



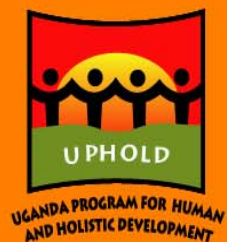
The Republic of Uganda

Strengthening School- Community Partnerships for Pupils' Quality Learning through School Open Days

Uganda's Experience

*50th CIES Conference, Hawaii - USA
March 2006*





Outline of Presentation



The Republic of Uganda

- UPHOLD Project
- School Open Day Pilot Districts
- UPHOLD's Integrated Education Strategy
- Community Involvement in Education (CIE)
- School Open days
- Models of School Open Days (SOPs)
- SOD experiences (Benefits, challenges, Lessons)
- Conclusions





UPHOLD Project



The Republic of Uganda

- Uganda Program for Human & Holistic Development (UPHOLD)
- 5 year USAID project in 33 districts;
- Works to achieve improved health, longer and more productive lives, through interventions in three integrated social sectors of health, HIV/AIDS and primary education
- Partners with the Uganda Government Line Ministries (MoH, MGLSD, MoLG), district local governments, Education system (MoES, PTCs, TDMS), CSOs (NGOs, CBOs, FBOs)



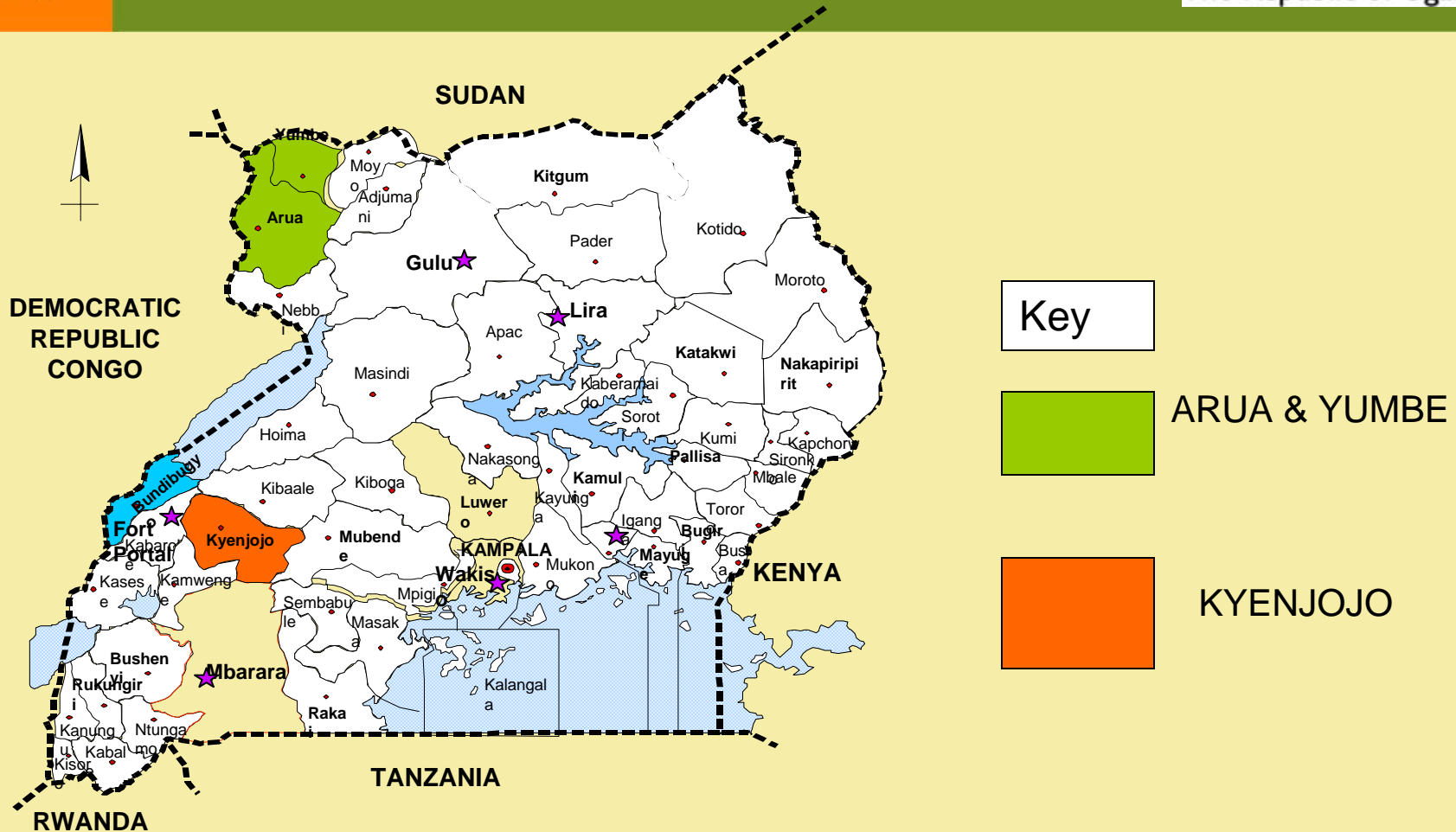


UGANDA PROGRAM FOR HUMAN AND HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

