

Mothers' Union Family Life Programme (FLP)

December 2008

The Family Life Programme going from strength to strength through community ownership and self-led and initiated development projects

Family Life Programme Climbs to Dizzy Heights

The Family Life Programme has gone beyond our original expectations, impacting peoples' lives in ways we could never have dreamed of currently working through **341** facilitators with over **10,200** beneficiaries in 8 of the 31 dioceses in Uganda.

"Before FLP ... We had no toilet, vegetable garden or rubbish pit and our stove was not efficient. We would throw rubbish everywhere in our compound, didn't boil water and we didn't manage our banana plants well. The FLP gave us knowledge and skills to improve our health and sanitation. We now have good latrines, we boil our water, we grow vegetables and bananas. We have 50 chickens and 10 cocks. We plant coffee and have a merry go round with savings of 150,000 Uganda shillings. I have learnt a lot about love and unity."

Janet, Kitany women's group, Sebei



FLP participants in Luwero

The programme is initiated, facilitated and locally owned within each community, which allows prioritisation and relevant development in areas identified by the people themselves. Through this model the communities are motivated and empowered in the most sustainable way possible.

Sarah Kasule, Provincial FLP Trainer reports: *"The FLP in partnership with the Ministry of Gender and UNICEF, through the Family Life Programme (FLP), communities in Luwero and Bukedi Dioceses are carrying out Community Dialogue. Malaria, Sanitation and Hygiene as well as Maternal Child Health have been the major issues to deal with in these".*



Community members in Katuugo Nakasongola District - Luwero Diocese being sensitized on Malaria, water sanitation and maternal child health.

In a bid to fight malaria, communities have been mobilised to improve sanitation at household level and used insecticide treated mosquito nets (given to them by our partners) and worked with schools and Community Health Volunteers trained by the Uganda Government."

Skills and Knowledge Sharing with Kenya

The adaptability of the Family Life Programme means that it is incredibly versatile, however due to the nature of it being community led and implemented the programme is best experienced firsthand to enable replication in other areas or even countries.

Therefore when the neighbouring Province of Kenya expressed an interest in the methodology to incorporate it into their Mothers' Union community work, the only way forward was for them to visit Uganda and see the FLP in action.

In May 2008, three Kenyan Mothers' Union Provincial Trainers travelled to the Dioceses of Sebei and Central Buganda. During their visit to Sebei diocese, they were able to meet FLP participants and community members whose lives the programme had touched over the last five years. Their visit also included discussing areas of the programme with FLP facilitators as well as how to start the process of developing model homes, HIV/AIDS Home Care Providers (HCPs), Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs).



*Salome Leipa, Florence Onkundi and Anne Ikucha
(Kenya Mothers' Union Provincial Trainers)*

They were able to also meet with the other FLP Trainers to share lessons learnt and experiences through programme implementation, discussing how Mothers' Union Kenya would be able to begin successfully carrying out FLP activities within their own Province.

We hope to hear more from Kenya regarding the implications of this in the New Year!

Facilitators' Training

In the Dioceses of Bukedi, Ankole and Kumi, 2008 saw the training of new FLP facilitators in different communities.

"These later went out and have been working with their groups to start on the process of developing a model in each of the working zones in these Dioceses. Using Health and Hygiene sensitisation and competitions together with micro-enterprise development skills, some impact has been registered already"

Sarah Kasule (Provincial Family Life Programme Trainer)



Participants brainstorming during the Mothers' Union FLP facilitators' workshop in Bukedi Diocese

Special Regional Meeting & Centenary Celebrations

2008 has been an incredibly busy year for Mothers' Union Uganda. This year they celebrated 100 years of Mothers' Union in Uganda with celebrations throughout the year.

The nationwide celebrations took place on 19th October with over 3,000 Mothers' Union members gathering in Kampala.



This was immediately followed by the second of the Special Regional Meetings which brought together Mothers' Union Leaders and Workers from Uganda, Tanzania and Britain & Ireland.

One of the highlights of the Special Regional Meeting was a visit to Family Life groups in Central Buganda and Luwero to see the programme in action. All the participants thoroughly enjoyed the day and felt so moved by the experience especially listening to first-hand stories of how Mothers' Union FLP has helped transform peoples' lives.