

# Uganda youth Development Link (UYDEL)

## Annual report 2009

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# Who we are and what we do

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## About us

Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL) is a registered non-governmental organization providing prevention and psycho-social support and rehabilitation services to vulnerable, disadvantaged and abused/exploited children and youth between the ages 10 and 24 years). Our programmes have specific interest in child sexual abuse and exploitation, child trafficking, alcohol, drug and substance abuse, adolescent sexual reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.

Although the main focus is for the protection of rights for young people, UYDEL's programme seek to involve duty bearers that include, police and law enforcement, community based organizations, parliamentarians parents and local leaders. Our programmes combine both prevention and service delivery, and seek to promote child/youth participation through peer-to peer networks in schools and drop-in-centers, community involvement through parent support groups, effective referrals through capacity building training and networking with other service providers and prevention through community sensitization, advocacy, vocational and cognitive skills training for young people.

## Our vision

A Uganda where the young people are enabled to maximize their potential to achieve an improved quality of life free from exploitation.

## Our mission

To empower disadvantaged young people with skills that will enable them reach their full potential and become useful citizens of Uganda.

## Our operation areas

UYDEL serves young people (10-24 years) who are vulnerable and disadvantaged by the situations they find themselves in; specifically: those sexually abused (commercial and non-commercial), those using alcohol, drugs and substances, those affected by HIV/AIDS, and survivors of human trafficking. We also conduct awareness and life skills building activities for children/youth at risk of the above situations both in and out of school.

We have three drop-in-centre service points at Masooli (Wakiso District), Nakulabye (Kampala District and Kitega (Mukono District). Additionally we have community outreach sites in the slums of Bwaise and Kalerwe where children/youth receive services closer to their communities. In Kalangala we work with the child and family protection unit of the Uganda police force at Kalangala Police station.

## Message from the Executive Director

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Dear Friends and partners,

I bring you warm greetings from UYDEL and I am glad to share with you our experiences working with young people in 2009.

During 2009, we have strengthened our foot on the ground, tackling the issues that touch children and young people particularly, HIV/AIDS, adolescent reproductive health, child trafficking, child sexual abuse and exploitation and alcohol/ drug and substance abuse. We have greatly involved many partners than ever before in this effort, including youth, parliamentarians, the media, local leaders, parents, community based organizations, bar and lodge owners and local leaders.

We have sharpened our efforts towards influencing policy on alcohol and its effects on young people, particularly children. We are saying that young people form a foundation of the future of this nation and considering the known effects of alcohol on their young lives, it is high time Uganda realizes that alcohol is not a necessary commodity, and thus regulate its packaging, advertisement and sale. Although we are aware that issues that lead young people to using and abusing drugs and substances are sometimes beyond their control, we also believe that young people can make right choices, adopt safe and positive coping mechanisms regardless of the situations they find themselves in, and as adults, we have the duty to create a safe environment for them to thrive.

As we celebrate 2009, we acknowledge the timeless efforts of the young people we worked with, particularly the peer educators at community and drop-in-centre level for using their time, testimonies and skills to provide the link between their peers and the much needed psycho-social support services.

We are most grateful to you our donors for giving generously and providing the technical support to our staff team to scale up best practice options, while ensuring quality, relevance and cost-effectiveness. We look forward to working with all of you throughout 2010 and the years ahead to make positive contributions to the lives of disadvantaged children in Uganda.