School Open Day Pilot Districts



The Republic of Uganda

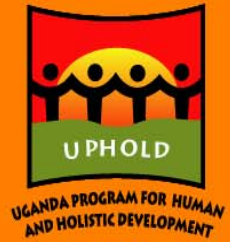


USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



WORLD EDUCATION

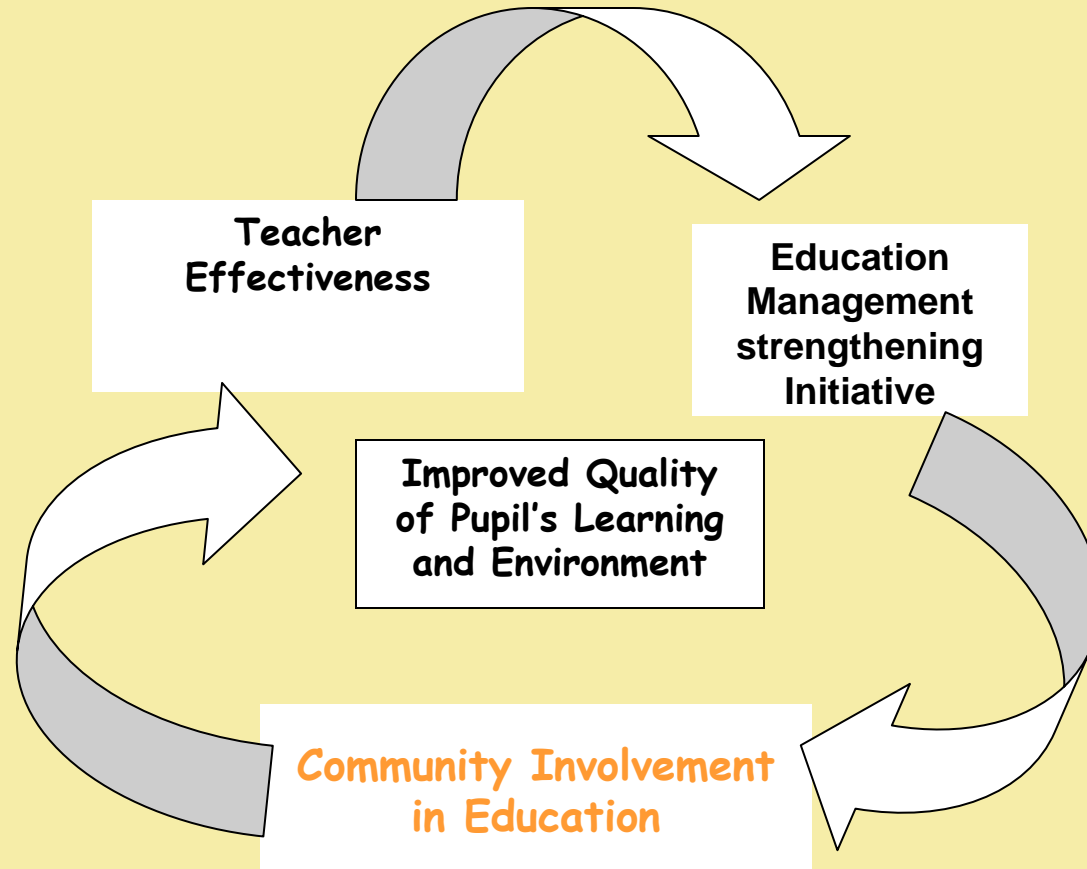


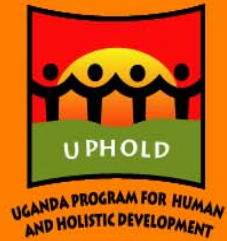


UPHOLD Education Strategy



The Republic of Uganda





(CIE) defined



Community Involvement in Education (CIE) defined

- An initiative to harness the collective efforts of parents, communities, education managers and teachers to improve the quality of learning for pupils in primary schools





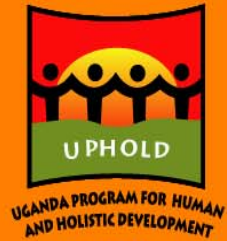
Key elements of CIE



The Republic of Uganda

- Encourages and Promotes parents' & communities' active participation in their children's learning through:
 - active participation in school open days
 - visiting schools to monitor hygiene and teaching/learning in the classroom
 - discussing pupils' performance with teachers
 - improving conditions at school
 - providing meals, materials





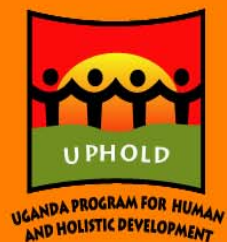
School Open Day (SOD) defined



The Republic of Uganda

- **An important opportunity for parents and communities to:**
 - observe what children are learning and doing in school
 - meet teachers to discuss children's learning
 - Monitor school environment, discuss and plan for improvements needed
- **An opportunity for teachers to:**
