



Completion Report

UGA-JEN-EEW-P01, Uganda
Reporting Period: April – September 2018

Enabling and Empowering Women – Mbale, Uganda

Budget: \$22,150. Fully funded

Update:

This project followed on from a women's empowerment project with our partners in 2016-17. It had 4 focus areas: the first to expand the Women's Savings and Loan groups into new areas. The second was to expand the number of groups to allow more women to access the program. The third was to build on the quality tailoring and craft activities and the fourth was to provide specific job training for young mums struggling to provide for themselves and their young children.

Women's Savings and Loans Groups – our partners report the savings groups continued to grow from strength-to-strength and they are struggling to keep up with demand! Groups have grown to a massive 127! The groups are largely self-sufficient with our partners providing advice and monitoring of all groups – no small feat. A meeting gathering 200 committee members from the groups provided further training and strengthened the program. They say *“small businesses are being established, women have greater control over finances and the groups are bringing significant change to members' lives. A further 180 women were trained and another four groups established. In total 22 new groups have been set up through this project! We are thrilled to report that more than \$225,000 has been saved in the last year! Savings initiatives, without doubt, is one of the most successful projects in the area.”*

Graduation ceremony for young mums



Women's Community Groups and Training – our partners “stand with” women as they gathered monthly, demonstrating their love, offering advice when needed and supporting the women as they seek to sort out issues and ideas. It's a great model of empowerment. Our partners completed a range of seminars in four key communities to 500 women on a range of subjects related to families. One particular topic on family planning was received extremely well and utilised the training and materials from another partner in the area that Entrust also supports. It's great to see the cross-pollination. Family planning is a key issue for Uganda with large families and massive population growth.

Tailoring Project – our partners are thrilled that demand for their *quality* items is increasing and that it pays a wage back to those being trained through the program and provides on-going employment for some graduates. Our partners report that some good profits are being realised allowing the opportunity to investigate new product ideas and supporting other non-budgeted needs in the community. They say this is a great blessing.

Young Mum's Vocational School – Our partners said, *“87 young mothers graduated in hairdressing and tailoring. In most cases these young teenage girls dropout from school and are shunned by their communities. The recipients sang songs to God to thank him for his mercy to them. The graduation ceremony was a big occasion with families invited and showing support for their daughters. Training girls with a skill builds their self-esteem and dignity.”*

Thank you for enabling thousands of women to expand their horizons through these initiatives. It is making a huge difference in the lives of these women and the flow-on effects to families and communities.