and creating opportunities especially for women to develop their own income generation activities. Women self help groups built around revolving goats, poultry and hives are a core in this component.

#### iv) Advocacy

UWCM's advocacy work seeks social-economic and political change so that the marginalized poor women can have access to resources and freedom to exercise their rights. In doing so, UWCM responds to the particular call from God to defend the rights and dignity of the poor and vulnerable women, children and people living with HIV and AIDS.

#### Agnes Mutubo of Bududa Women's Group says:

*I am grateful to UWCM as at first we women were full of self pity. I used to just sit at home and meeting with others was the only time I could get out. UWCM came and us, I sat and discussed with others so as to share ideas and even encourage those with challenges in their homes. After the training, I started making pancakes and sold them at a local shop. I had a small sum of money, hundred thousand shillings. I used this money to buy 5 hens and 5 hens produced and I sold the chicks and bought 4 pigeons. Now the pigeons have grown and I sell their eggs and the hens produce. From this group I have learnt to plan ahead and I feel happy within me because I now own some property.*

#### Single Teenage Mothers and Young women

Single teenage mothers are a group of young mothers aged 19 - 25 years and below who have been infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. They are a new group that UWCM initiated in 2007 with the aim of restoring hope and helping the young mothers to have a positive attitude towards life despite their current state (having a child at an early stage is given through: capacity building sessions, skills training and a goal each as an income generating activity to help support themselves and their child, plus the milk from the goat supplements the child's nutrition).

UWCM has worked with over 15 groups of young single teenage mothers each composed of 30 members supporting each other and engaged in income generating projects.

#### Community Managed Micro-finance for economic empowerment for women

This program is aimed at fighting poverty through raising house hold incomes. Under this program, community members are mobilized into small homogeneous groups and given a small amount of money to start a business of their choice. In turn, they should be noted that before this is started, every member of the group is encouraged to develop a vision and start saving to achieve that vision in the future. Communities have benefited from this program are very active and they feel it has reduced the challenges of securing a loan from formal banking institutions.

#### Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) in Partnership with CSU (2013-2014)

2000 women and 100 adolescent girls who dropped out of school have been trained in Functional Adult Literacy in three districts of Mbarara, Kasese and Bududa. The women acquired the skill of reading, writing and numeracy. They are proud to be able to read and even able to write their own names when signing instead of thumb prints.

The sixty girls improved in their ability to read, write and count. They were trained in entrepreneurship skills, facilitating savings and are now empowered with business with improved incomes for their livelihood.

#### WABUKHASA WOMEN'S GROUP

This group of 30 women, based near the offices of UWCM, have been taught how to make beads and the income they gain from selling their products allows them to pay school fees, buy some small extra items for their home eg bread and sugar, and gives them dignity and independence.

The women buy pre-cut strips of paper which are then tightly rolled around a thick needle and the ends are stuck down. The size and colour of the beads determine the size, shape and colour of each bead.

The beads are then threaded onto a long line, dipped in varnish and hung to dry. When dry, the beads are removed and then re-strung into different necklaces, bracelets, ear-rings, belts and bags.

Apart from enabling the women to earn a small income, the group also visit each other regularly at each other's homes to encourage and support one another.

The main problem they face is finding a regular market for their jewelry. Often they don't have enough money to buy the necessary materials and they would like to be able to buy some tables to sit at, instead of sitting on the hard floor all day.

#### Story of Esther Rongo, supported by a family initiated income generating activity (IGA)

Esther Rongo was a young widow aged 26 (RIP). Her husband died of AIDS, leaving her 3 young children. She and her children had to leave their home and live with her husband's relatives. The husband's relatives were not kind to her and she became homeless. A kind woman showed her compassion by offering one of the rooms in her house where she stayed for some time. Later she heard about Uganda Women Concern Ministry (UWCM) and visited them for advice and help.

As short term assistance UWCM gave her a small grant of 180,000/- shillings to start an income generating activity.

