

Knowledge is virtue  
↓  
- Act of knowing  
- enlightens men!  
moral disposition  
Wise  
Law

# EMPOWERMENT AT HOME

The DAAD In-Country Programme in Uganda

<b>EMPOWERMENT AT HOME</b>	<b>1</b>
Editorial	1
The millennium goals in action	2
Three questions for Francis K. Butagira	5
<b>MAKERERE UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>6</b>
It all started with a cool nun	8
Opening the way to world markets	10
Upgrading and marketing traditional medicinal plants	12
Holistic health research	15
Education instead of civil war	18
Three questions for Silver Mugisha	19
<b>MBARARA UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>20</b>
For a university of the future	22
Three questions for Grace Rugunda	23
»I know I have a job to do here«	24
<b>GULU UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>26</b>
No easy place to be	28
Three questions for Nyeko Pen-Mogi	31
Coping with trauma	32

**IMPRESSUM**

**Published by**  
 German Academic Exchange Service  
 Kennedyallee 50, D-53175 Bonn  
 www.daad.de

**Project coordination**  
 Cay Etzold  
 Heide Albertin  
 Gabriele Parmentier  
 Section 413 Eastern and Southern Africa

**Content and editing**  
 Dr. Isabell Lisberg-Haag, Trio MedienService, Bonn  
 www.trio-medien.de  
 Heide Albertin, Gabriele Parmentier, DAAD

**Authors**  
 Dr. Isabell Lisberg-Haag, Mirco Lomoth

**Translation**  
 Dr. Lynda Lich-Knight, ResearchComm Ltd., Canterbury  
 www.researchcomm.eu

**Photo credits**  
 Page 5: Eric Lichtenscheidt,  
 all other photos: Mirco Lomoth

**Artistic design and layout**  
 Stefanie Naumann,  
 Designbüro Lübbecke Naumann Thoben, Cologne,  
 www.LNT-design.de

**Printing**  
 Brandt GmbH, Bonn  
 March 2012 – Print run: 2.500 | Printed in Germany  
 © DAAD

FUNDED BY

**BMZ**  Federal Ministry  
 for Economic Cooperation  
 and Development



*»Local knowledge is key to the process  
 of recovery and reconciliation.«*

clothing from foreign organisations and experienced their parents' helplessness and, often, alcoholism. That's the basis for the rest of their lives," says Benjamin Alipanga. This "lost generation" has to get a grip on their own lives and deal with the former LRA perpetrators – an insurmountable task. Benjamin Alipanga: "Traumas are passed on from one generation to another. Strictly, everyone here in the north should receive care and treatment."

 [www.children-for-tomorrow.de](http://www.children-for-tomorrow.de)  
 [www.centreforchildren.be](http://www.centreforchildren.be)

**Clinical psychologist Benjamin Alipanga (44) works with trauma patients in northern Uganda. A DAAD In-Country Scholarship helped him to complete his Master's degree at Makerere University in Kampala. He is currently working on a doctorate, supported by Belgian Technical Cooperation in Ghent and Kampala, on the impact of experiencing violence in youth on the process of reconciliation after civil war. He is setting up a trauma clinic in Gulu on behalf of the "Children for Tomorrow" Foundation and trains multipliers in the villages.**

# EDITORIAL

## The DAAD In-Country Programme

### Dear readers

Simon Anguma is a physicist, the very first in his country to examine the potential of solar energy in Uganda. Geoffrey Bakunda lectures in economics at the largest university in the country. As a government advisor he campaigns to transform economic insights into practical policies, policies which would benefit the whole of society. Beatrice Odongkara, a successful scientist and dedicated paediatrician, has founded an aid organisation to ease the plight of AIDS orphans and give former child soldiers a new perspective on life.

Simon Anguma, the oldest of eight children, was obliged to provide for his family. After studying in India, Geoffrey Bakunda saw himself as a manager in a multi-national. Beatrice Odongkara and her family only just managed to flee the violence of the civil war. But however different the backgrounds and paths in life of these three former DAAD scholarship-holders may be, they are all united by the decision to take responsibility, by the will to drive change and by the aim of using their good education to promote their country.

