



UGANDA EMPOWERS ORGANIZATION

P.O.BOX 663, MASAKA, UGANDA
LWENGO DISTRICT
Mbirizi, Lwengo Town Council
Kampala - Mbarara highway, next to Finance Trust Bank
Tel: +256753310043 or 0775 55 3932
Email: ugandaempowers@gmail.com, Web: www.ugandaempowers.org

ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE REPORT - 2021

REPORTING PERIOD: 2020/2021

REPORTING DATE: 12TH NOVEMBER 2021

COMPILED BY:

NAME: NDIBAZZA DEBORAH

TITLE: Programs Coordinator

UGANDA EMPOWERS ORGANIZATION is a community based organization that runs prevention activities and provide care for people infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS, mainly vulnerable children, women and the youth and contributing to the local, national and global sustainable development goals such as No poverty, Good health, Quality Education, clean energy and partnerships.

VISION: Empowered and resilient community in a sustainable and secure Environment by 2040

GOAL: To provide coordinated services to the rural community by focusing on the organization prioritized objectives and contributing to the local, national and UN SDGs

OBJECTIVES:

- To fight the spread of HIV through awareness and supporting people Infected or Affected by HIV/AIDS.
- To empower Orphans and other Vulnerable Children - OVCs.
- To develop Sustainable Livelihood among deprived households and groups
- To Conserve the Environment via promotion of renewable and affordable energy.

Uganda Empowers also contributes to the UN Sustainable development goals - SDGs

- **SDG1. No Poverty** - To strengthen household economy by encouraging and forming village saving groups which UE support with technical skills on record keeping, democratic leadership, registration to local authorities and group growth.
- **SDG3. Good health and well-being** - To promote HIV prevention awareness, testing and supporting people Infected or Affected by HIV/AIDS to access medication and positive counselling services so that they can live longer to take care of their children and attain their dreams.
- **SDG4. Quality Education** - To empower Orphans and other Vulnerable Children with self-reliance education so they can attain basic and career needs.
- **SDG7. Affordable and Clean Energy** - To promote renewable energy use and saving the nature by offering solar products at a subsidized and installment costs to the rural poor.
- **SDG17. Partnership for the goals** - To allow service exchange by hosting volunteers and calling for both national and international agencies partnering and sponsorships.

SOME PROJECTS RUN BY UGANDA EMPOWERS.

PROJECT -1 (SDG4): **A community school. EST. Year 2018**

Kyawagonya Community Nursery and Primary school is a project of Uganda Empowers where we enroll OVCs (Orphans and other Vulnerable Children) especially those infected with HIV/AIDS and whose parents died of AIDS or live in hardly poverty stricken households. In this learning center we take children aged around 4years to 15years and we teach them our African

traditions, history, religious education, science/health/sanitation, numbers/mathematics, social studies, reading/writing, English/Luganda languages, skills development, art/craft, games and sports etc.

School motto: *“Education is a gift of hope”*

Vision: “We dream of a society where no person is taken advantage because of ignorance.”

Mission: “Creating equal opportunities for vulnerable children to access comprehensive education rights so they can live a self-reliant future”

Achievements at Kyawagonya community school

- Enrolled 156 new students (boys and girls) before COVID 19 pandemic.



Girls playing netball at the school compound.

- Received donation to lay foundation/ground for the teachers’ house from Jael a science intern & volunteer from Switzerland

In front of the school management council, Jael doing a ground-breaking to lay foundation for the teacher’s house.



In front of the school management council, Jael doing a ground-breaking to lay foundation for the teacher's house.



Construction progress of teacher's house.



School view from bottom

Challenges facing school operations.

- The Corona virus outbreak that led to closure of schools is continuing to cause multiple effects both to students, teachers and the school management.

- Long distances from home to school affects students attendance especially the infants, it also puts them at risk of motor accidents as some have to cross or walk along a busy-highway.
- Delay in completion of the teachers' accommodation facility is affecting their potential to be in class on time as they have to walk long distance no-matter the weather status.
- Lack of teaching materials like textbooks, desks among others.
- Lack of water for both drinking and usage at the school.
- Lack of operational capacity for the clinic to start serving the community.
- The school also lacks a consistent funder or partner to sponsor and finish any started projects.
- Poor garden seasonal harvests affecting parent's income to buy scholastic requirements for their children, this is delaying some learners to start school on time or even dropping out.