She started a small business of making and buying and selling. With the profits she was able to fend for herself and take care of her children. She used the profits to build a house using clay and mud. When it reached roof level she bought timber but didn't have enough money to buy the iron sheets. UWCM helped her to acquire a loan to buy the iron sheets. Esther, before she had a dream of her own business, had diversified to the point of employing men on a casual basis to help her break up stones, mix both sand and aggregate (ballast) which she sold out to construction firms.

Profits from her business helped Esther to put up a shelter of her own. This is Esther and two of her three children standing in the doorway of her own house.

# UGANDA CONCERN

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**WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

**Children's Projects**

The Children's Department is one of the core departments in UWCM whose programmes aim at addressing the needs of the orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCs) to rejuvenate the lost hope and dignity to enable them to realise their full potential.

The department has the following programmes that try to mitigate the challenges faced by these children:

**PRAYER & PORRIDGE PROJECT** was initiated by a lady called Sarah Wautundu whose husband had died from AIDS in 1989 leaving her alone, HIV+ and with 10 children to care for.

She turned to UWCM in desperation when she fell ill in 1993 and Ethel Lomire and Esther (Eth) from our team here helped supported and cared for Sarah and paid for her to receive ARV treatment. Sarah responded well to the drugs and UWCM trained her as a Community Counsellor and Sarah went on to support and encourage many others who were dying of AIDS.

Sarah's home became a safe haven for the many orphans and other village children where they would receive some food and drink but, above all, someone to listen and care for them. UWCM trained Sarah in basic first aid and found her a larger house and, for the next 2 years, Sarah continued to support the children in this way and provided a weekly bowl of porridge for approximately 40 young children.

When UWCM realised that Sarah had so many children to care for, they approached Pastor Mtiya and the community at Sakiya to work together to give their support and Pastor Mtiya opened up the church to allow more children to come each week.

The aim of this project is to provide support, counselling, prayer, a nutritional meal, games & activities, plus assistance with school fees and scholastic materials whenever possible to very vulnerable children.

Run by Pastor Mtiya, his wife and other volunteers from the local church including Sarah Wautundu, this project offers hope and practical support to approx. 200 children.

Run by Pastor Mtiya, his wife and other volunteers from the local church including Sarah Wautundu, this project offers hope and practical support to approx. 200 children.

The children from this community are suffering from poverty, disease and ignorance. Many of the children are living positively with HIV/AIDS, many are orphans whilst others are abused either physically or mentally and most of them are destitute or live with grandparents.

This has caused most of them to lose their sense of self-worth and they have no hope in life. Some drop out of school resorting to child labour or early marriage for girls. The children are encouraged to sing and dance in their choir and this helps to increase their self confidence.

There are over 200 children who attend Sunday School and members of the church have identified 100 of the most vulnerable children who come to the Centre on Saturdays and Wednesdays during school holidays for support outlined above. Porridge is provided for the younger members and is always gratefully received.

**Achievements:**

- Improved health among children
- Increased self-esteem, confidence and behaviour
- Hope for the future
- Children are encouraged to go to school and assistance given with scholastic materials whenever possible to complete their education and have become nurses, car mechanics, drivers and are now able to support themselves

**Musibika Jenipher** is 38 years old and lives with her 6 children in Sakiya village. Before joining the project, she and her children were lonely, struggled to get food, had no clothing and bedding and were often sent home from school due to lack of scholastic materials such as exercise books.

But, after joining the project, her children's lives have changed. They have been loved, have friends, the exercise books have helped them stay in school and having a porridge meal has improved their health and they look much more healthy and happy.

Jenipher says, 'As a parent I really appreciate the activities, eg the Bible studies and other teaching sessions and the counselling because through these, my children have come to know God, their behaviour has changed and no cases of misconduct have been reported.'

In 2014, Uganda Concern UK provided the funding to build a toilet block which has been built to a very high standard and is helping to improve the health and hygiene of the children and members of the church.