Since the beginning of the 1960s, the DAAD has funded outstanding young academics from developing countries who want to complete a Master's or doctoral degree in their own country or region. The programme is financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). In 1968, the first scholarship was awarded in Uganda. Since then, the numbers have increased steadily. With more than 1,000 scholarship-holders every year, the DAAD now helps to address issues like the shortage of university teachers and to stem the brain drain.

The people showcased in this brochure prove that it is worth investing in bright minds and that it is worth promoting and developing good centres of education like Makerere University in Uganda's capital, Kampala. Can photovoltaic cells cope with the local climate? Can micro-credits really lead the way out of poverty in Uganda, too? This kind of question can best be answered in the country itself, particularly when young academics are given the opportunity and the means to acquire qualifications, to share their knowledge and to make contacts both regionally and internationally.

For many, access to higher education is still impossible. And yet it is precisely this that changes societies and institutions: well-trained individuals can take responsibility for their own lives and the development of their country. This is one of the reasons why the DAAD believes it has a duty to continue expanding its engagement in developing countries.

There is no such thing as a straightforward CV in Africa – this is true of Uganda, too. But as you can see for yourself, these are impressive people we are presenting in this brochure – people who deserve our respect and from whom we have much to learn.

We hope you will find this inspiring!



Dr. Helmut Blumbach  
Head of Department Southern Hemisphere, DAAD

# THE MILLENNIUM GOALS IN ACTION

## The DAAD In-Country / In-Region Programme

The world is growing closer together – with all the positive and negative results this implies. With globalisation, at the latest, came the realisation that the traditional models of development aid are no longer effective. What are needed are long-term strategies for cooperating with local people, because they are the only ones who can drive the development of their country and region.

Since the 1960s, the DAAD has awarded scholarships within countries, financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development: graduates receive funding to complete a Master's degree or a doctorate in their own country or in another country in the region. These In-Country Scholarships can look back on a long tradition during which they have yielded substantial returns.

The chequered history of Africa over more than 40 years has not changed the objectives of the programme: to provide young men and women with access to practice-related higher education so that they can make their own contribution to the need-based development of their country and its universities.

Nowadays, many alumni hold key positions in their country's political, economic and social sectors, while also working as lecturers and researchers at their universities and, at the same time, channeling their specialist knowledge into the structural development of their countries in such important fields as education, health and nutrition.

The various facets of the programme idea

- to promote higher education and science
- to train specialists in their own countries
- to build and develop, in particular, the education and health systems and make agriculture competitive
- to promote women

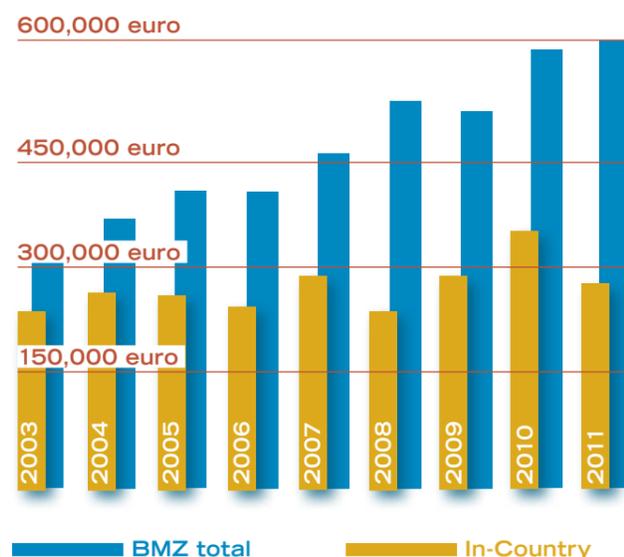
are just as relevant as ever, indeed, have actually gained significance against the backdrop of the UN's Millennium Goals.

