



Completion Report

UGA-JEN-WEP-P01 Mbale, Uganda
Reporting Period: March – August 2017

Women Enabled - Uganda

Budget: \$21,700 – fully funded!

Update:

This report completes a year-long project to empower women in three poor locations around Mbale in eastern Uganda. Initially, savings groups were established in which women work together in groups to save an agreed amount each week and are then able to borrow back from the savings when required. Secondly, community meetings were held in the three different locations, covering topics of interest to the women. Finally, a year-long training course to teach young mothers basic skills in hairdressing and tailoring to enable them to earn an income and to better manage their lives was taught. Many are teenagers and are outcasts within their family so have little in the way of support structures.

In the first half of the project, our partners purchased basic equipment to set up 12 savings groups (a lock box and keys and an accounts book). Throughout the year, community meetings covered topics of interest to the women such as health, agriculture, budgeting, how to save and raising a family. These meetings provided valuable information to the women but also formed a basis for establishing relationships and working more deeply with identified women.



Our partners report that a number of training sessions were held during this reporting period covering topics such as the poverty cycle and parenting styles. There were 725 participants. Four new savings groups were added during this period and monitoring of other groups already formed has continued. Five women were selected for one-on-one business support as a trial to see the potential benefits from such support. Businesses range from local stalls, charcoal selling and selling second-hand clothes to animal rearing. Vocational training in hairdressing and tailoring has 41 registered in a course and also continues to build.



Savings groups help prevent families sliding back into poverty when financial shocks occur – they build resilience. They are used to provide a hand-up, rather than a hand-out through the learning of valuable skills which enable them to earn an income.

Our partners said, *“We have 102 savings groups in action now and they are going from strength to strength. It helps the whole family. The community is involved throughout all aspects of the project and the savings groups are designed to be sustainable after the initial 12-month project. We continue to provide support and monitor progress afterwards. Over 5,000 women have benefitted from this 12-month project, including family members.”*

Jenny Crameri (pictured) from Entrust visited some of the groups in June 2017. She said, *“Many of these ladies are what we call active poor. They know what they want to do and have the motivation. It’s just that they don’t have any means to get started. This project offers them the means and I heard story after story of the difference it is making in their lives. It empowered the women to take charge of their lives.”*