**Child sponsorship:**

- Provision of school fees
- Provision of uniforms and scholastic materials
- Counselling and guidance
- Review meetings with parents/guardians and children

**Primary Health care and nutrition**

- Training of community volunteers in basic primary health care
- Provision of mosquito nets for children under 5 years
- Distribution of goats to supplement on the nutritional and educational needs
- Providing Community health education



[Home](#)  
[About Us](#)  
[Women's Ministry](#)  
[Children's Ministry](#)  
[Children's Projects](#)  
[Annual Children's Conference](#)  
[Adolescent Girls](#)  
[CBEI](#)  
[CCMP](#)  
[LAMPS](#)  
[IPEC](#)  
[UWCM Partners](#)  
[Staff](#)  
[Contact UWCM](#)

[Open All](#) | [Close All](#)

### Annual Children's Conference

Each year, the Childrens' Department organise a 5 day residential camp for approximately 70 children. The purpose is to bring children together from different communities where UWCM work and to allow them to make new friends and share experiences, to have time for fellowship & Bible study and receive teaching on topics such as Bereavement & Loss; Nutrition; Basic Healthcare, Self Esteem and Childrens' Rights and Responsibilities. The majority of the children have lost one, or both, parents and are often main carers within families, so this is a time for them to simply be children and to have fun.



Robert Mangaga, Child Programs Officer, is the main organiser of the conferences which are held at local schools/colleges with boarding facilities and generally take place during the 2nd week of January each year.



[Uganda Concern UK](#) funds the annual conference and a small team from the UK go out to help with the teaching and to organise various craft activities including tie-dye T Shirts, painting and other crafts which the children really enjoy.



Local Scripture Union staff lead Bible studies and teaching on the following topics: Family relationships; Decision Making; Exploring the myths and truths about HIV/AIDS; Rights & Responsibilities of Children; Self-Esteem.

They use drama, role play, debates and singing to teach these subjects and the feedback from the children is always very positive.



The majority of children who attend the camp have lost one or both parents. Bridget Withell, UCUK Trustee, leads the session on Loss & Bereavement and uses analogies such as the River of Life or the Tree of Life to explore various aspects of loss and bereavement and to encourage the children to share their stories.



The children also receive 3 good meals a day which is a treat in itself as the majority of the children would normally eat much more simply and so the food is always greatly appreciated and enjoyed.



The ladies work really hard in the kitchen to produce plenty of food and snacks for the children.

On the last day each child is given a gift such as a pair of new bedsheets, together with 12 exercise books which they have to provide each term for their schooling and these are always very gratefully received.



A letter of appreciation written by one of the young people from the conference: *On behalf of all the children in the conference, I want to take this opportunity to thank all our friends from Uganda Concern UK and Organization of UWCM for organizing such a wonderful conference. We thank all the members of UWCM who were together with us and what you did with us. May the almighty God bless you and add our grand mums Edith Wakumire and Aunt Bridget Neboshe and her members, that thank you so very much. And also we thank Uncle Robert (SU) and Uncle Robert (UWCM) for all your advice to us. And also we thank all uncles and aunts whom we were staying with, we also thank our cooks for the good loving hearts that we were having good meals. Thank you all and may God reward you. Bless! Emma*



Supporting vulnerable adolescent girls



Uganda Women Concern Ministry (UWCM) in Partnership with UN Women Fund for Gender Equality (UN WOMEN FGE) set out to support vulnerable adolescent girls in the Districts of Mbale, Abim in Karamoja and Kabale.

**Background:** The Adolescent Girls Multilevel Vulnerability Index (AGI) was developed based on a growing recognition of the need to channel resources to a vital, yet highly vulnerable and vastly under-served, population of adolescent girls in Uganda specifically, and the east and southern Africa in general.

As outlined in *The State of the World's Children 2011*, adolescence is a critical phase of human development during which the stage is set for later life. Adolescents (10-19 years old) experience rapid social, physical and emotional changes.

However, appropriate support structures and skills can lead to increased independence and the development of positive and healthy behavior with significant implications on society as a whole.

