



# ANNUAL SERVICE REPORT - 2016

## About Uganda Empowers:

We are a registered Rural Based Charity that provides prevention and care for persons infected or affected by HIV/AIDS especially children and women.

**Uganda Empowers** was founded in 2010 by Matsiko Johnbosco an HIV/AIDS Psychotherapist and a local activist of the most disadvantaged children and women.

**Area of Coverage is:** Lwengo district and primarily Kyazanga, Malongo, Lwengo and Ndagwe Sub-counties, our center of attention is in rural remote or hard to reach communities where basic services and resources are scarce or not provided.

HIV/AIDS comes with lots of negative impacts such as opportunistic diseases, death, poverty, stigma and etc, Uganda Empowers aims to be an all-around agent of change by finding solutions to these problems. To that effect therefore, we provide a comprehensive package of services like: - counseling, referrals, economic strengthening, plus basic care for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children - OVC.

**SLOGAN:** Empower our Brothers and Sisters Towards a Better Tomorrow.

**GOAL:** To build a Community where persons Infected or Affected by HIV/AIDS can have Positive Dreams about the Future.

**VISION:** Uganda Empowers Envisions an HIV-free World where there no Stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.

## OBJECTIVES:

- Fight the spread of HIV and supporting persons Infected or Affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Empower Orphans and other Vulnerable Children – OVCs.
- Sustainable Livelihood (career) Development.
- Conservation of Environment via renewable energy promotion.



**HOME VISITING & VSLA MONITORING PROGRAM SUMMARY – 2016.**

In this quarter a number of 63 households were visited and 31 Village Saving and Loaning Associations were supported with technically to form bi-laws, record keeping, accounts and registration with district authority. **A Summary of services delivered during home visits and VSLA support.**

Date/Quarterly	Sub-county	#HH/VLSA	Common Service provided
1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr. Jan to March	Lwengo	37 OVC households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Economic strengthening</li> <li>▪ Tracking the lost to follow-up</li> <li>▪ Psychosocial Support</li> <li>▪ Sanitation</li> <li>▪ Nutrition (home vegetable gardens)</li> <li>▪ Distribution of mosquito nets</li> <li>▪ Encouraged immunization</li> <li>▪ Referrals</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr. April - June	Lwengo	19 VLSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Making Bi-laws</li> <li>▪ Trained about Income Generation</li> <li>▪ Records management</li> <li>▪ Trained about improved farming</li> <li>▪ Nutrition</li> <li>▪ Information on birth control</li> <li>▪ HIV counseling &amp; referral</li> <li>▪ Provision of Solar energy loans.</li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr. July to Sept	Kyazanga	12 VLSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Making Bi-laws</li> <li>▪ Trained about Income Generation</li> <li>▪ Records management</li> <li>▪ Trained about improved farming</li> <li>▪ Nutrition</li> <li>▪ Information on birth control</li> <li>▪ HIV counseling &amp; referral</li> <li>▪ Provision of Solar energy loans.</li> </ul>
4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr. Oct to Dec	Kyazanga	26 OVC house holds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Psychosocial Support</li> <li>▪ Distribution of mosquito nets</li> <li>▪ Economic strengthening</li> <li>▪ Tracking the lost to follow-up</li> <li>▪ Referrals</li> </ul>





*Nazifa was born with HIV and she is 15years, confidently fighting for her life and aiming for the future.*

*Counselor Mutoni Goreti of Uganda Empowers supporting her & the Aunt on how to apply skin complaint jelly.*

**Most challenges faced during the exercise.**

- ❖ High expectations from clients – some of the people we visited thought that we would give them tangible materials like food, money, clothes and etc.
- ❖ Self-stigma among some beneficiaries – some clients and family members were concerned of neighbors whenever they saw Uganda Empowers' staffs.
- ❖ Hard to reach areas and dusty roads.
- ❖ Expensive boda-boda costs which couldn't allow enough time with clients – payments is per hour.

**Common identified OVC household problems.**

- ❖ Poverty – survival on less than 1000shs. or nothing daily.
- ❖ Deprivation to food access – less than one meal a day as a result of poor harvests.
- ❖ Lack of access to Education and or scholastic materials.
- ❖ Poor health care as a result of no possible access to public medical clinics.
- ❖ Poor adherence & compliance to Antiretroviral Therapy.
- ❖ Lack of shelters and other child basic needs.
- ❖ Early and not negotiable or safe marriages to vulnerable girl children.
- ❖ Myth about child immunization and HIV screening.





While other students go to school, some children from poverty stricken families miss classes for 1 month hunting money to buy scholastic needs.



Voluntary HIV screening and counseling in Nkoma B village.

**Way-forward to problems and challenges during the exercise:**

- Uganda Empowers openly and professionally informed all monitored OVCs and caregivers that we are not able to sustain giving out materials for life time, instead we can empowers IGAs and VSLA for sustainable livelihood to enable everyone generate money to meet their primary needs.
- OVC and family members were provided with free counseling of HIV, career guidance to live a Stigma-free life.
- Referrals and recommendations over some non provided services were made so that clients can be supported by other partners. This was commonly done on health care, immunization, legal support for forced marriages and etc.
- Uganda Empowers also recommended improved and affordable traditional farming so that caregivers can harvest health and enough foods for their children and for sale.