### Uganda

Together with Ethiopia, Tanzania and Kenya, Uganda was one of the first African countries in which the DAAD offered In-Country Scholarships. In 1968, the first seven scholarships were awarded, ten years later, the figure was almost 100. Since the DAAD started to collect systematic data in the early 1990s, 500 scholarships have been registered. For many years, Master's degrees and doctorates were only taken at Makerere University in Kampala, unless students went to neighbouring countries or to South Africa. At the start of the millennium, Mbarara University in southwestern Uganda became a new addition. And, as a result of the demonstrable political stabilisation of Uganda in the last few years, a number of new state universities such as Gulu, Busitema, Kyambogo and Muni have been founded; their students also apply for scholarships

### BMZ funding for Uganda 2003–2011

Thanks to BMZ funding, the DAAD has increased its engagement in development policy over the years. In addition to the In-Country / In-Region Scholarship Programme, there are numerous opportunities for alumni, and support is also available for university partnerships and university development. In 2011, a continuing education programme was introduced for post-docs.



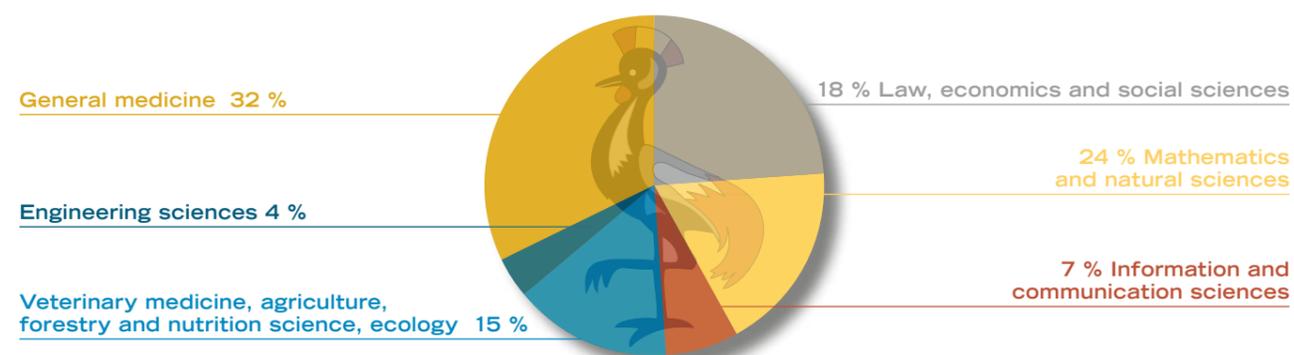
### Application statistics

Since 2006, over 800 students in Uganda have applied for an In-Country Scholarship and more than 160 of them have been accepted (34 PhD scholarships and 133 Master's). During the same period, some 100 scholarship-holders successfully completed their training.

### Funding provided by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development 2003-2011:

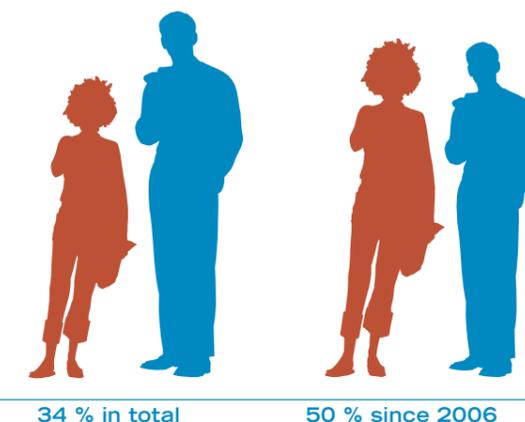
Uganda total: 4.1 million euro  
In-Country/In-Region Programme 2.4 million euro

### Distribution of 500 scholarship holders according to subject 1990-2010



### Proportion of women receiving funding

For women, the In-Country Scholarship Programme is a special opportunity to acquire a university education in their own country. Women account for 34 percent of those funded (since 2006, 50 percent).



