



**Uganda Community Based Association
for Women and Children Welfare**

Vision

We envision empowered communities free of poverty and able to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mission

To attain improved welfare of vulnerable women and children using community based initiatives.

Program Areas

- 1. Orphans and Vulnerable Children*
- 2. Health*
- 3. Governance and Human Rights*
- 4. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction*

The MouthPiece

UCOBAC's bi-annual newsletter
July - December 2016

Highlights

Our partners, we thank you for making 2016 a great year for UCOBAC. Its been a great season. In this edition of the MouthPiece, we share with you the following:-

- Teachers trained on test-item setting
- Children's educational tour
- Meet Nyamaizi Stella
- HIV/AIDS Joint Annual Review meeting
- CFTC partners forum
- Quito Declaration on sustainable cities & human settlement for all
- Women's Land Rights Movement Conference
- New project: Women's land rights - Social Norm Transformation project



Teachers engaged in group work during the training



Teachers make presentations

TEACHERS TRAINED ON TEST-ITEM SETTING

Teachers from Buluwe, Bubuzi and Bukuta primary schools participated in a two-days training organized by UCOBAC in Bugiri district to gain knowledge on standard test-item writing. By engaging in brainstorming, group work and various plenary sessions to gather more experience on quality test-item setting, teachers acquired new ideas for effective evaluation of pupils' learning progress and delivering of feedback on pupils' learning achievements in a meaningful way.

UCOBAC works through the Child Development Project supported by Canadian Feed the Children, to improve children's well-being by implementing a number of activities which enable children to access quality basic education.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL TOUR... an exciting experience

Supported by Canadian Feed the Children (CFTC), UCOBAC organized an educational tour for 358 sponsored pupils from Buluwe and Bubuzi Primary Schools in Bugiri district. The educational tour was a welcome break for the pupils and teachers from routine school activities.

"... This is an exciting experience because I never thought that I would ever get the chance to see the source of the Nile which our SST [social studies] teacher taught us about", said a happy Joyce Akongo, a Primary 5 pupil from Buluwe Primary School.

Educational tours are essential to enhance children's learning and bond among each other as well as with their teachers. They reinforce the knowledge received in class and thus paint a clearer picture and give more meaning to some of the learning content delivered. Some of the pupils who are

less fortunate get an opportunity to travel to places or sites they would otherwise not have afforded to reach.

On this particular tour, some of the sites that the children were able to visit were: among other places - the Source of the Nile, Vita Foam factory, Nyanza Textile limited, Masese landing site. UCOBAC twice a year organizes educational tours in the second and third terms as a motivational activity for the children it sponsors in the 8 aided government schools it supports..

The tour in pictures



Pupils viewing types of fish at Masese landing site



Children learning about chicken rearing

Memories of the educational tour



My name is Kangi John, I am 12 years old and in primary 4 at Bukokhe Primary School. I was so happy when Ms. Suzan [UCOBAC Programme Officer] and our teachers told us that we were going for an education tour in Jinja. I didn't believe them until when I finally got into the van to Jinja. I sat next to the window so that I could see everything on my way because I had never gone beyond the trading centre in my village. On our way to Jinja, I saw huge tracks on the road; I also saw [storeyed] buildings in Iganga that I had not seen before.

After some time [one and a half hours] we were in Jinja. What a nice town Jinja is!! We were driven through Jinja; I saw several shops selling a lot of nice clothes and shoes. We visited Masese landing site on Lake Victoria. There I saw huge fish, I think the fish was taller and bigger than me, I also saw lung fish - it looks like a snake and tilapia. It was the first time I was seeing Nile perch, it is very big and I was told by the tour guide that it is sold in kilograms.