Proposed solutions to the challenges above:

- Regarding long distances affecting the children to walk to school, as we call for support to buy a school van, we paid a village lady to walk the little ones every morning and evening after lessons.
- Completing the teacher's house is in our year resolution and we still call for more support.
- Uganda Empowers is calling for individual and non-profit organizations for partnership and financial support to facilitate basic needs like water, washrooms, text books, buy a school van and etc.
- In order to get the school and community clinic functional, we call upon any form of support like equipment's, medicines, human resource etc. from individuals, organizations and the local government.
- During school staff meetings with the parents, Uganda Empowers encouraged parents to adopt modern farming skills like applying local fertilizers, have water harvest systems so that they can improve on the garden harvests to generate enough money to pay for scholastic materials for their children.

Big dreams:

- Own a school van to ease movement of students.
- Build 2 school dormitories for boys and girls to provide accommodation enabling the far distant students to reside at the school campus.
- We also aim to install rain harvesting tank.
- Building a big soccer academy for Lwengo District

PROJECT - 2 (SDG 3)

Construction of a school and community clinic at Kyawagonya Community Nursery and primary school - EST Year 2021

This project was funded by Manoni a volunteer from Switzerland and the main objectives is to provide first health care services to the school and the community. This clinic is also a trial project for a big dream of building a community health facility for the rural Lwengo villages.

The community clinic was launched on the 5th, May, 2021 with a free one day medical camp at Kyawagonya Community Nursery and primary School.

With support from Lwengo Health Center IV medical team and St. Aloysius Ngobya Clinic we provided medical services to a total of 171 people on HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, family planning and other general health services.



Clients waiting for treatment during the launch of the clinic



Medical workers in front of the community clinic before commence of Work.

PROJECT - 3 (SDG 4) - EST Year 2021

▪ **Uganda Empowers Soccer Academy 2021**

In partnership with Taishi Hamon a volunteer from Japan, Uganda empowers has supported local football talents giving out over twenty eight balls to various village teams in Lwengo District.

The purpose of this academy is not only to develop talents but also to build professional and commercial future players in Lwengo district, Uganda and international.



Taishi handing over a ball to a team captain at kyawagonya community school



Uganda Empowers soccer academy getting ready for a training

SOLAR NATURE is an income generating project of Uganda Empowers. This is to mean that whenever we make a solar sale, 50% of profits go to supporting Uganda Empowers' charity work.

Vision

For all people including those in the most remote areas, to have carbon-free, affordable, safe and reliable natural power.

Mission

To offer affordable solar power systems that enable people to utilize the natural resource of the sun to provide them with energy for their homes and businesses saving them money.

Objectives for the project

- To generate income for the organization (Uganda Empowers) to continue charitable work.
- To make sure that the beneficiaries **save money** by using solar rather than buying kerosene or other gas this is one way of alleviating poverty
- To save the environment because solar is carbon-free

Target population

Anybody can access Solar Nature, however we target vulnerable communities, particularly those in the most remote areas, who would not be able to afford hydroelectricity and often struggle to afford kerosene and gas.



Extending solar power to the last-mile user.

Need for solar services in the Lwengo community.

Poverty is a major issue in rural areas, lots of people suffer from food insecurity, disease, lack of access to quality education, shelter, water and sanitation. The lack of reliable source of power is also another challenge affecting the people of Lwengo. By enabling village families to own solar systems through a loan scheme, they no longer have to buy kerosene or gas and they eternally own the solar system once the loan has been paid off. This is a one way of ending poverty and allowing access to other clean energy benefits to individual families and to the environment.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRAMS SUPPORTED WITH SOLAR PROFITS.

Because solar project is UE main source of income to fund charity programs, we have been able to achieve more:

1. HEALTH:

- Early 2021, Uganda Empowers organized multiple health sessions including free HIV counseling, testing, referral for antiretroviral therapy and follow-up of patients. This was only possible with profit funds from the solar project.
- We carried out different home visiting sessions to monitor and support treatment adherence, sanitation and general HIV positive living among people battling HIV/AIDS.



UE counselor during a home visiting season to provide support supervision on treatment adherence.



UE staff educating clients on AIDS treatment and good feeding as a way to boost their body immunity and resist HIV virus replication.

