

Catalyst

What's Inside

What does 'Doing Development Differently' Look Like?

Goretti's Story
What happens when we empower a woman trapped by poverty?

A personal letter from our Ugandan Country Director

Visit our website and sign up to receive our communications and updates by e-mail to continue learning more about Salama for Life programmes and our community initiatives in Uganda. We would love to hear from you.

www.salamashield.org



What does 'Doing Development Differently' Look Like?

There is no one solution for "development". And so we ask: what should "development" look like?

We are committed to working with

communities and their leadership in finding

solutions. It is a process – a development journey. "Doing development

differently" begins with the recognition that everyone can contribute

to the development of their community. In turn, we are all better off for

our investment in advancing solutions towards bettering the human

condition. Salama Shield Foundation focuses on understanding the

challenges faced by sub-Saharan African communities. We come alongside

communities, and build a relationship of trust and friendship. Salama for

Life is implemented within the context of local beliefs and practices. We

work to merge the traditional, experiential and spiritual knowledge of

individuals and communities with scientific and technical knowledge –

in such areas as HIV/AIDS prevention, education,

agriculture, water management and business

development. Our partnerships with stakeholders

lead to new understandings, which in turn create

new behaviours and institutions that foster

the development of sustainable,

healthy communities.



International Women's Day

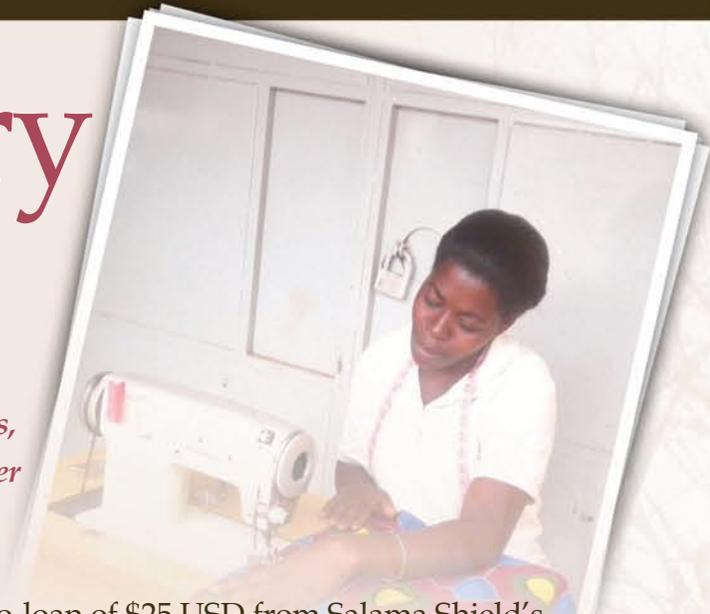
International Women's Day has been observed since the early 1900's. March 8th is an opportunity for everyone to focus on improving the status of women and ensuring the future of young girls is safe, rewarding and prosperous. Salama Shield Foundation focuses on women as change-agents. Learn more at www.salamashield.org.

Goretti's Story

Most women in Uganda are un-bankable. They are also without a voice. Too poor to apply for loans, they have no path to independence. Culturally dependent on their husbands, they are unable to move forward. With resources, however, they thrive, prosper and grow – together with other women like themselves.

Goretti is 30 years old and one of nine children. She moved further and further away from cities looking for more fertile land to survive on; she is one of many of the 86.7% of Uganda's population that lives in rural areas, where opportunities are fewer (World Bank, 2010). A lack of health care and money for help has already crippled her dependent and aging mother – both legs are amputated below the knee. As a single mother, with only a grade 7 education due to lack of school fees, Goretti and her family were in dire straits with a future full of uncertainty. Salama Shield Foundation programmes in Goretti's village brought new opportunities. She was chosen to benefit from Salama Shield's Skills Training Programme, empowering her with training as a tailor. She soon received her first

micro-loan of \$25 USD from Salama Shield's revolving loan programme. Her first loan was followed by subsequent loans of \$50 and \$100. She has repaid every loan, and earned enough income to purchase a sewing machine and livestock. Today, her income from tailoring and her animal herds is making her once distant dreams of home improvements and a higher standard of living a reality. She has even created a savings account – something few are able to do. Goretti's experiences are shared by other women in 68 villages in Lyantonde District where Finance for Life loan funds are available. March 8th is a day to celebrate with women who have had the chance to create opportunities to build safer, healthier and happier lives with the help of Salama Shield Foundation.



50% of the population of Lyantonde, Uganda do not have access to safe water sources and will walk 10-15 km per day collecting water.

SALAMA | Water for Life

Imagine the possibilities!

