



A pupil of Loinya PS in Maracha trying out her photography skills after a hands on session.

Inter-School Debates address reintegration of child mothers back into school.



A pupil of Loinya PS during a debate session against Yivu Primary School.

The month of March witnessed the culmination of spirited inter-school debates for Maracha District, all thanks to the unwavering support of the Girls First Fund.

The central question of whether child mothers and pregnant girls should be allowed back to school sparked intense discussions among participating schools like Paranga, Oleba, Mbafe, Nyarakua, Otravu, Koriba, Kamaka, and Yivu.

Reflecting on the profound lessons learned, one student shared, "These debates have taught me the importance of empathy and understanding towards the challenges faced by young mothers.

Education shouldn't be a privilege reserved for a select few; it's a fundamental right for every child."

What to expect

- Debates on reintegration of child mothers into schools
- Financial management training in schools
- Maracha District CSO Platform's focus on nutrition and WASH advocacy
- Insights from the Oluffe Sub-County Nutrition Committee Meeting
- Commencement of the Women Voice and Leadership Project with Care International
- Northern Uganda Water and Environment Week activities
- Progress update on the West Nile HIV Project
- Staff capacity building sessions.

Over 400 people including local leaders, children, and teachers participated in these sessions which provided a platform to enable re-entry of child mothers back into school through establishing a supportive environment within schools and homes as teenage pregnancy does not mean marriage.



Toko William facilitating a financial management training in Apac District.

Maracha District CSO Platform meeting focusing on nutrition and WASH advocacy.



Stanley from Maracha Agro Dealers Farmers Association engaging fellow members of the CSO platform during their meeting.

In March 2024, Amani Initiative spearheaded a quarterly meeting, uniting 20 members of the Maracha District CSO Platform. With 17 CSOs dedicated to community challenges, discussions underlined pressing issues like poor WASH and nutrition implementation. Proposed solutions included community mindset change, quality seed promotion, and collective advocacy.

The platform's Chairperson, Florence Amaguru from Amani Initiative, stressed collaborative efforts, echoed by Hon. Alema Dicky and representatives from Maracha Agro Dealers Farmers Association and the mosque. These engagements reflect our commitment to address challenges and foster positive community change under the Right2Grow Program.

Transforming Schools Through Financial Management

In March 2024, our collaboration with Edify Uganda launched a transformative initiative, offering business accounting and financial management training to low-cost schools, aimed at enhancing their growth and learning outcomes.

Our Schools System Strengthening Program, focusing on the financial management module, targeted improving financial practices within these institutions. With 319 educators and school bursars from 210 schools in Eastern Uganda, participants gained essential skills in meeting Ministry of Education requirements, book keeping, optimizing resource allocation, and ensuring compliance.

Reflecting on the impact, one participant emphasized, "Efficient bookkeeping can revolutionize our school's finances."

Insights from the Olufe Sub-County Nutrition Committee Meeting



Mrs Abaru Stella the Sub-County Chief, Olufe Sub-County engaging members of the Nutrition Committee during the meeting.

Under the Right2Grow program, we participated in the Olufe Subcounty Nutrition Coordination Committee meeting in Maracha District, emphasizing community involvement in identifying crucial gaps affecting WASH and nutrition. Discussions prioritized grassroots engagement, proposing actions like borehole enhancements and water user committee reactivation. Participants stressed empowering local leaders and communities for sustainable change, aiming to build healthier, resilient communities through collective action and empowerment.

Start of the women voice and leadership project with Care International



Patricia of Care International engaging grantees during the orientation meeting in Gulu City.

Exciting news! We're thrilled to announce our partnership with CARE International Uganda and CARE Canada for the Women Voice and Leadership Project, embarking on a transformative 3-year journey. Alongside nine other women and youth rights organizations in Northern and West Nile Uganda, our mission is clear: to amplify the voices of women and youth, fostering gender equality in our communities. In Maracha District, our efforts will be focused on empowering women-led self-support groups and community change agents. Through initiatives targeting women's health and economic rights, we're paving the way for sustainable change.

Empowering Youth and Women for a Greener Future as part of the Northern Uganda Water and Environment Week.

"March's Northern Uganda Water and Environment Week celebrated youth and women's leadership in environmental innovation. Partnering with government bodies such as the Ministry of Water and Environment and National forestry, we engaged four partner schools in tree planting and school outreaches highlighted the crucial role of community engagement.

Vibrant debates at Muni University underscored the commitment of schools to environmental stewardship. Participants emphasized the significance of collective action for a sustainable future."



Pupils of Anyafio Primary School in Arua City planting trees as part of the Northern Uganda Water and Environment Week

Making Strides: Progress Update on the West Nile HIV Project

Within March 2024, we continued our efforts within HIV control under the West Nile HIV project in Maracha.

Partnering with the Infectious Diseases Institute, we reached 09 index clients, tested 16 individuals, and ensured care linkage for 01 positive case. Our follow-up on 89 lost clients surpassed targets, with 87 resuming treatment. Collaboration with Linkage Referral Assistants and community health workers proved vital, highlighting the importance of community engagement in achievement of the 95:95:95 UNAIDs targets.

Staff capacity building opportunities.



Derrick Onzi (in orange) together with other participants at Edify offices in Kampala after the orientation on the Harmony program on social and emotional learning.

In March, our organization seized the chance for staff development through capacity building sessions. These included WESCINET's Community Score Card training, fostering dialogue for enhanced service delivery, financial management workshops by Girls First Fund, and an orientation on the Harmony program on social and emotional learning by Edify.

These initiatives not only boost our staff's skills but also strengthen our ability to provide quality services, benefiting the communities we serve and contributing to a more resilient society.

REQUESTING FOR SPONSORSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP

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



The Amani Elevator Facility being constructed in Maracha District. The Amani Elevator Facility is to house the Amani Initiative Head Offices, Community Hall and Life Skills Transformation space for at risk children and youths.

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

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