



Komo Learning Centres

Annual Report 2017



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1. Highlights from 2017

Youth Centre

- We completed a 9-part video series for the USAID-funded YouthPower Learning Project. You can watch the entire series [HERE!](#)
- The Youth-Led Club Peer Health Educators conducted 70 trainings in 19 schools and directly reached out to over 800 young people.
- The Youth-Led Club Drama Team conducted over 25 health-related theater outreaches, directly providing more than 1,200 people with information on maternal and child health, cancer awareness, family planning, etc.
- We received a grant from an anonymous donor to take our youth-led approach into secondary schools with the new *Do It Yourself Clubs* (DIY). Implementation begins in 2018.

Sponsorship

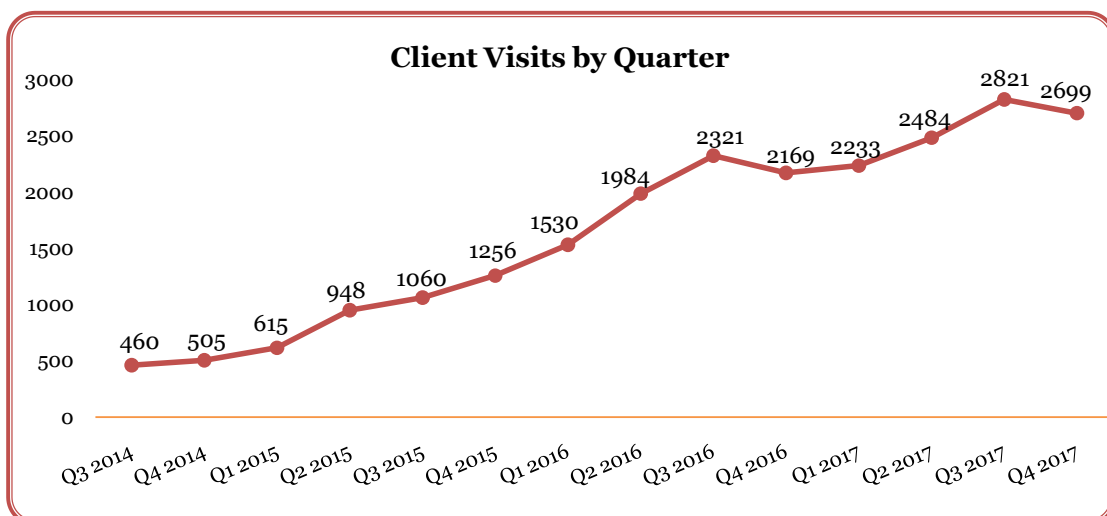
- We had 87 sponsored students and four graduations from university/vocational school.
- Our sponsorship alumni group has taken off, registering as a legal association and conducting several community service activities.

Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Apprenticeship Program (LEAP)

- Cohort 4 finished in 2017 with 744 graduates.
- Combined data from Cohorts 1-3 show 75% of LEAP participants with a job or business at graduation and a 50% reduction in unemployment.
- Followup data on Cohorts 1&2 show that several years after completion, 93.5% of LEAP graduates have a job or a business.
- Since LEAP began in 2014, we have graduated over 1,600 young people.

Health Centre and Outreaches

- In 2017 we had over 10,000 clinic visits and saw over 4,000 clients on outreaches.
- The laboratory performed 5,624 tests, including hematology, parasitology, and chemistry.
- New electrocardiogram (ECG), ultrasound, and cryotherapy machines improved our services.
- The Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA) Referral Program has increased the number of women utilizing our ante/postnatal services and accessing safe delivery.
- We more than doubled our revenue from 2016 (16,000 USD) to 2017 (38,000 USD). In 2018 we plan to increase revenues by over 30% to 50,000 USD.



2. Komo Learning Centres Youth-Led Club (YLC)

The Komo Learning Centres (KLC) Youth-Led Club (YLC) was launched in February 2016 to provide youth the opportunity to take an active role in their personal growth and the development of their communities. Through the YLC, we promote youth voice and decision making, demonstrating our organizational values of treating youth as partners rather than project “beneficiaries.” The YLC takes an innovative approach, supporting youth to identify specific projects they are interested in and believe will benefit their communities. Subsequently youth lead the design, implementation, and evaluation phases of these projects. KLC staff act as facilitators, but the youth are the drivers of YLC programming.

The overarching aims of the YLC are to: 1) empower young people through the process of meaningful youth engagement, 2) improve the social and economic situations of youth through YLC activities (e.g., entrepreneurship trainings, leadership opportunities, lifeskills, etc.), and 3) support the communities in which YLC members live through service projects. Thus far, YLC members have created three programming strands: peer health education (focusing on sexual and reproductive health), drama (focusing on health related theatre), and entrepreneurship (focusing on income generating activities).

