

*Somero Uganda
Supporting education for Vulnerable young People
Bwaise behind KCC headquarters; Tel: +256-712-275304/+256-772-092318
Email; geofreynsubuga@gmail.com*

Somero Uganda Supporting education for Vulnerable young People



An annual report 2011

Produced by
Somero Uganda, January 2012

Contact person
Nsubuga Geoffrey ; Programs Director
*Bwaise behind KCC headquarters; Tel: +256-712-275304/+256-772-092318
Email; geofreynsubuga@gmail.com*

Cover photo; Computer training for the out of school young people

Somero Uganda
Supporting education for Vulnerable young People
Bwaise behind KCC headquarters; Tel: +256-712-275304/+256-772-092318
Email; geofreynsubuga@gmail.com

1.0. Introduction

Somero Uganda is a Community Based Organisation based in Kawempe Division behind Kawempe City Council headquarters.

With two years of operation, the Organisation is growing steadily to gain grounds with the vision to realise a Uganda where vulnerable young people have access to meaningful education and livelihood skills.

And a mission; to develop special Education programs for the Young people targeted towards the provision and promotion of education for improvement of their conditions of living and moral rehabilitation.

1.1. The objectives of the organization are:

- To recognize the educational interests of in and out of school vulnerable young people in Uganda who are exploited as a result of poverty, unemployment, war, diseases, ignorance, lack of protection, natural disasters and related problems.
- To facilitate human development through their training in relevant skills and education thereby developing individual potential.
- To mobilize for a safe schools environment through an integrated community based area approach so as minimize school dropout rates of vulnerable young people.

The organization started its second year of operation in January 2011 and a number of activities have been held since then as shown below;

2.0. Activity highlights

2.1. Scholarship project

The project provides educational opportunities to young people with a special focus on the girl child. The nature of scholarship provides students with school fees, scholastic materials and holiday support. The students are supported through out higher institutions so as to attain meaningful education.

Since ten continuing students were supported in primary, secondary and University level. no drop outs have been registered. No new scholarship has been provided.

2.1.1 Additional programs

With her holistic approach, Somero Uganda provides additional psycho social programs to all scholarship so as to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment and minimize drop out risks. These include Sound health programs, Education booster meetings, Mentorship, School / Home visits and counseling sessions.

*Somero Uganda
Supporting education for Vulnerable young People
Bwaise behind KCC headquarters; Tel: +256-712-275304/+256-772-092318
Email; geofreynsubuga@gmail.com*

The organization has a health insurance policy for all supported girls which enables her to monitor and treat all their health complications. This year students have presented a sound health with a few cases that have been treated.

Over 30 home and school visits were conducted to monitor the progress of the scholarship holders academically and socially. Challenging situations were handled by the social workers.

There has been a stability of the students and their mentors. An improved relationship between the students and their mentors has been registered. This has been achieved with the mentors holiday support provided by the organization, constant meetings and visits with both the mentors and the students as organized by the social workers.

Over 10 group counseling sessions and 25 individual sessions have been registered through the year. The sessions included academic and social challenges.

2.2. Community school project

This year a community school was started with literacy and numeracy lessons strengthened and computer class introduced.

In April 2011, Somero Uganda received a donation of three desk tops from Rainbow International School, followed by five laptops of the ten donated by Bruhl Stiftung and 3 laptops donated by individuals including Malena Rassmann, Nora Wegner as mobilized by Somero Germany.

With those efforts, 16 young girls were graduated with certificates in December. A number of 10 young girls have also been trained with literacy and numeracy classes.

The trainees are not only equipped with practice skills but also social, safety and business skills through workshops with invited professionals. These workshops include computer safety skills workshop, Journalism workshop, Microsoft workshops among others.

The organization with the help of the two volunteers, Ewa and Nora organized a journalism workshop for the young girls at the centre. The workshop targeted both the in and out of school young girls. This workshop was aimed at equipping the young people with skills of journalism to enable them write articles to be published in the Somero magazine. The workshop was held for a number of days in which the girls got a chance to meet some famous journalists to learn more about the topic. The girls in the end came up with their own articles which will feature in the magazine.

We extend appreciation to Ms. Janna Rassman (chair person advisory board-Germany), Ms. Gabriele Brühl and the entire Somero Germany team, Mrs. Anna Nabulya (the chairperson Advisory board-Uganda), Janice Reul (V. Chairperson Advisory board) and

*Somero Uganda
Supporting education for Vulnerable young People
Bwaise behind KCC headquarters; Tel: +256-712-275304/+256-772-092318
Email; geofreynsubuga@gmail.com*

the entire board. And lastly Ms. Sanyu Ruth (the computer trainer), Ms. Nakakande Irene and the entire Somero Uganda staff.

The community school has been fully funded by Somero Germany.

2.3. Community projects

Using an integrated community based area approach, Somero Uganda employs the SCREAM methodologies (Supporting Children's Rights through Education the Art and the media) as developed by the ILO/IPEC to reach out to the community through different projects.

2.3.1. Education promotion and safety project

The project is funded by Somero Germany, the objective is to mobilise a holistic community to create a safe school environment and promote education of young people with a special focus on the girl child.

The project works with students to sensitise community leaders and parents, schools administrations and fellow students.

This year activities conducted include ten career guidance sessions held both at the centre and in schools. Thirty education Boaster meetings, an activity that gathers students (supported and not supported by Somero Uganda) from different schools to support each other in subject where they feel weak. Three volunteering teachers also give in their time to support the students during these meetings.

Thirty life skills and resilience workshops have been held in schools to change behaviours and promote a healthy body and mind.

