



# The Umbrella of Hope Annual Report 2014



Stichting the  
**Umbrella of Hope**  
N E D E R L A N D

[www.umbrellaofhopeuganda.org](http://www.umbrellaofhopeuganda.org)



I Invite you to read through our 2014 annual report which is only peak bit at what Stichting The Umbrella of Hope Nederland/Uganda has done through programs interfacing with donors, government structures, religious institutions, Civil society organizations, Health facilities, schools, and most importantly families with adults, youths and children. While our support is structured through various development paradigms, we are always confronted with the real need of each person we interface with. For The Umbrella of Hope the real need of each person is to find someone who loves him/her, considers him/her important and supports him in any circumstance of life. For us, only this approach that focuses on supporting communities and individuals to become aware of their value and

dignity is what makes these initiatives sustainable. In responding to each person's real need in their life's journey, we build protagonists, persons that can take responsibility in their search for sustenance. It is only this kind of approach that results in a "true" sustainability. This year, like others in the past has been a journey of companionship, where the commitment of our staff, both those in the front line and those behind the scenes remained integral to the success of our programs.

We wish to thank all our friends, partners, volunteers (all over the world) and donors who share our aspirations and have given us a tremendous support even during this time of difficult economic situations.

Michael Dhatemwa Mawambi,  
Founder and Director, The Umbrella of Hope Nederland

The Umbrella of Hope carried out a number of projects in the year 2014. These were in various fields namely; Education, Health, livelihoods, and vocational training. A number of these initiatives were multi-sectoral that spanned through a number of sectors. These various initiatives presented an opportunity for self-discovery for both our staff and the people we support. In the health sector we supported the strengthening of local/community structures and families in increasing the equitable access and improvement of the quality of sexual & reproductive health services for young adolescent girls by providing them with reusable Sanitary Pads. We focused mainly on the rural populations in Eastern Uganda to improve access to education by removing any obstacles. This was after realising that the targeted girls had dropped out of school due to Menstruation periods

The Umbrella of Hope supported the strengthening of the rural community structures and the households/families both in support of vulnerable children. With these projects we aim to give a sustainable and comprehensive response we want to be a companion for our beneficiaries; a companion who “sustains and understands” in the journey of life.” Under the theme of education, The Umbrella of Hope supported a number of initiatives, starting from Education Support Programme (ESP) that supports children to access quality education. This programme ensured that the families that are most needy can give their children a quality education. More specifically the collaboration between The Umbrella of Hope, and the local Government Authorities in Mayuge, Iganga and Jinja districts in supporting Mulanga Primary School, Victoria Love primary school, St. Charles primary school, and Nanfugaki Primary school led to a greater participation and involvement of the parents, School Management Committees, Teachers and the District Education Office in the education of the children where obstacles to education were turned into opportunities to collaborate, work together, when the parents were empowered to improve their incomes with income generating projects.

Every one took responsibility, every one became a protagonist. There is also the unending beautiful story of the women of Mulanga Village in in the rural villages of Iganga. They did not wait for development aid; We empowered them and they started to move by making a contribution through selling paper beads that were sold all over Uganda with a desire that their children could have a holistic education, a story of solidarity beyond our initial imagination. Now they can afford to pay for their children’s needs like scholastic materials, medical care and food. This aspect of education is what we want to emphasize throughout our work; To empower communities in order to empower themselves, we believe this will bring about sustainable and transformative community development.

## Ugandan Context

Uganda had the second highest fertility rate and the fifth highest growth rate in the world in 2012. In July 2013, the population of Uganda was 37.5million people; with over 87% being rural and nearly 13% urban with a gender ratio of 95.3 men per 100 women. Life expectancy at birth is 49 years for men and 51 years for women. Infant mortality rate is 134 per 1000 live births. 38% of the population is living below the poverty line and poverty is the main underlying cause of poor health in Uganda. Other factors are low literacy levels (69%), high prevalence of communicable diseases, emergence of diseases due to lifestyle, inadequate distribution of social services and incapacitated health care structures. HIV/AIDS impress a huge burden on health care services in Uganda and the disease is a burden of the entire populace. The current HIV/AIDS prevalence is estimated at 6.5% among adults in Uganda and the prevalence is 5.7% in the rural areas with infection rates higher among the women.