Adolescents constitute a substantial proportion of developing countries' population. Little is done to alleviate the plight of the adolescent girls making them prone to vulnerability. According to, "the Adolescent Girls Vulnerability Index 2013" by the Population Council and the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development and UNICEF, findings, Karamoja has the highest percentages of vulnerable girls at individual (91.3%); household (57.0%) and community level (100%). In eastern Uganda, three out of four adolescent girls (74.9%) face vulnerability in both household and community levels which places this region as one of the most significant regions with regards to the vulnerability of adolescent girls.

#### Why adolescent girls?

While all adolescents –both boys and girls –are entitled to decent livelihoods, girls face disproportionate risks and distinctive consequences from the vulnerabilities experienced. Girls also play a crucial role in breaking the inter-generational cycle of poverty and driving a country's development forward. There is clear and compelling evidence that investment in girls has broader and positive impacts.



Hairdressing training for adolescent girls.

For girls living in both eastern and northern Uganda, early marriage is common. Illiteracy is also the dominating factor in eastern Uganda and in Karamoja where there is higher than average illiteracy levels amongst women aged 20-49 years. The HIV indicator captures vulnerability among girls living both in communities with a high prevalence of HIV and with limited knowledge .



A very happy teenage mother at her vocational training graduation ceremony



*I am Ayoo Paska, 20 years old and a trainee of St. Comboni learning Center of Koya Parish, Alerek Sub County. With support from UN Women through ADP, I am running my own business at the trading centre of Koya to support me and my family members. I am now able to save Ugshs 15,000 on weekly basis.*

*My name is Acheng Monica and I am 19 years old from God's Will Center in Alerek. I am a trainee in bakery and catering and I am married and have two girl children whom I want to support highly in their education through my own business. I can now provide food for my family and pay school fees for my siblings. I want to appreciate ADP for providing me with the business skills.*



In Drucilla Balaba project in Kabale, three groups graduated in vocational training with skills in tailoring, crafts and weaving. Sharon is one of the beneficiaries in the tailoring class. She is 17 years old from Kabale Township. Sharon got pregnant when she was 16 and in senior two. The man denied responsibility for the pregnancy and she was rejected by her parents and demeaned by the community.

In 2013 Drucilla Balaba project in Kabale selected her as a beneficiary of the UN Women FGE project and Sharon opted for the tailoring project. After one and half years she testifies of the restored hope in life.

Currently Sharon is able to sew school uniforms for local schools and ladies dresses through which she earns a living. She has been accepted by her family, she is now valued by the community and she is glad that she can also make a uniform for her son who is going to nursery school. The project initiated community structures (Dialogue Support Teams) through which the family and community members are sensitized on the need to have positive attitudes towards adolescent girls who get pregnant, and this has caused a huge, significant change of attitude towards them.





## Community Based Education Intervention



Community Based Education Intervention (CBEI) is a participatory strategy/approach aimed at improving the teaching/learning environment of the Child at Risk (CAR) in five primary schools of Mbale, Bulambuli, Bududa, and Manafwa. Before actualizing the intentions of CBEI project, a participatory preliminary study was carried out in the intended catchment areas. This project was implemented by Uganda

Women Concern Ministry (UWCM) in partnership with Stromme Foundation (SF). All the stakeholders (the children, school management, teachers, School Management Committees, Teacher- Parent Associations, the community and parents, the Local leaders, the local Government, UWCM and Stromme Foundation) were involved in all stage of the project.

Our goal was to increase access to quality education services to 4600 children in the five schools by 2013 through building capacity of all stakeholders, and improve educational infrastructure development for learning/teaching environment.

Through this intervention, 4285 children were enrolled, retained and completed school with reduced drop out especially the girls. Academic performance increased with better UPE results in the five schools. 57 trained local resources mobilised and spearheaded the local collections which went towards the provision of children's mid-day meals. Through capacity building, there was remarkable improved governance and management in these schools, improved collaboration and networks among the stakeholders, promotion of children's rights and responsibilities with child protection. Ten teachers were trained in life skills education and psycho-social skills which led to health and friendly handling of children, thus improved behaviour of children.

