



**Education for Young
People in Uganda**

Annual Report 2013



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Word from the Board

It is so amazing to see that an organization that was founded in 2009 with only students on the scholarship program has now grown to reach out to more than 1000 young people a year. 2013 has been the first year for the organization to implement her strategic plan. Though with challenges, the start has been a success and has created hope to see ourselves achieving the set objectives come 2015.

We recommend the efforts of whoever has been part of this, most especially the staff who have always been around to share their ideas, experiences and knowledge with the girls and young women at the centre.

We are also very grateful to the GLEN volunteers who came in to support the organization's activities through holding sessions with the girls and young women, designing the organization's website and face book page, staff capacity building and developing manuals.

Our sincere thanks goes to Somero Germany, Nuid Suid Bricken, Foundation 10% and Wereld Winkel Kerkrade who have all provided funding and donations to rescue the plight of slum girls and young women in Kawempe division. We would also like to extend our gratitude to all our partners that we have networked with to ensure the success of our work, we cannot mention them because the list is endless, however we hope to ensure the good relationship even throughout the coming years.

Thank you all for your efforts. 2014 here we come!!

Word from the administration

The success of 2013 has been as result of a self motivated, self driven and devoted staff and Volunteers . Emphasis has been put on capacity building, fund raising, process documentation, program Monitoring and evaluation and communication.

Over months, 102 girls and young women have been equipped with employable IT skills, a continuing education project for young mother piloted with 20 beneficiaries, 20 students supported with scholarship and over 1000 young people benefited in the peer to peer Somero-School linkage. The Somero community linkage has also been strengthened to effectively cover 5 of the 12 parishes in Kawempe division.

Administratively, the team has worked on a different organization policy, started an internal fund raising strategy for sustainability which also opened the organization to more members, a website created www.somero-uganda.org and a face book account formed a use name –Somero Uganda-.

We thank the support of the board of advisors, the foundation body, the GLEN interns, the sister organization Somero Germany, Nuid Suid Bricken, Foundation 10% and Wereld Winkel Kerkrade whose support has enable the implementation of programs.

We wish you a prosperous 2014!!

Executive summary

Somero Uganda is a registered Community Based organization (Reg no. KAW/12/267) empowering girls and young women 13-25 years through education, skills development and sound health. The organization has a centre in Bwaise behind the Kampala City Council Authority offices.

Vision-A Uganda where girls and boys 13-25 years achieve meaningful education and training needed for a self-determined and self-sufficient life to act as agents of change with full community support.

Mission-To offer specific education programs, life skills development and health promotion among slum girls and young women.

Objectives

- To increase enrolment and completion of secondary and university level of education for girls and young women living in the slums.
- To increase access to appropriate skills training and develop programs that they are employed without being exploited.
- To increase information and access to sexual and reproductive health services.
- To mobilize an integrated community based area approach in promotion of female education.

2013 has been the 1st year for Somero Uganda to implement her strategic plan 2013-2015. As per our strategic plan, our strategic objectives include

1. To increase enrolment and completion of secondary and university level of education for girls and young women living in the slums.
2. To increase access to appropriate skills training and development programs among girls and young women living in the slums so that they are employed without being exploited.
3. To increase information and access to sexual and reproductive health services among girls and young women living in the slums.
4. To enhance an integrated community based area approach with support from the government, schools, community members and young people in promotion of female education.
5. To professionalize and further develop the programs provided by the organization.
6. To guarantee financial sustainability.

Our Key strategies include:

1. Support and promotion of education of girls and young women
2. Provision of skills training and development
3. Advocacy and awareness raising
4. The integrated community-based approach
5. Motivation of staff and encouragement of volunteering
6. Fundraising for sustainability

Our strategic plan can be downloaded from our website, www.somero-uganda.org

Services provided 2013

The programs in 2013 were designed to suit the implementation of the strategic plan 2013-2015 and below are the achievements for 2013- the 1st year of implementing the strategic plan.

Under the strategy of supporting and promoting education of girls and young women, the organization had one girl graduate with a diploma in fashion and design, 3 girls joined university, 4 sat for their UACE exams while the rest are in secondary, and one in primary level. We are very grateful to Somero Germany that has continued to fund the program.

In January 2013, Somero Uganda started a pilot project, the Home Based schooling, to restore hope to young mothers who still wish to complete their 'A' level. Students study at the centre everyday for 2 hours. Due to limited funds among others, only 20 girls are benefiting, and they will be registered with networking schools to sit for their UACE exams in November 2014.

This year, with support from Foundation 10%, Somero Uganda was able to set up a community library to further support education of young people, not only at Somero but the community at large. Though not fully equipped, the library is stocked with a number of books on the Uganda's Education curriculum, as well as 2 desk top computers to aid students in their research. The library is open to the community at no cost.