### Selection

In order to cope with the vast number of applications, since 2003, a pre-selection has been conducted by representatives of Uganda's state universities, alumni, and a representative of the German Embassy and the DAAD respectively. DAAD headquarters in Bonn organise the final selection round. Every year, up to 25 scholarships are awarded.

### Funding

The scholarship is composed of a monthly amount for living expenses, reimbursement of academic and administrative fees, an allowance for study and research and a final allowance, e.g. for printing costs. The scholarship also includes the option of a research visit to Germany lasting from one to six months. Scholarships are awarded in all subjects of relevance to development.

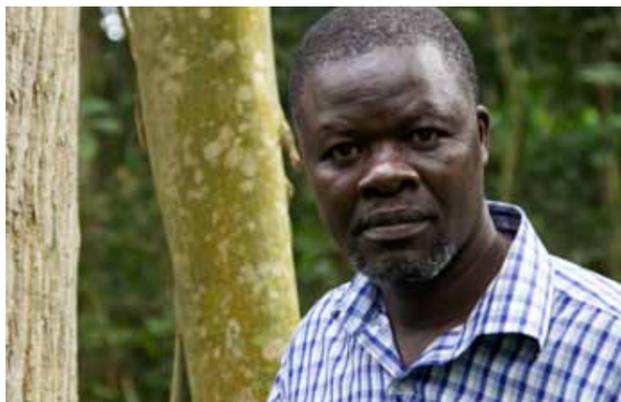


**SILVER MUGISHA**  
Water Management Executive

*»We urgently need people who love their country and want to drive it forward economically.«*

**BEATRICE ODONGKARA**  
Paediatrician in Gulu

*»As a university teacher I have three duties: research, teaching and community service.«*



**JOHN ROBERT STEPHEN TABUTI**  
Ethnobotanist in Kampala

*»I would like to show people the value of traditional medicinal plants.«*

**GRACE KAGORO RUGUNDA**  
Biologist in Mbarara

*»Women scientists in Uganda have to fight very hard if they want to make their way in society.«*