**Improving Learning/teaching classrooms:** Ten apartment buildings were constructed accommodating over 40 teachers in the five schools. This reduced late coming and absenteeism and increased teachers' commitment to teaching and thus improving performance. 19 classrooms were constructed and ten renovated including provision of head teacher's offices and staffrooms. 12 VIP latrines were constructed to improve on sanitation in schools. 250 desks for pupils, 35 chairs, and 35 tables for teachers were provided to improve teaching/ learning environment in these schools. Games and sports items were provided increasing participation of children in the extracurricular activities. Training of local resource mobilization and introduction of community Managed Micro Finance integrated into community Based Education Intervention increased community incomes enabling parents and guardians to provide mid-day meals, scholastic materials, and uniforms for children thus increasing their quality of education.



[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Women's](#)

[Ministry](#)

[Children's](#)

[Ministry](#)

[Adolescent](#)

[Girls](#)

[CBEI](#)

[CCMP](#)

[LAMPS](#)

[IPEC](#)

[UWCM](#)

[Partners](#)

[Staff](#)

[Contact](#)

[UWCM](#)

[Open All](#)

[Close All](#)

## Church & Community Mobilisation Process

### CHURCH AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION PROCESS (CCMP)/PARTICIPATORY EVALUATION PROCESS (PEP).

The main goal of CCMP/PEP is "Empowering people to holistically transform their situation using God given locally available resources".

CCMP/PEP involves mobilizing and training churches and communities to design, plan, implement, and evaluate their development process. This is majorly done through a number of Bible studies that helps the church to engage with immediate communities in implementing holistic ministry. Churches and communities are trained to "discover" who they are, know their potential, and envision their destiny. Using the power of visioning, they then determine how to achieve that destiny. (This is a 2 and half years process in one community).

The CCMP/PEP is divided in two Sections or phases. Section 1 focuses on mobilizing the church while section II summarizes stages of mobilization for the church and community.

At church level – trainings from envisioning of the top church leaders up to relationship building.

At community level – trainings from community description up to decision making.

#### Key intervention results:

We have mobilized and trained 25 churches since 2009, with impact on ground and many peoples' lives have been changed for better.

**Busumbu in Manafwa District:** A group of 10 women lobbied for sewing machines and were trained on how to make reusable sanitary towels and bags for girls aged 12 above from different primary schools within the community. This initiative has stabilized the attendance of the girls in all the four (4) primary schools that have benefited from it.

We happened to interview one girl who shared with us how she attends school regularly because she has the sanitary towels that are cheap to maintain and which was not a case before when she could miss lesson! She also shared that the bag does not only carry the towels but books too and she said that she not ashamed to carry it even if the boys make fun of her bag!

In Bunamwani community, the church members have worked so hard through fundraising, a strategy that has enabled them to buy the 2 doors and some windows that have been fixed.

The youth do in-pot different fruit species like improved mangoes and trees that they sell on nursery beds which are sold in town areas. They do the work from home but take the products for market in town, this has helped them to be self-employed and have improved their home welfare.

The women in Bunamwani community do meet every Sunday evening for saving and loans scheme which has enabled many women have peace in their homes as they do not only sit down because they are not employed to wait for the husbands support the home welfare but they also contribute to it by borrowing loans that helps them boost their home welfare.

In addition to the above, the women also meet every Wednesday for fellowship in which they do praise and worship, bible studies, prayers and encouraging each other through testimonies. This has kept their relationship stronger and valuable as women in the community.