Peer Health Education Program

During the YLC Peer Health Education (PHE) program provided 70 trainings in 19 schools, directly reaching out to over 800 young people. The KLC PHEs provided health education in areas of HIV/AIDS, STIs, family planning, nutrition, WASH, and sexuality, among others.

In 2017 15 new PHEs received a three-month health education package provided by KLC staff, Youth Mentors, and external facilitators. This training equipped them with knowledge of a variety of health topics, as well as skills in creative facilitation, communication, and health education.



Drama Group

The drama writes, casts, directs, and performs a variety of health-focused skits. They provide health education through theatre and often accompany our clinic team on outreaches. In 2017 they conducted over 25 theatre outreaches. In 2017 they directly provided over 1,200 people with information on maternal and child health, cancer awareness, family planning, etc. The clinical staff appreciates the work of the drama group, citing their strong messages and the entertaining nature of the skits as their recipe for success.

Entrepreneurship Program

Integrating the youth-led approach and livelihoods development has resulted in a dramatic rise in self-employment and entrepreneurship among club members. In 2017, the centre hosted numerous income generating activity (IGA) workshops. Topics included craft sandal making , bakery, chalk and detergent making, biogas, etc. In the YLC the youth are the ones who decide types of skills they want to learn. Thus, we partnered with a number of organizations (e.g., Sawa World, World Vision) that had the specific expertise in that IGAs requested by club members. During our annual YLC celebration, youth were able to exhibit some of their products, as well as teaching their trade to community members.

Romeo's Story

When Romeo graduated from high school in Kampala, he had dreams of being a social worker. However, with limited access to opportunities, he succumbed to the empty allure of gang life. In 2014, he decided to make a change, leaving Kampala to live in Mukono. One day he heard about the youth livelihood activities at KLC from some new friends. Although a bit sceptical, he decided to join.

Student Details

Name: Romeo Ssemambo

Age: 24

Village: Nama

Occupation: Club Chairperson

Quote

Whenever I go back to Kampala, people have a lot respect for me. They say, I speak differently and carry myself with a lot of confidence. They say "wow that guy has really changed his life!" I like that I am an example to my peers and I try to reach out to others doing what I used to do so that they can change their lives.



Currently he is the official Komo Youth Volunteer and the Chairperson of the Youth-Led club. Romeo has transformed his life, becoming a Peer Health Educator and a leader in his community.

Romeo has big dreams, many of which involve working with vulnerable youth who are going down the path he once walked. He hopes to one day to own an agribusiness company and start an orphanage. He is still pursuing his dream of being a musician and helped compose the KLC Anthem with other talented YLC members. You can listen to the KLC song [HERE!](#)

He has started a youth club in his community called Kito where he utilizing the skills he learned in the YLC.

Youth-Led Club Events

International Youth Day

In celebration of International Youth Day, the YLC organized a community service event geared towards giving back to the community. Club members participated in cleaning up trading centres, schools, and a community based health centre. The climax of the event was a football match between the female and male members of the club. The game aimed to challenge the negative gender norms that deter young women from participating in traditionally male activities.

World AIDS Day Event

Youth Led Club members with support from Peace Corps Uganda and KLC organized the World AIDS Day event in Katogo. This exciting event was dubbed Tusitukirewamu, which literally means “Let’s rise together to fight HIV/AIDS.” The event aimed to prevent new infections and reduce HIV/AIDS-related stigma in the community. The drama group and the Peer Health Educators reached out to young people, providing HIV education and answering their most pressing questions. Over 200 people tested for HIV, and a total of 2,500 condoms were distributed among the community. Young people reported learning skills and changing some of their attitudes. The entrepreneurship group also provided workshops on book and soap making, rounding out this holistic approach to reducing HIV transmission.



Youth-Led Club Video Project

In July 2016 KLC received a grant from the USAID-funded YouthPower Learning Project to develop a nine-part video series documenting the club’s successes, challenges, and lessons learned. We wanted the videos to truly represent the realities of the club and also be a resource for would-be implementers.

The nine episodes include: **1)** YLC concept, impacts, and expectations; **2)** Recruitment and club structure; **3)** Community needs assessment, activity prioritization, and decision making; **4)** Capacity building through trainings and workshops; **5)** Activity planning and design; **6)** Activity implementation; **7)** Gender issues; **8)** Major challenges and lessons learned; and **9)** The process of making the video series.