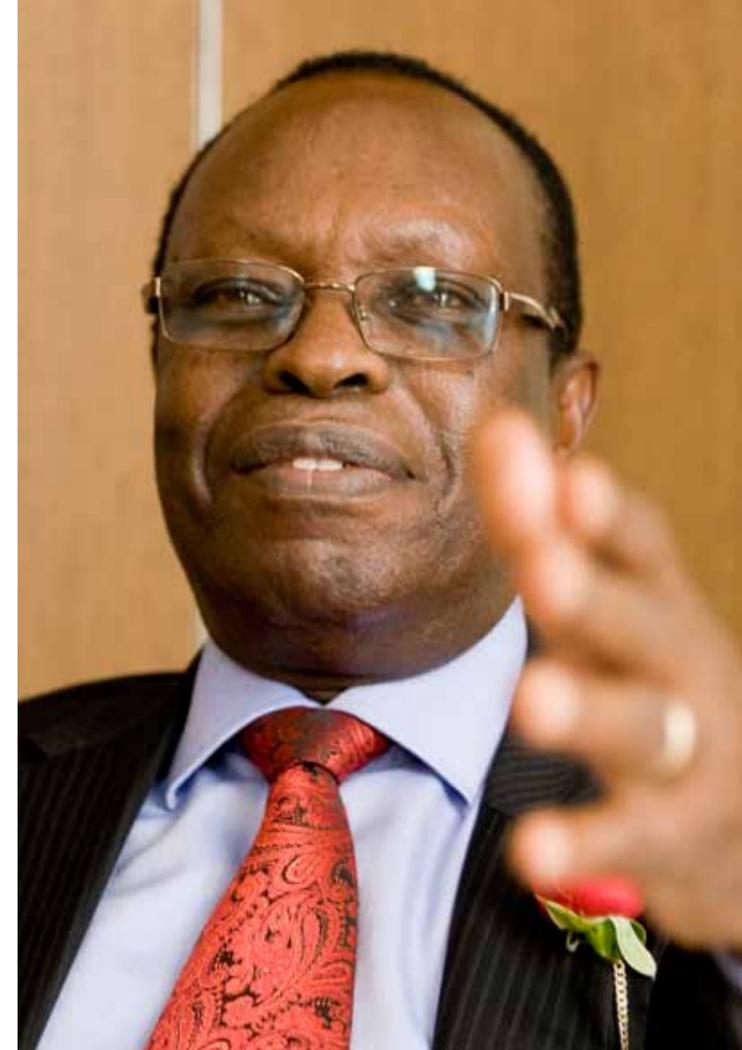


### 3 QUESTIONS FOR ...

**FRANCIS K. BUTAGIRA**

Ambassador of the Republic

of Uganda in Germany



#### 1 What is your opinion of the DAAD's In-Country Scholarship Programme?

This scholarship programme is extremely important for Uganda's development. One of our priorities is to develop the education sector, particularly science and technology. We need well-trained specialists if we are going to drive our country forward, so the DAAD programme really supports our efforts. It doesn't just focus on the capital, but takes in the west and north of Uganda, too. This increases its impact.

#### 2 How significant is in-country support?

In general, one can say that the more our young researchers grapple with conditions in the country itself, the more relevant their results are. This is particularly obvious in agriculture. The Ugandan government wants to modernise the agricultural sector, and one of the basic preconditions for achieving this is to address the actual situation and develop appropriate solutions. That way you get different answers to urgent questions than you do if you work on them abroad.

#### 3 What are the most important themes for Uganda?

Apart from agricultural science, environmental science and forestry are very important, as are medicine and IT. And then, of course, the topic that concerns all countries: energy production. Because of the huge oil discoveries in the west of Uganda we have a great need for engineers and appropriately trained technicians. So far, 99 percent of our power is hydroelectric, but in future we want to generate solar power as well and promote renewable energies. This is why it's really useful if our young academics do their doctorates on these themes in Germany, the pioneer of renewable energies. Perhaps exchange programmes at government level could enhance the effect.

Francis K. Butagira has been Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda in Germany since 2010. He studied law at the University of Dar es Salaam and Harvard Law School and began his political career as a Member of Parliament in Uganda. He has represented his country internationally as Ambassador to Ethiopia in 1998, for example, and as the Permanent Representative to the Organisation of African Unity in Addis Ababa. In 2003, Francis K. Butagira became Uganda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

## RESPECTED ACROSS EAST AFRICA

A 90-year tradition on Makerere Hill

### HISTORY

Makerere University in Kampala is the largest university in Uganda. It was established in 1922 as a technical school with an intake of 14 students of carpentry, construction and mechanics. Still a British Protectorate, Uganda adopted the education system used in the United Kingdom: in 1949, Makerere University became affiliated with the University of London.

After independence in 1963, the University of East Africa was established, comprising Makerere and two additional locations in Kenya and Tanzania, all of which belonged to the University of London. Makerere became an independent university in 1970.

Almost 35,000 students are now enrolled at Makerere's three campuses. With its East Africa-wide reputation for a high standard of education and its relatively modest fees, the university attracts students from neighbouring countries, especially Kenya. Mulago Hospital, built in 1962, also belongs to the university and was founded as a referral hospital for the whole of East Africa. Today, it is famous well beyond Uganda's national borders.

Amongst its alumni Makerere boasts numerous ministers and presidents of Uganda and other African states as well as writers and journalists.

Altogether, 22 faculties, departments and schools are gradually being transformed into colleges which will function as semi-autonomous units.

 [www.mak.ac.ug](http://www.mak.ac.ug)

 [www.facebook.com/Makerere](https://www.facebook.com/Makerere)



## IT ALL STARTED WITH A COOL NUN

Aisha Bataringaya-Sekala: Uganda's only orthodontist

Parents and children from Kampala are the most frequent visitors to Aisha Bataringaya's practice. Uganda's only orthodontist not only spends her time straightening teeth and fitting braces, she also has to deal with African ideals of beauty and traditional rituals.