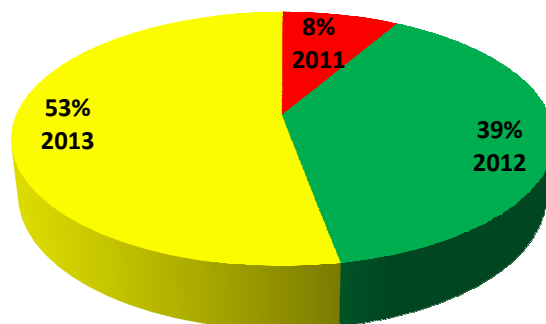
The Home Based Schooling –Lessons in progress



The Somero
Community Library

Through empowering girls and young women with employable skills, 102 girls and young women were equipped with employable IT skills and financial literacy. This was a great achievement as per strategy 2 of the strategic plan. The number of trained girls and young women has been steadily increasing with the passing years as shown by the graph below.

No.of girls and young women empowered with employable IT skills since 2011



Many thanks to the Germany Government and Somero Germany that provided funding to ensure that the program can run smoothly. Somero Uganda is also grateful to the local leaders and the former beneficiaries who identified and referred the girls and young women to Somero Uganda to benefit from the program.



December 2013 graduation of the computer students

In implementing strategy 3-Advocacy and awareness raising and strategy 4- The integrated Community- Based Approach of the strategic plan, Somero Uganda reached out to 1000 in school young people, 650 girls and 350 boys in creating awareness on the importance of girl child education. Through the peer to peer- Ambassador program, in and out of school going young people were reached. A schools competition was held in the slums of Kawempe division with a theme “Educate the girls child, build the nation”. The activity did not only help in creating awareness raising but also in helping the young people identify and develop their talents. This was witnessed through the activities that they participated in including play acting, poem reciting, speech making, developing art pieces, miming and fashion show.

The different activities stressed the importance of the different stake holders, including the parents, local leaders, schools as well as students in promoting girl child education. Participating schools also vowed to attach more importance to girl child education and also promised to support Somero Uganda in its campaign for the same.

Furthermore, Somero Uganda empowered girls and young women – the ambassadors, with information and knowledge on reproductive health which was passed over to 1000 in and out of school young people living in the slums of Kawempe division. They also distributed over 500 condoms to the young people in the area and referred over 200 peers for family planning services at government hospitals.

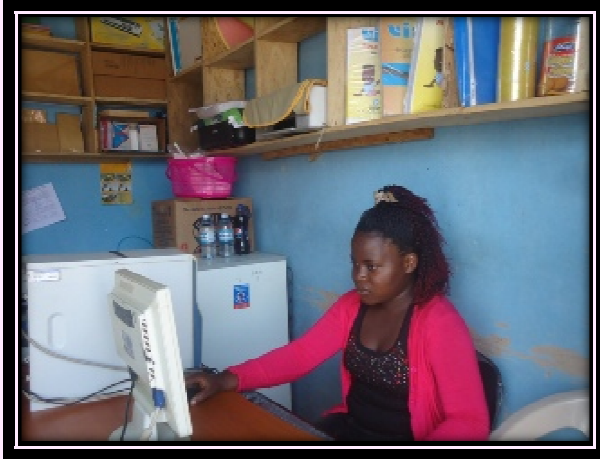


During a peer to peer school activity



Pimbas S.S.S performing a mime in the schools competition

SUCCESS STORIES



I TRULY GIVE CREDIT TO SOMERO UGANDA

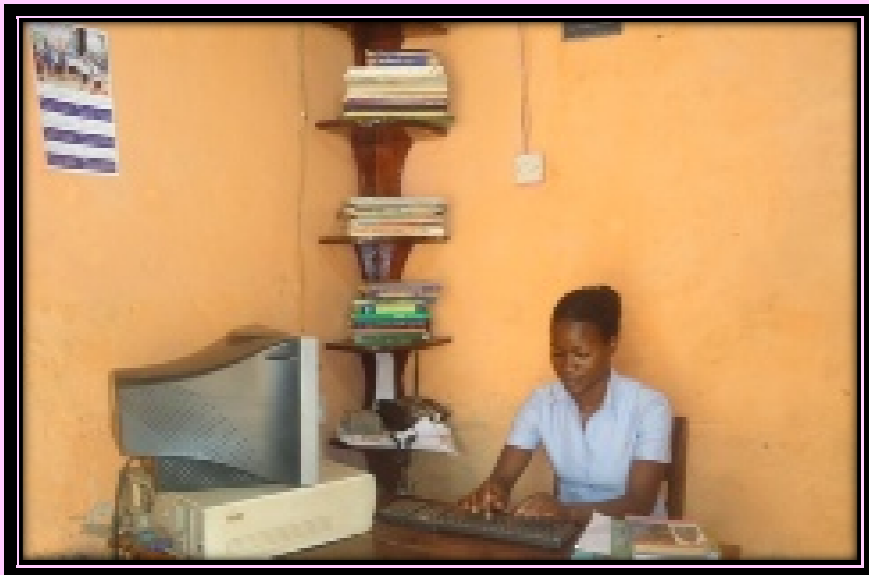
It's really because of you Somero Uganda that I can now see my future brightly. I am by names of Kyazike Regina aged 22years living in Kawempe. I went to God's Way high school for my Advanced level in the year 2010. After my S.6 level, I got a job as a shop attendant with a salary of 40,000/=. I worked for five months then after I withdrew due to no payment and sat home. When results were released, I had 18 points. I had a chance to go for higher education unfortunately; I didn't because my parents did not have enough money.