Rogers Kasirye

# Programmatic Achievements Pictorial



Street smart life skills training



Music dance and drama therapy



Jewel girls make jewellery as group therapy



Peer educators perform community theatre



Sensitization on schools children's rights



Group counseling sessions



CSOs networking on anti-alcohol advocacy



Launch of peer education materials by Mr. Jeff Lee of mentor Foundation



Training police and law enforcement officers



Community parent support groups



Graduation after vocational skills training

## Child Protection

The protection of the rights and welfare of children remains the main focus of this programme; which focuses mainly on increasing awareness about child abuse and children's rights and providing timely services (temporary shelter, medical care, recreation, life skills training, vocational skills, legal support and reintegration with families) to children who have been abused. With support from the OAK Foundation, UYDEL has been able to work with the Child and Family Protection Unit of the Uganda Police Force, community parent support groups and schools to increase awareness on child abuse child trafficking and children's rights in Kampala, Mukono and Kalangala Districts. UYDEL has been able to mobilize community members (parents and local leaders) into 24 parent support groups that have worked hard to educate their fellow parents, report and refer child abuse cases to police and UYDEL service points. 90 police and law enforcement officers were trained and together we have supported 248 abused children to receive medical, temporary shelter, transport back home and legal services. We were able to strengthen 24 child protection school clubs reaching out to over 300 pupils/students that allow children to learn about child abuse in general while participating in promoting their own rights through child-led education activities such as debates, quiz, drama and talk shows in well organized child-led school clubs supported by teachers (club patrons).

Over the years, UYDEL has learnt that the poorer and less educated parents are, the higher the chances of neglecting and abusing their own children. Through our community mobilization networks in 24 communities, parents were organized in groups of 20 members at a minimum to dialogue on child protection issues in their communities and provide self-help support for economic empowerment. Consequently, they were trained in group savings and supported to open up group bank accounts that help them to save, access loans and invest in income generating activities to support their families.

### Summary of key achievements

Activity	Achievement by 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2009
Training of police officers	90 police and law enforcement officers trained in child protection laws and child friendly approaches to handling abused children at police stations
Training of UYDEL staff	A child protection policy developed and implemented and 40 UYDEL staff trained on child friendly approaches to handling children in a temporary shelter/rehabilitation.
Community dialogues on child protection	288 dialogues conducted with 24 communities to sensitize people about children's rights and child protection issues.
Print and disseminate information materials	3,500 copies of t-shirts, posters and stickers on child sexual abuse and child protection in general were printed and disseminated.
Community education through drama shows	13 community education drama and theatre shows on child protection were conducted, reaching out to over 500 people in Mukono and Kampala.
Strengthening of referral networks	A standard referral system was developed and used to improve documentation and service delivery to child survivors of abuse. 67 children were successfully served through this arrangement.
Strengthen community based child protection	32 parent support groups (with 20 members at a minimum) were supported to handle cases of abuse and save money for economic empowerment.
Promote child participation through peer-led clubs	32 child-led clubs in schools were strengthened to provide peer education and support and 100 out of school children trained and supported to provide the same services for out of school children at UYDEL service points.
Provide psycho-social support services to survivors of abuse.	371 children were provided with different services including (counseling, medical care, temporary shelter, vocational and life skills, recreation and reintegration).
Out of school children equipped with life skills	372 children trained in life skills (problem solving, creative thinking, decision making, and friendship formation e.t.c.) to protect themselves from abuse.

## Lobbying and Advocacy on Alcohol Policy

With support from the International Organization of Good Templers (IOGT-NTO), UYDEL spearheaded a campaign on reduction of harm caused by alcohol to children in Uganda. This campaign was aimed at conscientising Ugandans to begin to see the harm of alcohol to children at individual, household and national levels and also lobbying policy makers for an effective national policy to regulate production, advertising, sale and consumption of alcohol. As a result, UYDEL was able to rally active participation of the media and Civil Society organizations (through a loose coalition of 35 members of CSOs) in lobbying and advocacy process meetings with Members of parliament that led to the tabling of alcohol packaging issues (sachets) on the floor of parliament. UYDEL also contributed to motivation of the general public to demand restrictive policies on alcohol and increased dialogue on alcohol abuse issues in Makerere University campus and secondary schools. Through our psycho-social support programme, 126 youths (83 girls and 43 boys) with alcohol related problems were rehabilitated and trained in vocational and life skills. At follow-up, all of them had given up drinking alcohol and were positively influencing their peers on the same. In one year alone, we can boast of just a few achievements see table below. The problem of alcohol is deeply rooted in cultures and needs solid and sustainable efforts at national and community level to overcome.