Up on one of Kampala's many hills: a quiet, smallish road, a neat inner courtyard, pleasantly cool rooms, modern equipment – Aisha Bataringaya's orthodontic practice could be somewhere in Europe. Just a few kilometres down the hill at Mulago Hospital it is a different world. Here it is that the Ugandan medic spends every morning from Monday to Saturday training young dentists. Built 50 years ago, the clinic is famous in the whole of East Africa; today, it can hardly cope with the rush of patients. Long waiting times, dilapidated buildings and a lack of medical equipment – these are the conditions under which the patients, most of them poor, are treated. When Aisha Bataringaya proudly starts talking about the recently built dental laboratory, about her own training and about the particular challenges facing medical care in Uganda, you realise straight away: this is one strong, successful woman who has worked with great dedication in order to be able to practise the profession of her dreams. And even now – having reached her goal – she still lives according to a very strict schedule in order to organise her life around her students, her practice and her husband and four sons.

### In the beginning was the mission school

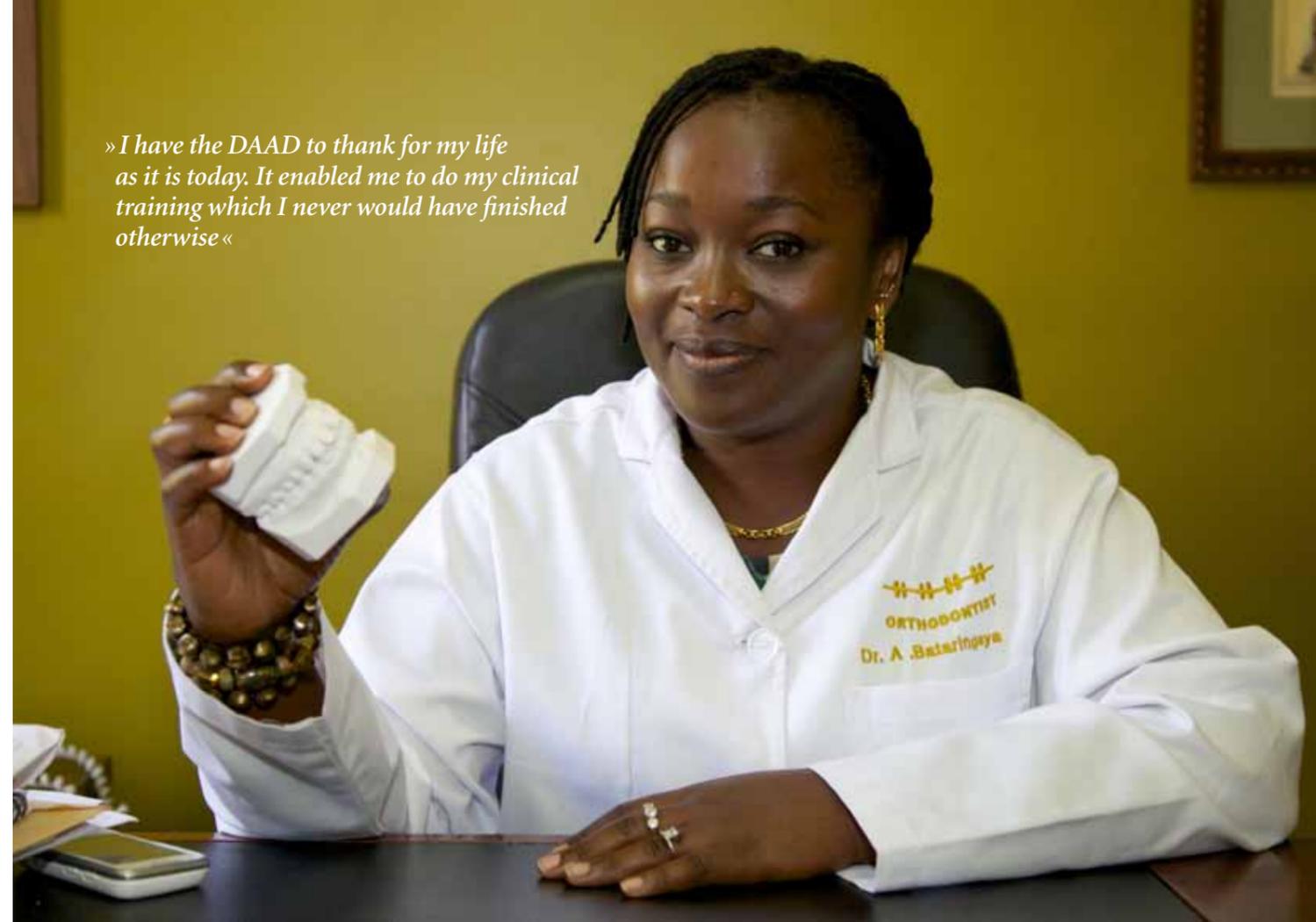
There was “a cool nun” at the convent school who was a role model and guide. “She was a Franciscan from the US and she taught biology, singing and drama. She was really exceptional. One day, her brother came to visit and told us he was an orthodontist. I'd never heard of this before, and I was hooked immediately,” remembers Aisha Bataringaya. From then on, she studied the teeth of the people around her and decided she was definitely going to go for this unknown profession. Not so easy for a young Ugandan woman