49.9% of Uganda's residents are under the age of 15 years and Uganda is the third fastest growing population in the world (population growth rate of 3.58% and fertility rate of 6.7). Educational enrolment has risen since the introduction of the Universal Primary Education (UPE) program in 1996: from 62.3 percent in 2000 to 93 percent (net enrolment ratio) in 2009 with slight disparities between boys and girls (96 and 90% respectively). Overall, only eight percent of the population has completed primary education, and less than one percent has completed a secondary education.

Great strides in the fight against HIV/AIDS have been made in Uganda, with prevalence rates having declined from a peak of 18 percent in 1992 down to a current rate of 6.4 percent. Advances in the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) services offered through the country's hospitals and health centres are serving as an entry point to the broader health care system for many thousands of expectant mothers, and their spouses.

The agricultural sector contributes about 23% of Uganda's total GDP, employs 73% of the rural Ugandan labour force and the sector has for long been recognized as the most viable for poverty reduction and subsequent eradication. Current sector growth is at 2.6% per annum, 3.4% short of the minimum target growth rate of 6% set by the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). The agriculture production chain in Uganda faces a lot of challenges which include low level of productivity, use of labour-intensive low yield technologies, scarcity of agriculture loans and lack of appropriate technologies and inputs among others.





The Umbrella of Hope Nederland, relying in a particular way on its personnel in the field working side by side with local partners, holds education as the overall goal of each cultural, social and economic project and initiative. Education cannot be reduced to schooling, training sessions, or information campaigns; instead, to educate means to introduce ourselves and one another to reality, to its meaning and to the value of things, thereby sustaining the individual's responsible undertaking to better his/her life and the lives of others. An education to reality entails sharing an experience, through a relationship, where the fulfilment of life and the awareness of meaning are already being lived. With this ultimate goal and guided by the following principles, The Umbrella of Hope does not create dependency, but helps individuals and communities address their own present and future needs through education and building permanent and sustainable institutions.

1. Centrality of the Person

The person is the center of any development program, and the purpose of every project. This means, first of all, sharing the needs of the other, who as a unique human being desires happiness, truth, beauty, justice and freedom. The person cannot be reduced to a social category or a limitation such as poverty, disease or disability. Without this recognition of the human person—being moved by the destiny of the other—the answer to needs is merely an act of generosity or a political strategy. The very nature of the person implies relationships—first and foremost with the family and the community; consequently, The Umbrella of Hope Nederland assumes this context as the starting point.

2. Everyone must participate

A project imposed from above is either violent, because not shared, or unsustainable, because assistance-oriented. The Umbrella of Hope Nederland's approach to project design and implementation is "doing with" people starting from a relationship with the people to whom the project is directed, and building with them on the basis of their development path. This principle necessitates the existence of a human relationship with the host community and their participation from the earliest stages of project conceptualization. This method is the only true method of stimulating ownership and aligning incentives, since project implementers do not have a pre-conceived plan of action.

3. Development of Civil Society and Subsidiarity

A society is born out of the free commitment of persons and families joining together. Development projects must prioritize support for associations closest to the individual and community, thus recognizing and valuing the establishment of intermediate bodies as central to a responsible and engaged social fabric. The right of every person to free association with others and to economic enterprise becomes a powerful drive towards better civic and democratic life.

4. Building and strengthening Partnerships

Partnership originates from the application of the principle of subsidiarity. Thus, starting from an existing subject, partnership implies the identification and involvement of a growing number of actors active in the field, including public and private, local and international actors. Opportunities for synergy must be identified or created in order to optimize available resources and enhance the effectiveness of all projects over the long-term.