### Summary of key Achievements

Activity	Achievement by 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2009
Reproduction of information and education materials.	2,600 copies of alcohol research booklets, 2,150 copies of alcohol laws booklets, 3,000 stickers and 1,300 posters printed and disseminated.
Petitions made to government departments and ministries advocating for an effective alcohol policy.	6 government institutions petitioned (Prime minister's office, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Parliamentary select committee on Social Services, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Town Clerk Kampala City Council, Ministry of tourism, trade and industry and Ministry of Health).
Conducted meeting with loose anti-alcohol coalition of CSOs	28 members of CSOs brought together in a loose network that conducted 4 review and networking meetings on successes, challenges and gaps in the alcohol policy advocacy process.
Lobbying forums (meetings, emails, phone messages, IEC material distribution) with Members of Parliament (MPs)	01 general meeting held with 37 MPs; and 15 MPs were met on one on one basis. The MPs formed a task committee that tabled a motion on the floor of Parliament to ban alcohol packaging in sachets. The Social Services Committee together with Ministry of Health, Ministry of Trade recommended the banning of alcohol packaging in sachets to safe guard the lives of Ugandans. E-mails, Review of alcohol laws books and the book on the "State of Alcohol abuse in Uganda" were distributed to all MPs (101 women and 232 men) urging them to support the ban of waragi sachets.
Awareness raising workshop with CSOs.	One meeting attended by 62 CSOs members was held, which strengthened networking to push forward advocacy on alcohol regulation issues.
Held a second national Public dialogue on alcohol abuse prevention	One public dialogue held with 172 people that included students, Civil society and the media in attendance.
Held press briefing on alcohol issues in the media	2 press conferences were held with 42 journalists in attendance, subsequently debates on alcohol policy and regulation on radio, television and newspapers increased.
Conduct television and radio talk shows to raise awareness on alcohol issues	4 televisions, 8 radio talk shows and about 10 news paper articles where UYDEL featured were released in different national media houses.
Media monitoring of alcohol policy related stories and features	Newspapers, radios and televisions were monitored on daily basis for alcohol policy related articles. Newspaper excerpts and articles were

	compiled and used as an advocacy tool for the justification of alcohol control policies and also noting new challenges/developments in the lobbying and advocacy process.
Participation in national events	UYDEL participated and presented papers on alcohol on the UN drug abuse day in June; the national Youth day in Luweero and Gulu University medical students' scientific conference.
Promote campuses free of alcohol abuse	Partnerships with student leaders of Makerere university formed and resolutions made to formulate and enforce alcohol prevention strategies in the university through the Students Guild Council.
Alcohol free Sports gala at Masooli skills training and rehabilitation center.	1 alcohol free sports gala under the theme " <i>Get high on sports not alcohol and drugs</i> " was initiated. Six (6) netball teams, six (6) volleyball teams and ten (10) football teams attracted over 400 young people. The sports youths were taken through group life skills building sessions by a psychiatrist to further inform the young people about the dangers of alcohol in relation to sports.
Held a Youth Retreat at Masooli Vocational skills centre.	327 (74 males and 253 females) young people came together from UYDEL centers in Nakulabye, Bwaise, Mukono and Masooli center. The young people shared experiences and interacted with others from different centers and provide counseling and guidance to the young people in regards to career guidance and life's challenges.
Awareness raising on alcohol abuse in schools.	Awareness activities on alcohol in 14 schools in Kampala were conducted and peer support networks strengthened to provide support to students with alcohol related problems.
Rehabilitate youth with alcohol related problems.	126 youths rehabilitated (provided psycho-social support services – counseling, life skills, vocational & business skills, recreation and shelter, follow up support, and resettlement/tool kits) and have now found employment in different sectors.
Masooli (finishing dormitories, fence, water system)	Construction renovations and refurbishments at Masooli centre were undertaken in regard to setting up strong perimeter wall fence behind dormitories, upper and lower classroom block, staff quarters. Painting of dormitories, lower and upper classroom block, setting up a gate, construction of the dining hall shade, construction of verandahs on the a) boys and girls dormitories, b) plumbing, carpentry & motorbike repair classroom block, c) staff quarters and d) behind the classroom block were done.