whose life had been marked by the despot Idi Amin. When she was a year old, her father was murdered; six years later, her mother, which left eight children to be brought up by close relations.

When Aisha Bataringaya started studying dentistry she discovered that there was not a single, trained orthodontist in Uganda – to this day, she is unique in the entire country. Ugandan universities only started training dentists in 1981, prior to that there were just a few government scholarships for studying in Egypt or the former Soviet Union. In Uganda, one dentist cares for some 150,000 patients; in industrialised countries the figure is one for every 2,000. This catastrophic situation made its mark on Aisha Bataringaya's training at Mulago Hospital: employing a broadly-based approach to medicine, the prospective dentists not only study their field but are expected to learn how to administer accident first-aid, treat basic medical conditions and conduct minor surgery.

“Nowadays, we use a problem-oriented curriculum that confronts the students with reality at a very early stage,” explains Bataringaya. The Department of Dentistry has a total of 16 teaching staff and they are trying to transform it into a faculty. This would allow additional positions to be created and facilitate partnerships with institutions abroad. In 2001, Aisha Bataringaya had a DAAD In-Country Scholarship at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa; it was the only place where the fees were not as astronomical as they are in the United Kingdom, for example. “I have the DAAD to thank for my life as it is today. It enabled me to do my clinical training which

» I have the DAAD to thank for my life as it is today. It enabled me to do my clinical training which I never would have finished otherwise «



I never would have finished otherwise.” The general conditions were not easy: the young academic had to complete the basic clinical training she needed while working on her Master's; her co-students from other countries already had work experience as dentists; and she had to leave three children at home with their father and grandmother. “If you don't have the support of your family, it's very difficult to go down this sort of path, particularly if you're a woman.”

### The power of superstition

Even today, life and thought in Uganda are still strongly influenced by native region. “In the west of the country people think a gap between the two front teeth is very beautiful and, if necessary, they help out with a chisel,” the orthodontist reports. “A mother comes in and asks me to make the gap wider between her daughter's front teeth, while the daughter asks me to close it. This is the clash of tradition and generation.” What can have a grave influence on a small child's entire life are the rituals practised by traditional healers. “When eight or nine month-old babies get a temperature, healers cut open the gum and remove the soft little canines hidden there. They are thought to be ‘false teeth’ and blamed for illness and death,” explains

Aisha Bataringaya. The consequences are serious: due to the absence of canines all the teeth change position and cause life-long problems. These rituals are not only practised in small villages. Bataringaya knows of families who have had this procedure carried out by properly-trained dentists.

