

# Leveraging Efforts to Achieve Quality Education:

## *The Case of the Luwero CCT and Community Development Assistants*

Edward Mugeere, a tutor at the Kawoko Coordinating Center in Luwero district, is one of four master trainers in cooperative learning for the district. Cooperative learning methods assist teachers in managing large class sizes and facilitate participatory teaching and learning. Within Edward's area, eight schools have participated in the trainings; 16 school-based trainers have trained a total of 96 classroom teachers in cooperative learning. On his own initiative, Edward now visits these eight schools monthly and spends time mentoring the head teachers, who along with their deputies say that they now have a purpose for being at school and therefore spend more time in class than before. They also work better as a team, they say.

USAID, through the UPHOLD project, recently supported training (Feb. 2004) on teambuilding under the Community Involvement in Education (CIE) component. The training was held for education teams and the District Development Workers in six districts. These workshops brought together the education staff at the districts, the Coordinating Centre Tutors (CCTs), like Edward, and the Community Development Assistants (CDAs). On the whole, the training resonated very well with the participants; most significantly it initiated dialogue and collaboration between the decentralized education structures and the development workers at both district and lower levels.

Many of the Community Development Assistants noted that they had been inactive in the education sector. After the team building exercises, they realized that the CDAs could play a major role in community mobilization and sensitization on education issues. The training also triggered an initiative for collaboration between respective CCTs and CDAs in Luwero district and a partnership was established to mobilize parents to support their children's learning, in particular by providing lunches and scholastic materials.



"During the workshop we discovered that we needed to work very closely to invigorate parental participation in their children's work," says Edward Mugeere.

"We realized that we were involved in similar activities and both of us had the mandate to carry out community mobilization for participation in education. After several meetings we have mobilized parents to provide a mid-day meal and scholastic materials for their children and contribute to construction of classrooms and teachers' houses.

"Our next step will be helping parents to get more involved in their children's learning and engaging the Local government to budget more for education in the four sub-counties of Luwero district."

Edward's participation in UPHOLD's teambuilding workshop has enabled him to continue his commitment to quality education by successfully collaborating with the CDAs in his area working towards improved community involvement in education (CIE).