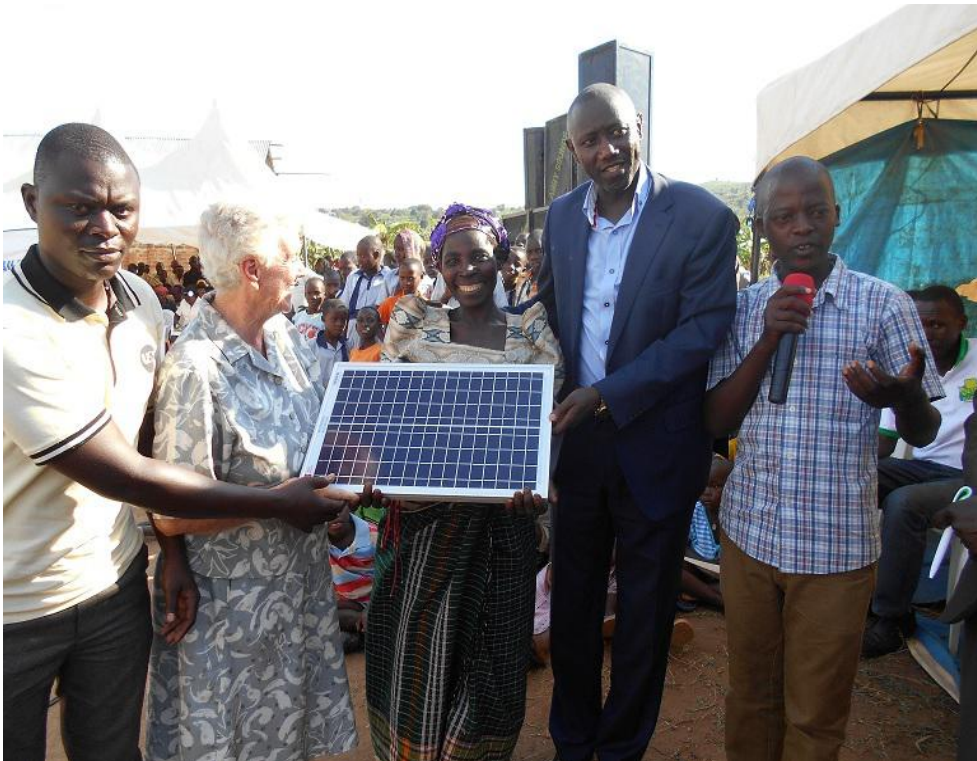
*"Envisioning an HIV-free World where there no Stigma associated with **HIV/AIDS.**"*







*Sister Helen of the Medical Missionaries of Mary encouraging members of Kitwekyanjovu Village bank to invite more members so that they can grow their share capitals and Savings.*



Sr. Helen D. of Medical Missionaries of Mary and Mr. Mutabaazi George the Lwengo district Governor donating a Solar system to a local mother who lost a baby in a candle fire accident.

**On-going plan & efforts to perform better in year 2017.**

- **Solar Project:** - Uganda Empowers is adjusting income generation routes so that the organization can have enough funds to own basic resources. Regarding this campaign, we are running “a Solar project” so that we do not only earn by providing affordable, reliable, Carbon-free energy but also allow our beneficiaries to save money from daily kerosene candles.

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## "Service Annual Report - 2016 "

- To avoid dependence and high expectations from Government or donations, Uganda Empowers will continue to encourage and support formation of Village Saving and Loaning Associations so that beneficiaries can Work hard, Save more to meet their primary needs and plan for their future.
- The organization will focus on involving the local community into volunteerism by organizing a platform to donate used domestic materials plus clothes, which will later be re-fashioned and donated to Orphans and other vulnerable children in very remote villages.
- Uganda Empowers will widely open doors and routes to partner with local and International agencies. This will mainly target volunteers that may wish to serve inline with our objectives and mission or any community development programs.
- It is still a big dream to own a community medical van which will enable us to reach more communities for HIV/AIDS counseling, testing and formative drama shows. The same van will be used to ease the referral system especially to move terminally ill AIDS patients from their dying houses to medical facilities.
- If all goes well in 2017, Uganda Empowers is aiming forward to start a community Nursery and Primary school at Lwempama Village in Kyawagonya parish. This project will target to provide early infancy quality gift of learning and open mindsets of local natives towards the meaning of education.



SPECIAL THANKS to; Uganda Empowers' staff "the foot-soldiers" for day today services, Mildmay Uganda for sponsoring home visiting and VSLA monitoring activity, Sister Helen for providing capacity building and encouragement to village saving groups and whoever made or is yet to make any additional efforts.

Yours in community development,

Johnbosco Matsiko - 0753 310 043  
President at Uganda Empowers.

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