

# Catalyst



On behalf of the Salama SHIELD team in  
Canada, Malawi and Uganda,  
we wish you a very Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!



Staff back row (left to right)

David Kizza, Job Omuba, George W. Mutyaba, Kenneth B. Mugabo (Country Director), David Majwega, Jescah Kyobutungi, Richard Bayita, George Okumu, Elizabeth S. Nabakooza, James Akena, John M. Otim.

Staff middle row (left to right)

Benon Mugume, Alex Byaruhanga, David Kayiwa, Dr. Dennis Willms (Founding Director), Evarist Munyakayanza, Gelson Murenzi, Robert Muganga, Leonard Twesigye, Kassim Kiguli, Jackson Matovu, Robert Yiga.

Staff front row seated (left to right)

Gloria Namugerwa, Elizabeth Nakayiki, Hanifa Namuli Mugisha, Gertrude Nanyonjo, Rose Kawere, Ruth Nakaaki, Hajat Sarah Matovu, Anita Cooledge

Staff not present Hope Kyarisima, Jackie Ampaire, Evas Nayebare, Beatrice Kunihira, Jude Ssekate, Abubakalai Sserubiri, Fred Mawanda, Yoramu Malanzi, Robert Otwaet, Paul Nkalubo, Patrick Balyegsawwa.



I am very proud of my group and happy. I no longer fear to address my fellow women or even the community, and, I am always approached by other women for advice. In my role, I remind others in my group about the date for loan repayment and for meetings organized, and teach them the interest that they have to pay.

Also I am very proud. I now have a new home and I look good and healthy. Before joining the group, I had no hope for the future. I was always scared and afraid. During the rainy season, my house collapsed and I did not have enough income to replace it.

I never dreamt that as a woman, I would be able to own a house of my own. All my fears have now disappeared. Through Salama SHIELD Foundation, I learned how to save; it was now possible to build a house and rehabilitate my banana plantation. For the gardens and plantation, the yields are bigger and there is better quality in the production: I can now sell my bananas at a higher price.

I am happy because through Salama SHIELD Foundation my standard of living has improved and I have also been taught how to improve sanitation in my home. Now I have a pit latrine, bathroom (outside), a kitchen and drying rack where I put the plates, cups and utensils after washing.

- Lamulati

Lamulati is a 44 year old woman. Widowed, she presently cares for 12 children: 8 are biologically her own; an additional 4 have the same father who is dependent on her. Her husband died in 2005.

She heard about the Salama SHIELD Foundation (SSF) micro-credit programme through a community meeting at the Community Development Centre (CDC) in Lyantonde. She joined five other women and formed a small group who were beneficiaries of a small loan. Each of her friends were unbankable. Yet each was wishing to get out of poverty, and needed the support and encouragement of the other women to make it happen. Of course, the financial support of SSF.

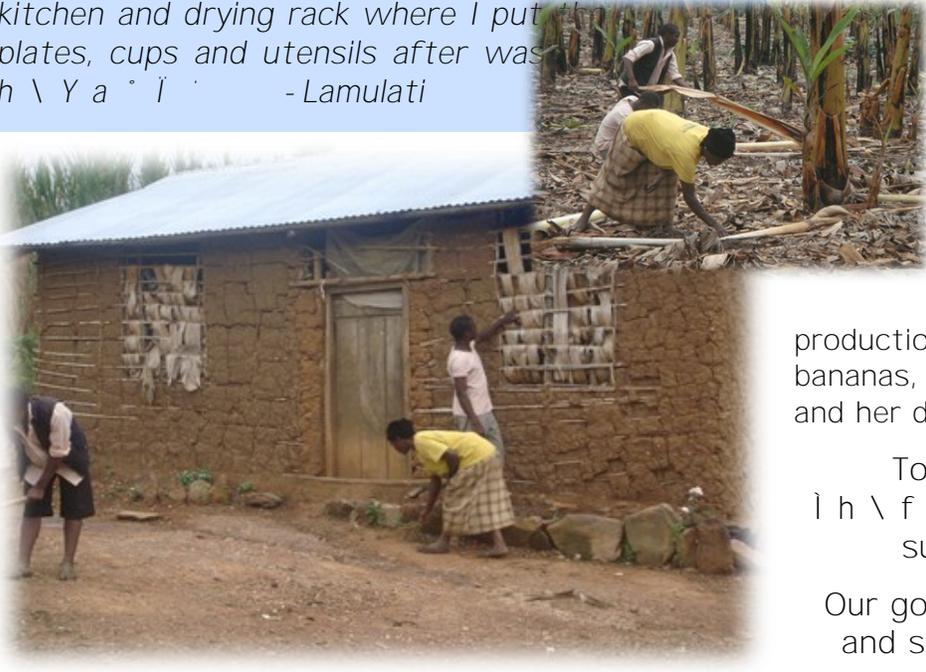
By virtue of her personality and charisma, Lamulati identified as the group mobilizer, the base community leader. During workshops organized by SSF, the group members were trained in how to save money, manage their self-identified small income generating projects, group dynamics in mutual accountability, record-keeping and accounting.

