

UNIVERSITY OF KISUBI

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND PSYCHOLOGY



**SOCIAL WORKERS' COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:
OUR COMMITMENT**

NOVEMBER 2022

Community Outreach is the University of Kisubi policy 2018 that puts communities at the centre of all its innovations. The policy define **Community Engagement** as means of all negotiated, active and dynamic partnerships between the university and the community it serves, which are practiced through varied initiatives focused on the interlace of research, teaching and learning aimed at addressing the social, cultural and economic development objectives of the society.

Students’ outreach is rooted to the core values of Social Work practice of dignity and worth of the person. These activities are portraying in the image of the profession in helping others by maintaining cultural competence and cultural humility in practice. These activities are meant to improve and foster community relationship and productivity.

It is the obligation of every person to support each other. Jesus taught His disciples in Matthew 5: 7 that *“Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them!”*

The cornerstone of the social work profession is to help people to help themselves. Students are undertaking various initiatives to promote social change through various community engagement programmes to solve social problems; and find out alternative long term solutions to the needy people within our community by understanding their cultural differences.

The welfare of people is paramount. The ultimate needs are identified and addressed. In this booklet, many activities had taken to

engage closely with communities by students themselves, university and in the near and far community including refugees of Kiryandongo settlement.

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University of Kisubi

Social Workers

P.O. Box 182, Entebbe, Uganda

Head of Department's Message

Direct service provision by social workers' students manifest in the activities of community engagement. This booklet highlights the accountability of evidence-based practices in the community, university and among students. We believe that "*all people matter.*"

I have participated in all the activities of meeting people's need. It has been a very truly wonderful to visit local community and support them. One of the factors that were strong interesting the involvement in the community outreach programmes was not live behind anybody.

The centres for children with multiple disabilities visited were Home of Hope in Bugembe Division, Jinja District; and Noah's Ark in Entebbe Municipality. These marginalized children benefited a lot from University of Kisubi social workers' students.

Refugees in Kiryandongo settlement benefited with hard clothes (bikoyi or lesu), clothes, soaps and others to the mothers found in Maternity ward at Panyadoli Health centre IV. Not only this, one family at Ziru village was helped in toilet construction and with two sacks of charcoal to start up a business. Elderly were given radios to be updated with what is taking place around the world and food.

Nevertheless, university benefited on the programme of keeping the environment clean through provision of four dustbins, and modern benches made out of plastic bottles. As we come together to support each other,

our students, and the broader community; I am awe by the passion, generosity, reaching out in every direction, and genuine goodness of our social workers. These are embedded into the six core values of service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence (NASW, 2017).



The importance of doing well is due to coming together as the beginning for social workers, keeping together as a process, and working together as a success to the institution. All the services rendered require components of professional social work practice across micro, mezzo, and macro domains.

We thank to the administration for granting us permission to work together and support us with the university coaster for easy transportation. All we do is to make the world to be a better place for living.

Privatsun Nkurabanka
Head of Department, Social Sciences

Social Workers Leadership

University of Kisubi is subdivided into smaller leadership among students. The department has University of Kisubi Social Work Students Association (UNIKISSA).



Social workers leaders together with their Patron

The community engagement of this year was achieved and geared by social worker leaders of 2021/2022. These are:

1. Mr. Desire Atwijukire President
2. Ms Fortunate Nangob Vice-President
3. Mr. Abong Ronald Secretary
4. Ms Yvonne Daisy Batenga Treasurer
5. Mrs. Esther Nakayondo Member
6. Mr. Jerome, Public Relations officer
7. Mr. Musabe Brian Advisor
8. Sr. Grace Kitinisa Advisor

Most of the resources utilized were mobilized by Sr. Grace Kitinisa. However, everyone contributed in one way or another

to succeed in these noble activities of helping others.



Social workers in T-shirts

These are social workers in action posing for a group photo. They all look nice dressed in their T-shirts.



Social workers' order T-shirts

Social workers at University of Kisubi are emphasis on client strengths and the values of the profession. It helps graduate to become skilled at mobilizing a variety of formal and informal support systems to assist clients in addressing their needs and realizing their potential.

Start by yourself: UniK Outreach program

Keep UniK environment clean

Keep environment clean help university to avoid students to litter everywhere.



Four dustbins donated to University

UniK social workers students value much the environment. These dust bins fit in multiple places of the university. Cleaners are transferring garbage easily. The following are the use of dust bins at our university:

- To store trash;
- To store in different kinds of renewable and non-renewable materials;
- To help in maintaining a smell-free environment;
- To help keep dirty and decaying waste separate from the rest of the clean surroundings;
- To provide with the right place of throwing litter away;



Privatsun handing over the dust bins to the University Estate Manager

Social workers in this context ensure these essential tools are used for public health sanitation and safety. That is why dust bins are placed everywhere in a convenient option to dispose of rubbish or unwanted and trash that needs to be dumped.

