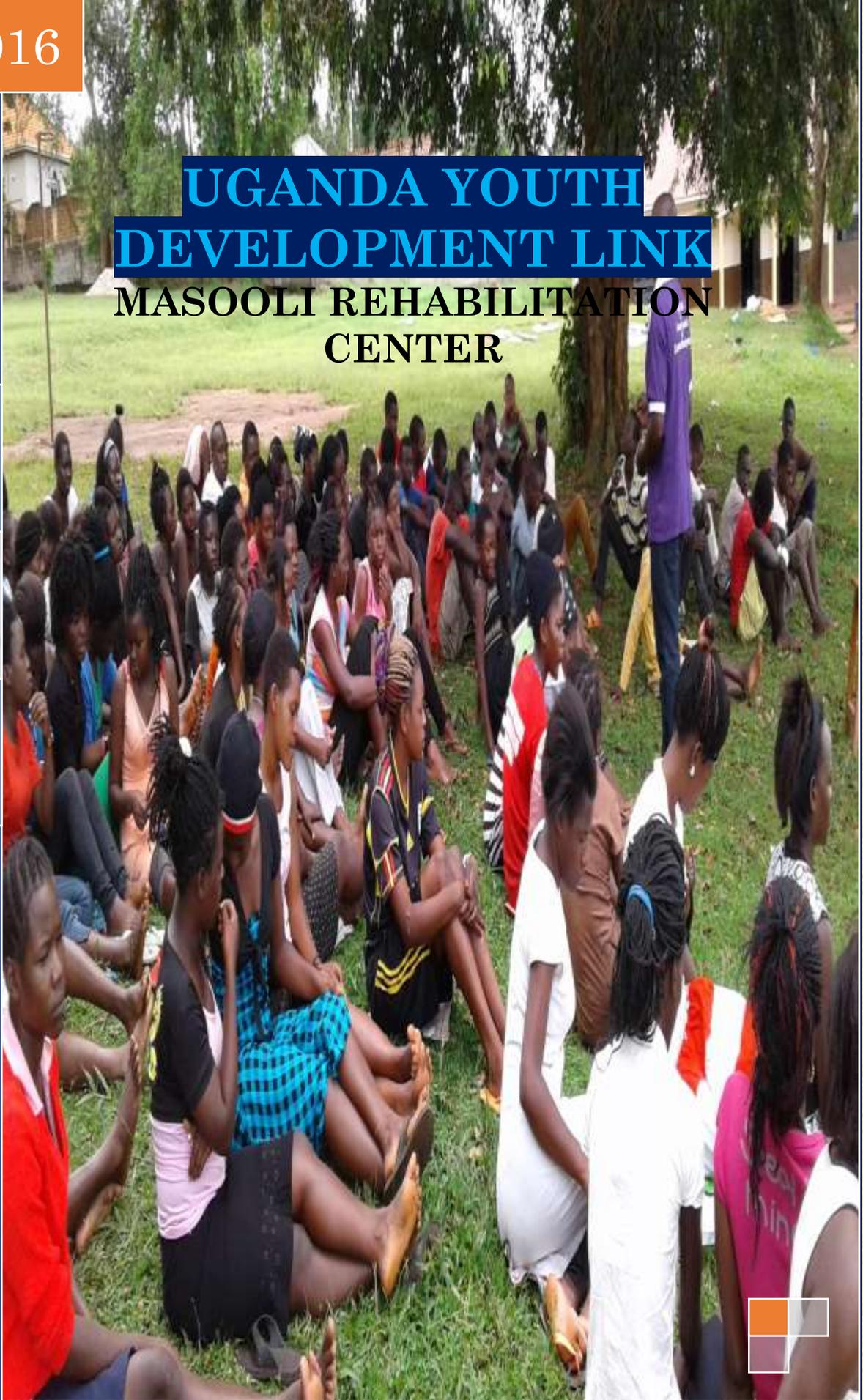


2016

# UGANDA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LINK MASOOLI REHABILITATION CENTER



## COMPILED BY SUUBI ESTHER ELLA

Uganda Youth Development Link serves in 6 divisions of Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono and has implemented several grant and donor projects in these areas. Projects based on grants were also started to cover different need based sectors including combating child trafficking, commercial child sexual exploitation, HIV and AIDS, online child pornography, psychosocial support and peace building. UYDEL has set strategies to empower young people and their communities to take charge of their own development and close to 139,800 registered children have benefited from UYDEL.