One of the leaders, Sylvia Wopata, when asked about how food security is ensured among the people she leads, had this to say, *"Families in Bunamwani do participate in agriculture ever since we went through PEP and Livelihoods training, and this culture has enabled us to practice food security in our homes. The information gathering and Analysis tables helped us to understand how much land we have, how much we cultivate, consume as families, and what to sell for income and home welfare. We also learnt how much to store/reserve for dry seasons. This method has kept families together and healthy and children do not move to neighbors in search for food".*

One member of the Information Gathering Team, Vincent, has planted 21 mango and 2 avocado trees. During harvest season his wife sells each at Ushs1000. These fruits have improved their economic welfare in the family and they are able to buy basic needs, pay the children's fees and bills. His wife too runs water selling project being a family income generating activity. A Jeri can of water is sold at Ushs 100 each and on daily basis she sells 30 jeri cans and earns what is enough to even buy sugar for the family. In addition to the above, there are some customers who don't only buy the fruits but go ahead and buy the seedlings each at Ushs 5,000 to plant in their gardens. Vincent is grateful for this knowledge which has enabled him come out of poverty.

There is a group of women who make vegetable nursery beds in their homes and thereafter grow the vegetables in the gardens of Nakhupa health center. In return they offer free vegetables to the care takers at the Centre but sell to the outsiders and workers around. This idea has made these women very special people in the community because of their acts of love and kindness.

There is also a group of 15 men within the PEP group whereby each man contributes Ushs 5,000 per week, which is brought in a pool (putting resources together) and they buy each a pig to start with. Any balance on monies collected and after purchase of a pig is given to the member to use it for any other home development. Here members have committed themselves to conduct regular visits to monitor progress and to ensure that their money is not wasted.

In the same PEP group, 20 members (both men and women) do "merry go round" and they contribute each Ushs.10,000 monthly for a member until all receive. This act has kept the members together.



## Local Anti-Malaria Project Support

- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Women's Ministry](#)
- [Children's Ministry](#)
- [Adolescent Girls](#)
- [CBEI](#)
- [CCMP](#)
- [LAMPS](#)
- [IPEC](#)
- [UWCM Partners](#)
- [Staff](#)
- [Contact UWCM](#)

[Open All](#) | [Close All](#)



In this project, communities were mobilized, sensitized and participated in the baseline survey, planning, implementing and evaluating of the of malaria surveillance in these villages. Fight Malaria Committees were set and trained in basic facts in malaria, methods of prevention, sensitizing families of the need to know symptoms and signs of malaria, medical service seeking behavior, proper use of nets and promotion of natural appropriate technology of mosquito repellant for the families was tried and it worked. 1044 household were reached where 2605 children under five years and 234 pregnant women were reached with services. 9885 Long lasting and treated Mosquito nets were distributed in communities.

By the end of the Project, 31 percent lowered malaria prevalence and 60 percent pregnant women were attending Antenatal Clinic (medial service seeking). There was increased collaboration and networks for Uganda Women Concern Ministry and The Local Government Health sector, NGOs and CBOs in the catchment area, the communities, Barclays Bank Mbale in Social Responsibility support by providing bicycles for the Fight Malaria Committees, and the National Therapeutics department in the area of appropriate technologies developed a local mosquito repellant.





### International Program for Elimination of Child labour

#### **Elimination of the worst forms of child labour project in Mbale District in partnership with International Labour Organization (ILO)/International Program for Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) (2012-2014)**

This project started in March 2012 for the period of two years with the aim of identifying and preventing child Labour and its effect in selected areas. The objectives were to: set up social protection mechanism to provide safety for children and families against engaging children in child labour, withdraw children from the worst forms of child labour, rehabilitated and provided with better alternative for survival, prevent the likely children from engaging in child labour by placing them to school, and protecting those who continued to work with protective gears from hazards while working.

We identified stone quarries and rice growing areas where children are engaged in child labour work for survival due to high poverty levels. In consultation with community leaders, communities were mobilized, sensitized about the dangers of child labour and they formed community volunteers to continue the process and provide counseling and support to the project. Nearby six schools were identified as stakeholder in support to prevent child labour. Children, teachers, School management committees, Parent-Teachers Associations, community Child Labour Committees were trained on issues and dangers of child Labour and urged to participate in the fight against Child Labour.

