

LIFESTITCHES

AIDS ORPHAN SCHOOL PROGRAM

YOU CAN CHANGE A FUTURE

Education empowerment of young women impacted by the AIDS epidemic in West Nile Uganda

Fall 2015

Why a school program for young girls?

Within the West Nile region of Uganda, young girls impacted by the AIDS epidemic are not completing even a primary school education. Girls typically enter first grade as 9-year olds and repeat grades again and again when they do not pass their exams. It is not unusual to see a 15-year-old girl still in grade 3 or 4, and seldom do girls go beyond sixth grade.

The reasons are many in this resource-poor region: overcrowded classrooms, poor nutrition and social pressures at home including abuse, early pregnancy and early marriage.

In February 2016, LifeStitches will initiate a pilot intervention in two local, very rural public schools located in West Nile Uganda. The program is designed to combat the overwhelming school dropout rate among young girls. Fifty girls at each school across all grade levels will participate throughout the year in an academic program of small group tutoring coupled with social support of peer mentors and home visit outreach.



At 15, Bileru May is the head of her household. Her mother who has been sick since April last year cannot dig, fetch water, or wash clothes. Currently May does all of the domestic duties within her home. She dropped out of Primary School in 6th grade.

LifeStitches Uganda is an Albuquerque-based nonprofit which has sponsored economic empowerment programs for HIV-positive women in Uganda's West Nile region since 2007. We reach out now with a pilot education empowerment pilot program to school-age girls in this same community.

Classrooms at Ediofe Primary School average 147 pupils per teacher. No surprise that the dropout rate is dramatic!

Our Academic Goals

Improve literacy and math skills

The Problems

- Crowded classrooms, 147:1 student-teacher ratios
- Focus on rote learning
- Scarce textbooks
- Few positive role models
- No one-to-one teacher contact

Our Solutions

Tutoring

- School faculty tutors
- Senior student tutor assistants
- Small group tutoring
- Teaching materials, school books
- Professional development for tutors

Monitoring

- Individualized student feedback
- Regular progress meetings and reports
- Program adjustments based on outcomes



These Young Girls Need Your Help!

A 2015 study* of girls 14-18 years in the West Nile region of Uganda reported:

- 15.3 years average age of dropout
- 84% dropped out in Primary School, i.e., late-start or repeated grades

Reasons given for dropout:

- Financial 50%
- Pregnancy 13%
- Domestic chore burden 28%

**2015 International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)*



AOSD Director Moses Anguzu and grade 6 student, Bileru May

Our Social Goals

Address critical social issues

The Problems

- Domestic obligations such as filling in for ill or absent parents, helping in the fields
- Poor nutrition, sickness, living far away
- Hygiene issues of monthly menstruation
- No money for school fees, supplies or uniforms
- Early marriage, early pregnancy
- Low priority for girls being educated



Draleru Asunta, age 15, HIV-positive from mother-to-child-transmission, dropped out of Primary School at grade 4. She hopes to return.

Our Solutions

Mentoring

- Peer mentors from LifeStitches workshop
- System of home visits
- Focus on social problems which contribute to school dropout

Coordination/ Revision

- Close communication between programs
- Social strategies revised based on outcomes

Our Budget, why we need you...

Annual Tutoring Program Operation (100 girls)	\$ 6,000
Annual Mentoring Program Operation (100 girls)	\$ 3,000
Program Director/CFO Annual Salary	\$ 2,000
Academic Program Assistant Annual Salary	\$ 1,800
Social Issues Program Assistant Annual Salary	\$ 1,800
Intl Supervision Education Consultant travel & stipend	\$ 2,500
Intl Supervision travel (rotating resource)	\$ 1,500

TOTAL **\$18,600/year**

Projected start up, February 2016

LifeStitches Uganda is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your tax-deductible donation will help girls affected by the AIDS epidemic overcome the many obstacles to completing their primary school education and help LifeStitches develop a sustainable model of academic and social support.

Donations

Online:

www.lifestitches.org go to 'How to help' button

By check payable to:

LifeStitches Uganda

PO Box 51016

Albuquerque, NM 87181

Our Leadership

In Country Project Staff

Moses Anguzu

(to hire)

(to hire)

Program Director/CFO

Academic Program Assistant

Social Issues Program Assistant

International NGO Supervision

Katherine Gnauck, MD, Albuquerque

Cathy Asiki, MA, Great Britain

Sandy Bernstein, PsyD, Manhattan

Susan Yacubian Klein, MA, Princeton

Jan Silverstein, PhD, Denver

LifeStitches Uganda, Project Director

Steering Committee, Education Consultant

Steering Committee, Psychology Consultant

Steering Committee

Steering Committee, Education Consultant