

A high-angle, close-up photograph of a group of African children and adults. In the foreground, a young boy in a yellow shirt looks directly at the camera with a slight smile. To his left, a girl in a red shirt looks down. Below her, a girl in a white shirt looks up. In the background, a bowl of green fruit is visible. The image has a warm, slightly blurred quality.

Amani Initiative Annual Report

December 31
2012

The Amani Initiative 2012 Report is basically an illustration of the activities, challenges, successes', of Amani Initiative, its stakeholders and intended beneficiaries.

**A beginning of a
noble cause.**

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Letter from the Founder Members



Dear Friends of Amani Initiative,

It's been almost 12 months since we launched "Our" organization dedicated to creating sustainable and grass root solutions to teenage pregnancy and early marriage in rural communities of Uganda through directly involving the community in coming up with the solutions.

According to the Saturday Vision Article, Kidnap Marriages, of November 19, 2011, Page 10, 11

- **7000** is the number of girls defiled every year according to police crime reports. However, a bigger number of girls are defiled or married off, but the cases are never reported to police.
- **16** is the average age at which Ugandan girls start engaging in sex. About 69% of the girls have had sex by the age of 16 and 86% by the age of 18
- **53%** is the percentage of Ugandan girls who are married off by the age of 18. Around 16% of them are married off by the age of 15.

With this background, we started Amani Initiative because we realized that teenage pregnancy and early marriages in the rural parts of Uganda is one of the biggest hindrances the development of young people and communities.

Teenage pregnancy and early marriage leads to high school drop outs which lead to lack of education hence youth unemployment, poverty and yet having uneducated youths in a community, is a challenge to development.

The programs development team developed three core programs which were deemed to be in line with the goals and objectives of the organization.

- Our Time Is Yet To Come,
- Social Entrepreneurship and Leadership Course
- Give Me Light And Let Me See.

These programs are aimed at directly involving the community in the Amani activities which range from sensitization, creating awareness about the impact of teenage pregnancy and early marriage on community development, fundraising for the Amani activities, community outreaches and volunteering in any of the Amani activities that require technical expertise.

Our major goals for the first quarter after the launch were to formulate partnerships with three secondary schools in the pilot community from which we would carry out a one month student selection activity aimed at identifying the 84 students with whom the Amani programs of Our Time Is Yet To Come and Social Entrepreneurship Course would be implemented.

This activity was successfully carried out in the Amani partner schools that were identified, that is to say;

- Kijomoro Secondary School,
- St. Mary's College Namugongo
- Yivu Secondary School.

My sincere appreciation to everyone who has devoted their time, and money for the success of 2012. Notably are the founder members, Justice Mike Chibita, Stella Candiru of Save the Children, Mr. Eric Glustrom (Founder Educate!), Jeanne Ratzolft (President PeopleWeaver), the head teachers from our partner schools and all other people I could not mention.

We have great plans for the coming years and we hope you will accompany us on this journey because we „**believe in the change you can create!**’



OCHATRE NIXON

Chairman,

Amani Initiative

Founder Members' Committee

About Amani Initiative

Amani Initiative is a Ugandan nonprofit organization that was started in 2011 by a group of Ugandan University students under the leadership of Ochatre Nixon. The organization aims at improving the livelihoods of youths in rural communities of Uganda through the fight against teenage pregnancy & early marriage. In order to achieve this mission, the organization adopted a community based approach in the formulation of its objectives, vision, and programs.

VISION

To see a community where the youths have the opportunity to have quality education and develop to their full potential

MISSION

To create sustainable and grass root solutions to teenage pregnancy and early marriage through direct involvement of the community

MAJOR OBJECTIVE

To control and prevent the prevalence of teenage pregnancy and early marriage amongst the youths in the rural communities of Uganda by 2/3 in a period of 10 years and the impact it has on social, and economic development of a community

SUB OBJECTIVE

- To directly involve the community in creating sustainable and grass root solutions to problems facing their community
- To protect victims of teenage pregnancy and early marriage through encouraging them to continue with their education or providing avenues to support their families
- To create a supportive and favorable environment for communities to understand the need for girl child education
- To establish a platform under which young people will experience fundamental changes to wake up and work towards their personal development and that of their community

Launch of the Programs

2012 has been a very challenging year on the part of the programs team. This has mainly because of the idea of starting new activities in an area not tested other than the baseline surveys carried out on a selected communities and schools.

The programs team selected Maracha District as a pilot district for the implementation of its programs. The district leadership was approached at the end of 2011 and they were positive about the organization piloting its activities in the district.



A sign post welcoming us to Maracha District in West Nile

Community partnerships

We approached Yivu Sub County in Maracha District and the response from the sub county leadership was very positive. They promised to provide us with their support during

our activities and campaigns in the

Girls are married off for bridal wealth, and for the boys they drop out of school for the lucrative boarder trade, poverty, people's cultural attitudes, people's laziness since they need things which have already been formed, lack of priority, Drate Judith, Community Development Officer. Maracha

community.