Program name	Uganda Youth Development Link	Year collected
Chapter	MASOOLI	2015
Reported enrolment	166	
Reported number of skills	8	
Additional skills	2	
Date report generated	03/01/2016	

### Number of young people

The UYDEL Masooli center acts as the main reference and rehabilitation center for all other UYDEL drop-in centers and points. This depends on the need assessment and risk level of the young person done at the different UYDEL drop-in centers. The young people at the center are not only referred from other centers in Kampala and Mukono but also come from the communities within the vicinity of the center. They are taught not only to improve their economic standing in the society through the vocational skills program, but they are also empowered to enhance The center has a total number of 166 young people between the ages of 12 and 24 years residing at the center. Last year the center had a total number of 411 students 205male and 246 female as seen in the table below;

Table; showing total number of boys and girls and reference points in 2015

Category	Male	Female
Residential	205	246

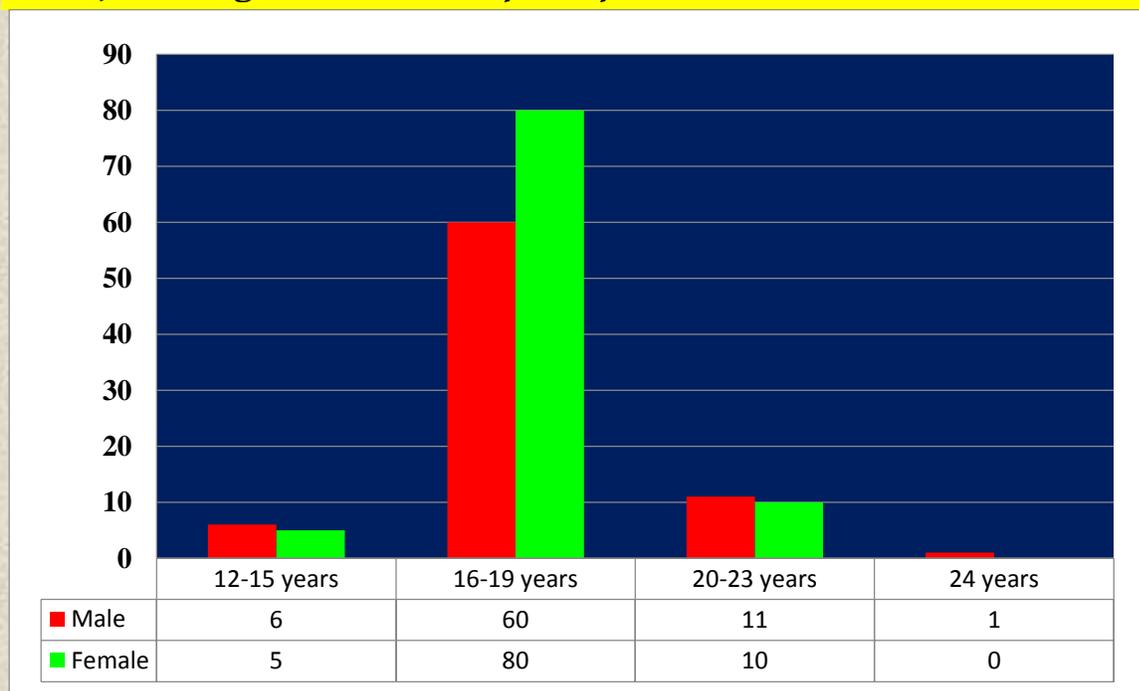


<b>Victims of trafficking</b>	81	56
<b>Referred by NGOs</b>	9	3
<b>Referred by police</b>	13	28
<b>Referred by other institutions</b>	25	37



*Young people at the Masooli center*

**Chart; showing total number of beneficiaries at the center**



All students enrolled at the center have to meet a required time frame minimum of 6 months at the center before they can graduate. During this time, they perfect their desired skill and are tested and assessed when the time elapses to determine those that are ready to graduate. A UYDEL also partners with other NGOs that offer start up tool kits to graduating students to facilitate their desired enterprises.

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### **Case study**

22 year old Tinka Gerald has dream that one day he will be able to earn enough money to go back to school, with his new learned skills in plumbing and catering. George then living with his aunt after the death of his parents, first learned of UYDEL through an outreach they did in his home village of Nabweru.

He was senior two school drop out with no prospects and no hope that is until last year in August when he joined Masooli.

*“I was confused because I had a lot of needs yet I couldn’t afford them, my aunt had started looking at me strangely mostly because I was not contributing anything at home and I was convinced she did not like having me in her house anymore.”*, he recalls.

