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Small-scale agriculture is by far the most important sector of the Ugandan economy, particularly in rural areas. However, members of the rural economy still rely almost entirely on their own labor – they collect water by hand, gather firewood by hand, dig by hand, and harvest by hand. Only five percent of the Ugandan population has regular access to electricity and about ninety percent of Uganda's total energy requirements are met using firewood and charcoal. Improved infrastructure and basic amenities could go a long way toward increasing overall community assets.

Keeping the communities physically healthy, encouraging resource sharing, and building micro-economic opportunities is critical to removing rural poverty traps. With HIV robbing Ugandan society of many of its productive members, rural communities are suffering without solution. The virus has built superstition and fear into rural cultures – a problem that can only be solved by resources and education.

FSD works with development organizations that not only educate communities about the realities of HIV/AIDS and STDs, but also provide counseling to those in need. By offering many types of vocational training and gathering places for members to share ideas, FSD puts interns and volunteers at the heart of communities to listen, learn, and deliver sustainable solutions.

### Internship/Volunteer opportunities in community development in Uganda include:

- Offer community development training to rural villages outside of Mbale in adult literacy, computer skills, HIV/AIDS control and awareness, immunization, orphan support, community volunteering, malaria control, and/or other pressing areas.
- Work at a vocational training center for community members. Support workshops in carpentry, construction, brick-making, business management skills, organic farming methods, conservation, or design your own.
- Improve an organization's ability to reach adolescent populations through outreach activities that incorporate subsidized HIV/AIDS testing and focus group discussions.
- Assist in community outreach with the goal of addressing social stigmas related to sexually transmitted diseases, voluntary testing, and counseling. Drama, music, and dance are common means used to educate and mobilize community members.
- Work at a community health center where home caregivers, relatives, and friends can gather to share experiences, offer each other emotional support, listen to music, learn income-generating skills, make arts and crafts, and watch educational skits. The center grew out of the need to support people with HIV/AIDS and the devastation it places on their families and the community at large.

For more opportunities in community development in Uganda, visit our website or contact us directly.