2016 AMANI INITIATIVE ANNUAL REPORT
Executive Summary

With child marriage in Uganda standing at 40% and teenage pregnancy at 25%; Uganda has one of the highest rates of child marriage and teenage pregnancy in the world. There have been very many reasons that have been brought forward as causes of this challenge of which some include poverty, child sexual abuse, school drop out, poor sexual & reproductive health choices and many others.

In 2016; Amani Initiative aimed at fighting against teenage pregnancy and child marriage through 3 major focus areas which included providing equal & quality education opportunities, sexual & reproductive health sensitizations and empowering the youth to take lead in the fight against teenage pregnancy & child marriage. The 2016 Amani Initiative report shares some of the highlights from the 2016 activities such as the Keep Me In School Campaign, Aflateen Social & Financial Education Project and also CODES.

Ten (10) UPE schools across Maracha and Arua benefited from the Keep Me In School; 15 secondary schools and 5 out of school youth groups in Arua District participated in the Aflateen Social & Financial Education Project. Amani Initiative closely worked with Girls Not Brides Uganda National Alliance to accomplish various tasks for the alliance such as the development of the GNB governance manual and strategic plan.

More information about the 2016 Amani Initiative activities can be found in the 2016 Amani Initiative Annual Report.
Promoting Equal and Quality Education Opportunities for all Children in Uganda

Nelson Mandela once said that, “Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to Change the world.”

Education without quality and equality will not be able to contribute to the belief of Nelson Mandela as the children will only fill spaces in classrooms without learning. Many children will not have the same equal opportunities as their peers to learn.

Amani Initiative different activities that aimed at promoting equal and quality education opportunities within schools and communities in Arua and Maracha districts. These activities included the Keep Me In School Campaign, School leadership program and #StepByStep project.

The Keep Me In School Campaign aimed at coming up with solutions to challenges that stop children from staying in school such as lack of school fees, lack of scholastic materials, menstrual hygiene and management. The #StepByStep project aimed at sensitizing the youth to focus on the goal of having an education before they think of marriage and other life choices that can stop them from completing an education. The School Leadership Program aimed at empowering student leaders to take up the responsibility of making a child friendly school environment.

Why Education was a 2016 focus area for Amani Initiative

Education provides a platform for any one to gain knowledge and skills that can be used to get jobs, create jobs and make more informed decisions about their lives.

Education is also a solution to child marriage whereby once a child is in school; their chances of being married off are usually smaller as compared to a child who stays at home without anything to do.

It’s through this background that Amani Initiative adopted Education as one of her 2016 focus areas. This was through strengthening the existing education structures.
Keep Me In School (KeMIS) Campaign is a 5 year strategic campaign (2015-2020) dedicated to supporting growth and development of more than 500,000 children and communities through facilitating an Education model characterized with equal & quality opportunities for both boys & girls, able and disabled children.

Goal of the Keep Me In School Campaign is to facilitate every child with an equal opportunity to quality education and to be in position to use this education to foster the development of his/her homestead, community and country.

Objectives of the Keep Me In-School Campaign

- All Children have an equal access to a good quality education especially for the girl child & disabled children.
- Establishing a school environment with structures to retain children in school and efforts to reach out to children not in school with the direct involvement of parents, communities and concerned stakeholders.
- Nurturing the cognitive, social and ethical development of children.

Highlight of the 2016 Keep Me In School activities

The 2016 Keep Me In School saw a wide social media advocacy were over 6,000 people were reached with information to support equal & quality education opportunities. 1,050 books, 210 mathematical sets, 210 pencils, were distributes to the 10 primary schools in Arua and Maracha that were selected to benefit from the campaign. Awindiri Primary School was also provided with water tanks for storing water for drinking since water is considered as life and it's important to have access to safe drinking water.
Empowering young girls and boys to delay marriage and pregnancy through the Step by Step Project

Amani Initiative launched the Step by Step project in 2016 to empower both boys and girls to delay marriage until the right time. The right time being considered as when the child is economically, physically and emotionally ready to start and manage a family. Amani Initiative used Information Education Communication (IEC) materials such as flyers that were distributed to schools and children. These materials focused on sensitizing the youth against child marriage.

Over 2,000 youth at Ediofe Girls

Empowering student leaders as ambassadors to advocate for the fight against child marriage

Amani Initiative directly supported the schools at all the stages of the electoral process, organizing campaigns, elections, building capacity of the elected leaders, and also recognizing the leaders at the end of their tenure of office.