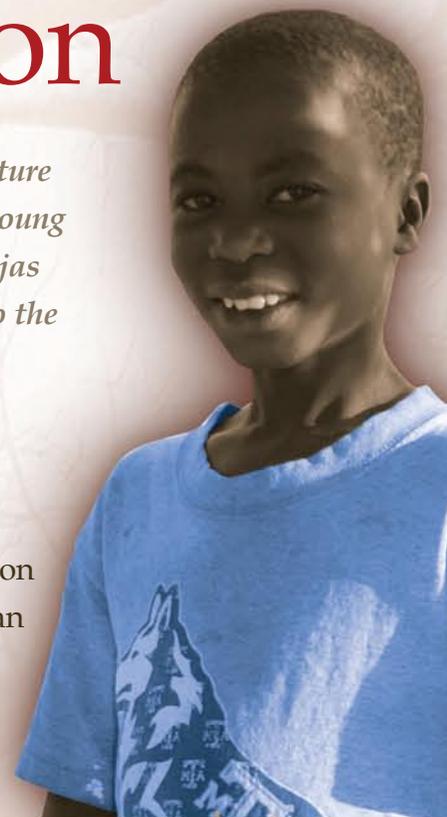
A water well at our Community Development Centre, built in 2008, provides safe water to an average of 150 people each day. This well has reduced the incidence of waterborne diseases, eased the burden for those forced to buy jerry cans of water from vendors in dry seasons, and made it safe for a young girl to collect water for her family. This is one of many hundreds of water systems that SSF hopes to build in Lyantonde. Improved sanitation and drinking water could save 2.2 million children a year, or some 5,500 a day, worldwide.



Access to Information

Salama Shield Foundation continues to provide access to health education and health resources. As a result, more individuals are living healthier lives. A signature initiative of Health for Life is our Ssengas and Kojjas mentorship programme. Young girls are connected to adult Ssengas (Aunts) and young boys are linked with Kojjas (Uncles) who offer supportive care, mentorship and advice, and a listening ear to the challenges faced by adolescents.

Health for Life information, especially for HIV/AIDS health education, is often presented through drama and dance. This provides a unique vehicle to discuss sensitive information with local youth and community members in a culturally acceptable way – the way local ancestors told stories and passed down information from generation to generation. Gorette herself (*see Finance for Life*) benefited as an adolescent from her Ssenga. Today there are 261 active SSF-trained Ssengas and Kojjas mentoring local youth and filling a traditional role made empty by the impact of HIV/AIDS on the adult generation.



Vocational Training

Salama Shield Foundation began construction of the Salama Vocational Education Centre in November 2011. The centre, scheduled to open in February 2013, will provide skills training with a special emphasis on providing disadvantaged youth an opportunity for skill acquisition and income generation. The Salama Vocational Education Centre will also offer a unique programme called the “Mubuntu Dialogues” to inspire a new generation of leaders to tackle social and economic challenges. *Mubuntu*

is the idea that: “I am what I am because of who we all are”. SSF recognized the importance of skills training early in Lawrence’s life. Like Gorette (above), Lawrence dropped out of school because of a lack of money, food and scholastic materials. He would ride his bicycle 30 km back and forth each day. After dropping out of school, he began selling local bananas and staple foods on the roadside. Salama Shield Foundation identified Lawrence and supported him with auto mechanics training. Five years later, Lawrence now

earns ten to fifteen times what he did as a roadside vendor. He is able to provide school fees, clothes, food, and books for his siblings and supports his aging parents. Lawrence now saves for his dream of owning his own home and land. “*I am a living testimony that youth without hope can be given hope. And I can help other young people by teaching them,*” says Lawrence. When complete, the Salama Vocational Education Centre will provide similar opportunities for up to 250 youth.

Reflections from our Ugandan Country Director

A portrait of Kenneth M. Barigye, the Country Director for Uganda, smiling and wearing a light-colored checkered shirt. The background is a solid blue color.

The past year has been one of reflection and ideas as we embark on our 20th year as Salama Shield Foundation. We have reflected on current development trends in sub-Saharan Africa and the challenges of responding to the needs of vulnerable communities. And so, we have built upon our successes, and strengthened our development model as we continue to focus on the possibilities for the future. Our team in Uganda and Canada continues to foster the development of sustainable and healthy communities in Lyantonde District, Uganda, and other places in sub-Saharan Africa. This year, our focus has been on the prevention of disease through school and community health education initiatives, and our microcredit and alternative income programmes for women and youth. In November 2011, we celebrated the groundbreaking for the construction of the Salama Vocational Education Centre. It will open in February 2013. In the past 12 months, we received a number of visitors – partners, volunteers, and even a youth baseball team from British Columbia! We are grateful for the opportunity to host our friends and engage with them on issues critical to communities in Uganda. We look forward to more opportunities this year. I extend my deepest appreciation to those who continue to support our development work with our global community.

Kenneth M. Barigye | Country Director, Uganda