The first loan (US \$20) allowed Lamulati her to pay school fees for her son; a second loan (US \$10) permitted her to buy iron sheets to improve her house and strengthen her banana plantation; a third, fourth, and fifth loan made it possible to add windows and doors to her house, and increase her household livestock of chickens and goats.

Lamulati is now out of the poverty cycle. Because of the microcredit programme made possible through SSF, she is now making a living in farming and poultry production. She also now grows seasonal crops and bananas, which allows her to successfully feed herself and her dependent children.

To date, Salama SHIELD Foundation has supported 800 women in 80 villages

Our goal in 2013 is to cover Lyantonde District and support 1,880 women in all 188 villages.



As part of a meaningful Christmas gift this year to a friend, family member and a person you have never met- consider funding a vulnerable family with 2 goats (a gift of \$150), that would take them out of the poverty cycle and into a promising future for their family and children.

Or consider sponsoring a young person with a scholarship at the soon to be opened Salama Vocational Education Centre (SVECL) at any amount.



## Highlights

FEBRUARY 11, 2013

Opening of the  
SALAMA VOCATIONAL  
EDUCATION CENTRE |  
Lyantonde  
(SVEC-L)

(full report to follow in March 2013 Catalyst)

SALAMA | FOR LIFE  
Our Development Model

## Anticipating the Next Chapter in our Salama for Life Programmes

This has been a challenging, but also creative and filled year!

2012 saw the emergence of new programmes in Malawi, renewed revitalized development programmes in Lyantonde and Gulu Districts of Uganda, and the completion of Phase 1 of the *Salama Education and Vocational School | Lyantonde, Uganda (SVEC -L)*.

It has been a very good year!

While good things have happened, we also experienced the loss of gr James in Lyantonde). As I stated in my address at the staff retreat November, *1 h \ Y f Y \ ] g \ U \ h ] a Y \ Z c* (Ecclesiastes 8).\ And so it is!

*There is a time* well for this foundation. We are at a tipping point our programmatic work, as we commit to remain vibrant, energetic, and compelling as a nongovernment organization confronting the challenges of structural violence, injustice, and poverty in Africa. During our staff retreat, we consensually agreed that our statement should read:

*A just world where individuals and communities, through mutual respect and accountability, participate in the creation of enabling*

Our mission statement is:

*1 h \ f c i [ \ \ \ c b [ \ \ h Y f a \ W c a a ] h a Y b h g \ k indigenous and scientific knowledge in a participatory process that b i f h i f Y g \ g \ U f Y X \ [ c U \ g \ h c k U f X g \ g i g h U*

Salama SHIELD Foundation (SSF) is grateful and humbled by the fact that we have infrastructure support for our work (from an anonymous donor). In short every dollar you contribute to SSF is directed to the programmes on the ground. Incredulous as this may seem, it is the truth of our present funding cycle. I know of no other nongovernment organization (NGO) that can say this.



*This is our time to anticipate new beginnings, as we together- participants, donors, government, business, and friends- build a world that morally imagines and implements a new story for our shared development.*

Thank you for being a part of this journey of *hope with a plan*

Dennis Willms  
Founding Director

Visit our website to continue learning more about *Salama for Life* programmes and our community initiatives in Uganda and Malawi.

We would love to hear from you!

Blog at [salamashield.tumblr.com](http://salamashield.tumblr.com)

# Doing Development Differently

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