 - introduce parents to discuss pupils' performance and improved teaching strategies and content
 - undertake school-community assessments, plan and implement how to improve





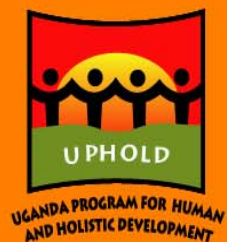
School Open Day Models



The Republic of Uganda

- **Two models were used :**
 - 1. District-wide (all schools) model**
 - Yumbe District
 - Single theme, same day
 - 2. Selected school model**
 - Arua & Kyenjojo Districts
 - Varied themes, staggered over several weeks





SOD Planning Process

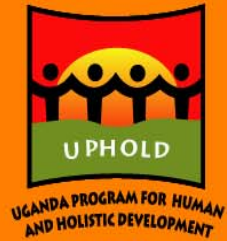


The Republic of Uganda

1. District-wide (all school) model

- small group of representatives of the key stakeholders at a general meeting decide:
 - The date & theme
 - Resource persons (e.g. guest speakers) and resources (e.g. video films and media coverage)
 - Radio talk shows
 - Roles of each group of stakeholders
 - Draft budgets





SOD Planning Process

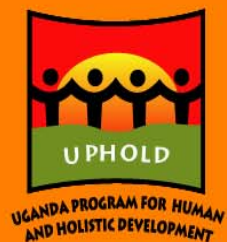


The Republic of Uganda

2. Selected school model

- Large group of representatives of the key stakeholders at a school-community action-oriented meeting decide:
 - The date & theme
 - Resource persons (e.g. guest speakers) and resources (e.g. video films and media coverage)
 - Radio talk shows
 - Roles of each group of stakeholders
 - Agree on simple realistic actions with or without monetary implications; draft budgets if need be.





