



AMANI INITIATIVE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Issue 2, February, 2024



Amani staff joined the Femi Foundation team for a group photo at Maracha field offices

What to expect

- Femi Foundation Visits Amani Initiative
- School Systems Strengthening
- 2024 Annual Interschool Debate Competitions Kick Off
- AMANI - Hunger Project Partnership
- HIV/AIDS Control in Maracha
- Advocacy and Fundraising Update from Amani Initiative

FEMI FOUNDATION VISITS AMANI INITIATIVE

The FEMI Foundation team, represented by Liesbeth, Lucas, and Vianney, conducted a field visit to the Amani Initiative in Maracha District on February 6th, 2024. This visit not only deepened our mutually beneficial partnership opportunities but also provided insights into Amani's impactful community led approach.

Beginning with an entry meeting with staff to understand Amani's mission, the team later held a courtesy meeting with local government and toured the Amani Elevator Facility. They witnessed Amani's healthcare initiatives, visited a beneficiary of the Scholarship Program, and engaged in a Saving and Gender-Responsive Skills session for child mothers and at risk out of school girls. Both organizations share a commitment to community welfare, aligned with principles of mutual respect and equality. Additionally, they were hosted by partner organizations within Gulu and Nwoya districts, reinforcing our collective efforts to address challenges faced by children and women in the Northern region.



Team from FEMI Foundation listening to our Linkage Referral Assistant at Kamaka Health Centre during the field visit.

+256 784951295

info@amaniinitiative.org

P.O.BOX 610029, Maracha, Uganda.
Adongoro Cell, Maracha Town Council



SCHOOL SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING



School Director of Lizz Junior School after signing up for the SchoolBook software.

In our ongoing commitment to enhance the quality of education in low-cost schools across Uganda, the School Systems Strengthening Program has been diligently working to improve learner attendance and learning outcomes.

With a focus on supporting school systems through policy development, financial management, and overall school development, the program has seen significant progress in February 2024.

SUPPORTING POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Lizz Junior School in Masaka district received support in developing crucial policies including child protection and safeguarding, financial, and human resource policies.

These policies aim to create a safe and conducive learning environment for students while ensuring effective management practices within the school.



Representatives of LIZZ Junior School including children, headteacher and teachers in a group photo with the newly signed child protection and safeguarding policy.

Financial Literacy Session



Financial literacy session at Mbiro Mixed School

As part of our efforts to improve staff wellness and concentration, a financial literacy session was conducted for the staff of Mbiro Mixed School.

Empowering staff with financial management skills not only benefits them personally but also contributes to the overall efficiency of the school's operations.

Financial Management Training



Financial management training at Kitega Junior Parents' School Bulkwe District

Schools in Arua, Nakaseke, Wakiso, and Lugazi also received comprehensive training and support in financial management.

By enhancing the financial management capacities of these schools, we aim to promote transparency, accountability, and sustainable development.

2024 ANNUAL INTERSCHOOL DEBATE COMPETITIONS KICK OFF



Debate between Oleba Primary School Vs Paranga Primary School at Oleba Primary School.

In February 2024, Amani Initiative initiated the 2024 Annual Inter-School Debate Competition dedicated to, addressing child protection and safeguarding.

Funded by the Girls First Fund, 16 partner schools within Maracha and Arua will be participating in the debate competitions centered on preventing and responding to child marriage across the next 3 months.

The debates aim to improve students' academic and communication skills while fostering responsibility to decrease teenage pregnancy and child marriage rates. The key topic for the qualification stage of the competitions was on whether child mothers and pregnant girls should be allowed back to school. Schools from sub-counties like Oleba, Oluffe, and Kijomoro engaged in spirited debates, resulting in notable victories for schools like Oleba Primary, Nyarakua Primary, Ambekua Primary, and Koriba Primary.

Advocates argued for reintegrating pregnant girls and child mothers, citing education as a right and a path to equality, while opposition highlighted concerns such as stigma and health risks. The event attracted 543 attendees, including students and teachers, with notable contributions from 14-year-old Lematia Brian and the inspiring image of child mothers from Oleba VSLA group.

Amani Initiative remains committed to education and gender equality, empowering youth as change agents. Stay tuned for updates on the journey to the finals.

AMANI - HUNGER PROJECT PARTNERSHIP



Florence Amaguru of Amani Initiative and Eeverline Namubiru Tondo Head of programs at the Hunger Project during the MoU sign off.

We extended our partnership with the Hunger Project to implement the Right2Grow project in Maracha District. Supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Right2Grow focuses on WASH and nutrition to ensure children reach their full potential.

Outputs under the 2024 partnership will include community mobilization, skill-building for tracking allocations, organizing multi-sectoral platforms for advocacy, and engaging with government for data sharing and learning.

HIV/AIDS CONTROL IN MARACHA



Support supervision at Oleba Health Centre III in the ART clinic

In February 2024, Amani Initiative, Infectious Disease Institute, and Centre for Disease Control continued their PEPFAR program in Uganda's Maracha District. 8 index clients were reached for testing, surpassing targets. 84 lost clients were followed up, exceeding the target by 7, with 81 resuming treatment.

Only 3 referrals were made due to an activity's removal from the grant period, prompting efforts for its inclusion.

Advocacy and Fundraising Update from Amani Initiative

Since 2012, Amani Initiative has tirelessly worked to prevent and respond to harmful practices against children and women. Our current focus is implementing our 2023-2027 strategic plan, aiming to eradicate teenage pregnancy and child marriage in Uganda, crucially addressing the impacts of COVID-19 through:-

 **Enabling equal and quality education opportunities for all.**

 **Provision of appropriate sexual, reproductive and health information and services.**

 **Socioeconomic Empowerment**

 **Child Protection and Safeguarding**



Over the course of our strategic plan, spanning from 2023 to 2027, we aim to positively impact over 1,500,000 individuals through our various interventions. Among these, 150,000 individuals will be reached directly through initiatives targeting 5,000 low-cost schools, 5,000 households, and 50 self-support groups of women, as well as partnering with 20 health facilities.


To achieve our goals and continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of vulnerable communities, we rely on the support of partners like you. Whether through financial contributions or in-kind support, your involvement is crucial in helping us drive positive change.

For partnership opportunities or to offer financial or in-kind support, please don't hesitate to contact us using the information provided below. Together, we can create a brighter, safer future for children and women in Uganda.

Contact us for partnership

 +256 784951295

 info@amaniinitiative.org

 P.O.BOX 610029, Maracha, Uganda.
Adongoro Cell, Maracha Town Council