Benches from recycled plastic bottle caps

With the knowledge and innovation, UniK Social Workers had collected plastic caps to be recycled into plastic benches.



Inspection of making benches

Researchers found that plastic bottles take 450 years to decompose, and 1,000 years for other solid plastics. This is a problem to our environment. That is why social workers started this project to protect the environment.



Visit and observe the coming plastic benches

The first two benches will be given to our university. These benches are long-lasting and durable than wooden planks.

Helping Children with multiple disabilities in Jinja District

Disability refers to a person who has a physical or mental condition that limits their movements, senses, or activities. In Uganda, there are about 5.82% (2,027,148) children with disabilities.



Two cows given to the Home of Hope centre

These disabilities are vision impairment, deaf, mental health conditions, intellectual disability, acquired brain injury, and autism spectrum disorders.



Items of food and medicines donated

At Bugembe Town Council, Home of Hope for children with disabilities were given two (2) cows after realizing that children are suffering in eating and drinking. These are good modern cows. In the same centre, commodities of food items like rice, beans, cooking oils, rice, and maize flour was given to them.



Items donated to the centre

On the side of health, boxes of multiple medicines were bought to ensure good health for these children.



Sr. Grace Kitinisa helps children

Hygiene and sanitation, boxes of bars of soaps, pampas and many others were provided.



Children posing a photo after appreciating the donation



Cows donated already produced

Thanks to Sr. Grace Kitinisa, a 3rd year social work student, who assessed and identified their needs and mobilize funds of twenty millions shillings (20,000,000/=) spent on this center.

Helping children with multiple disabilities at Noah's Ark, Entebbe Municipality

Children's rights are deserved to be fulfilled by all. Social workers of the University of Kisubi supported children's at Noah's Ark.



Items presented to Noah's Ark

The Executive Director addressed students on the needs of protecting the rights of all children towards the realization of their well-being. She narrated the challenges they are facing especially in feeding the children.



Executive Director addressing to the students about their centre

Social workers after realized that there is a need; they mobilize food and bought four (4) sacks of rice to improve on their daily diet.



Items donated to the centre

Sanitation and hygiene found that was very important to them.



Sr. Grace checking the expired date of items brought

Pampas for girls who undergo menstrual periods, modern mats, OMO to reduce the bad smell were provided.



Items received by the Executive Director

The mats help them to sit on or crowing on whether in the residential halls or classrooms or even outside.



Children full of joy for seeing UniK social workers



What about refugees? Mothers of Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

Field trip is not simply a tour to the field, but provides students with a clear framework and foundation for locating their practice through the rest of their studies, future training and professional careers.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics states that social workers must “pursue social change, particularly with and on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed individuals and groups of people.”



Students together with the Assistant Commandant of Kiryandongo refugee settlement at the Office of the Prime Minister

As of June 2022, Uganda hosted 1,518,570 refugees; around 60% are coming from South Sudan.



Ms. Matina Nyanzi, the Guild President

while asking question to the Assistant Commandant on durable solution to refugees

Uganda is number two in the world after Turkey hosting 3,696,831 refugees.



Distribution of soaps and bikoyi in the maternity ward

Kiryandongo refugee settlement is hosting over 73,780 refugees from various countries. The Kiryandongo was the first settlement used since 1954.



Ronald giving a bar of soap to a patient in Maternity ward

Kiryandongo hosted Ugandan Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), people moved by calamities of landslide from Bududa District.



Give out clothes to a patient in the health centre

Elderly enjoyment with UniK Social Workers

Help the elderly in Katabi village

A very good surprise was made on Friday 18th, 2022, when social workers supported the elderly of Katabi village with radios.



Elderly received radios in Katabi village

Eight elderly received radios. After, they organized a prayer asking God to guarantee wisdom to the students of University of Kisubi. This function was held at the home of the secretary of elderly and witnessed by a Parish counselor for elderly.



Sr. Dr. Jane Frances Nnantamu witnessing the gift to the elderly

Social workers bought 10 radios together with dry cells and these were meant to be given to the elderly of Kisubi Mission Cell and Kitabi as well. Ten thousand shillings were used to facilitate their movement for those who used bodaboda to reach to the venue. However, leaders of Kisubi cell were not there. They went for a burial. However, two elderly are expected to benefit.



Visited old woman and donated with food stuff

These were to help them to be updated with what is taking place in the world. We are living in the world of information. Not everyone can afford a Television or a radio.

Our elderly are need of keeping updated on the current situation.



