



Dear [[salutation]],

As the new year begins, we are energized by the progress already underway across our programs in eastern and northern Uganda.

In January, we brought together our fistula ambassador networks in both Iganga and Kiryandongo for our annual debrief sessions. These sessions represent an opportunity to reflect on the past year, share experiences from the field, and strengthen the strategies that help women access life-changing treatment.

We also supported two fistula repair camps this quarter, while our Adolescent Reproductive Health program resumed with the start of the new academic year, including the addition of two new partner schools.

These early months of the year remind us how critical community partnerships are to reaching those most in need.

Thank you for standing with us as we continue this work.

With gratitude,

Stephanie

Q1 IMPACT AT A GLANCE



OBSTETRIC FISTULA

Strengthening the Ambassador Network



Fistula ambassadors gather for the annual debrief in Kiryandongo

In January, we held our annual fistula ambassador debrief sessions in Iganga and Kiryandongo, bringing together 60 ambassadors from across the two regions.

Fistula ambassadors are one of the cornerstones of our fistula programme. Drawing on their own experiences, they help identify women living with fistula and connect them with treatment opportunities and, importantly, help to dispel the common myths which prevail.

The debrief sessions created space to reflect on the past year's outreach efforts, discuss challenges faced in the field, and strengthen strategies for identifying and supporting patients.

Their work remains essential to ensuring that women who have long suffered in silence learn that treatment is possible and accessible.

Restoring Health & Dignity



This past quarter, UVP partnered with both Busolwe and Kiryandongo Hospitals to offer fistula repair camps, providing treatment for 43 women. Many patients travel long distances after hearing about the camps through community outreach and referrals from our ambassador network.

One of the major challenges we seek to resolve is women choosing to live with their condition rather than seek treatment. Many cannot afford to take the time away from their crops as they often serve as a family's primary source of subsistence. Even amongst those who do undergo surgery, we note a real pressure from spouses and/or family members to return to work sooner than recommended, which can and does lead to failed surgical outcomes.

A CHANGING PATTERN



Hadija



Alice

When women reach care, it should be the beginning of a safe delivery: not the start of a new injury.

At the Busolwe fistula camp in February, we met Hadija and Alice. Both developed fistula following complications during surgical delivery: an increasingly common form known as iatrogenic fistula.

With support from our fistula ambassador network, both were able to access treatment, and both left healed.

Their stories highlight a growing challenge: as access to care expands, so does the need to ensure that care is safe.

Read more about Hadija and Alice [here](#).

ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

A New School Year Begins



With the start of the academic year, UVP's ARH program resumed across our partner schools. This year, we are pleased to welcome two new schools to the program, expanding our reach to even more students in the communities we serve.

Through interactive classroom sessions and practical workshops, including reusable sanitary pad making, students gain accurate information about reproductive health, menstruation, and HIV/STI prevention. These sessions equip young people with the knowledge and confidence they need to make informed decisions about their health.

We look forward to another year of supporting adolescents with the information and skills they need to stay healthy and remain in school.

GOVERNANCE & BOARD UPDATES

Evolving for the Future

We are currently working to evolve the structure of our board. Alongside our working board, we are establishing an advisory board to better support the organization's continued growth. Some current members will transition into advisory roles, and we will soon launch an open call for new board members.

We would like to thank **Elise Davis** for her contributions to the Board as Co-Chair of the Development & Marketing Committee. She has been instrumental in generating new ideas and supporting the development of many of our fundraising campaigns. We are also grateful for **Marissa Watkins's** leadership and the many challenges she helped navigate during her tenure as Board Chair.

Former Co-Executive Director **Jeff Jacobs** has now stepped into the role of Board Chair, and several current board members have transitioned into new positions. We are equally pleased to welcome **Matt Moring** to the Board as Treasurer.

We look forward to this next phase of leadership as we continue to strengthen and grow the organization.



UGANDA VILLAGE PROJECT



Twekembe — working together for a healthier Uganda.

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