



Introduction: In Uganda 57.7 % of blindness is caused by cataracts while uncorrected refractive errors are the commonest cause of visual impairment. Reports at the Ministry of Health headquarters indicate that in Uganda over 400,000 people are blind and another 1 million have visual impairment. A visual impairment can cause disability by significantly interfering with one's ability to function independently, to perform activities of daily living, and or to travel safely through the environment and our organization is battling to address preventable blindness.

According to national census of 2014 Namisindwa (26%) and Otuke (25%) districts had very high disability prevalence rates while Kampala and Butambala recorded the lowest prevalence rates of below seven percent. The disability involved visual, hearing, walking and remembrance. Therefore there is need for more collaboration and partnership with **GAF Eye Health Foundation** for the better eye care service delivery in marginalized communities like Namisindwa district.

Overview of the project: The general objective of this project was to reduce blindness or visual impairments, due to preventable and treatable causes in targeted remote communities in Bugisu sub-region Uganda Africa with support from World Council of Optometry grant through the World Optometry Foundation. The initiative was led by Optometrist Weboya Jerry of Gaf Eye Health Foundation as the implementer.

Major achievements: Eye health camps both in community and in schools were held, Radio talk show about the roles of an optometrist, Eye health education, Purchase of equipments for sustainability of vision for all project

Impact and outcomes: Attained a data-based advocacy for the urgent need for recruitment of the optometrists at the district and referral hospital which has not been done, Created awareness among the public about the roles of optometrists in eye care delivery system, Educated masses about eye health services and need to have a regular eye check-up in order to prevent blindness

Future prospects: Need for further capacity building in form of training community health workers to strengthen referral system of the patients, Next projects to focus on attaining more equipment for diagnosing eye diseases