## Peer to Peer Drug Abuse Prevention

UYDEL won the Mentor Foundation Achievement Award for its outstanding performance in drug abuse prevention among young people in slum communities of Kampala. The award was aimed at scaling up peer to peer drug abuse prevention activities among young people; undertake an evaluation of the impact of the drug abuse prevention activities on the target groups; document good practices for replication in other communities; sensitization and awareness raising; Develop and update the peer to peer manual with current information and scientific principles; Training CSOs staff and peer educators in drug abuse prevention messages; strengthen advocacy activities of the technical working group that is pushing for the enactment of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (control) Bill 2007 and developing a National Drug Control Master Plan.

### Summary of Key Achievements

Activity	Achievement by 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2009
Reproduction of information and education materials.	500 copies of the Peer to peer user Guide; 1,000 posters and 150 T-shirts were produced and disseminated to stakeholders.
Launching of the peer to peer drug abuse prevention project:	The project was launched by Jeff Lee, the Executive Director of Mentor Foundation in May 2009. The event brought together various partners working in drug abuse prevention field; it provided an avenue for experience sharing and learning from one another as stakeholders in this noble cause. Jeff also presented a paper highlighting the objectives, activities, values and future plans of Mentor Foundation which was beneficial to the partners.
Evaluation of the impact of the drug abuse prevention activities on the target groups	250 copies of the evaluation report were printed and disseminated. The evaluation exercise helped determine the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the project activities.
Training partner CSO staff and peer educators in drug abuse prevention approaches	213 peer educators from seven (7) CSOs were trained and these also reached out to over 500 young people with drug abuse prevention messages.
Documentation of good practices of the peer to peer drug abuse prevention project	A working manual on good practices was compiled and is being edited to make it ready for printing. The manual highlights activities, processes, strategies that have worked to prevent drug abuse but with wider consultations and participation from other stakeholders.

## HIV/AIDS Prevention for high risk groups of youth

Recent studies from the Uganda AIDS Commission continue to indicate that sexual contact is still the single most important mode of transmission of HIV/AIDS and that young people between 15 and 49 years of age still carry a big burden of the pandemic. Over the years UYDEL has learnt important lessons in working with disadvantaged young people living in the slums of Kampala and have done a lot in increasing access to prevention information and services. From our experience, the poor conditions of living, lack of employable skills and lack of parental guidance on issues of sexuality, protection from HIV/AIDS and skills to make informed decisions force poor and out of school young people to engage in sexual activities, most a time under the influence of drugs to get money to survive. With support from the Civil Society Fund for HIV/AIDS in Uganda, UYDEL has worked to increase access and utilization of HIV/AIDS Youth Friendly information and services for 225 slum youth in Kawempe Division and Mukono Town Council, create awareness on prevention and care and provide livelihood skills for social and economic empowerment to reduce vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. The goal of this project is to create decent livelihoods for disadvantaged young people by giving them livelihood skills (vocational and life skills) to earn decent living, thus keeping them away from drug abuse and commercial sex, which increase the chances of contracting HIV.