Please check out the whole series [HERE!](#)

Computer Lab

We offer classes under the CCA course (Certificate in Computer Application skills) to youths from Nama community, sponsored students, the Youth Led Club Members, and LEAP members.

Thirty two students graduated from our computer classes in 2017. The curriculum is based on the Microsoft Office suite and consists of Introduction to Computers, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Access, Desktop Publishing, and Internet Browsing. Graduates were awarded certificates of completion at an event that took place on 16 December 2017 in Lukojjo.

3. Do It Yourself Clubs

KLC recently received a grant from an anonymous donor to take our youth-led approach into secondary schools. We are calling the school-based version: “Do It Yourself Clubs” (DIY Clubs). In keeping with our youth-led approach, specific DIY club activities will be determined by the club members themselves, in consultation with KLC staff and Youth Mentors.

As the DIY clubs are launched in various schools, their first tasks will be to conduct needs assessments, prioritize activities, and set up Similar Interest Groups (e.g., peer health education, entrepreneurship, etc.). The DIY program will follow a similar structure as our current YLC, providing members with a holistic set of foundational trainings that include lifeskills, health education (e.g., HIV, family planning, WASH), facilitation, research, and program planning, implementation, evaluation.

After participating in these initial training, the DIY members will take the lead, facilitating various workshops for their fellow students and in the community at large. This is the key component of the program – learning through the participatory process itself. From needs assessments in their schools and communities, to planning and implementation, these secondary students will be involved in meaningful ways.

Implementation and Learning Outcomes

Long-Term Goals

1. To see youth in secondary schools thriving academically, economically, and socially in an environment where their contributions and participation are highly valued.
2. To contribute to the evidence base around the potential for effective after-school programming to improve individual student outcomes and create a positive enabling environment in schools.

Short-Term Outcomes

The short-term outcomes within the grant period are focused on implementation and learning.

Implementation

- 1.1. Improved academic performance, communication skills, facilitation skills, health attitudes, self-efficacy, and self-image of DIY club members.
- 1.2. Improved enabling environment, assessed through the perspectives of students and teachers/administrators on the value of youth participation.

Learning

- 2.1. Improved understanding (and evidence) of program outcomes.
- 2.2. Strengthen programming through real-time learning and feedback.

Cohort 1 (Pilot)

In 2017 we interviewed several schools in order to find the best match for the program. We chose Mt. St. Henry’s High School, Wellstar Bright Secondary School, and Kisowera Secondary School as our three pilot institutions. We have had several meetings with teacher and student champions at each school and will start full implementation during the first term in February 2018.

4. Sponsorship Program



Sponsored Students

- One primary school student.
- 48 secondary school students
- 18 university students studying medicine, journalism & mass communication, and others.
- 20 vocational students engaged in Engineering, Catering, Plumbing and agriculture.

Academics

In 2017 we had 27 students in candidate classes. Out of these, 20 completed Senior 4 and seven completed Senior 6. Our students performed very well this year, with some being at the top of their class. In 2016 we instituted practices (e.g., tutoring, promotional cut-off points, career guidance workshops, etc.) that improved academic performance in 2017. Several students, including Stella Nakagwa and Patrick Kamy, received bursaries to reduce the cost of their school fees.

In 2016, KLC had six students graduate with certificates and degrees from different universities and vocational institutions.

- Nanteza Solome graduated with a diploma in procurements and logistics management from Uganda Christian University.
- Kikoye Patrick graduated with a certificate in motor vehicle mechanics from YMCA Mukono.
- Basilika Sharon graduated with a diploma in journalism from YMCA Kampala.
- Ntege Godfrey graduated with a certificate in motor vehicle technology from Buganda Royal Institute.

Highlighted Student

Nanteza Solome graduated with a diploma in Procurement and Logistics Management from Uganda Christian University. She is passionate about sharing the skills and knowledge acquired from school, career guidance workshops, and counselling sessions with youth in her community.

Solome said her dream is “to support and offer a helping hand to the needy as a way of giving back to my community and appreciating the work done by KLC.” She is currently volunteering while looking for a job.



Outside of School

While we do provide financial support for school fees, exams, transport, requirements and supplies, internships, and accommodation, our Sponsorship Team does not stop there... We also visits students at home and at school, helps build student capacity, engages parents, provides counselling, educate about sexual and reproductive health, and offer career guidance.

Home Visits

Our Sponsorship Manager visits each sponsored student at his/her home during the January holidays. This is done each year to build relationships with the students and their families, and to continually assess their living situations. Our Sponsorship Manager, Samalie Namuyomba says, "When students are visited at home, they feel part and close to the organization, therefore these home visits create a bond between students, parents, and KLC."



