Personal achievements



- Awarded by Her Majesty Reven of England at Buckingham Palace.2015
 - Recognized by form President Barrack Obama in USA. 2016
 - Won the Goldsmiths, Viversity of London Innovation Award. 2017

Poverty and Voice among PWDs

The Ugandan perspective



A paper presented to stakeholders.

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 - 6th November 2019

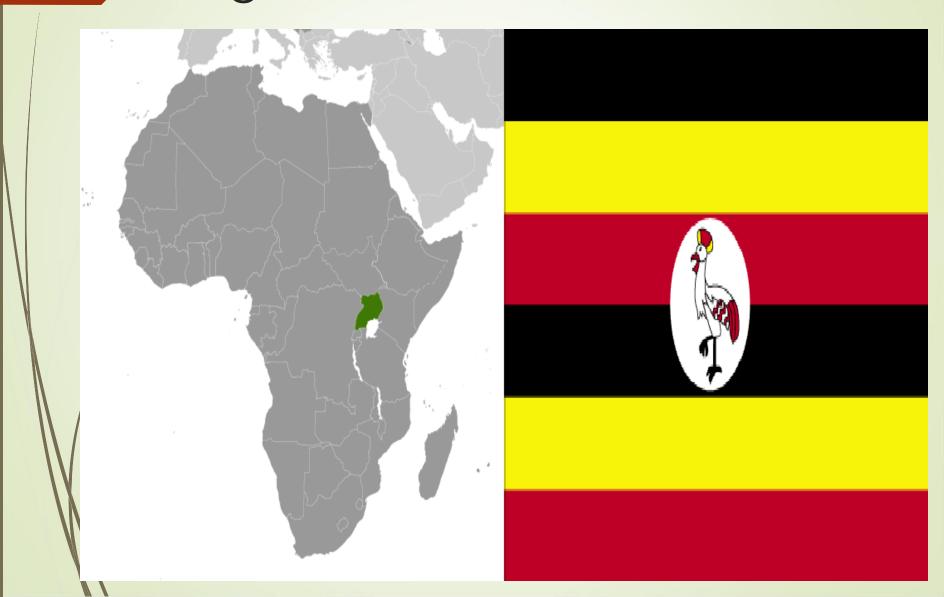
This presentation focuses on:

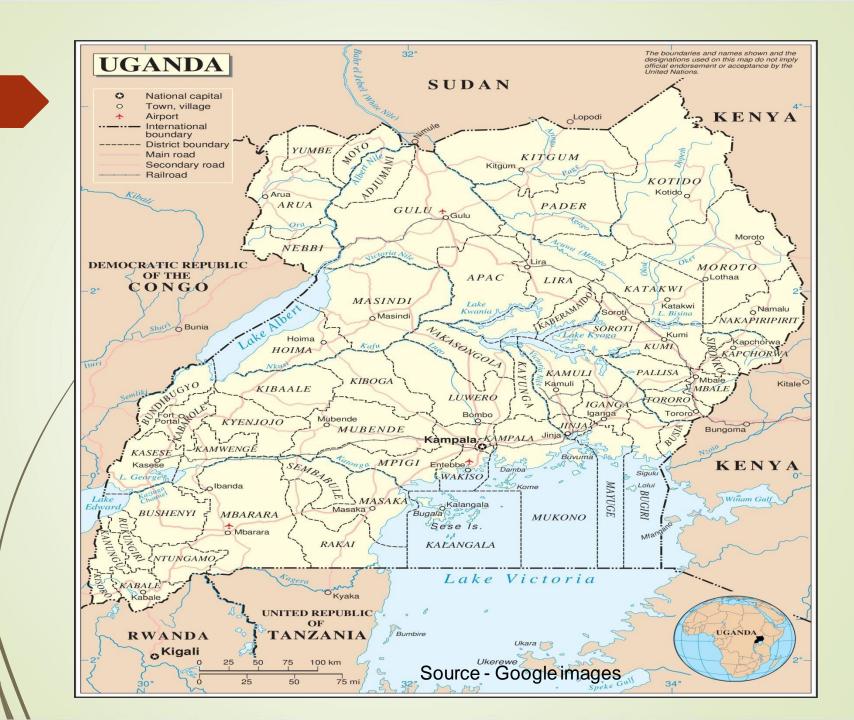
- An overview of Uganda as a developing country
- The disability movement on Poverty and Voice issues
- My dream future prospects

Introduction:

- Estimates show that over 80% of the world's PWDs live in developing countries. The World Bank also estimates that over 20% of the world's poor are people with disabilities and the majority live in developing countries and Uganda, is one of these countries.
- To solve this, we need a joint effort a global cooperation

Uganda





Uganda...