A group photo with some of the elders and Local leaders of Yivu Sub County

Partner School selection.

As part of our pilot implementation of our school programs. The founder members decided to take up only three schools for the pilot study. We approached Maracha Secondary School, Yivu Secondary School, St. Mary's College Namugongo and Kijomoro Secondary School holidays in January.

Under the partnership the following key factors were agreed upon.

- Each school was to provide us with two teachers for training under our programs
 - The teachers were to implement the Amani programs with a small in form of an allowance per lesson taught
 - Each school was to provide 25 students for the Amani programs
 - Amani was to be responsible for any facilitation to the Amani Programs in the school
 - Training materials was to be provided by Amani with things like chalk being
- provided by the school
- Amani was to be answerable to any issues concerning with the programs in the school and community outreaches.
-
- "The problem is also affecting the students at my school and i partially blame it on bride price whereby when the girl gets pregnant she is forced to marry the boy in exchange of bride price , the livelihood of a common man is still below average hence cannot afford to pay for his children most youths involve in early marriages and teenage pregnancies because they feel that they have a point to prove since they feel that is one thing that makes them get respect as men, Stigma amongst their peers makes the girls who get pregnant to drop out of school."* Mr. Magada Nelson, Head teacher, Yivu SS



The organization signed Memorandum of Understanding Documents with each of the schools. The memorandum is deemed to be legal until a stage that the two partners agree to end the partnership.

Teacher training

As part of the partnership, two teachers from each of the schools underwent a two day training workshop at Yivu SS to get to know each other and the school programs.

The trainings were facilitated by an entrepreneurship expert and a youth's health worker from the community.



Participants during the teacher training workshop at Yivu Secondary School

Scholar Selection.

At the beginning of the 2012 Academic year, students of St. Mary's College Namugongo, Maracha Secondary School, Kijomoro SS and Yivu SS were introduced to the Amani Initiative programs and requested to apply to be part of the 25 direct beneficiaries from the program. The program is designed in such a way that the 25 scholars are in position to use the information from class to empower other students in the school under the community responsibility approach of the program.

With this, the organization was looking at selecting students who had leadership, communication and ability to become ambassadors of the cause that Amani stands for. The selection program involved asking the students to write about

themselves, what they thought about teenage pregnancy and early marriage in the community and how they can help fight against the vice amongst their peers.

Results from the Scholar Selection process;

SCHOOL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Yivu Secondary School	17	17	34
Maracha Secondary School	14	11	25
St. Mary's College Namugongo	14	11	25
Kijomoro Secondary School	14	11	25
Total	59	50	109

Due to reasons beyond our control, Maracha Secondary School was dropped from the Amani Initiative programs. A detailed full list of the scholars is to be attached on this report

School Programs Facilitation.

Attendance to the school programs has been irregular due to the effect of time on the part of the students and teachers. The mentors had to go an extra mile in fixing some of the lessons at their personal times.



Despite of these irregularities most of the scholars attended most of the lessons successful.

The community responsibility part of the program was a success with each of the scholars directly mentoring 10 individuals per lesson.

Despite the various challenges, commitment and interest on the part of the scholars and mentors made it possible for the success of the 2012 pilot study. Many lessons have been learnt from the pilot study from the various program assessments and impact evaluations carried out. The programs team is currently working hard to see that the many loopholes are addressed as soon as possible.

Community Programs

The basis of the existence of Amani Initiative is to work hand in hand with the community structures and individuals such as local leadership, elders, religious institutions and the parents. We believe with the approach we shall be in position to reach out to a bigger part of the community hence creating a bigger impact at a low cost.

2012 has seen us having a very close working relationship with Yivu Abea Health Centre III, Yivu Abea Church of Uganda, and the local administration of Yivu Sub County.

Impact of the community activities.

1. Awareness campaigns by Yivu Abea Church of Uganda.

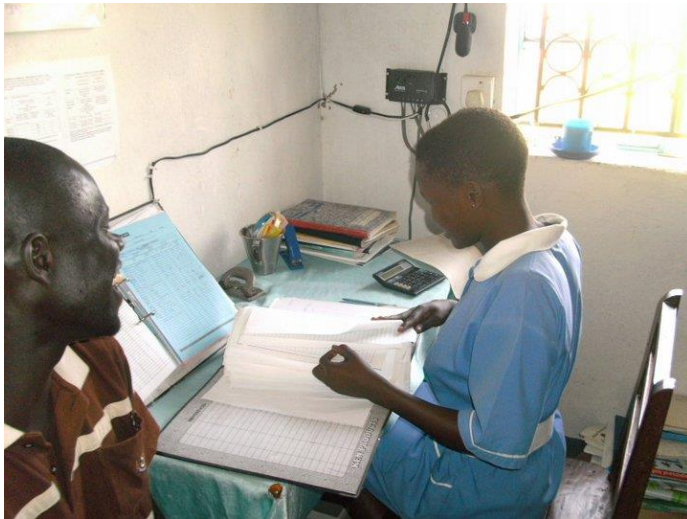
A team from Amani Initiative teamed up with the religious leaders at Yivu Abea Church of Uganda to engage the congregation in an awareness campaign against early marriage. This campaign involved the youth's wing of the church (Youths Brigade) which carries out awareness campaigns in the communities around the village.