### Summary of key achievements

Activity	Achievement by 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2009
Train peer educators in the delivery of peer education in relation to HIV/AIDS	63 peer educators trained and supported by social workers to educate their peers about HIV and refer them for services.
Create linkages for effective referral of young people for comprehensive HIV/AIDS services.	12 HIV/AIDS service providers identified where 686 received HIV/AIDS counseling and testing, Some received drugs, post-test counseling and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
Increase awareness about HIV among young people	644 young people reached with messages on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and positive living.
Community education drama shows on HIV/AIDS	10 shows conducted in the slums with messages on abstinence, condom use and life skills to prevent HIV/AIDS and positive living with HIV.
Promote vocational skills training	644 youth trained in different skills and certified. 185 of them have been followed up and are successfully utilizing their skills to earn a living.
Psycho-social support and counseling services to HIV/AIDS affected youth.	584 youth received counseling in relation to HIV/AIDS risks and coping positively, while 54 of them received temporary shelter for rehabilitation.
Community sensitization through film shows on HIV/AIDS.	Messages on risk factors to HIV (transactional sex, drug abuse and commercial sex) were filmed to raise community awareness.
Encourage behavioral change through outdoor recreation activities.	Sports, and drama games and competitions were used to provide accurate messages on HIV prevention and care.
Promote community participation in HIV prevention among young people	11 meetings conducted with parents, local leaders and law enforcement officers to increase knowledge on HIV/AIDS and rally their support for prevention of HIV/AIDS among youth in their communities.
Participation in national events and celebrations	UYDEL staff and beneficiaries participated in celebrations to mark the world day against child labour, and in week long activities to mark the World AIDS day that included a pediatrics HIV/AIDS conference in Kampala

## Child Trafficking

Child trafficking is one of the underlying factors for child prostitution and exploitation and exposes children to HIV/AIDS, trauma and Sacrifice in Uganda. Although recent studies done on this issue do not estimate the numbers of children affected, there is clear evidence both anecdotal and researched that human trafficking is an increasing trend targeting children because of their vulnerable status into different worst forms of child labour including domestic service, commercial sex and scavenging. With support from the United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, UYDEL produced information materials (posters, stickers, brochures, booklets and t-shirts) and conducted community dialogues with parents and local leaders to increase awareness on the problem of child trafficking in Rubaga and Kawempe Divisions in Kampala and Mukono town council, Lugazi and Kayunga areas. Additionally, UYDEL worked with the child and family protection unit of police, local leaders and NGOs to provide direct support services (medical, legal, shelter, vocational skills training, counseling, life skills training) to 66 children, currently undergoing rehabilitation at UYDEL centers in Masooli and Nakulabye.

## Global buddies



UYDEL was honored to host the first-ever Global Buddies programme in Uganda in July 2009 under the theme “*learning together*” (*tugefunze pamoja-in Swahili*). It was a 14-day visit organized by friends of UYDEL in America aimed at developing global citizenship between American and Ugandan youth, and provide opportunity for plenty of time for interacting, learning about the two cultures and issues that affect young people and their communities. This exciting programme was attended by 16 children (6 from America and 10 beneficiaries from UYDEL programmes in Uganda) who had an opportunity to connect and learn about each others culture in a well supervised interactive and exciting space. The global buddies generously contributed to the construction of a protected water source at the Masooli Rehabilitation Centre and visited partner organizations and touristic sites to understand Uganda.

## Rehabilitation of Commercial sex workers

Commercial sex work is an illegal practice that has been identified by Uganda AIDS Commission as one of the drivers of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Commercial sex work is highly linked to alcohol drug and substance abuse to help them get courage to engage in high risk sex, withstand the cold and trauma of having many clients. The National HIV/AIDS strategic plan 2008-2011 recognizes the importance of targeting commercial sex workers and their clients to reduce the incidence and prevalence of HIV. UNFPA (2009) estimates 7,423 commercial sex workers in Kampala City alone while ILO/IPEC estimates 7,000 to 12,000 children affected by commercial sexual exploitation of children in Uganda. With support from the Uganda Health Marketing Group (UHMG), UYDEL has learnt important lessons from experiences of commercial sex workers in Kawempe and Rubaga Divisions of Kampala District. We have learnt the factors that drive young women and children into commercial sex, the problems they face, the risks they are exposed to and their future plans. We have interfaced with children as young as 10 years who are into commercial sex because their guardians forced them to or because they were trafficked to the city as house girls but were exploited by their employers this joined commercial sex to earn a living.