Solar profits enabling UE respond to COVID-19 pandemic in the Lwengo community.



In collaboration with Lwengo district NGO forum and GIZ, Uganda Empowers was involved in field preventive awareness against COVID.



Children from a poor family smiling for a COVID relief food.



UE donate relief food and other items to child headed families

ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING

Formation of VSLAs: At Uganda Empowers we believe in “*supporting a man to learn how to fish than giving him a fish*” and this is how we optioned to creating village saving and loaning associations (VSLA). With Solar Nature profits, we managed to create 2 successful groups benefiting 60 direct members from household poverty to an economic stable status.



During a VSLA group training session on book keeping.

Empowering VSLAs that were affected by COVID 19 lockdown.

It has been evident that Uganda as a whole is currently facing an economic crisis due to covid 19, likely VSLAs are declining because some members are no longer working which affects savings, leading to unpaid debts and creating uncertainty of sustainability of these small village saving groups.

Uganda Empowers in effort to steady growth of VSLAs has given out hoes to various VSLA members so that they can use them to cultivate in the coming season, this will increase on their harvests and generate money for saving.



Members of Yatula kyoli Musubiro VSLA after receiving hoes from UE donated by Theresa friends from Germany.

BEE KEEPING

Still aiming at the SGD 1 (No poverty), UE developed bee keeping and training of villages about the wealth in bee farming. This is not only targeting individuals or groups' empowerment but also contributing to the organization revenue collection, hence keeping us in charity business because some profits generated from honey sales goes to UE community development activities.



The bee apiary in Lwempaama village - Kyawagonya



Henry (in the middle) also the project manager training visitors about bee keeping.

Solar profits contributing to building a safe home for Orphans in a child-headed family



Before building



After building.



Happy children now seating in their new house

CHALLENGES FACED IN RUNNING A SOLAR PROJECT.

- Like most of the businesses in Uganda, the COVID-19 prevention restriction such as the lockdown affected our ability to approach people who need solar hence causing low income.
- Uganda Empowers lack enough fund to invest in the solar business, this is affecting our ability to stock enough panels and promote the business which is limiting our sales and leading to less generation of profits.
- Clients want to buy solar but they call for an extension of installment period from 6 months to 12 months. This is hard for Solar Nature because we need to collect the money sooner to stock more panels as a way to stay in business.
- Low standard products from other service providers which limit our marketing capacity making it difficult to prove to clients that we are different.
- Defaulting clients due to COVID 19 effects on their income which made it difficult for them to re-pay solar home systems on time.

SOLAR NATURE PLANS FOR NEXT PROJECT YEAR 2022/2023

Planned activity	Due date	Location
Stock other solar materials and call for support from well-wishers and partners	soon	Lwengo
Continue making sales promotions	On-going	Lwengo district & neighborhood
Continue providing charity services and monitoring all activities supported by solar profits	On-going	Lwengo district
We also aim to open-up a service branch in Kazo district to widen our sales coverage and extend service closer.	Early of 2022	Kazo - Kiruhura region
Will recruit more sales agents and contact person	2022	Kazo branch
To partner with local government and development partners to distribute more solar in Lwengo district	End of 2021	Lwengo district
From solar profits we aim to plant trees on streets and collect plastics from town councils of Lwengo district	End of 2021	Lwengo town councils

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS FROM SERVICE PARTNERS:

Partnership being one of Uganda Empowers' essential tool for comprehensive service delivery, we much treasure the cooperation we have reached with other aiding agencies:

1. GENDERCIDE AWARENESS PROJECT

Uganda Empowers in partnership with Gendercide Awareness project have joined efforts to address the educational gender gap between boys and girls in Lwengo District through a one year project called the "female empowerment program",

The main objective of this program is to provide sponsorship to vulnerable young girls to go to school and enroll dropped out of school, young mothers to vocational skills so that they can have a sustainable livelihood in future.



Girls attaining skills in hairdressing posing with donated reusable sanitary pads



UE staff assessing Milly a young mother to be sponsored.

2. A GOAL

A GOAL is a sports promoting organization based in Japan whose main is to support vulnerable people through sports club.