School Open Days held



The Republic of Uganda

- 120 School Open Days were organized and successful held in Yumbe districts using District wide model
- 18 School Open Days were successful organized and conducted in Kyenjojo and Arua using the Selected school model
- 8,000 parents and key stakeholders participated

Activities carried out:

- displays, creative dances, plays, songs, poems on the theme of the school open day, games, sports, riddles and monitoring the school environment





Outcomes

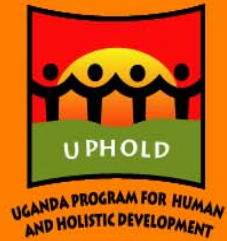


The Republic of Uganda

What parents thought about the School Open Day they attended:

- Clarified stakeholders' roles in school development. "Now I have understood that feeding children at school is my role as a parent" Parent, Orawa P/S
- Gave parents an opportunity to visit/monitor school hygiene, facilities and discuss pupils' performance. "I'll collect ashes and demonstrate to the pupils how to keep the latrines free of foul smell" Parent Volunteer
- Gave parents and teachers unity on matters of quality learning and discipline of pupils. "From the classroom observations, I have learnt that some pupils do not come to school everyday, even when they leave home, I will monitor my children to make sure they attend school everyday!" Parent
- Improved relationships between parents, leaders, teachers and children





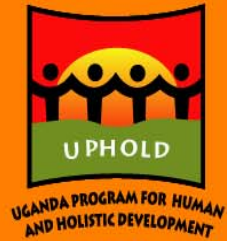
Outcomes cont'd



The Republic of Uganda

- **What teachers thought about the School Open Day they attended:**
- “I was happy to be given the opportunity to show accomplishments of the year with the children”
Teacher Orawa Primary school –Arua district
- “Helped parents understand teachers’ and pupils’ problems and find solutions, now parents understand the need to provide children with meals and books for writing” Teacher, Arua Hill P/S.





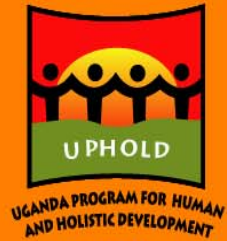
Outcomes, cont.



The Republic of Uganda

- Motivated parents to be part of the school
- Encouraged children's participation in school activities
- Gave pupils the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in public speaking
- Gave learners confidence and pride to demonstrate what they had learnt
- Offered a chance for everyone to share in rich cultural diversity and reinforced the concept of partnership to enhance pupils' quality learning





Outcomes, cont.



The Republic of Uganda

What children thought about the School Open Day:

- “I was happy to see my mum at school; she made me feel confident as I explained the display of my work” Child-Nyankwanzi Primary school-Kyenjojo
- “I wish parents come to school more often. They will see what we do with teachers, how we dance and teachers can tell parents about the behavior of the child”, Atizuyo Annet, P6, Arua Hill PS.





Lessons Learned

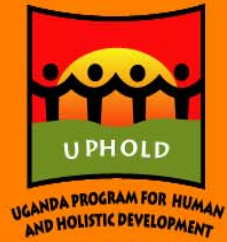


The Republic of Uganda

School Open Days:-

- Require careful planning and coordination between all school-community stakeholders
- Do not necessarily have financial implications on parents
- Can be done without food as long as it is focused and it is kept short and exciting!





Conclusion

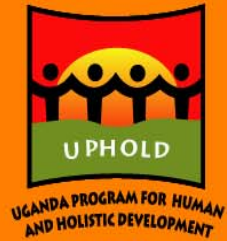


The Republic of Uganda

School Open Days:-

Requires good communication and coordination between parents and school communities promote school-community partnerships, it can be organized at least once a school year by communities and schools





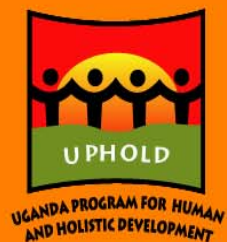
Way Forward



The Republic of Uganda

- MoES has requested UPHOLD to print 16,000 copies of the SOD Guidelines for use in all schools in Uganda
- Plans are underway to institutionalize it into the MoES school calendar





Authors of the presentation



The Republic of Uganda

- Rita Laura Lulua, Community Involvement in Education Advisor
- *Contributing Authors:*
 - Xavier Nsabagasani, Action Research Specialist
 - Lisa Sherburn, Behaviour Change Communication Specialist
 - Dorothy Aanyu, Senior Education Advisor
 - Samson Kironde, Deputy Chief of Party M&E
 - Elizabeth Jawoko, Teacher Effectiveness Advisor
 - Michael Cacich , Ag. Education Management Systems Advisor