Members of Youths Brigade after the awareness campaign in Maracha

2. Involvement Yivu Abea Health Centre III

Amani Initiative has worked closely with this Health Centre from which most members of the community receive treatment. The health Centre provided us with statistics about teenage pregnancy and the effects it has had to the health of many young girls in the community. Talks are currently going on to formulate ways how the health center will directly be involved in the organization's activities especially the school programs, family planning for the teenage parents etc.



Matua Nobert (from Amani Initiative) having a light moment with Helen a nurse at Yivu Abea Health Centre III

3. Youths empowerment programs

Social Entrepreneurship projects

Under the organization's social entrepreneurship program, some youths in Maracha District have currently been trained under Bee keeping. This has been done in order to keep them occupied and provide them with a source of income.



Okurut Daniel a (in a vest) a member of Amani Initiative helping out one of the youths to set up a local bee hive after the training program.

Youths Leadership empowerment.

Under the youths leadership program of the organization. A number of youths have been engaged in leadership programs aimed at empowering them to be in position to make objective decisions in regard to sex and marriage and also provide leadership to their fellow peers in the community.



Daniel (Amani Initiative member) with some of the youths under the leadership program.

Working with other Civil Society Organizations.

In the 2012, Amani Initiative has been able to involve other civil society organizations such as Writing Our World, C.E.D.A International, and Educate! and the U.S Embassy in Uganda though some of the relationships could have not been formal .

Working with Educate! under the Social Entrepreneurship & Leadership program.

Amani Initiative has currently been implementing the Educate! program of Social Entrepreneurship & Leadership. This relationship has been due to the close relationship between Amani Initiative and the Educate! founders.

The 2012 Mentoring Walk with C.E.D.A International, Educate!, U.S Embassy and other Civil Society Organizations.

Amani Initiative joined other civil society organizations under the 2012 Mentoring Walk with the theme, ***“Women Mentoring Women To Excel”***



Joan (Amani Initiative Public Relations Manager), U.S Ambassador to Uganda (Scot) and his wife during the mentoring walk in Kampala



Joan and Helen of Amani Initiative joined the rest of the women during the event in the candle light campaign.

Give Me Light & Let Me See Program

Due to lack of sufficient finances the Amani Initiative program of Give Me Light & Let Me See and it was agreed by the members prior to the end of the year that the program would be revised to make it more sustainable and less costly.

Financials & Accountability

2012 has been a very challenging year for the organization. This has been mainly due to the fact that being a new organization and started by young people who mainly depend on their parents allowances. In order to sustain the organization's programs. The founder members adopted an initiative where they would contribute some money us membership fee. The organization also involved many other service suppliers under a voluntary basis.

PeopleWeaver Grant.

In March 2012, the organization received a \$ 500 PeopleWeaver Grant. This grant was mainly used for the implementation of the Our Time Is Yet To Come program

Amani Initiative 2012 Income & Expenditure Account As per 31st December, 2012

Income

PeopleWeaver Grant	1,215,000
Founder Members Contributions	530,000
Total Income	1,745,000

Expenditure

Our Time Is Yet To Come	
(Printing and binding the lesson booklets)	50,000
Social Entrepreneurship and Leadership	50,000
(Printing and binding the lesson booklets)	
Student Selection	91,700
Teacher Training	133,300
Website	200,000
Allowances (Mentors)	300,000
Bee hive project	202,000
Administration	50,000
Rent	180,000
Transport	200,000
Total Expenditure	1,457,000
Bal c/d	288,000
	1,745,000

Key Challenges

- Time

Time has been a big challenge during 2012. This has been mainly on the side of the founder members who took it upon to manage the organization. Most of the members are in the final year of university and it was very tedious to have enough time to manage school and Amani Initiative

- Funding

Being a new organization, most of the funders do not see it safe to fund such an organization. The members resorted to coming up with cheaper but high cost alternatives to facilitate most of the organizations projects in 2012

- Commitment from some of the members

Commitment from some of the members, and implementers at the community level was lacking. The organization is based on a voluntary provision of most of its services at least until 2014. The only enumeration received by the implementers' is a small token of appreciation in form of re-imbursement and an acknowledgement certificate.

Key plans for 2013

- Staff recruitment
- Partnerships with other Civil Society Organizations
- Hear Us Out voices that speak for thousands(VOICES AGAINST DEFILEMENT) project
- Fundraising for future projects
- Improvement and assessment of the organization projects
- Introduction of a program to cater for teenage parents and school drop outs

2012 in PICTURES



Contact Us

Email; Amani4us@gmail.com

Telephone; 0703154084, 0704892783, 0774898005(Maracha), 0774532456, 0752112702 (Maracha)

Facebook: Amani Initiative Against Teenage Pregnancy & Early Marriage

Website: www.amani4us.org