We visited the railway station too. I saw the railway line for the first time but our teacher had told us that it is one of the means of transport that is used in Uganda. At the railway station I saw the [wagons]. I tried to count them but they were endless. We visited the source of the Nile. It is such a cool place to be. It was not as hot as the railway station. At the source of the Nile we had our snack and drink and then put on life jackets before going for a boat ride. Ohhh my.... the boat ride was such a beautiful experience. The engine boats on lake Victoria were a very interesting sight for me. The sound they make when the [engine] is starting is so amazing.

Our last destination was Kakira Sugar Works. There were huge sugar cane plantations, trucks loaded with sugar cane, the entrance to the factory is has nice flower gardens. I learnt a lot from the weather station we found there. It had several instruments like the rain gauge sunshine recorder, wind sock, wind vane that I saw and learnt their use. Unfortunately it was time for us to go back home although I didn't want the tour to end. I did not want to go back.

I am grateful to Canadian Feed the Children and UCOBAC for organizing to take us for this trip to visit these places because my parents do not have money to take me there. Next time I want to go to the city Kampala and visit the parliament of Uganda and other interesting places like the museum.



A team of CFTC partners after the meeting

CFTC Partners' Forum

CFTC Uganda partners had a one-and-a-half-day workshop intended to align the Ugandan program with CFTC global priorities. The partner NGOs including UCOBAC, Huyslinci and CEDO discussed issues regarding the welfare of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and how each respective organization has contributed and will continue to contribute to the OVC agenda over the period of collaborating with CFTC.

Ms. Suzan Gamwino, UCOBAC's Regional Officer for the Eastern region

presented on some of the activities implemented by UCOBAC in support of national strategies and child development in Bugiri district. These include; (i) improving access to quality education through strengthening capacities of teachers, school management committees and provision of educational materials to sponsored schools; (ii) supporting the school feeding programme; (iii) promoting household food security through economic empowerment of child caretakers, capacity building in modern farming methods and ensure sustainable provision of food in the households, (iv) public engagements through dialogues with community members and leaders.

Kevin Gregory, the representative from CFTC Headquarters communicated CFTC's new strategic direction (2021-2017) intended to reach a world in which children thrive and are free from poverty. He advised the partner organizations in Uganda on means to further benefit from CFTC in terms of capacity building and development. Partners identified crucial need to adopt high impact programming which calls for strategic 5 year plans after 2017 to serve orphans and other vulnerable children.



UCOBAC Credit officer (left) interacting with two members of Twekambe Women Solidarity Group: Nyamaizi Stella (centre) and the Community Resource Person (CORP) - Atugonza Rose (carrying a baby)



Stella with her 5 grandchildren at their current semi-permanent dilapidated house



Stella with her grandchildren at their new shelter still under construction

“I started with 100,000 Uganda shillings [\$ 30]...now am building a permanent house...” - Stella Nyamaizi

My name is Nyamaizi Stella. I am 57 years old. I live in Kisukuma village, Kigorobya sub-county in Hoima district. Am a widow living with 5 grandchildren. Some of the parents of these children passed away while others migrated to Kampala and promised to provide assistance while there but this is done occasionally, others have not bothered to send anything. I joined Twekambe Women Solidarity Group [supported by UCOBAC] in 2007 as a member to be able to access affordable credit to start a small business to provide for my family.

After participating in an intensive training program on modern agricultural methods, I started borrowing in 2009 and was given 100,000 UGX shillings which I returned at a very low interest rate and borrowed some more to invest in gardening.

I currently borrow more than 800,000 UGX and have been growing maize, beans, sorghum and vegetables on my kibanja for some time now. I am able to trade and make some profits. It has not been a smooth journey but I am now realizing the fruits of my labour. Am using my profits for brick making; I sell some of the bricks and use others to put up a permanent house and a toilet. My house is almost done. Am working hard so that we can shift to our new home next year [2017].