Parents Meetings

Meeting with parents is one of the most critical parts of the sponsorship program. It is a place in which parents of sponsored students can share ideas, provide critical insights to improve programming, and voice problems and concerns about the program, the school, or their own children.

Career Guidance Workshops

We organize an annual workshop with Senior 4 and Senior 6 students who are on vacation to assist them in determining the next step in their academic careers. Our specialized facilitators take into account their grades, interests, experience, and academic track (e.g., sciences) to help them chart the most appropriate path. In 2017 the theme was "how to live a purpose-driven life."

Alumni Program

Almost 30 students have graduated from the KLS sponsorship program! Over the years sponsorship students have become a tight-knit group and they decided not to let graduation stand in the way of continued friendship and community service.

The KLC alumni group has official registered as an organization and is setting its sights on setting up a savings and loans group and implementing community service activities, such as cleaning schools, providing career and academic guidance, tutoring, and working with our clinic.



Below are some of the achievements of the alumni association in 2017:

- About two thirds of the total number of graduates have joined the association. This was accomplished through a through the creation and active use of a Whatsapp group, and numerous committee meetings.
- The association was registered and has obtained the legal status.
- The association opened up a bank account in its names with United Bank of Africa (UBA) for proper financial management.
- The association has started their "self-enriching campaign" in which members provide or connect sponsored students/alumni with employment. In 2017 Mwebe Ronald was provided a job by Jjuuko Willy, and Tumusime Joseph was employed by Sendagala Stephen in his stationery business
- The association helped to register the slowly growing furniture business of Nsamba Shafik.

5. Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Apprenticeship Program

The Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Apprenticeship Program (LEAP) was designed and implemented by Komo Learning Centres, Uganda (KLC) in partnership with Mentor, Coach, Empower (MCE).

LEAP is a 12-month program that serves out-of-school youth between 15 and 25, most of whom do not have a job or business. The LEAP experience is designed to equip these youth with marketable skills they can use to start their own businesses or find gainful employment. LEAP is an



innovative, interactive, and engaging initiative. While the first six months are focused on classroom learning, each different module has a demonstrated practical application and real-world task associated with it that participants must complete in order to receive credit. Modules fall into three categories: Life skills (e.g. leadership, team work, and interpersonal communication), Entrepreneurship skills and Employability skills (e.g. professionalism, job searching). Also in the first half of the program, we teach income generating activity skills, such as soap making, sandal-making, chalk making.

LEAP provides

- Leadership skills development
- Entrepreneurship skills development
- Practical experience through apprenticeships
- Post program support, including mentorship, financing, and market linkages

LEAP aims to increase

- Small business creation
- Employment
- Income
- Leadership and community participation

LEAP Cohorts

We have completed four LEAP Cohorts since launching the program in 2014. We have just completed Cohort 4 with 744 graduates. We are now analyzing Cohort 4 endline data and will start Cohort 5 in March 2018. We have seen positive outcomes, as evidenced by data from Cohorts 1-3. The data show 75% of LEAP participants having an economic opportunity (job, business, or paid internship) at graduation and a 50% reduction in unemployment among graduates. Interestingly economic opportunity rates increased with time after graduation. We randomly selected and surveyed 20% of youth from Cohort 1 and 2 and an average of 93.5% had an economic opportunity. This is very promising, as it suggests that LEAP is having a long-term effect on participants. To date, we have graduated over 1,600 young people from the program!

LEAP Cohort 3

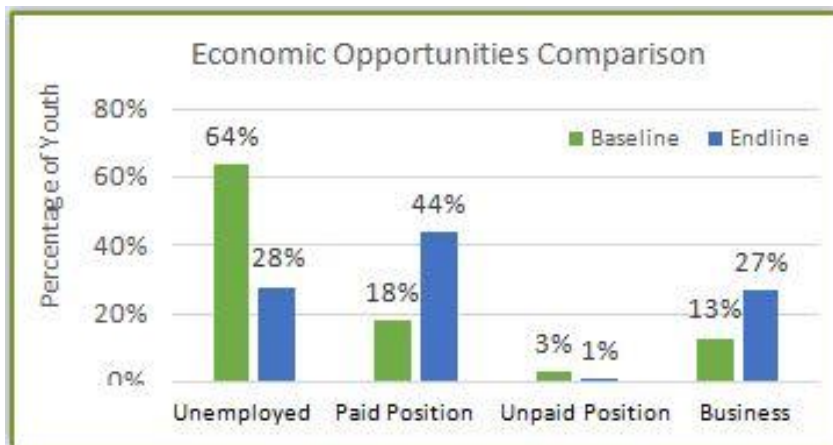
LEAP Cohort 3 (the most recent available outcome data) began in May 2016 and ended in April 2017. Some basic facts about the cohort include:

- Enrolled: 626
- Completed: 493
- Completion rate: 78.8%
- Average age: 22 years

We conducted a baseline survey upon LEAP enrollment and an endline at the conclusion of the program. We asked questions about topics including: employment status, business ownership, income, and civic participation. In addition, we conducted a small observational study on lifeskills using the Pearson and Taylor lifeskills assessment tool. In this report we share results of data collected from the 493 LEAP participants who completed the program. After participating in LEAP, 71% of graduates reported having an economic opportunity¹. Other highlights include:

- 40% increase in those who had an economic opportunity.
- 30% increase in those earning a monthly income.
- 21% increase in those earning above 115,000 UGX² per month.
- 53% increase in those saving money.
- 16% increase in those who had electricity.
- 13% increase in those who owned a telephone.
- 13% reduction in the disparity between female and male participants earning no money.

Economic Opportunities at Baseline and Endline – Cohort 3



¹ Any activity or venture from which young people derive income as an economic opportunity, including self-employment or business ownership, paid internships, full and part-time employment, and seasonal employment.

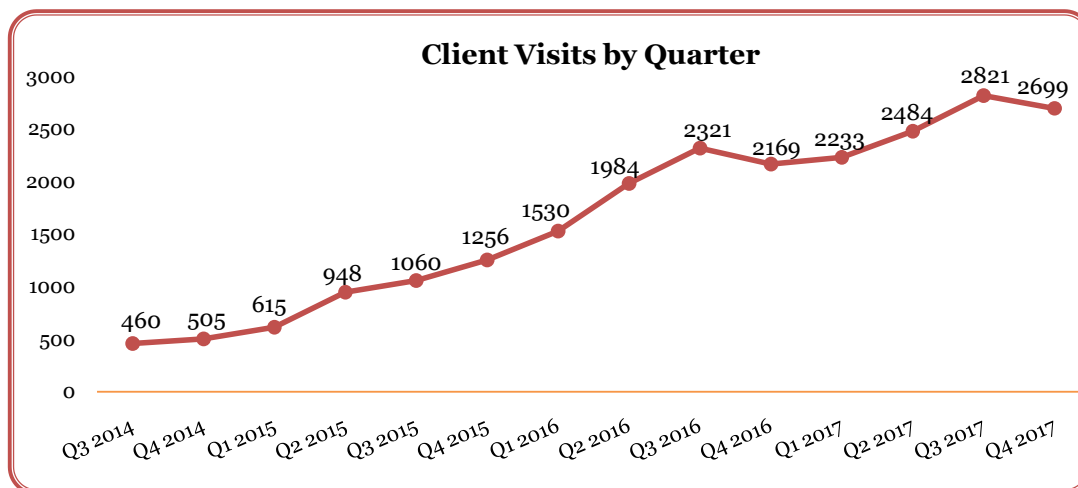
² 1 USD equals approximately 3,500 UGX

6. Nama Wellness Community Centre Clinic

The Nama Wellness Community Centre (NAWEC) is a not-for-profit health centre that was established in June 2014 to address the health needs in Mukono District, Uganda. NAWEC aims to complement the existing medical services by providing quality, affordable healthcare and education.

Client Flow

Since we began in June 2014, we have seen a trend of steady growth in patient numbers. We attribute this growth to our quality services, affordable prices, professionalism of staff, aggressive marketing, and building of trust with community members. In 2017 we had over 10,000 patient visits!



Laboratory

Our high-quality laboratory upheld its vision of “key to diagnostic excellence,” which has clearly distinguished us from other medical facilities in the area. In 2017, the laboratory performed 5,624 tests, which included hematology, parasitology, serology, microbiology, and clinical chemistry tests.

New Services

We started several new services/programs in 2017 including:

- Electrocardiogram (ECG), ultrasound, and cryotherapy, which have allowed us to better serve our clients.
- Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA) referral program, which has increased the number of women utilizing our ante/postnatal services and accessing safe delivery.
- Nutrition assessment and supplement provision, which have improved the health and well-being of low-income children in the community.
- Hepatitis B vaccinations on a large scale (2,116 since September) in schools, factories and churches, which provide a key service to the community and increases revenue.

Sustainability and Revenue

We have been working hard to reduce our reliance on grants by bringing in additional revenue, while still keeping our core service prices low. Through hepatitis B vaccination, promotional activities, and increased efficiency, we more than doubled our revenue from 2016 (16,000 USD) to 2017 (38,000 USD). In 2018 we plan to increase revenue by over 30% to 50,000 USD.