This support empowered the youth to take up responsibilities of improving their school environment and also addressing the challenges their fellow youth face such as child marriage, barriers to education, poor sanitation and access to clean water.
Media is one of the greatest platforms to advocate for solutions to the challenges facing the community. Amani Initiative engaged print media as well as social media platforms to reach out to the general public with key information aimed at advocating against teenage pregnancy and child marriage.

The media platforms included the New Vision, Facebook and twitter. The Amani Initiative Facebook page was able to reach a milestone of 6,000 likes in 2016 and the twitter page reached 700 followers. The media platforms have engaged the public to appreciate that child marriage and teenage are violations that need to be addressed by everyone.

Using Music Dance & Drama to advocate against child marriage

Music Dance and Drama has the ability to communicate to thousands and also stick the message home.

Amani Initiative supported Uganda Martyrs S.S Ssonde to organize the the 2016 Inter-house Music Dance & Drama Competitions of Uganda Martyrs College Ssonde held under the theme, “Combating Teenage Pregnancies and Child Abuse”

The 4 different houses that participated in the competitions used folk songs, dance and drama to depict and sensitize their fellow youth, parents and teachers about the dangers of teenage pregnancy & child marriage and how best to avoid.

Students during a drama skit about a teacher trying to con his student.
Relationship of Health decisions and ending child marriage & teenage pregnancy

Adolescence is a period of transition from childhood to adulthood. This period is characterized by emotional, biological and psychological changes, putting adolescents at risk for early marriage, unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortion, STIs, HIV/AIDS, sexual abuse and exploitation. Adolescents’ sexual and reproductive health is of national concern for Uganda because the country has a youthful age structure with a broad-based population pyramid characteristic of a developing country. Lack of access to age appropriate and comprehensive information has led to poor health choices that have led to child marriage which stands at 40% and teenage pregnancy which stands at 25%.

As members of SAHU, Amani Initiative participated in the 3rd SAHU Scientific Conference at Hotel Africa-na from the 20th to 21st April, 2016. The conference had discussions that aimed at coming up with how to care for the adolescent patient. For instance teenage mothers, HIV/AIDS adolescents etc. It was realized that adolescents often find themselves isolated incase of illness’s which can lead to suicidal tendencies at most cases.

Technology was identified as a strategic approach of reaching out to adolescents with health care and need to ensure that all health centers in Ugandan have the capacity to handle adolescents’ health requirements.

Let’s Talk about Sexuality Campaign during the 2016 National Scouts Competitions in Kaazi

At Kaazi; Mr. Harunah Kanaabi from MJAP sensitized the youth about the importance of Safe male Circumcision for prevention of HIV/AIDS and hygiene. He informed them that it provides a 60% risk reduction from contracting HIV/AIDS, STI’s. Harunah went on and informed the scouts that circumcision only has 60% protection, the 40% is still risky, so young people must still be very careful coz they can contract infections even after the service. All the scouts were advised to visit their nearest health center for an HIV/AIDS test and more information about the other sexually transmitted diseases.
CODES Initiative

The Community and District Empowerment for Scale-up (CODES) was a learning project that aimed to show how a district health system management and community strategy can be taken to scale. This five year project that was being implemented by Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), Ministry of Health, UNICEF, Child Fund International, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Makerere University School of Public Health brought together local organizations such as Amani Initiative to reach out to the community structures. Amani Initiative was mandated to help the government of Uganda through the Ministry of Health to boost its own capacity to implement policies and interventions that lead to a wide array of improvements in health outcomes especially concerned with the control of the top child killer diseases. The project targeted 8 intervention districts including Arua, Maracha, Apac, Luuka, Masindi, Bugiri, Buhweju, and Buvuma.