**UCOBAC through its Strengthening Community Based Resource Mobilization program offers vulnerable individuals/groups an opportunity to start own income generating activities to support themselves and their families. Poor households in the districts of Mityana, Mubende, Kiboga and Hoima receive varied trainings, savings mobilization skills and access a revolving credit fund.*

ADVOCACY SKILLS TRAINING

“Capacity assessment and development for NGOs is continuous”, ...advised Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF) Executive Director, Mr. Ssewakiryanga Richard, in an advocacy skills training hosted by UNNGOF at Royal Suites Hotel in August. Several NGOs, UCOBAC inclusive, participated in the two-days training on advocacy where they received enriching knowledge and discussed about:- the public policy process, Sustainable Development Goals and why it's important for each organization to identify its niche in these, policy advocacy as well as media and communications.

Participants were engaged in a series of participatory exercises aimed at assessing own organizations' capacity in terms of management, program delivery, human resources, external resources and financial management.

HIV/AIDS JOINT ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING

Held at Hotel Africana in August 2016, the HIV/AIDS Joint Annual Review (JAR) meeting organized by Uganda Network of AIDS Service Organizations (UNASO) supported by Community Health Alliance (CHAU) brought together various players in the field of HIV/AIDS from the civil society to assess their performance and discuss matters regarding HIV/AIDS.

UCOBAC represented by its Head of Health, Loretta Owino, participated in the meeting. Some of the key issues discussed were; the need to disseminate the AIDE memoire, participation of CSOs in pre-JAR consultations, youth involvement in sexual and reproductive health rights activities, competition for drugs among Hepatitis B and HIV/AIDS patients as well as need to meet the 90/90/90 target.

A presentation by Mr. Balam Nuwamanya, the Executive Director of CHAU highlighted key statistics on the global response to HIV/AIDS as presented at the 2016 high level UNAIDS meeting on HIV/AIDS in New York; by 2015 15.8 million people were accessing HIV/AIDS treatment compared to 13.6 million in 2014, key populations including sex workers, LGBT and drug abusers also have access to treatment and decline in the spread of the infection among children from 3.3 million to 2 million.

It was agreed that CSOs should come up with a clear advocacy plan addressing different issues on the epidemic. All people infected and affected with HIV/AIDS should be part of the network and efforts geared towards achieving the 90/90/90 target.

REVIVAL OF THE WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS MOVEMENT



Some of the panelists at the revival meeting

Various players in the field of land rights from the civil society, government and private sector came together on 10th November at Hotel Africana in Kampala to discuss on how to bridge the gap between law and practice as regards women's land rights by joining efforts through the Women's Land Rights Movement (WLRM).

An initiative inducted in 2010 to bring together land actors of all arena, the WLRM is being revived with an agenda of tackling different areas that are critical in achieving women's access, control and ownership of land. The areas include;

- Women in land administration
- Access to justice
- Women's land, housing and property rights, women agricultural productivity and access to markets.
- Women land rights, local governance and politics
- Women land rights in commoditization and privatization of land

Mr. Dennis Obbo from the Ministry of Lands informed participants of some of the ministry's on going efforts such as developing a gender strategy to promote gender equality in access, control and use of land.

It was noted that women are not homogeneous i.e. some are illiterate, literate or semi-illiterate and hence all have to be considered when planning for their rights. Many women are still failing to enjoy their rights due to ignorance, conflict between the Constitution and statutory laws on customary practices among other factors.

Ms Frances Birungi from UCOBAC advocated for the need to advance grassroots leadership.

The meeting ended on the note of inviting all to attend the main Women's Land Rights Conference on 7th-9th December 2016 for another deeper discussion and exposure on land rights issues.

** WLRM is a free membership movement - all are invited to join*

COALITION ON GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE



In commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child - 11th October, civil society organizations organized under Coalition on Girls Empowerment (COGE) and several like minded organizations, UCOBAC inclusive, promoting girl child rights held a conference on 7th October 2016 at the Uganda National Museum.

The conference was held under the theme **“Girls progress is equal goals progress: eliminating teenage pregnancy and child marriages a practical reality towards sustainable development”**.