## 2014 projects' Summary

Stichting The Umbrella of Hope Nederland supports projects and programmes for accessible and relevant education, and development initiatives for underprivileged children, youth and communities in Uganda. We work for communities in which every member, most especially children have equal access to life opportunities like Education, Health care and secure livelihoods.

| Sector      | Project Title  | Donor   | Area of Coverage                         |
|-------------|--|---|--|
| Education   | Child Sponsorship Project. This involved Scholastic support to vulnerable children in rural communities of Uganda. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Global Giving USA.</li> <li>- HSV School, Den Haag Netherlands.</li> </ul> | Mayuge, Iganga and Jinja District        |
|             | ICT for Education: Computer Training centre  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private Donors (Netherlands).</li> </ul>                                   | Iganga District                          |
| Health      | Malaria Prevention Campaign: Distribution of Mosquito Nets   | Local fundraising(Uganda)   | Mayuge District, Nankoma                 |
| Livelihoods | Income generating project: Empowering women with piggery   | Private.  | Wairaka Village, Jinja District          |
|             | Skills training programme for young adults   | Private   | Bulanga rural community, Iganga District |
| Research    | Seen as Ghosts and Inhuman: Albino children and youth deserve a better life  | UN Online Volunteers/Programme team.  | Mayuge District                          |
|             | I am a girl but ashamed of myself. I need a sanitary pad   | UN Online Volunteers/Programme team.  | Jinja District                           |

## Skills training programme for young adults

The Umbrella of Hope recognizes that youth and employment is a crucial factor in the development of the economy. But most important for the youth, acquisition of skills is very much linked to their livelihood. Through private sponsors, The Umbrella of Hope implemented in partnership with local council community members in Jinja rural communities, out of school youth have been primarily targeted to build their skills and capacities through vocational training, as well as to link them to the local markets and economy. The project also targets vocational skills institutions, purposely to strengthen them in order to enable them provide an improved range and quality of skills to a wider number of youth than those that will be directly targeted by the intervention.

Finally, we also supported local private enterprises and economic activities, with the purpose of facilitating apprenticeship opportunities, on-the-job training and experience generation for the region's youth. Cognizant of gender stereotypes, the project took into account the need to improve access of young women to skills training programs tailored to an individual woman's aspirations and talents rather than to traditionally outlined roles.

### Achievements

- 45 youth were enrolled in this programme and also linked to training institutions of their choices, trained in business and life skills, and group dynamics, placed for industrial training and later provided with start-up tools.
- 15 teachers/ instructions received tools and equipment to enhance their capacity to deliver marketable and quality vocational skills.





## Child Education and Sponsorship

Stichting The Umbrella of Hope Nederland believes that education is the key to overcoming poverty, and our goal is to achieve an equitable and sustainable future through education.

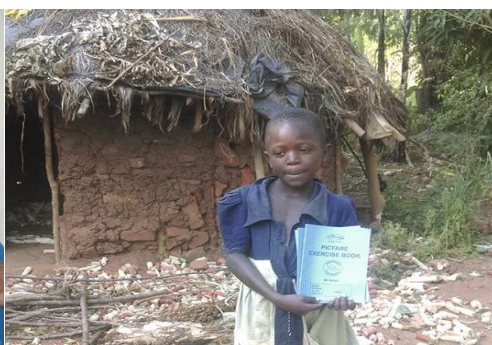
In 2014, 117 online sponsors supported programs that directly benefited more than 300 children in 21 different local communities around Uganda. Thanks to our growing community of child sponsors, we increased our impact and reach – helping 20% more children than we did in 2013.



Alamanzani aged 9 and Muzamiru aged 6 lost all their parents. We provided them with scholastic materials like books, pens, pencils and mathematical sets to continue with school.



Children are our priority in Uganda; we made it possible for them to access quality education by providing them with scholastic materials like books, pens, pencils, and other livelihood items like cloths, toys and food.