Diagnoses

Out of the 10,237 clinic visits, NAWEC documented 6,056 diagnoses this year. Out of this number, malaria, cough and cold (no pneumonia), dental carries, and gastro intestinal disorders registered as the top diagnoses. The top diagnoses are detailed in the chart below. NAWEC submits these numbers monthly to the District Health Office for disease tracking.

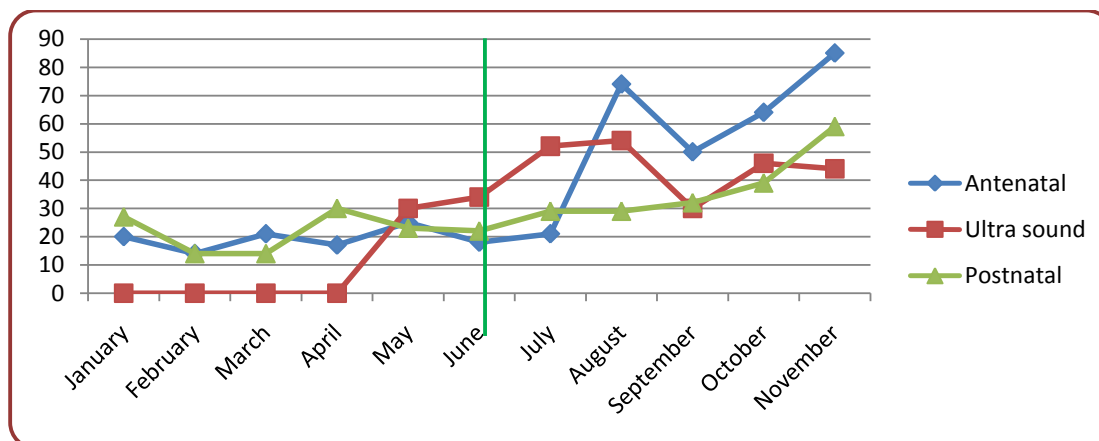
TOP DIAGNOSES IN 2017		
Rank	MOH Diagnostic Category	Cases
1	Malaria (microscopic and RDT)	577
2	Cough or cold	546
3	Dental caries	412
4	Gastro-intestinal disorders	411
5	Urinary tract infections	340
6	Skin diseases	282
7	Hypertension	234
8	ENT conditions	123

Services

TOP SERVICES IN 2017		
Rank	Service	Client Visits
1	Consultations	9797
2	Pharmacy	5126
3	Lab	3661
4	Immune/Vacc	1374
5	HIV Testing/Counseling	785
6	Dental	517
7	Antenatal	462
8	Family Planning	451
9	Postnatal	364
10	Ultrasound	314

A very important initiative that we started in 2017 was the Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA) Referral Program, and the associated Delivery Subsidies Program. These two programs appear to have had a catalyzing effect on our ability to serve pregnant women in the community. While we have offered maternal and child health services for years, the TBA referral program has reduced the barriers to quality antenatal care and safe delivery. The table below shows the marked increase in antenatal, postnatal, and ultrasound services in 2017, particularly since the TBA program got off the ground (see green line in graph below). Note that we have not included December, as it is consistently a very slow month for all clinical services.

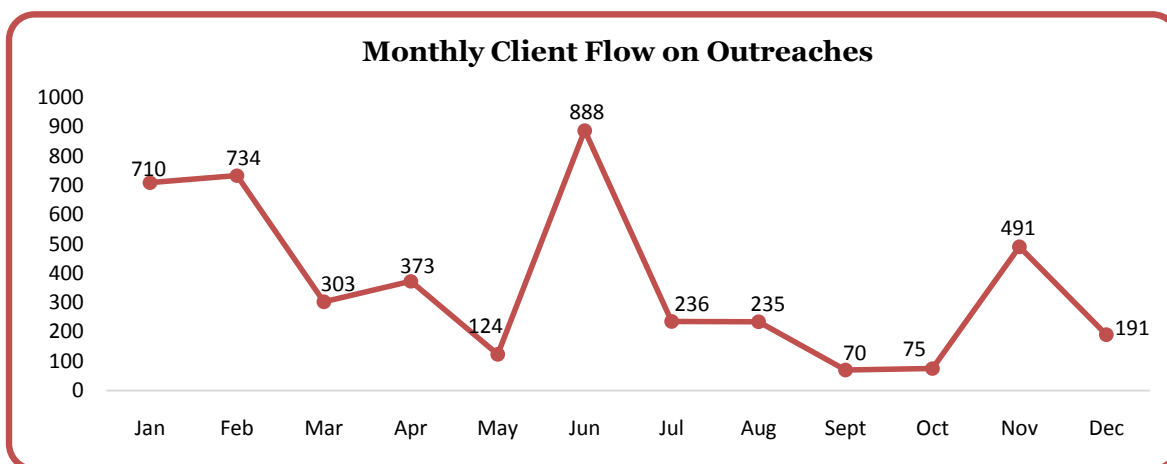
Increase in Selected Clinic MCH Services since Launch of TBA Program