The girl child is faced with a number of challenges that limit her ability to realize her full potential. Particular challenges discussed were; teenage pregnancy and early marriage.

A report by FAWE and Ministry of Education reveals that material desires and lack of adequate parental attention and support are some of the leading factors pushing girls to engage in early sex resulting to unwanted and unplanned pregnancies.

Uganda also lacks a policy to guide girls/ teenagers who return to school (re-entry) after giving birth; a factor which also contributes to a higher school drop out rate among girls.

Participants discussed the predicament of the girl child at length and possible means of strengthening existing efforts. Best practices for supporting girl child programmes were shared among which was the impressive re-entry school strategy for teenage mothers pioneered in Pader Girls Academy in Pader district by FAWE. The program has helped many girls to gain self esteem and a desire to attain higher education.

Participants agreed to advocate for gender responsive planning and budgeting to benefit girls, network as like minded organizations and agree on policy options and actions to empower girls.

WELCOME ABOARD: WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS - SOCIAL NORM TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

Supported by an anonymous donor and American Jewish World Service, UCOBAC has started a new project entitled “*Land and property rights social norms curriculum development pilot*”.

This process will result into the development and adaptation of a curriculum focused on social norm change around women's land and property rights. It will particularly avail a mechanism to guide social norm change interventions, demonstration of clear pathway of social norm change and a mechanism for tracking the social norm changes and impacts.

The process is planned for a period of 1 year starting November 1st 2016 through October 31st 2017. This will be a joint project with three East African organizations working on women and land in their respective countries. These include Pastoral Women Council (PWC) in Tanzania and Kenya Legal and Ethical Network on HIV and AIDS (KELIN). ***

EVALUATION TASKFORCE FOR GENDER STRATEGY ON LAND



UCOBAC Director of Programs – Ms. Frances Birungi was appointed to the Gender task force to assess the effectiveness and compliance of the Gender Strategy

using the Gender Evaluation Criteria. The Uganda National Land Policy (NLP) was approved by the cabinet and published in February 2013.

Following the approval of the NLP, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development with support from UN Habitant/Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) developed a Gender Strategy for land to support in the implementation of the NLP. The strategy was also to be subjected to an Evaluation to assess its effectiveness and compliance in advancing gender responsive land administration.

Ms. Frances Birungi was part of the team of experts that subjected the Gender strategy on land using the Gender Evaluation Criteria, which is one of the GLTN land tools. ***

QUITO DECLARATION ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT FOR ALL

Delegated by the Huairou Commission, UCOBAC participated in the setting of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) for future generations in Ecuador, Quito on 15th-20th October 2016.

The efforts and dedication of Huairou Commission through different policy units, the General Assembly and the Women's Partner Constituent Group has transpired into tremendous successes in the NUA and good commitments to ensure women are included not as beneficiaries of the urbanization processes but as key agents and partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the urban processes.

In 2015 – UCOBAC's own Frances Birungi was nominated as an expert to join Policy Unit 8 on Urban Ecology and Resilience contributing towards the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III).

Want to become a member of UCOBAC?

Its as easy as filling a membership form to provide your individual or organization profile and pay an affordable annual membership fee.

Benefits of being a member of UCOBAC

- Attend and participate in General Assembly
- Vote and be voted to the Board of Directors
- Serve on any of the UCOBC Sub-Committees
- Join UCOBAC Trainers' pool
- Free access to information at UCOBAC Resource Center
- Have the opportunity to serve vulnerable women and children.

Annual Membership categories

National NGO	UGx 100,000/=
Community Based Organization	UGx 50,000/=
Individual	UGx 30,000/=
Volunteer	UGX 20,000/=
UCOBAC beneficiary	UGx 10,000/=

Kindly send a request for a membership form from the email addresses below.

You can pick a form from our Secretariat
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NB: Payments are made at UCOBAC Secretariat where an official receipt is issued.

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