## ICT for Education: Computer Training centre



We received a consignment of 10 used computers from our friends in Netherlands. We have now set up a computer training facility at the heart of the rural community in Iganga District. So far we have been able to serve over 200 community members including children, youths, women and adults. We have provided training, Internet and other secretarial services to the community for free. This computer centre has been a hub for farmers who come and search about new farming technology and

ideas. Many have confirmed that this centre has added a lot of value to their lives.

However, in order to sustain the centre and pay for utility bills and other training materials in 2015 we shall start charging a small fee from all users. We also need more computers to serve a wider community because the demand for computer services has been extremely high.



## Income generating project: Empowering women

Livelihood interventions seek to strengthen households' economic viability with the aim of increased capacity to provide child protection, education, health and nutrition. The goal is to establish sufficiently resilient households that can fulfil children's rights as measured by a decrease in negative economic coping mechanisms that undermine the best interest of children.

The Umbrella of Hope Uganda's Livelihoods programme helps vulnerable communities in Eastern Uganda to utilize their limited resources, in order to improve their household incomes. This enables poor households to increase their income and provide more food for their families.

The Umbrella of Hope distributed over 200 piglets to about 100 poor women households in Uganda in order to increase their income. Many women households have been able to take care of their children through provision of scholastic materials, food, and medical care among others.

- Over 100 partners have been selected and engaged
- Over 200 piglets have been distributed
- Programming guideline booklet has been compiled and published
- Technical capacity building of implementers has been carried out extensively
- Vulnerable households have been identified and enrolled
- Severely malnourished children are being treated at various centres



A girl absent from school due to menstruation for four days of every 28 day cycle loses 13 learning days, the equivalent to two weeks of learning, every school term.

Girls and boys have a right to grow and develop in good health. For this to become a reality it is essential that sexual and reproductive health education that is accurate and appropriate to their stage of development is provided. This is crucial for this type of education becomes the foundation for attitude formation and decision making<sup>1</sup> Menstruation hygiene management (MHM) is a key topic in reproductive health education yet it is often overlooked in disadvantaged low socioeconomic status areas.

Good MHM is defined as the following:

1. Providing access to necessary resources which include sanitary pads, materials needed to collect/absorb blood, soap and water.
2. Providing adequate private facilities where girls can change wash themselves and their sanitary reusable pads. In addition facilities must include adequate disposal system.
3. Providing comprehensive health and sexual education related to MHM<sup>2</sup>.

An issue experienced in low SES areas of rural Uganda are the high dropout rates of girls due to poor MHM. This includes lack of washrooms at their schools, unavailability of sanitary pads, and bullying by peers.

In 2014, we used about \$12,500 to retain over 300 school going girls from vulnerable households in School by providing them with reusable sanitary pads and training in Menstrual Hygiene and Sanitation.



<sup>1</sup> WHO – International Day of the Girl Child

<sup>2</sup> Robyn B., et al. Menstrual Hygiene Management amongst schoolgirls in the Rukungiri district of Uganda and the impact on their education: a cross-sectional study. 2014



"1 OUT OF 8 GIRLS IN MULANGA VILLAGE, MAYUGE DISTRICT IN UGANDA HAS DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL DUE TO LACK OF MENSTRUATION PADS." WE ARE PROVIDING GIRLS WITH FREE REUSABLE SANITARY PADS IN ORDER TO KEEP THEM IN SCHOOL...



PHOTO BY MELVIN/TUH

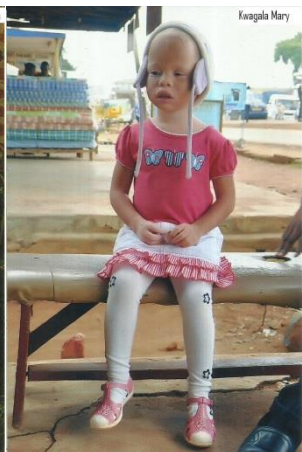
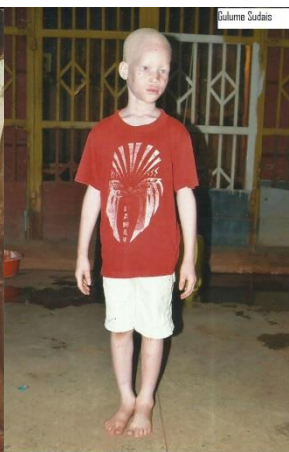


