



## UPA Newsletter March / April 2009

### UPA's Central Branch – a full success!



UPA's Central Branch's project called PIONEER YOUTH CENTRE (PYC) can record a full success in the first term of 2009.

All in all 16 outreaches were held in 8 schools to equip young people with skills and knowledge about adolescent sexual and reproductive health to enable them to make informed decisions in life. 27 Peer Educators of PYC were able to reach 510 pupils and students. All the outreaches were successful because of the intervention of Peer Educators Advisors supporting the young Peer Educators on every outreach. Also baseline surveys in 4 new schools were held where 80 pupils have been interviewed. Areas of urgent intervention have been highlighted such as early pregnancy and body changes. Early results of these interviews show that most of the pupils are not knowledgeable on a number of topics about health care. The outreaches of next term will be adjusted to these topics unknown.

Besides outreaches and informing students and pupils PYC is mainly involved with voluntary counselling and testing services (VCT) for HIV/AIDS. In March there has been a voluntary counselling and testing event for calculated 300 people. 385 people turned up for VCT, though only 300 were worked on because the kits brought could only cater for 300 people. The turn up was that high because of the mobilisation strategies led by the Peer Educators Advisors. They handed over flyers, went from door to door, did announcement in worship places, community radio and loudspeaker. PYC's aim is to promote VCT for 1000 people by the end of 2010.

### UPA Workcamp in Bukomero



UPA's second work camp of 2009 took place at UPA's farm in Bukomero a village in the northwest of Kampala. Three local Volunteers, Roni, Abasi and Farouk, as well as one young German man from Stuttgart, called Hagen

spent three weeks from the 6<sup>th</sup> of April until the 23<sup>th</sup> of April at the UPA's farm to plant trees, cabbage and beans. All in all they managed to plant 566 trees, 250 cabbage plants and 6 kg of beans plants.

Unfortunately it is very dry in Bukomero in the moment even if it is considered to be rain season. That was the biggest challenge the young men told. Since there is no borehole or well on the farm's land and the next water source is half an hour far by foot it has been very difficult to water the seedlings and some have been already dried out after some days of strong sunshine. To improve the soil and give shadow and shelter to the plants one aim is to reforest the farm's land. On the last work camp in Bukomero in August 2008 as well as this time Volunteers planted trees for this reason.

UPA's farm was established in 1989. The 10 hectare big piece of land is located in a very beautiful green and wide valley surrounded by hills. Main objective of the farm is to self sustain UPA, to demonstrate a project for agriculture and self-sustaining as well as to offer activities for UPA members and the community. Another project of UPA is to establish a hall on the farm's land to host meetings and workshops.

### **Central Branch's Peer Educator Advisor goes to UK**



It is confirmed that Sam Musanyusa Zziwa member of UPA and Peer Educator Advisor of Central Branch will leave to Wales on June 15<sup>th</sup> for a Medium Term Volunteer Exchange Program. He is supposed to work 5.5 month with the Town Counsel of Rhondda, Wales to raise awareness of global development issues with young people and communities

around Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT), and will focus on bringing together communities in RCT with those in other parts of the world. The project will be run with the Sustainable Development Unit at Rhondda Cynon Taff County Council. The Unit aims to provide support, leadership and guidance with reference to sustainable development issues relevant to the communities within Rhondda Cynon Taff.

The exchange program is organised by UNA Exchange a British Organisation and partner of UPA and is partly funded by the solidarity fund of CCIVS the coordinating committee for international volunteering services and partly by the Rhondda Town Counsel.

Sam's activities include the involvement in UNA Exchange international projects over the summer as a group leader. He will also visit other projects in the local area. Sam's main task will be the deliverance of global awareness sessions to young people, adults and mixed groups around RCT. He will also assist with various events and activities around the County.

Sam is the second member of UPA's Central Branch who takes part in this exchange program. In 2008 Michael Kyeyune has been in England for 6 months to also work with Rhondda County. Michael can tell just good things about his stay in Rhondda. He worked with different youth clubs in the County and was supposed to get the youth involved in activities considering global citizenship. The main challenge about his work was to figure out how to design information events and activities for teaching in youth clubs he tells, since there is an evident difference raising young people's interest in a youth club then teaching them in school.

Michael enjoyed his work with Rhondda Cynon Taff very much. So we hope Sam will have a great time as well. We wish him all the best for his stay.

### **Interview with Ruth Nambowa, manager of Another Hope Orphanage**

Due to a very good feedback of Another Hope Orphanage Manager Ruth Nambowa considering the work of UPA's Volunteers, UPA decided to do an interview with her to get to know the Orphanage and the tasks of Volunteers better. Please enjoy reading the following passage!

**UPA:** Good afternoon Miss Nambowa.

**Misses Nambowa:** Good afternoon to you.

**UPA:** We heard you are very satisfied with UPA Volunteers. Could you tell us why exactly?

**Misses Nambowa:** Yes, sure. UPA Volunteers are very committed with their work here in Another Hope. They put a lot of effort and help us a lot.