After sitting at home for a long time, my sister got information from a certain friend that there existed a voluntary institution called Somero Uganda undertaking computer programs and other programs. I went to Somero for more information since I had doubts that they were giving free services. I found a group of almost 20 girls also trying to get vacancies, so we took some little interview, filled the application forms then after kicked off studies the following week. The atmosphere at Somero Uganda was very good that is to mean students and teachers were very co-operative. This made many students feel at home and had expression. We had different lessons at Somero ie the computer lesson which was the core lesson, financial literacy; this was to inform us about finance management in the business sector. Other lesson was life skills; this was to alert us about life experiences and how to deal with different people.

After a given time of six months, we had to take internship courses as per the program. I personally got internship at Kwik Graphics in Bwaise where really got additional knowledge about information technology. We were supervised after graduated with certificates in June. However, personally after graduation, I managed to study Graphics and design program since I had picked a lot of interest and wanted to specialize in computer application as my life job. After my course, I managed to get a job quickly working in a secretarial bureau that is to mean dealing in printing, typing, binding, making wedding cards, business cards and much more. Great thanks I attribute to Somero Uganda and their partners since am one of their beneficiaries.

KYAZIKE REGINA

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NAMAYANJA AGGIE 'S SUCCESS STORY

My name is Namayanja Aggie. I am 23 years old. I completed my S.4 in 2008. Before coming to Somero Uganda, I went through a lot including sexual harassment leading to pregnancy hence forced out of my parents' home. The father of my kid denied responsibility so I had to survive on my own. In Kampala I exploited any opportunity of getting money that come my way but I was very careful not to get pregnant again. Little did I know that they were STI. I tried to set up my own business. I set up a cosmetics shop but it was not doing well. I had a lot of debts. I joined Somero Uganda in June 2013 for a computer course. With the skills I got an internship placement at CDG Foundation in Bwaise, where I was offered a job there after as Assistant Secretary. My life is now enriched and joyful, which was not the case before, because money used to be a burden to me.

As a result of coming to Somero Uganda, I now have a deeper understanding of myself, my relationship with my parents has been immeasurably enhanced and now I see more opportunities than I ever thought possible. I feel that I am on the right path to success in life. Your method of teaching us computer has been a great key to my success. I cannot wait for what lies ahead.

Thank you very much Somero Uganda.

NAMAYANJA AGGIE

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SOMERO UGANDA RESTORED HOPE IN ME

I grew up in a family of four girls and three boys in Bushenyi district. My mother died when I was only 5 years old. My father re-married. When I joined primary seven, my father refused to provide school fees for my secondary education. At fourteen years, a friend told asked me to go with her to Kampala to find a job. I got a job as a house maid, but did not last long because my boss used to beat me alot whenever things were not right. I got another job, and also got a boy friend. I became pregnant at 16 years, and when my boss learnt of this, she sent me away. I started staying with my friends in a room that they were renting. We always had to have sex with different men in order to get money for upkeep. When I gave birth, my friends continued taking care of me, but life was not always easy. When my kid made 2 years, I met a lady who asked to stay with me. She told me about Somero Uganda and requested me to go for their computer course. I joined Somero Uganda in January 2013, where I acquired computer skills, financial literacy and business skills. I also attended BCC sessions where I learnt about different topics like HIV/AIDS, problems of engaging in early sexual relationships, among others. After my internship, I got a job in a secretarial bureau where I am now paid very well. I am able to use my salary to look after my kid and also save some money which I want to use to start my own business. I thank Somero Uganda for restoring hope that I had lost. I am now sure that I will be able to educate my kid such that she can have a bright future.

Nantongo Rachael (Not real names)