![entrust foundation logo]

Completion Report

Books for Dads - Uganda

Budget: 3,600 – fully funded!

Update:

This project paid for the design, editing and publishing of a book for men on issues relating to reproductive health in Uganda. The aim was to create a book about family planning that African men will read and understand given that correct understanding has the potential to reduce poverty and maternal and neonatal deaths. The cultural understanding is that a large family is a gift from God – whether you can afford it or not and as men are the head of the household, they wield the most power in deciding how many and when to have children. By providing targeted knowledge, *A Book for Fathers* has the potential to shift the mindset to allow smaller families which they can better support and to wives old enough to cope with pregnancy. Current family size in Uganda is seven children and it is not uncommon to have twelve or more with multiple wives. Teen pregnancy to older fathers is common. Poverty is rife.

Together with local health professionals, publishers and local knowledge, the book was put together in draft format in November and was circulated for further refinement. Changes and improvements were made and 500 books were published in Kampala in March. This book adds to the first in the series – *What is Happening To Me – Questions about Growing Up*. The book for men came about through our partners work in Uganda, when they realised that men had many questions on reproductive health but no material specifically produced for them as the emphasis was on women.
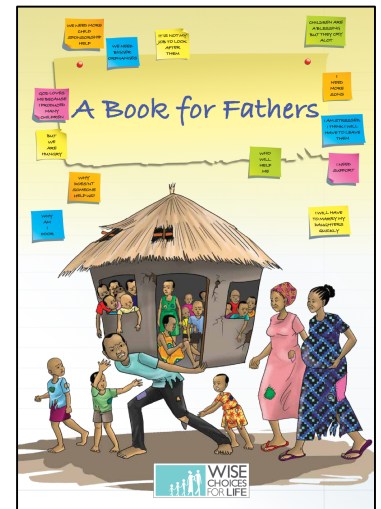
The book is easy to read to cater for a lower level of literacy. It is light on text and provides illustrations that are clear and easy to understand with brief descriptions. Many sessions have been run by our partners over the past few years and so they had good knowledge of what to include in the book. Our partners are keen to ensure sustainability of the project. The books are sold at a price the locals can afford, yet cover the printing costs. The profits will be put back to enable printing of more books. The books are included as part of reproductive training material and it is hoped that they will be distributed in health clinics, a men's prison and libraries.

Francis, a Child Survival project worker said, "*When I read this book called "Father's book" my eyes opened up! I realized we have not done much to engage the fathers to be fully responsible for their families. I think we have to review our approach.*"

Fred, who volunteers with our partner said, "*This book gives me brain power, a guide or manual to tackle and answer the challenges that are in our Ugandan communities. Thank you for helping to bring this material to the attention of men and communities.*"

Education is a key factor in alleviating poverty and helping fathers to know their responsibilities. Thank you for helping us to expand the knowledge of men and women and communities through this valuable resource.