

UGANDA ORPHANS RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME [UORDP]
TITTLE OF THE PRESENTATION:

**The role of Uganda orphans Rural Development program [UORDP] in Enhancing
Natural Resources and Livelihoods for Orphaned Children through community
Based Natural Resource management in Tororo District Uganda:**

PRESENTER:

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VISION:

To have a healthy, economically productive, literate HIV/AIDS free communities in eastern Uganda integrated to the socio-economic progress of Uganda by the end of 2007.

MISSION:

We are committed to the health care of the HIV/AIDS sufferers, their education, the provision of clean and sustainable environment through mobilization of resources from local and foreign donor agencies.

The overall Goal:

To promote care and support for the HIV/AIDS orphans, their families, and communities and to further contribute to the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS prevalence in our operational areas in Uganda.

Organizational background, structure and profile:

Uganda Orphans Rural Development Program (UORDP) is a small but fast growing indigenous rural based non governmental organization founded in 1998 by the community of Kisoko sub county, West Budama, Tororo District to join national efforts towards the fight against HIV/AIDS. It is dully registered with the National Board under Certificate Number S.5914/2706.

With Tororo ranked the highest district with HIV/AIDS prevalence in Eastern Uganda by the Uganda Aids Commission, and taking into consideration the fact that health is a priority as far as poverty alleviation is concerned, UORDP begun with HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns and Voluntary Testing and Counseling Programs (VCT). It was discovered however, that in order to realize sustainability in the long run, there was need to initiate complementary program packages that would empower partner communities in meeting their own challenges. In addition to Community Health Care based services, UORDP is currently implementing Food Security and Feeding programs, Early Childhood Development, Life Skills training in Primary Schools, Income Generating Activities and Orphan Development and Care. The main goal of UORDP is to promote and support the health, nutrition, income and educational status of orphaned children, their caregivers, widows and widowers and other marginalized groups especially women affected and infected with HIV/AIDS.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) constitutes the supreme organ of the organization. It is the members that elect the Board Of Directors (BOD), which in turn recruits a Program Coordinator who runs the day-to-day activities of the organization. Membership is open to all through payment of small fees. Persons infected with HIV/AIDS and orphaned children whose parents died of the scourge automatically qualify as members.

Overall-Strategy and methodology:

The main operational strategy of UORDP is decentralized and democratic and reflects the needs, values and aspirations of the beneficiary communities. After they have elected into office their representatives to the Parish Committee's and the Project Management Committee (PMC) that constitutes the highest policy making body, they

are registered and acquire a semi autonomous status. It is the PMC, Functional Groups/Beneficiaries formed with the assistance of the Project Officer that implement, monitor and write reports while UORDP only comes in to follow up, offer technical guidance and build capacity to ensure that minimum standards are met. All programs implemented are those that were earmarked during the Participatory Project Identification Process (PPIP). The main objective of this approach is to promote grass root participation, support, ownership and sustainability.

Situational Analysis of the area:

According to the biomes study report of 2000 [national environment Authority report] Tororo district was ranked among the highest with high natural resource depletion and environment degradation.

Environmental sustainability of Tororo district therefore is almost getting out of balance because the ecosystem has been seriously affected by the greed of mankind who is otherwise supposed to protect it.

Today you don't need to first hear from the environmentalists in order to believe this as there are full blown indicators which include:

- Indiscriminate cutting of felling of trees yet without replacement.
- Poor land usage and management in terms of over grazing of cattle.
- Depletion of water resources-rice growing in wet lands and poor management of river banks, clearance of river banks for Agricultural practice and interference with water sheds.
- Poor mining of rocks for livelihood, ecology around the rocks destroyed and it is threatened by depletion.

Consequences as a result of the above:

- Changes in rain patterns.
- High-rise in temperature.
- Prolonged drought.
- Soil erosion leading to loss of soil fertility.
- Destruction of homes and public institutional structures by storms.
- Threats of hunger by families because of shortage of firewood.
- Scarcity of some species of trees and plants especially herbal plants, reeds for weaving of indigenous baskets, granaries and bags.
- Conflicts among families.
- Natural beauty interfered with.
- Habitats for insects, birds and wild animals destroyed.
- Pollution.

UORP program Strategy to try to address the above issues.

- Formation of Orphan care committees.
- Mobilization of youths to form associations and development groups.
- Community mobilization and awareness creation on environmental issues, which are normally, integrated with our HIV/AIDS Educative messages.

- Training of Orphan caregivers in Sustainable Agricultural land use and management.
- Advocacy and Lobbying policy makers and district leaders for the need to support the enforcement of children's right to property.
- Collaborative effort with Government education department to form child rights clubs, Orphan clubs and environmental/life skills clubs in schools, which are all geared to the protection of the natural resources for the children's future.
- We also work closely with the Probation and social welfare officers to ensure that the inheritance rights of widows and orphans are respected.
- Currently my independent study is based on the role a Community based resource center could play in the promotion of socio-Economic development of the youths in particular and community in general in Tororo District.

Challenges:

- Limited financial resources for Organizing seminars, workshops etc.
- Lack of a viable transport facility [vehicle].
- Corruption by government agents –police and forest rangers among others.
- Poverty.
- Lack of effective government policy.
- Lack of commitment and prioritization of the Government at district and national levels on natural resource management.
- Lack of technology to handle waste management- recycling of plastic products.

Way forward:

It has been proved beyond reasonable doubt that man is fully dependant on nature, without which mankind survival is threatened.

The only way out is for the governments and other private bodies to design and prioritize on programs that will lead to community commitment to take full charge of the management of their natural resources and environment as a whole.

In all, a good environment makes a healthy future.

**For God and my country
Uganda motto.**