The project is aimed at raising awareness on HIV transmission, increasing access to family planning, Voluntary counseling and testing, information on prevention and care, and condoms for dual protection. The project also aims at empowering CSWs with safer alternative sources of income to reduce dependency on finances raised from commercial sex work as well as strengthening community social protection networks to prevent, withdraw and rehabilitate commercial sex workers.

### Summary of key achievements

Activity	Achievement by 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2009
Trained peer educators in the delivery of peer education in relation to commercial sex work	30 peer educators trained and supported by social workers to and refer their peers for services.
Provide HIV counseling and testing services in collaboration with partner organizations	226 commercial sex workers tested for HIV
Conducted behavioral change and communication sessions	644 young people reached with messages on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and positive living.
Conducted meetings and worked with bar and lodge owners to increase access to information and services to CSWs.	49 bar and lodge owners trained and supported to provide information, condoms and referral services to young women that practice commercial sex work at their bars and lodges.
Vocational skills training	170 CSWs enrolled in vocational skills (hairdressing and tailoring) for safer income generation options.
Conducted community outreach activities	97 people reached with messages on commercial sex using drama shows, personal counseling of CSWs, identified clients, referred them for services risk and followed up beneficiaries to support them practice their skills
Resettlement and reintegration of commercial sex workers with their families.	146 CSWs successfully trained in vocational skills and reintegrated with their families.

## Funding

Agency	Component	Amount (US\$)
OAK Foundation	Children's rights and protection from abuse	65,921
IOGT-NTO Sweden	Alcohol, drug and substance abuse prevention	95,715
Civil Society Fund-Uganda	HIV/AIDS prevention, Care and Support	96,331
Uganda Health Marketing Group	Rehabilitation of commercial sex workers	30,769
Mentor Foundation	Prevention smart parents	1,500
United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	Direct support services and awareness on child trafficking	10,500

## Networking

Partner	Contribution
Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development.	Networking, Advocacy and information sharing
Most At Risk Populations Network	Networking, Advocacy and information sharing
Uganda Police (Child and Family Protection Unit)	Support to survivors of child abuse
Butabika Mental Referral Hospital	Networking, advocacy and referral
District local Governments (Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono and Kalangala)	Networking and referrals
Probation and social welfare offices	Support services to child abuse survivors
International Organization on Migration	Networking and referrals of survivors of trafficking
Kampala City Council clinics (Kawempe, Kawaala, Komamboga and Naguru teenage centre)	Utilized their health services for voluntary counseling and testing, diagnostic and treatment of STDs/STIs
Child Labour Partner's Forum coordinated by National Council for Children	Networking, advocacy and information sharing
Uganda Child Rights NGO Network/ECPAT Uganda	Networking, information sharing and advocacy on children's rights.
Kids In Need and Action for Children	Networking, referrals and information sharing on street children and child labour issues
Community Child Labour Committees	Community mobilization, sensitization and referrals
RUDMEC	Production and dissemination of awareness creation programmes on radios and TVs
Platform for Labour Action	Information, information sharing and referrals
UNFPA Uganda and Friends of UNFPA	Capacity building on youth friendly services
LASPNET	Legal protection and representation
Platform for Labour Action	Referral and vocational skills training for out of school youths.
Naguru Teenage and Information Centre	Medical care, Behavioral Change and advocacy
Mukono Health Centre III	Medical care
Kalangala Health Centre IV	Medical care
Anti Alcohol Abuse Coalition	Advocacy and services for young people with alcohol and drug abuse problems