**Research Project: Seen as Ghosts and Inhuman: Albino children and youth deserve a better life**

We conducted research in 2013 in Jinja rural communities of busedde sub-county, Mayuge rural communities and Iganga about the level of vulnerability of people living with Albinism. We managed to interview about 371 people with albinism and found out that 90% of them live in rural areas where they can't grow their own food because of the danger from the Ugandan sun. They also face danger from Albino hunters who use them in ritual sacrifices.

In Uganda, people with Albinism face many challenges. They are highly susceptible to skin cancer and other sun-related ailments when exposed to the hot sun- particularly when they try to farm for their livelihoods. Because of their unique condition, people with Albinism are also hunted and used for ritual sacrifice in Ugandan villages. They need a place to learn skills that will help them to become more independent and reduce their reliance on their families and communities.

This project concluded that people with Albinism are extremely vulnerable to life pressures, and without any source of income it becoming hard for them to survive in such an environment that does not recognize them as humans. We therefore concluded that they need a place to learn skills that will help them to become more independent and reduce their reliance on their families and communities. This project will help children and young adults with Albinism in Uganda by teaching them the skills they need to have their own businesses. They'll receive direct training in Beauty & Skin Care skills along with participating in apprenticeship programs. Running their own businesses will mean they can avoid the sun and isolated areas where hunters target them.





## Activities in Netherlands: Networking and Fundraising Events

We now have offices in Europe and based in The Hague, Netherlands implementing educational projects at the centre of rural and disadvantaged communities in Uganda, we do this together with the help of global students, teachers, and communities and we pride ourselves as the only International organisation with on the ground presence deep in the rural and remote communities in Uganda.

We have had number of activities and partners aimed at supporting our projects in Uganda.

### Partnership with HSV Schools in Den Haag, Netherlands

HSV donated over 1000Kgs of clothing, shoes and school materials, which were provided to underprivileged orphans and children aged 5-15.



### Partnerships with Dutch Organizations and Institutions



Partnership Events- We have partnered with Participation Emancipation Professionals(PEP), a new organization, created from the recent merger of four foundations, dedicated to inspire residents of The Hague to get involved and make a difference in the Dutch community. They work closely with non-profit organizations, companies and community leaders to respond to community needs.



## International Institute of Social Sciences (ISS)

We have partnered with the Students Welfare office to run fundraising campaigns within the Institute and its surrounding areas. Students, lecturers, non-teaching staff have responded to this call generously donated to The Umbrella of Hope Nederland. The Welfare department has also donated sportswear to the children and youths of Uganda. This sportswear will be used to organize a sports event in Uganda to promote cancer awareness.



## Partnership with SOL and Positive Debt Netherlands

We held networking event and promotional event with SOL (a student's organization in Leiden University) and Positive Debt (A students organization working to change the livelihoods of poor households in Uganda through Microfinance). We bridged a partnership to work together in promoting institutional growth, fundraising and knowledge sharing among ourselves. During this event The Umbrella of Hope presented its work to the students of Leiden University, and also encouraged students to join the organizations as volunteers. We registered over 20 students who were interested in working with The Umbrella of Hope Nederland.

<http://www.soleiden.nl/fotos.php?aID=33>



## Talent Time Workshops in Dutch Schools

Educational workshops given to Dutch school children aged 6-12 that provide an insight and awareness into the education system in Uganda and 'A Day in the Life of a Village Child in Uganda'. Children learn good citizenship, compassion and cultural similarities and differences through learning, play and dance.



## Stay With Us!

### Netherlands

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### Social Media

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W: [www.umbrellaofhopeuganda.org](http://www.umbrellaofhopeuganda.org)

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