

## Transforming Communities through Dialogue in Wakiso District

Bernard has been working to inform youth in his community about their sexual and reproductive health. But, in the beginning, the youth's excitement about the project was counteracted by adults who believed that young people should not learn about these issues. Bernard recalls, "Three years ago when we began this project, the community leaders were unhappy with our seminars." In response to this reality, Bernard and his friends at DSW implemented sensitization programs targeting parents and community leaders.

*After sensitization, parents and community leaders change their attitudes toward educating the youth about reproductive health.*

### A Father's Perspective

"Before, I used to over-control my children and even restrict them from socializing with their fellow peers...My role as a parent was always to give warnings and scaring experiences to scare them off." Now, after attending several parent/child dialogue meetings, Paul says he openly talks with his children about sexuality and allows them to express their feelings. He believes that, "In this modern era, it is the responsibility of the parents to provide information [to their children]."

Through this project, DSW has trained over 300 parents about parent-child dialogue and reached almost all their community's leaders with messages about health education for youth.

Now, the adults of Wakiso have changed their attitudes about the youth project. They even support the youth clubs by offering their office space for meetings and providing donations to pay for their activities.

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*Youth stand in front of a new resource center, constructed in partnership by DSW and community leaders.*