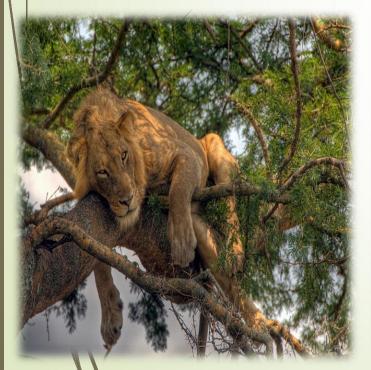
- Located in Eastern Africa
- Also known as the pearl of Africa natural beauty
- A land locked country along the equator with neighbours including Kenya on her west, Tanzania on the South, South Sudan on the North, Democratic Republic of Congo on the West and Rwanda and Burundi on the South West. (Refer to map).
- Currently has 134 districts
- Weather is wet and dry sun and rain, no snow!

Uganda:

- Total population is 44.73 million people. 48.47% are children below 14 years of age, 21.16% between 15 and 24 years, 28.34% between 25 and 64 years and 2.04% are 65 years and above. The life expectancy is around 58.5 years, with the life expectancy of males being 56.7 years and 60.5 years for females.
- The majority of the population are farmers.
 Agriculture is the backbone of the economy.
 Coffee still the major cash crop. Bananas
 (Matooke) is the staple food crop grown. Tourism second largest Foreign exchange earner.
- Over 40 languages spoken. Tribes are regionally distributed. The widely spoken is Luganda (Baganda tribe), There are Kingdoms also. However English is the Official Language. East African Community-Swahili









Source - Google images

PWDs in Uganda

- National census is carried out every after 10 years. 2014, National Housing & population Census of PWDs was estimated that Uganda has around 16% of the population being disabled. This data is however not adequate – there were some inadequacies.
- Of these, 35% had physical disabilities, 6.7% had visual disabilities, 15% had hearing disabilities, 3.9% speech disabilities, 7.2% with mental disabilities, 22% spine injuries and 9.6% with other disabilities.

Uganda's Disability Movement:

- Long ago, disability issues were catered for by faith based organisations. PWDs were seen as objects of charity. This contributed to their low self-esteem.
- Later on, in the 1990s, the disability rights movement emerged - demand for human rights – a movement from charity approaches to human rights based approaches. Twin track approach used
 - special needs Vs. mainstreaming.



Institutional development:

- This had a humble beginning around the 1940s when marginalized groups like women started organizing themselves advocate for their rights.
- Negative cultural beliefs and political instabilities in the colonial era and during the 1980s hindered participation of PWDs in political activities. They were oppressed and stigmatized.
- Rehabilitation centers were then established by government - to empower the once marginalized PWDs with practical skills – focused mainly on tailoring, carpentry and handicrafts.

Formation of DPOs:

- Organizations like UNAD, UNAB then emerged. These were uni-disability organizations.
- In 1987, PWDs United and formed the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU). The union was formed to ensure a unified voice for all PWDs especially in advocacy and empowerment work nationally and internationally. Various other disability organizations later formed e.g. NUWODU, UNAPD, MHU, ESAU, USDC, LPU, UAS among others.
- Their emergence was facilitated by an enabling environment and the support of international donors.

PWDs and political participation:

The DPOs worked hard to ensure that PWDs issues are included in Uganda's Constitution. During the drafting of the constitution, PWDs successfully lobbied for representation in the Constituent Assembly – through making alliances especially with other special interest / vulnerable groups. This ensured that disability friendly provisions were included in the 1995 Constitution - the Supreme Law of Uganda.