By the end of the Project, 300 children were identified and put back to universal primary schools (UPE) and Universal Secondary Schools (USE), 100 Children were withdrawn from Labour, rehabilitated and relocated to vocational skill training and provided with startup kits and 200 children protected with protective wears to reduce hazards while working. 125 families were identified, trained in Income Generating Activities and given a start up support to enable them prevent sending their children to child labour.

[Home](#)[About Us](#)[+ Women's Ministry](#)[+ Children's Ministry](#)[Adolescent Girls](#)[CBEI](#)[CCMP](#)[LAMPS](#)[IPEC](#)[UWCM Partners](#)[Staff](#)[Contact UWCM](#)[Open All](#) | [Close All](#)



[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Women's Ministry](#)

[Children's Ministry](#)

[Adolescent Girls](#)

[CBEI](#)

[CCMP](#)

[LAMPS](#)

[IPEC](#)

[UWCM Partners](#)

[Staff](#)

[Contact UWCM](#)

[Open All](#) | [Close All](#)

## List of UWCM Development Partners

No.	Name of Development Partner	Program Supported
1	UNDP Country Office Uganda	UNDP project to Combat HIV and AIDS 1994 - 1998
2	Stromme Foundation Eastern Africa Uganda	A) Community Based Education Intervention (CBEI) in Mbale, Bulambuli, Manafwa, and Bududa Districts. 2004 - 2013 B)Community Managed Micro Finance (CMMF) In Mbale, Bulambuli, Sironko. 2010 - 2013
3	International Labor Organization (ILO) Uganda	Elimination of Child Labor/IPEC Bungokho Sub-county Mbale District. 2011 - 2012
4	Christian National Evangelism Council/Partners International (CNEC/PI) Australia	Local Anti-Malaria Programme Support (LAMPS) in Bungokho Sub-county Mbale District. 2006 - 2009
5	Mbale Local Government Mbale	STI/CHAI in Mbale District. 2004 - 2005
6	Redd Burner/Save Children in Uganda	Child Advocacy and Participation. 1996 - 1997
7	African Women Development Fund (AWDF)	Women Groups Support in Mbale and Sironko. 2004 - 2005
8	The Netherlands Embassy Netherlands	Infrastructural Improvement - Fencing, putting a ceiling and a standby Generator. 1993
9	Trickle Up Project USA	Income generating projects to vulnerable people in Mbale, Sironko districts
10	UN WOMEN Fund for Gender Equality USA	Programme Title: Securing the economic rights of women and adolescent girls in Mbale, Abim and Kabale districts in Uganda using the SHG/CMMF methodology 2012-2014
11	CISU-Civil Society in Development Denmark	Supporting Single Teenage Mothers in Mbale, Sironko, and Manafwa Districts. 2008-2014
12	Tearfund	Supporting Church and Community Mobilization Teams/empowerment. Child sponsorship and HIV and AIDS programs. In all Districts of Greater Mbale 1992 - 2018.
13	<a href="#">Uganda Concern UK</a>	Community Mobilization Teams, Children and Women's Groups. In all Districts of Greater Mbale. 2005 - To date.
14	Individual friends who give support once in a while	Child Sponsorship



[Home](#)  
[About Us](#)  
 [Women's Ministry](#)  
 [Children's Ministry](#)  
[Adolescent Girls](#)  
[CBEI](#)  
[CCMP](#)  
[LAMPS](#)  
[IPEC](#)  
[UWCM Partners](#)  
[Staff](#)  
[Contact UWCM](#)

[Open All](#) | [Close All](#)

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Women's Programme Officer

**Mrs Edith Wakumire**  
Resource Mobilisation Co-ordinator  
Founded UWCM in 1991

**Mr Robert Mangaga**

Child Programme Officer

**Mrs Gelda Bwayo**  
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[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[+ Women's Ministry](#)

[+ Children's Ministry](#)

[Adolescent Girls](#)

[CBEI](#)

[CCMP](#)

[LAMPS](#)

[IPEC](#)

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