The CODES project was structured around three main pillars which included:

1) **Improved targeting of interventions to match disease burden at the district level**

2) **Evidence–based management tools used to improve district health team performance.**

3) **Increased community oversight to strengthen demand and exact accountability**

What was carried out during the CODES Initiative

Amani Initiative carried out the demand side component of CODES, where ACODE employed a behavioral change communication approach of *Community Dialogues*” The Community Dialogues that were facilitated in sub-counties in the districts of Maracha and Arua were meant to be a vehicle for Empowerement of people in communities to demand for and receive better health services. Through engaging trained facilitator’s post-dialogue community monitoring visits were held in communities that participated in the 2014, 2015 and 2016 CODES dialogues. Six new community dialogues were held in Arua District and six dialogues in Maracha District. These dialogues brought together over 500 community members together with their leaders, and health officials to identify the issues facing health delivery and how to solve them. The field notes for both the post-dialogue monitoring visits and community dialogues included information on the breakout sessions, action plans, and community contracts. These notes were used to prepare a publication that was presented to Ministry of Health with key recommendations in the public health sector in Uganda.
As the result of the CODES Initiative; the following policy recommendations were put forward under the publication; “Assessing the Management and Administration in Public Health Facilities of Uganda and the Implications for the Healthcare Service Delivery and Utilization.” Evidence from the CODES Project. The findings and recommendations from CODES were made public on Friday, 4th November, 2016 at Protea Hotel at aired live on NTV

1. There is need to organize periodic capacity building and training in leadership and human resource management and development for health facility in-charges
2. There is need to employ appropriate innovations and motivation practices for health workers
3. There is need to build trust in healthcare service delivery by having health professionals, managers and public service workers who are trusted to deliver a high quality service. Trust can easily be built at the health centers by ensuring that the health service providers can meet the needs of the users and be available when needed.
4. Strengthening supervision, monitoring and inspection of lower health facilities
5. Organizing periodic cross-district and intra-district peer to peer learning sessions by central and local governments to consider organizing and facilitating these sessions.
6. Ensuring holistic approach in addressing systematic challenges to service delivery
The Aflateen Social and Financial Education program aimed to directly provide 8,000 in-school youth and 20 out-of-school youth groups in Arua, Gulu, Wakiso, Kasese and Kampala with a holistic financial and social education training, capacity building, and information that will lead to change in the financial and social behaviors of the participants leading to a socially and economically empowered generation.

The program also reached out to more than 100,000 youth and other community members with financial literacy information through social media, radio, and print media.

The overall goal of the program is to, “Incorporate social & financial education and activities to help children and youth make sound financial decisions.”

Objectives of the Program
1) Change in financial behavior and practice among youth
2) Enhance the skills and ability of youth to build and preserve financial assets (enterprise assets and money)
3) Foster entrepreneurship, employment and economic empowerment among young people.

Amani Initiative took lead in implementing the Aflateen Program in 15 secondary schools for term 1 & 2 in 2016.
The Aflateen programme is a curriculum created by the Aflatoun secretariat that brings social and financial education to youth worldwide. Tailored specifically for this developmental phase, the Aflateen programme not only teaches about finance but also encourages young people to question the world around them.

Aflateen project in numbers

Through these activities the youth were exposed to financial services and information through the weekly newspaper distributions and financial literacy articles.

The Aflateen Program is being implemented in secondary schools in Uganda by the Private Education Development Network with the support of Citibank Uganda Limited under Citi Foundation. The program used a social & financial education program under the modules below:

1) Module One: Personal Development
2) Module Two: - Financial Management
3) Module Three: Saving
4) Module Four: Financial Service Providers
5) Module Five: Social & Financial Enterprises

LESS OF SCHOOLS THAT TOOK PART IN THE AFLATEEN PROJECT
ARUA DISTRICT

1. Everest Secondary School
2. Nile High School Odia
3. Arua Islamic
4. Standard College
5. Latibo Foundation
6. Wandi Progressive S
7. Cornerstone S.S
8. Arua S.S
9. Jaden Memoral S.S
10. Najah Muslim S.S
11. Ombatini S.S
12. Golden College S.S
13. Okufura S.S
14. Orijin S.S
15. Mandela Comprehensive S.S

Lessons from the Aflateen Program

The key lesson from the Aflateen project was that to empower a child they need to be both socially and financially empowered as this will make them successful members of the community.

Out of school youth groups that benefited from the Aflateen Program

1) Inter – Pangisa Youth Group
2) 73rd Parliament Charity Organization
3) Above the Law Youth Group
4) Muru Youth Group
5) Zebra Youth Association

The number of bank accounts increased from 16% to 35% demonstrating a 19% increase due to the financial education project.
As a member of Girls Not Brides; Amani Initiative has played a major role in building the Girls Not Brides Uganda National Alliance which now stands at 60 partner organizations.

