



Uganda Village Project

**Providing opportunities for former fistula
patients to lower the likelihood of
requiring retreatment**

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Obstetric Fistula Challenge in Uganda

- Obstetric fistula is a serious public health condition sustained by women mostly in developing countries.
- Fistula can cause chronic infection and isolation from family, society, and employment.
- Even upon repair, women sometimes need multiple surgeries because they are unable to follow post-op instructions and start suffering all over again.
- In Uganda, it is estimated that there are 200,000 women suffering from fistula and approximately 1,900 new cases every year.



Our Solution



- UNFPA identified three areas to end fistula: prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.
- Even when healed, women remain vulnerable because of stigma and lack of economic opportunities.
- To address this, UVP provides a holistic rehabilitation program, including a safe place to heal, skill-based education and business training.



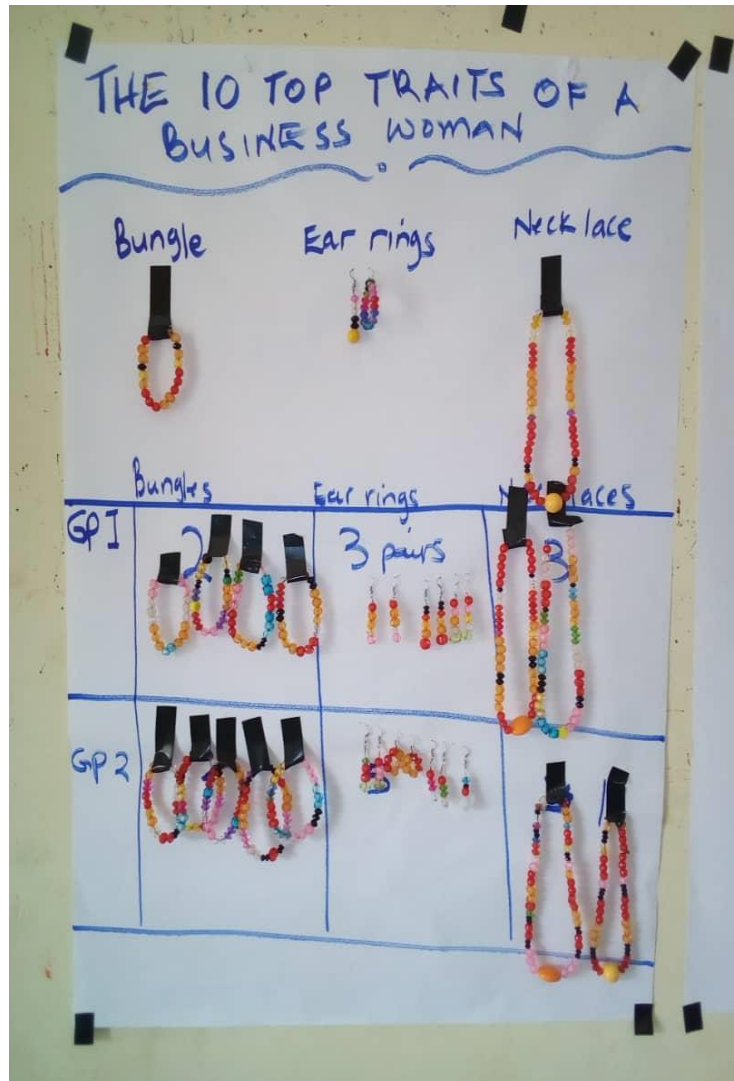
Implementation of Solution



- UVP provides a place away from home that allows women to focus on healing and learning without the distractions of their domestic lives and meet regularly with staff to discuss challenges.
- This provides a platform for healing, both physical and mental.
- Each cohort determines the skill-based training they wish to learn.



Implementation of Solution-Cont



- Additional program expansions include regular follow up visits and formal business education to create a community where women can constantly learn from one another.
- Curing fistula for a woman can be life changing, but only if she has the support needed to thrive, not just survive

Impact of the Solution



- Since our idea is in its very nascent stages, the overall impact is difficult to measure.
- Key areas of measurement include average monthly income of the household before and after the program, general mental and emotional well-being of the patients, and whether they start a business upon completion of the program.



Impact of the Solution-Cont



- Let me share a story of Evalyne....
- Fistula Ambassadors were responsible for reaching more than 49,600 people in Eastern Uganda in 2018 with education about the causes and prevention of obstetric fistula



Contribution of the Soln to Health/Social Systems



- Living as an outsider in your community or being shunned by your family for 11 years can take a toll on a woman's image and self-worth.
- Our program not only provides an opportunity for women to continue to heal physically after surgery, but also a platform to support them emotionally

Contribution of the Soln to Health/Social Systems-Cont



- Providing the skills for a woman to be able to support her family in the absence of her husband can have a very empowering effect.
- In addition, a woman who earns is more likely to provide education for her children, thus helping to stagnate the cycle of poverty she experienced



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For more information please visit:
www.ugandavillageproject.org