It is alleged that around the world, people are aged differently. Researchers found four major old age problems are physical, cognitive, emotional and social problems.

2014 census found out 4.1% of older persons of 60 years and above. During the process of aging, elderly face the communication problems that include hearing loss, reduced vision, stuttering, weakened facial muscles, swallowing issues, and inability to write. However, not everyone gets hearing problems. They need to get access to information from radio and be updated.

Very few elderly can have conditions that affect their communications like stroke, cancer, brain tumor, Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy, Alzheimer, dementia, multiple sclerosis, amyotropic lateral sclerosis and many others.



Inspection of radios by Dean of Faculty and Head of Department

According to The Aged Family Uganda (2008) found that 85% of older persons in rural areas live in chronic poverty.

Remember, they are alone at home. Those who have dependents, they leave them and

go to look for survival and come back in the evening.

In order to practice successfully with older people, social workers must understand a number of connected factors such as:

- Demographic profile and numbers of older people within the population;
- The nature of ageing like the physical, biological, and psychological manifestations of the ageing process;
- The political, social and cultural status of older people in the society;
- The subjective experiences of older people.

Marginalized person in Ziru village

Sanitation and hygiene is our priority in Ziru village

A family was visited after a long observation to a person who is cassava seller. The person has one eye and seems no energy to do such work. No matter how is able to ride a bicycle, but is having one eye. He has to use all means to feed a family of 7 members.



In front of their house after a visit

After a good surprise for the visitation of this family, we found they had dug a pit which has lasted two years. We decided to put a concrete slab, and we are waiting him to burn his bricks and start raising the walls.

Imagine a family without a toilet just depending on the neighbors. It was a point to discuss to see in today's world to find household in this area without a toilet.

His daughter completed senior six and found selling fried cassava. We decided to buy for her two sacks of charcoal so that she can generate a good daily income. She is now doing well.

Anti-Human trafficking public lecture

Human trafficking is now a global problem affecting everyone in the world more than a war. Human trafficking is considered a modern-day form of slavery, and it is a source of multi-billion-dollars activity for organized crime all over the world including Uganda.



Anti-human trafficking leaders

Human trafficking is estimated to be one of the three largest sources of income of transnational crime, together with arms and drug trafficking.



Anti-human trafficking moderators

Traffickers profit from this practice by controlling their victims and exploiting them for labor and/or sex.



Students listening attentively about cases of body transplants

Human trafficking is a human rights violation that involves the practice of holding another person in compelled service by force, fraud, or coercion.



A Student asking questions on how to prevent human trafficking

Social workers had come up with sharing information campaign through public lecture, sport activities by engaging other neighbouring schools.



Invited moderator from Willow International to speak up on human trafficking in Uganda

Outside the box: NASWU essay competition 2022

Participation in conference

During March 18th, 2022, the International Conference of Social Workers held at African Renew University, the best two students in essay writing in this region were from our university. This competence justifies that essential knowledge and skills are examined with authority and depth, debates approached in an accessible, informative and engaging way. See below posing a photo.



Best students in essay writing during the International Conference of Social Workers at African Renew University

Competence in social work practice requires not just knowledge and skills but also competence in terms of values awareness. The competence of these two students had made them to donate their books received as gifts from the competition to our faculty.



Sr. Grace with Mr. Privatsun showing the books received at the University

UniK Hope Fund

Social workers work with a diverse range of clients, with a particular commitment to those who are the most vulnerable, at risk, disadvantaged, oppressed and marginalized in our society. However, among social workers are some who are challenged with finances and need help to overcome these challenges.



Finance committee evaluating the success of UniK Hope Fund

At UniK, social workers had created a trusted mean of supporting the student's community through loan among students. The UniK Hope Fund has helped a number of students who are challenged with money below 200,000/= and be returned with 2% interests. It was started in March 2022 with very few Social worker members.



Committee members into finance auditing

Once you are a student of UniK and challenged with airtime, Mbs, transport to go home, my fees is not full; social workers fund is there for you. Only the security is the national ID or student ID. Thank you for the good work you are doing.

Skilling yourself

It is only UniK and only social workers who can help each other to know more about new things.



Students making reusable sanitary pads



Making cake and liquid soap

Social workers had trained among themselves on how to make liquid soaps, making chapatis, and making reusable pads by using local materials.



Mrs. Nakiwate Robinah training others how to make reusable sanitary pads

Conclusion

Social work exists to help people through complex and painful transitions in life. This is based on the central principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities.

Thank you for supporting the people in needy.

Social work programs at University of Kisubi are:

- ***Diploma in Social work and Social Administration***
- ***Bachelor in Social Work and Social Administration***
- ***Master of Social Work***



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