Uganda empowers with support from “A GOAL” gave COVID 19 relief items like pads and food to HIV non-suppressing clients. This is UE effort to help people living with HIV/AIDS to boost their immune system through proper feeding resist HIV virus duplication hence preventing opportunistic infections.



Uganda Empowers counsellor Mutoni giving sanitary pads to girls.



UE donating food to non-suppressing AIDS clients at Lwengo public clinic.

3. HANDS-ON-VOLUNTEERISM

Uganda Empowers is gifted to host Volunteers from around the world, we involve them into community development work basing on one's desire or expertise. This service exchange program doesn't only give immediate service to the Lwengo people but also creates a bigger network in the future through "a word of mouth" when volunteers return home.



Manon a medical volunteer from Switzerland supporting Lwengo H/C IV team to provide free HIV testing services in Mayiira village.



Christian from Germany supporting UE solar technicians to mount a solar panel.



Taishi a sports volunteer from Japan irrigating a coffee that he planted at the UE community school as a souvenir.

GENERAL CHALLENGE AFFECTING UGANDA EMPOWERS' OPERATIONS:

- Like any other service providers, our work has been interrupted by the COVID 19 effects especially limitations on movement.
- Beneficiaries' high expectations and demands from UE, this makes it difficult for the decision making team to choose which activity to allocate money to or it will leave the work half-done until we are able to generate and save enough profits from solar.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS:

- Since it is also our primary wish to save lives, we will continue to contribute to government guidelines, working under reserved COVID SOPs.
- In this coming period (2022), UE will focus on organizational strengthening which involves resource mobilization, networking and partnerships for both services and funds to reach more beneficiaries' demand.

UGANDA EMPOWERS' BIG DREAMS YEAR 2022/23:











- Focus on economic strengthening of our beneficiaries by creating and supporting VSLAs
- Stock enough solar panels, open-up a branch in Kazo - Kiruhura region, sell more, generate more profits and do more charity work.
- Facilitate the community clinic with medical materials and staff.
- Strengthen the soccer academy
- Build partnership with Lwengo local government to distribute over 5000 home solar systems to families in remote areas, install street lights and plant environmental trees in the 5 town councils.
- Introduce solar powered irrigation systems to the Lwengo farmers
- Build two dormitories (boys and girls) and a kitchen for Kyawagonya community school kids that come from far distant villages.
- Renovate and finish UE school buildings.
- Build volunteers house at the host home.
- Install rain harvesting tanks to the community school
- Buy a school van that will be moving students
- Completion of the teacher's house at the UE community school
- Continue the rest of organization activities and projects, e.g child development, HIV/AIDS, vocational skills development, hosting volunteers and etc.

UE will meet these dreams through partnership, donations from both individuals and aiding agencies in Uganda and or overseas.

Acknowledgement:

On behalf of Uganda Empowers management council, staff and on my own behalf, I do appreciate whoever have supported our services in anyway, the volunteers, donors, partners and the Lwengo district local government,

And special thanks to a few individuals:

No.	Donor or contributor	Project/activity	Current Status
1.	Taishi H. and friends 	Donation of score balls and formation of an academy	Complete and trainings are ongoing
2.	Jael C. family and friends 	Constructing of a Teachers' house at a community school	Not complete
3.	Theresa S. family, friends and co-workers (The Dive & De Lowe) 	Building school toilet and giving a solar business booster grant	Toilet Completed and booster grant was a contribution
4.	Stefanie P. and Royal R. 	Contribution to clearing a class room and donating to clinic materials	Complete
5.	Angel N 	Networking, managing UE website and developing documents	Always
6.	Marijke S, Johan S and Marjon V  	Sponsorship of formation of 2 VSLAs and supporting a poor family for education and garden inputs	VSLAs are complete, education on going and garden also progressing
7.	Manon K. family and friends 	Building of a community clinic, giving solar booster grant and supporting health and housing for a single and poor mother family.	Clinic and house for poor family is complete, health and other basic needs sponsorship is ongoing
8.	Stefan T and Sophia T 	Contribution to build a modern school kitchen	Not yet started, still lack start-up money
9.	Beverly H. and Gendercide 	Sponsorship of 14 poor girls for education and young mothers for skills and vocational studies	Skills studies is ongoing but formal education is paused due to COVID 19

We are so grateful for your kind contribution.

Report approved by:

Matsiko Johnbosco - 0753310043
Programs Director.