



Photo by openshutterproject.org

Since Uganda instated Universal Primary Education by removing primary school fees in 1996, enrollment has drastically increased. Unfortunately, many classrooms now have 200 students in one room with one teacher. Teachers are often forced to hold classes outside because of the lack of sufficient facilities and many observers are skeptical about the quality of the education. There is also a large discrepancy in the education received by girls and boys.

Since secondary schools in Uganda require fees for books and stationery, there is often a lack of educational opportunity for orphaned children. Whether the orphans are living alone or with relatives, there is a great chance that money for school fees will be unavailable. Although some financial aid exists for poor children, expenses remain an insurmountable hurdle for poor families who must already pay the opportunity cost of allowing their child to study rather than work. The result is that many children never receive secondary education and are therefore stuck in the poverty trap of basic labor.

FSD works with organizations that sponsor payment of school fees, ensure student health, and offer many forms of education to underserved youth. Interns and volunteers can spend their time supporting youth development in a wide variety of subjects and programs geared toward opening doors for children to grow out of the poverty traps that afflict their families.

Internship/Volunteer opportunities in youth and education in Uganda include:

- Teach classes and provide tutoring to students in arts, crafts, sciences, vocational skills, sustainable agriculture and farming techniques, environmental conservation, and computer skills. Develop school activities, such as sports programs and student clubs.
- Continue an FSD project that is building a vegetable garden for students to experientially learn organic gardening techniques.
- Visit young children in their homes and schools to offer remedial lessons. Support the organization's textbook library program (created by an FSD intern) for young students unable to acquire learning materials
- Assist with health education, mass immunization, blindness prevention, de-worming, and reproductive health programs and workshops for communities and local schools. Support home and school visits of child patients at local medical clinics to monitor and assess progress of treatments.
- Support the AIDS Challenge Youth Club – a program promoting youth peer counseling in local secondary schools.
- Assist a 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 of educating and mobilizing community members. Offer educational workshops about HIV/AIDS to rural communities and support the development and promotion of HIV/AIDS informational materials.

For more opportunities in youth and education in Uganda, visit our website or contact us directly.