7. Health Outreach Program

Outreach Clients

This year we carried out 60 comprehensive outreaches, registering 4,430 client visits in 39 villages across Mukono District. With our hepatitis B vaccination drive, we reached out to 15 factories, schools and churches in which 2,116 clients were vaccinated. Large monthly fluctuations in outreach numbers are due to the demographics of target villages, special events we do in the community on specific months, and nature of the outreaches we perform each month. The chart below shows the 2017 outreach client flow.



Outreach Services

Paediatric deworming was the most accessed service on outreaches, with a total of 3,268 clients. This was followed by blood pressure screening, HCT, family planning consultation, condom distribution, vaccination/immunization, and cervical cancer screening. The table below shows the number of services provided per quarter.

Qtr.	BP	HCT	FP	Condom	Vacc.	Cervical Screen	Deworm
Q1	506	451	232	174	00	52	1,212
Q2	598	660	87	73	143	16	621
Q3	271	283	116	100	5	42	383
Q4	472	311	287	127	47	64	1,052

8. Plans for 2018

Youth Programs

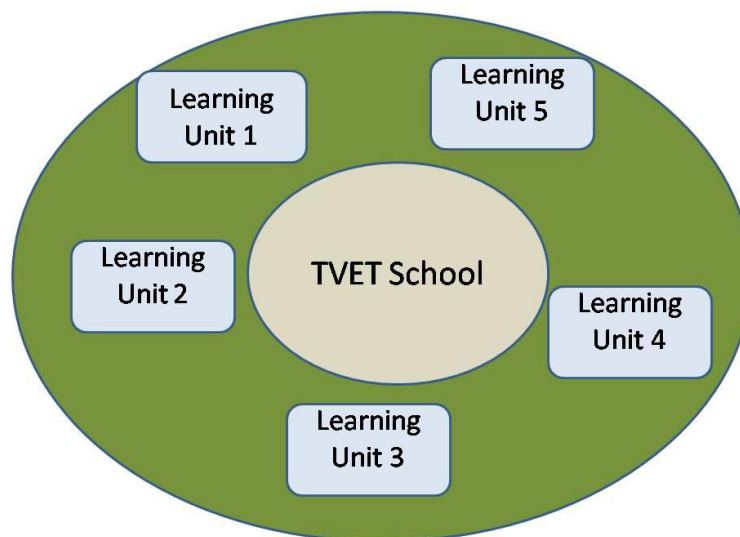
In 2018 our big push will be the DIY project. A major component of the project is learning, so we are working hard to develop the M&E tools and methodology that will allow us to acquire valuable knowledge about the schools and communities in which we are working, understand the most promising implementation strategies, and identify positive short-term outcomes. In the long term we hope that the DIY Clubs will shift the power dynamic in Ugandan schools by encouraging a greater respect for meaningful youth participation and facilitating an environment in which collaboration, critical thinking, and questioning are the new norm.

We will also start providing small, low-interest loans to members of the Youth-Led Club entrepreneurship group. For their first project, club participants will embark on a craft sandal making venture. KLC will supply the young entrepreneurs with a loan to cover the initial costs of the project, offer business skills trainings, and provide financial management support. Club members will produce, market, and sell the sandals, returning the loan to KLC within six months.

LEAP

Encouraged by the positive statistics, we plan to start scaling LEAP throughout Uganda. Our pilot expansion happened in 2017 with a move into four sites in the Kampala slums. We plan to start aggressively scaling in 2018 through what we call the “Boma approach.” In 2018 we plan to double the number of graduates we had in 2017 (750 to 1,500 graduates).

