

# CASE STUDY: SAFEPLAN UGANDA

## From Project funding applicant to ACWW Member: Annet Birungi charts their journey

Safeplan Uganda is a community based organisation that has been operating in Masindi, mid-west Uganda, since 2011. We have been working with women and young people; empowering them to increase productivity and reduce poverty through improved livelihoods and sustainable development. With support from local partners and donors such as ACWW, we have formed groups of rural women and young people to start simple and inclusive income-generating projects, which are accessible to people with disabilities or living with HIV. All the group activities are accompanied by business skills training to enhance project management skills and sexual and reproductive health education services for the young people to make informed decisions.



Safeplan Uganda first discovered ACWW through an update from [fundsforngos.org](http://fundsforngos.org) and applied for a grant as a non-member organisation in 2015. We were delighted to be awarded £2,549 towards the Masindi Young Women Empowerment Enterprise project.

Since this time, we have greatly benefited from the ACWW partnership, which has strengthened our capacity to engage with more groups of young women and girls in rural communities. The beneficiaries also wish to extend their appreciation to ACWW for supporting them to have decent and healthy lives. In 2016, we applied to become an ACWW member organisation because we want to be recognised as part of the network that is creating change among women in under-served communities of the world. We hope to hear about the success stories of other member organisations, find out what they do in their communities and learn more innovative ideas for action to create change.

**Annet Birungi**  
Executive Secretary, Safeplan Uganda



I was advised that two training sessions had been conducted on sexual health and 100 reusable pads distributed, alongside a drama show and the creation of two teen clubs. I felt, however, that perhaps more time could have been spent with the young girls and that more leaflets were required to provide all the information needed. Two of the 13 year olds girls I spoke to felt that they were much more comfortable and happy at school but both suggested that it would be better if there were at least four pads for each girl. The parents, school teachers and local authority representatives that I met were also pleased with the activities being run with the funding.

Another project aim was to build the capacity of 20 women to initiate and manage vegetable growing and selling businesses. A demonstration site had been established and three days training on seed bed preparation, integrated pest management and business skills had been held. It was explained to me that because of a spell of dry weather, the vegetables that season had been consumed by family members but in the future, they would also be sold in the groceries and hotels near Masindi.

I found Safeplan Uganda to be such an interesting organisation that I encouraged them to both join ACWW and apply for further funding. I was really impressed with the wide range of activities they could offer to women in the community with the help of small grants. They are already working in the spirit of ACWW by networking with many different women's groups in Uganda and I hope that as members, they will also be able to share their knowledge and experience with us.

**Anne Marit Hovstad**  
Projects Committee Chairman



- Budongo Women Bee Enterprise is an award-winning initiative of Safeplan Uganda, focusing on honey production and recycling beeswax to make candles. Honey is now used to make lip-balms, jellies and cough syrup.<sup>1</sup>
- Wakina Mama Women (All Women) are door-to-door environmental education groups that collect agricultural waste to make charcoal briquettes, handicrafts and grow vegetables.
- Omugezi Technology Centre equips young people with metal fabrication skills to make improved energy-saving cooking stoves and bee smokers.
- Masindi Young Women Empowerment Enterprise is a girl child-centred programme aimed at increasing the number of girls in higher level education by supporting them with basic educational needs, health and life skills.

## Monitoring Visits: Projects Committee Chairman Anne Marit Hovstad explains

I went to visit Safeplan Uganda last year to monitor how they had used the ACWW project grant awarded to them in 2015 for the Masindi Young Women Empowerment Enterprise. They work out of a small rented office in Masindi and I was shown around by the Executive Director Annet Birungi and her colleague Dilis Akot. In addition to the ACWW funded project, I was taken to visit their woman's beekeeping enterprise and saw that the organisation's activities are widespread and having a real impact in the area.

ACWW Project 998 had different elements, one of which was to create an enabling environment for young women and support girls in school with reusable sanitary pads.

<sup>1</sup> The project won a UN SEED Award in 2014 [www.seed.uno/awards/all/2014/1356-budongo-women-bee-enterprise.html#tabs1-details](http://www.seed.uno/awards/all/2014/1356-budongo-women-bee-enterprise.html#tabs1-details)