**UPA:** What are the tasks of Volunteers?

**Misses Nambowa:** Volunteers help with daily orphanage work such as helping the kids with their homework, playing with them, they help cleaning the children and also the house, they fetch water and do handcrafts with the kids.

**UPA:** So you are doing handcrafts here. What kind of handcrafts?

**Misses Nambowa:** Yes. We do bags and purses out of palm straw and also jewellery and decoration of coloured pearls. We sell these things and own so a little money for the orphanage. Also the kids like to do it and they learn something they can make money with when they are grown up. With the help of Volunteers we were able to do a CD with songs sung by the kids which we also sell. We would soon like to start pottery but right now we don't have the money to buy the equipment and material and to hire someone who could teach the kids.

**UPA:** Misses Nambowa you are the founder and manager of Another Hope. May I ask how old you are?

**Misses Nambowa:** Of course. I am 29 years old.

**UPA:** And since when exists Another Hope?

**Misses Nambowa:** Since October 2005.

**UPA:** How were you able to build an orphanage in such a young age?

**Misses Nambowa:** I got some money from my parents in the beginning and I worked a lot to found Another Hope. Nowadays I study at university, statistics, so I cannot work anymore. But we get some donations of Volunteers and sell our little handicrafts. It is not a lot but all the kids can go to school.

**UPA:** How many kids do you provide for at the moment?

**Misses Nambowa:** All in all 32 children. From age 1.5 to 19.

**UPA:** And where do these kids come from?

**Misses Nambowa:** Mainly communities bring them here.

**UPA:** You told me you study so who takes care of the kids?

**Misses Nambowa:** We have a caretaker since 1.5 years. She stays here in the orphanage. The elder kids are in school over the day so she just has to take care of the babies. In the afternoon I come back from university and I stay as well in the orphanage. Also the elder kids help the young ones. And of course we have the support of Volunteers. I am very glad about that. I wish we had always 3 Volunteers here.

**UPA:** Since when do you host UPA Volunteers and how did the cooperation start?

**Misses Nambowa:** Sarah from UPA came to visit our place in March 2008. I told her that we would need some help and UPA decided to send Volunteers to Another Hope.

**UPA:** What is your biggest wish for Another Hope right now?

**Misses Nambowa:** First of all I would like to find a donor for each child. It takes 25 dollar a month to provide the child with food, clothes, school fees and books. And I would like to build an own house for the orphanage. Right now we are renting this place and sometimes I don't have the money for the rent. We have a piece of land in Wakiso district but at this moment not the money to build a house. I hope we can do that soon.

**UPA:** Thank you very much for the interview Misse Nambowa.

**Misses Nambowa:** Thank you too.

**“The Art of Intercultural Dialogue” – UPA is one of the Host partners!**

The project “The Art of Intercultural Dialogue” is addressed to young people to build an open, multicultural and united society. It is financed by the European Union through the

“Youth in Action Program”. The project puts forward cultural exchange for young people in Uganda and Romania, artistic competition and a festival of culture that will be held in Italy.

Founder of the idea “The Art of Intercultural Dialogue” is the Italian organisation GIS. The project has been advertised by the European Union with the condition to have a partner organisation from a third world country. On a CCIVS (Co-Ordinating Committee for Voluntary Service) assembly meeting in Ukraine in 2007 Sam Waddimba, Executive Secretary of UPA, got in contact with a Partner of the Turkish organisation Avrasya Community based in Izmir, Turkey. After a friendly chat, this Partner later informed GIS about UPA. In this way UPA became one of three hosts for workshops about “The Art of Intercultural Dialogue” in 2009. The preparation meeting was held in February in Italy to discuss the concept and content of the workshops.

The first campus will be held in Uganda from the 6<sup>th</sup> up to the 13<sup>th</sup> of July. Preparations are under way. The second campus will take place in Romania hosted by the Romanian organisation Fundatia ACTIVITY and the lastly a cultural festival will be hosted by GIS in Italy. By this time ten partners are supposed to take part on these happenings [GSI (Italy), Fundatia ACTIVITY (Romania), Raama Noorte Uhing Noorus (Estonia), Avrasya Community (Turkey), Academia Josè Moreira da Silva (Portugal), EEMAPE (Greece), Le Droit à la Vie (Benin), Uganda Pioneer`s Association (Uganda), Faa I Tuora (Burkina Faso), Aktion Pit-Togohilfe Lomé (Togo)]. Among others there will be a formal presentation of intercultural dialogue as well as a press conference, theatre, a forum and an exhibition around the theme of “The Art of Intercultural Dialogue”.

Besides the campuses the project includes a competition addressing photographers and filmmakers. Individuals as well as groups may take part in the competition in each of the participating countries. It aims at selecting one picture on the theme “The Woman and the Intercultural Dialogue” and a short film on the theme “Intercultural Dialogue”. The best picture will be published and distributed inside a publication across the partner countries. The best short film will be put into a documentary, distributed across the partner countries and projected during the Festival of Cultures to be held in Italy at the end of the project “The Art of Intercultural Dialogue”. Pictures and short films should be submitted by May, 30<sup>th</sup> 2009.