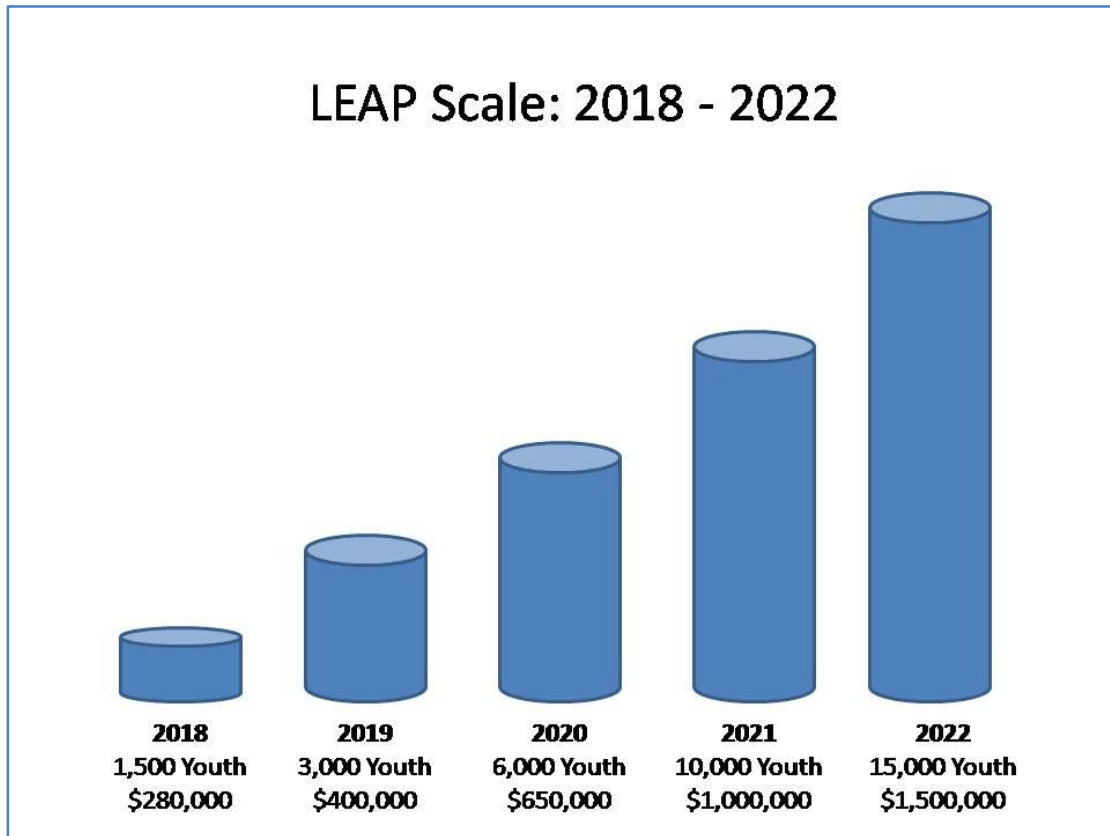
The Boma Scale Approach



This approach, we will take advantage of work we do with formal technical and vocation education and training (TVET) schools throughout the country. Each TVET in which we provide entrepreneurship and lifeskills training will be in the centre of the Boma and act as the operations hub in each region. In the areas around the TVET schools we will set up LEAP learning units for out-of-school youth. Thus, we will be able to leverage the staff, equipment, and technical expertise housed in the TVET schools for maximum impact and efficiency. In addition, this approach will provide us with an

“in” to remote communities and connect out-of-school youth to the TVET schools should they have interest in continued vocation education.

This is a critical year for LEAP. With significant increases in program size and geography, we will take the first step on the path to positioning LEAP as an intervention capable of having national impact. This is the year that we will collect data critical to showing donors that our Boma scaling approach is viable and has the potential to be scaled further. Our goal is to reach graduate 15,000 out-of-school youth from our program annually by 2022.



NAWEC

We will continue to increase and improve NAWEC services, especially those related to maternal and child health. As we have the only functioning cryotherapy machine (used to treat pre-cancerous cervical lesions) in the area, we will start developing agreements with other health centres that conduct cervical cancer screening, but do not have the cryotherapy technology.

We will continue to expand our outreaches in the community, especially our TBA and DSP programs that promote better ante/postnatal care and safe deliveries.

We will continue to develop our outreach vaccination program. Currently we provide hepatitis vaccination to schools and factories in the area at a competitive cost. This provides an important service to the community, while also bringing in substantial revenue. Thus, we can keep our core services inexpensive (e.g., consultation is under \$1), while also improving our sustainability profile. We are looking at adding other vaccinations, such as yellow fever, that may bring in additional revenue to support clinic services.

Through hepatitis B vaccination, promotional activities, and increased efficiency, we more than doubled our revenue from 2016 (16,000 USD) to 2017 (38,000 USD). In 2018 we plan to increase revenues by over 30% to 50,000 USD.

9. Our Donors and Partners

Segal Family Foundation 