Girls Not Brides is a global partnership of more than 550 civil society organisations from over 70 countries committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential. Stronger together, Girls Not Brides members bring child marriage to global attention, build an understanding of what it will take to end child marriage and call for the laws, policies and programmes that will make a difference in the life of millions of girls.

Girls Not Brides Uganda is a National Alliance that hosts over 60 member organizations in an effort to end child marriage in Uganda. GNB-U officially became a National Alliance of Girls Not Brides Global in July 2016; the alliance works at the national, regional and district level through building capacity of its members to advocate for ending child marriage.

The alliance has participated in a number of national campaigns to end child marriage and teenage pregnancies in Uganda hence following up government commitments to end child marriage. In collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, GNB-U participated in the drafting and finalizing the National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancies (2015).

These activities have strengthened Amani Initiative’s activities in ending child marriage & teenage pregnancy.
2016 Accomplishments of the Girls Not Brides—Uganda Alliance

A governance structure for Girls Not Brides Uganda National Alliance was developed in March 2016 with well-defined roles and responsibilities. Regional representatives for all four regions (West, North, East, and Central) were elected. Working groups within the steering committee were as well formed. Mr. Nixon Ochatre the Team Leader of Amani Initiative was elected as the Northern Region representative to the Steering Committee. This new structure significantly improved the effective management of the coalition. During the quarterly Steering Committee meetings new developments at national and district level are discussed and joint campaigns and actions proposed.

Official partnership was also signed with Girls Not Brides Global Alliance GNB-U becoming an official partnership to GNB global alliance in July 2016.

A GNB-U Strategic Plan (2016/17-2020/21) was finalized and is now in place. World Vision facilitated a strategic planning workshop to finalize the Strategy on 28th September 2016 where the operational environment was discussed and strategies developed. Additionally, the draft advocacy strategy for the alliance is in place and in its final stages of becoming an official document for the alliance. Amani Initiative took part in this activity and contributed to the strategic plan.

Amplify change proposal was developed with input from Amani Initiative and will be aiming at operationalizing the National Strategic plan against child marriage & teenage pregnancy.
On 25th November, 2016, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni the President of the Republic of Uganda signed the National Policy on Elimination of Gender Based Violence in Uganda. The day also marked the start of the 16 Days of Activism against #GBV. #Endchildmarriage and develop key money-managing skills for later in life. These activities are organized by Child & Youth Finance International and the Private Education Development Network (PEDN)

Global Money Week (14th —20th March, 2016)
### 2016 Amani Initiative Financial Performance

#### Incomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bal b/f</td>
<td>425,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CODES</td>
<td>24,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind Contributions</td>
<td>21,065,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members contributions</td>
<td>5,060,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Private Education Development Network (PEDN)</td>
<td>3,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>53,525,900.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Implementation Costs</td>
<td>4,800,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Costs</td>
<td>7,200,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Investments</td>
<td>495,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Costs</td>
<td>30,850,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations/Administration</td>
<td>6,720,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50,065,000.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bal c/d</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,460,900.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

#### 2016 Amani Initiative Income Sources

- CODES: 45%
- In-kind Contributions: 43%
- Members contributions: 9%
- The Private Education Development Network (PEDN): 1%

#### 2016 Amani Initiative Expenditure Breakdown

- Project Costs: 62%
- Direct Implementation Costs: 19%
- Operations/Administration: 14%
- Staff Costs: 11%
- Capital Investments: 1%
According to the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), 100 million girls will be married before the age of 18 in the coming decade. Uganda has a very young population, with nearly half (47%) of its people under 15 years old. The choices that these young people and their parents make will affect the country’s future for decades to come. Delaying marriage and pregnancy confer major benefits to girls and may also lead to societal benefits, such as improved health of children and faster economic growth.

It is time for policymakers and people concerned with socioeconomic development to give greater priority to addressing teenage pregnancy & early marriage.

Our Vision
A community whereby each child has an equal opportunity to quality education and develops to full potential without the impact of teenage pregnancy & early marriage.

Our Mission
To create sustainable solutions to teenage pregnancy & early marriage through the direct involvement of the community.
DO NOT JUMP ANY STEP IN LIFE BECAUSE IT’S DIFFICULT TO START AGAIN... #Step by step project

STEPPING STONES: LOVE, CAREER, EDUCATION, MARRIAGE

#Endchildmarriage


“A SOCIETY FREE FROM CHILD MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY”

A MEMBER OF: Amani Initiative, Girls Not Brides, Keep Me In School