

An international conference Report on Ugandan women

Project Title: Empower Girls/Women to develop community

Project founder: Jajaz in Christ Youth Girls/women development project

Project implementer: Kirundu Buziga community Girls/women

Areas of Operation: Kirundu Buzga Makindye Division

Country of operation: Kampala Uganda East Africa

Our organizations back ground:

Jajaz in Christ a youth and women community organization was found in 2004 by Mrs Mwambu Margaret Jane and together with a group of other concerned women to address the socio-economic concerns of youth Girls/women and the plight of their children/orphans in the community some of the women concerns include:

Discrimination and marginalization by the male gender which is at most attributed to traditional culture. Traditional culture in Uganda, women are denied access to property like land and other human rights including education.

Decision making in the community is seen as a sole responsibility of men and this aspect increases women's vulnerability of HIV infection.

Jajaz in Christ youth and women project in Uganda has been identifying herself with women in similar situation and has been keen in addressing these concerns to improve on the social - economic situations of women in Uganda.

Our association operates with 100 women.

Our overall goal of the project is to attain sustainable community development. The kind of people who are members of this association are vulnerable women/Girls in rural community

What makes you angry, is to see to it that every most women in Uganda are too poor, and what gives me hope is that when we make a partnership we can bring a change to Ugandan women

Our main activities to achieve are as follows:

To equip over 500 Girls/women with skills in advocacy on Girls/women rights, business and other development related skills through trainings and workshops.

To avail Girls/women groups with capital to start an income generating activity

To build the capacity of about 100 teenage mothers to have a self – reliant life.

To sensitize at least 500000 people about the nature and importance of Girls/women's rights

Our main activity to achieve the goal is financial aid.

Introduction of the speaker My names are Mrs Mwambu Margaret Jane, am 53 years old,

Am the founder of the association and the reasons to why I started the association to work together and try to solve women's concerns in the community.

The situation in our country is as follows:

About 27 per cent of all rural people – some 8 million men, women and children – still live below the national rural poverty line. Uganda's poorest people include hundreds of thousands of smallholder farmers living in remote areas scattered throughout the country. Remoteness makes people poor inasmuch as it prevents them from benefiting from Uganda's steady economic growth and dynamic modernization.

In remote rural areas, smallholder farmers do not have access to the vehicles and roads they need to transport their produce, and market linkages are weak or non-existent. These farmers lack inputs and technology to help them increase their production and reduce pests and disease. They also lack access to financial services, which would enable them to boost their incomes – both by improving and expanding their production, and by establishing small enterprises.

The poorest areas of the country are in the north, where poverty incidence is consistently above 40 per cent and exceeds 60 per cent in many districts – and where outbreaks of civil strife have disrupted farmers' lives and agricultural production. The greatest number of poor people is found in the east, where the population density in poor areas is 8 to 10 times higher than in the north, although poverty incidence is generally lower, at 30 to 40 per cent.

The vast majority of Uganda's poor rural people live in fragile, dry and sub-humid regions where the variability of rainfall and soil fertility means that farming presents a challenge. Household-level production often falls short of minimum household needs, rendering families particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. This problem is exacerbated by climate change and a resulting increase in the variability and amount of rainfall, as well as extreme climate events. Uganda is considered one of the world's most vulnerable and least climate-resilient countries. Changing climate patterns, such as increased droughts, floods and variable precipitation cycles, have a serious impact upon water and other natural resources, agricultural production and rural livelihoods.

Health and social issues significantly affect rural poverty in Uganda as well. The population of about 36 million is growing at an annual rate of 3.4 per cent. Although the country has dramatically reduced the incidence of HIV/AIDS since the 1990s, prevalence rates have begun rising again in recent years. The pandemic has caused the death of large numbers of young adults and orphaned up to 1.2 million children.

The lack of health care and other social services puts rural women at a particular disadvantage. They work far longer hours than men, have limited access to resources and lack control over what they produce. Among their many other tasks, they also bear the double burden of ensuring that their households are adequately fed and caring for the sick, the elderly, and for orphaned children.

The kind of difficulties our association is facing currently today is financial aid in our country, to the reason to why I want to do this is to reduce poverty . My successes is to see to it that bring change to Ugandan women

The low in our country lacks management, people discuss at home/work/school the all wish we could get somebody who can manage this country so that poverty can be reduced in Uganda. The issues that can be pushed forward is financial aid to Uganda.

The way I perceive the situation its because I was born in it and am used to it.

Where I see a potential for a change is when we get a financial aid we can get a change

I expect to network, and to gain more knowledge from the training.

I came to represent my country at the conference

I want to achieve a solution towards our problem

I want to contribute by explaining to the conference attendees the problems Uganda is facing

I hope to take home knowledge that I would have learnt from the conference and train others in my home country

Thank you hope to meet you soon and explain to you more regarding our work