Three parents' sensitisation meetings and three local leaders' sensitisation meetings have also been held.

Somero Uganda also organized a girls' day out on 14/12/2011. The activity targeted both the in and out of school young people. The two volunteers and the Somero staff also participated along with Marlies, a visitor from Germany. The girls had a good time of eating, playing, swimming, and also had BCC Sessions as well as private counselling sessions.

2.3.2. Art mural projects

The first art mural project was held in January-April. This project was about elimination of child labour and the promotion of education in Wakiso district. Somero Uganda in conjunction with RYDA and UYDEL engaged 35 ex-child labourers supported by the named organizations to express their ideas against child labour and the promotion of education through drawings from which 12 community art murals were developed. These murals were then painted by the children with the help of an artist in the market areas,

Somero Uganda
Supporting education for Vulnerable young People
Bwaise behind KCC headquarters; Tel: +256-712-275304/+256-772-092318
Email; geofreynsubuga@gmail.com

schools, the implementing organizations' centres and at district headquarters in Wakiso district.

The second art mural project was implemented in September-December 2011. The project was implemented in Rakai district. Somero Uganda has worked with Rakai Counsellors Association (RACA), African Network on Protection and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) and Orphans Community Based Organization (OCOBO). The project worked with 20 children supported by RACA, ANPPCAN and OCOBO to pass on messages to the community about the prevention of Child Labour and the promotion of Education. These messages were developed into 10 community art murals which were painted by the children with the help of an artist at sub county headquarters, schools, market areas and the implementing organizations' offices for public viewing.

Both projects were implemented by Somero Uganda with partnership of other organizations and have been funded by the ILO/IPEC.

2.3.3. Youth empowerment project

For the year 2011, Somero Uganda did not receive funding for youth empowerment project however through net working and referral, Somero Uganda's supported students have been trained in a number of empowerment projects by different organisations and individuals.

2.3.3.1. Peer Education training for the Somero students

This was held during the holidays of the first term. Students were trained as peer educators to help their fellow students in the community. At the end of the activity, students were provided with T-shirts of Somero Uganda. Due to this training, the students managed to reach out to a big number of youth, who are now seen at the centre to seek the organization's programs.

2.14. Training of the Plan supported girls.

The organization was also engaged in the training of the Plan-Uganda supported girls who are under the program of rehabilitation of commercial sex workers. The girls were taken through BCC sessions and peer education for five days. The staff was encouraged to participate in the training so as to enable them to build their capacities.

3.4. Administrative activities

3.4.1. Somero Uganda Board meeting

This year started with a need to activate the operation of the Advisory board as some of the former board members had become unable due to mobility and commitment with their jobs. By April, the board was now operational with Ms. Anna Nabulya elected the

*Somero Uganda
Supporting education for Vulnerable young People
Bwaise behind KCC headquarters; Tel: +256-712-275304/+256-772-092318
Email; geofreynsubuga@gmail.com*

chairperson, Mrs. Janice Ruel the vice chair persons, Ms. Robinah Sanyu the legal advisor, Mr. Omeke Michael and Mr. Simon Ocura the education Advisors.

Since then a number of board meetings have been held and a number of action taken as a result of the elected board.

2.11. Strategic planning workshop

The organization embarked on the process of coming up with a three strategic plan April 2012- April 2015. Facilitated by Janice the V. Chairperson, a number of meetings have been conducted in consultation with different stakeholders. By the end of the year 2011 all the information needed had been gathered and now pending documentation of the first draft.

2.12. Painting of the centre.

During the holiday of the 2nd term, the centre was painted to give it a new and attractive look to the young people and the community. The painting was done by the young people with support and guidance of the staff including one international Volunteer Malena Rassmann. The activity gave the young girls a chance to acquire skills of painting which they can apply in their every day life. This was funded by Somero Germany

4.0. Challenges

The computer trainings and the staff duties have been interrupted by the poor power supply in the country this year. The students have found it hard to complete the assignments given to them because power is always on and off. Even the staff duties have been on a stand still always because of power break off.

The centre is becoming small compared to the number of girls seeking help. The computer room is very small compared to the big number of students who are seeking computer training.

The number of young people seeking scholarships is increasing. Very many students are referred to the centre by community leaders for scholarships, yet the resources are limited.

The centre has one modem for internet connection which is used for the staff to execute their duties and also to teach the young girls internet use. There is a problem of ensuring that both parties have access to internet. The modem is also becoming expensive to maintain, yet it does not serve the entire centre

*Somero Uganda
Supporting education for Vulnerable young People
Bwaise behind KCC headquarters; Tel: +256-712-275304/+256-772-092318
Email; geofreynsubuga@gmail.com*

The furniture at the centre is not enough to accommodate the increasing number of young people at the centre. The organization has one book shelf which can not accommodate the books of the organization and their safety because it has no locking mechanism.

5.0. Recommendations

- ❖ There is need for the organization to attain Generator to minimise the power shortages at the centre.
- ❖ There is need to enlarge the computer class to enable the girls to have their trainings comfortably. There is also need to construct a counselling room at the centre where privacy is ensured at the centre.
- ❖ Fundraising is also needed to increase the scholarship opportunities to match with the increasing number of applications for the scholarships.
- ❖ The organization needs to attain wireless internet so as to ensure that all its programs run smoothly.
- ❖ The furniture at the centre also needs to be increased to match with the increasing number of students.

6.0. Conclusion

The year 2011 has been a success for Somero Uganda. Special thanks goes to the staff, Board members and Somero Germany who have put in more efforts to see to it that Somero Uganda shines.