Inclusion in decision making processes:

- Central Government: A Ministry for Disability Affairs was established to push disability issues on the government agenda and linking with other line ministries on issues of PWDs. The National Council for the Disabled (NCD) was then established consisting of representatives appointed basing on region and type of disability. The NCD is mandated to monitor and evaluate implementation of disability specific programs by government and ensure that services provided reach the PWDs.
- The parliament: PWDs in Uganda were given five slots in parliament. Four of these are elected to represent the four regions while one is elected as a National PWD Women's Representative
- Local government: PWDs were also included in local government structures. This is in line with the Local government Act. As a result, over 60,000 PWDs are councilors at sub-county and district level. Many of these also serve in other capacities within their respective districts. Most districts have further ensured that disability activities are allocated budgets for effective implementation.

The challenges:

- Lack of skills. Illiteracy is a major problem.
- Negative attitudes in the widercommunity.
- Inaccessible physical structures and lack of accessible information.
- The general level of poverty where PWDs are the most hit.
- Resource constraints inadequate resource Vs. high demand for services.
- Different categories of PWDs are not adequately included – Mainly the physically disabled, the deaf and the blind are the dominant.
- Stigma and discrimination Low self esteem

Towards a self sustaining PWD

- Growth in Uganda's GDP Contributed to slight reduction in poverty levels. But more remain to be poor. PWDs are among the poorest. The National Development Plan (2010 – 2015) proposes:
 - Employment generation
 - Improving labour force
 - Raising average per-capita income
 - Improving competitiveness towards a middle income economy.
 - * Raising human development indicators.

- Uganda's National Development Plan further talks about education, sports and skills development; labour and employment, HIV/AIDS, population growth control, health. Priority is given to programs for eradicating poverty e.g. Youth Funds, NAADS, PMA, emphasis on sciences/marketable courses in schools, bonna bagagawale... The question is are PWDs benefiting?
- The means of production are privately owned and the main objective is to make profit. In the industrial society, PWDs are segregated. They are seen as incapacitated.

Employment and Labour

- Progress has been slow for PWDs to secure better jobs.
- Technical, vocational education and training is not yet effectively supporting the development of PWD entrepreneurs.
- Also the majority of PWDs are never in school.
- Middlemen exploitation
- There is need to support them initiate / improve their own businesses / income generating activities – to earn a reasonable income for better living.





The example of Sarah...

Sarah, is a PWD her parents tried all their best to enable her attain the best quality education. Fortunately she could not manage to go to college. They decided to take her to a vocational training institution. They wanted their daughter to be able to gain practical skills and secure paid employment. They wanted a better future for her. She was trained in tailoring and weaving. Sarah however did not know what to do to start a business. She had no equipment. Sarah was helped by her family to make sweaters while at home. She occasionally gets orders from a few friends and relatives to make sweaters for them.

"The money I get from this is not enough to cater for my needs, I want a better paying job. Fortunately people are hesitant to employme", says Sarah.

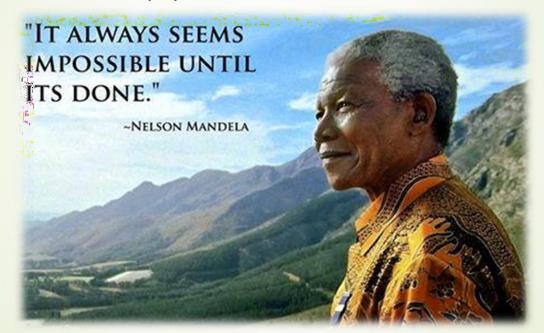
Sarah is one of those many PWDs who need business support, expand their produce, compete in the wider market and thereby earn reasonable income for a better living.

My dream...

- ✓ Grow my non-profit organisation (Kind of a social enterprise).
- ✓ Finish the PhD and get married
- ✓ Research into innovative ideas from PWDs.
- ✓ Facilitate business start up for PWDs Seed capital
- Encourage social entrepreneurship amongst PWDs.
- Mentoring and referral Advocate for inclusive employment policies.

Conclusion

■ In every struggle, there is resistance, there are challenges. However, this does not mean failure, it does not imply that we will never win.



- Let us join hands to make my dream possible. The struggle continues
 - I thank you for your attention.