Gerald is now looking forward to graduating and is very grateful to UYDEL for giving him an opportunity to make his life better.

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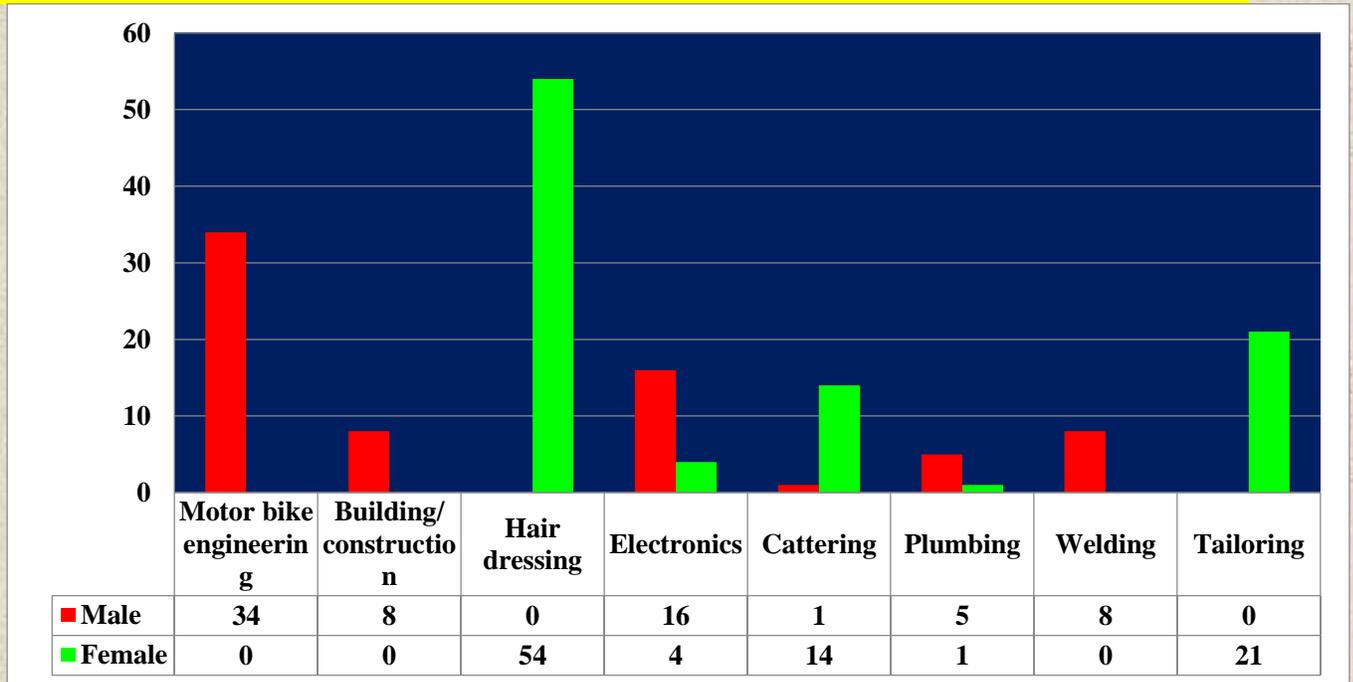
### **Vocational skills and livelihood training program**

Due to its size and school institute like structure, the Masooli center offers a wide range of vocational skills. The students are instructed in skills like welding, motorbike mechanics, catering and many others. Once the young person reports to the center, they are given the opportunity to choose a skill set they are most interested in pursuing. They are also given the liberty to venture into other skill sets and also try different activities until they can find the right fit.

The center has a total number of 8 vocational skill sets and each available vocational skill set has a total number of two instructors leaving the number of instructors at the center at 16 minus the experts in the various fields that are brought in to teach the young people in their chosen fields and most of the social workers also reside at the center. They also participate in other additional skills and activities like jewelry making, MDD and sports and also undertake a six week business enterprise course.



**Chart; showing number of skills at the center**



However, it's not always easy because there is continuous break down of equipment like machines used in welding, knitting, sewing machines and many others and yet the number of students they cater to is constantly increasing.



*Some of the skills at the center include; electronics, hairdressing and motorbike engineering*

**Rehabilitation and Reintegration**



The center offers and does rehabilitation for young people coming from and pulled out of risky environments and violent backgrounds. These include; young people from the streets, abusive homes, and former child sex workers, child trafficking victims, drug, alcohol abuse and addiction. Through psycho-sociological activities like group counseling, sharing experiences with other young people from similar and different backgrounds, continuous one on one counseling sessions with social workers and lots of encouragement, they are motivated to change their live to a much more productive path.

The challenge is that, when you have all these young people from different walks of life in one place, it's easy for others to feel inferior, be picked on or left out. However, the team works hard to ensure that no one at the center feels deprived. While most referrals are made by other UYDEL drop-in centers; others are from different community institutional structures like police and from other NGOs within the country. UYDEL also facilitates resettlement, apprenticeship placements and re integration of students once their time at the center ends and goes ahead to do follow ups and monitoring to see how the child is faring. This is done through home and work visits by the UYDEL team and the biggest challenge is poverty in homes where the children are resettled.

### **Sexual Reproductive Health issues**

Considering the categories of young people in our target group, sexual reproductive health is a major factor when it comes to combating their key issues. Some of them have dropped out of school because they got pregnant, living with HIV with little or no access to ARVs, from slum areas where the risk of getting infections is quite high and others are young mothers with no means of caring for their children, considering that some of them hail from remote areas, no access to health services. The students at the center have access to sexual reproductive health services and have a resident medical practitioner that attends to ailments at the center. They are provided with health information through group dialogues and visits to the medical office. The center also carries out other health related activities like HIV testing, cancer screening and others as illustrated in the table below. In the last year over 70 students took HIV tests at the center.

#### **Table; illustrating Sexual Reproductive Health issues**

<b>Total number of young people</b>	<b>166</b>
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<b>Cancer screening</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Circumcised</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Tested for HIV</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Received results</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>HIV positive</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>On ARVs</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Young mothers</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Pregnant</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Most reported health issues</b>	<b>STIs/RTIs, headaches, dental issues, malaria</b>

At times it is challenging when it comes to dealing with these young people, most of them have been through a lot and it's not easy to get them to relate with others or share their experiences. This makes it challenging to come up with ways to help them. The number of students dropping out also takes its toll on the program, some lose interest, get home sick, and others escape from the facility out of fear that when their time at the center comes to a end, they will have to go back to the same harsh environments they were taken from.



*Young people at the center during a group counseling session*

### **Dialogue/ counseling sessions**

Through dialogue sessions we are able to impart not only practical but also impart life skills to the young people. As part of our rehabilitation scheme, they are allowed to actively participate in group and individual tasks which are used as tools to teach and educate them on how to make their lives better. These topics are based on real life issues that they deal with on a daily basis. By discussing them, we are able to learn of their personal experiences and also suggest ways and provide some answers

on how to handle different challenges in their lives. As a group it is easier to overcome fears and come up with ideas as group needs may overwhelm individual fears

**Table; showing topics discussed with young people**

NO	TOPIC
1	Relationship building
2	Decision making
3	Self awareness
4	Self esteem
5	Interpersonal counseling
6	Problem solving
7	Skills of living with ones' self
8	Personal behavior/ morality
9	HIV/AIDS
10	Hygiene maintenance
11	Safety
12	Sanitation
13	Human Rights/ abuse
14	Positive living
15	Peer pressure
16	Nutrition
17	Stigma/ discrimination
18	Family planning
19	Growth and development
20	Career guidance
21	Alcohol and drug abuse

With contributions from the drama club at the center, young people are given the opportunity to share their stories through acting, dance and song and also use these stories to communicate to others in their the same dilemma. This is an important tool when it comes to involving and engaging the students and also doing outreaches especially in schools.





*UYDEL students and school students' perform during a school outreach*

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### Case study

At 19, Nmayega Vivian is the only girl offering electronics at the center.

*“I love working with broken machines like TVs and making them better, plus I like it here, I get to have 3 meals a day unlike back home when I was not sure I would even eat once”, she says.*

Before she came to Masooli she was living with her *jajja* and helping her aunt sell cloths in Bwaise and did not like the environment or life style at all. Vivian had dropped out of school in senior four because her grandmother could not afford to meet the fees demands and her parents had passed on a while back. She learned about UYDEL through an outreach in her home area. Vivian is now a dorm mother and loves helping other students at the center especially the new ones that feel out of place and home sick.

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### Gallery

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1. Students prepare food during a catering assessment
2. Some of the dishes students prepared as starters during the assessment
3. Students examine a motorbike during a class
4. Getting acquainted with parts during a motorbike mechanics class
5. A welding instructor does a demonstration for the students
6. Masooli students during an electronics theory class
7. Teaching life skills to students at Masooli
8. Outdoor dialogue session with UYDEL social workers
9. Students participate in a group activity during a life skills training
10. Students prepare for a soccer match at the center