The dedicated orthodontist teaches dentists at least basic teeth straightening, but there is still no dedicated training in her specialist field in Uganda. There are plenty of gifted students, but the situation has hardly changed since Aisha Bataringaya had her own scholarship: no-one has the money to work as a dentist for two years and then go abroad to study.

**Aisha Bataringaya-Sekala (40) is Uganda's only orthodontist. She has a private practice and is a lecturer at Mulago Hospital in Kampala where she trains dentists and holds regular consultations for underprivileged patients. From 2001 to 2004, she completed a Master's in Orthodontics at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa on the strength of a DAAD In-Country Scholarship.**





## OPENING THE WAY TO WORLD MARKETS

Geoffrey Bakunda: economist with a global view

Economic growth, deregulation and privatisation – Uganda’s development is seen as positive. But per capita incomes are stagnating and most of the rural population live in poverty. Economist Geoffrey Bakunda thinks there are still opportunities for Uganda to join world markets and for its farmers to make a better living.

“The rate of population growth in Uganda negates the positive developments of the last 15 years; some people in rural areas are worse off than before,” says Geoffrey Bakunda. He is an economist teaching at Makerere University Business School (MUBS) in Kampala and an expert on the agricultural sector. As in many developing countries, this is the most important branch of the Ugandan economy. In his dissertation he analysed the market opportunities for small businesses in Uganda while, at the same time, tracing the impact of international politics. It was, after all, pressure from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund that led to deregulation in this East African country. “When the government opened up the markets in 1990, prices fell and rural cooperatives collapsed. The farmers were com-

pletely unprepared and to this day, many of them have little idea about proper pricing and marketing for their products. They don’t stand a chance of competing with major producers,” he explains.

The consequences the dean of MUBS’ Faculty of Management draws from this are that his students should learn about the conditions determining global competition and how to find ways of leading Uganda into the world market. “We are an agricultural country and so it’s essential to improve the quality and marketing of our products. Supply-oriented concepts, modern marketing strategies and reliable supply chains – these are the key to successful market development,” Geoffrey Bakunda is convinced.

### Campus, not private industry

The 44 year-old had actually planned a different career for himself: after completing his MBA at Cochin University of Science and Technology in Southern India he saw himself as a prospective top manager with a multinational corporation. Back at home, he started teaching at Makerere University. And this experience changed everything: “In the mid-1990s, there was only one economics faculty with 80 students in the whole country, and we were a long way away from academic education in economics.” This made him decide to go for a career in academia, and he took advantage of a DAAD In-Country Scholarship to work on his PhD. For him this was the ideal solution: “I could only conduct my research on the spot, in close contact with the people and valid data. Apart from this, I was able to remain in the faculty and pass on my knowledge without interruption,” he summarises. During this period, he started making contacts in the political arena which he actively uses to this day. Geoffrey Bakunda advises the government on various ministerial committees and campaigns for the application of scientific findings to political practice.

*»We concentrate on corporate development in an international context. Exploiting markets beyond our own borders is the core theme for Uganda’s future.«*

After all, when it comes to economic development, political decisions are essential. State support for agricultural cooperatives is a step in the right direction in Bakunda’s opinion. In cooperatives farmers can supply larger amounts of their produce and negotiate better prices – and they can consult each other. The economist has an eye on another initiative, too: “Support for Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisations (SACCOs) are extremely important. They work on the principle of a mutual savings bank. SACCO members and clients are given loans and can save money in order to improve their living conditions.” Geoffrey Bakunda believes the government is under obligation to its most important economic sector. Although some 80 percent of the population lives from agriculture, the Ugandan government only spends four percent of its national budget on

this sector. “We must increase expenditure on agriculture, and different trade policy is inevitable if we are going to promote economic development.”

### Taking internationalisation seriously

Being a political economist Geoffrey Bakunda is only too aware that economic strategies are no longer designed and implemented at national level. This is one of the reasons for his research focus. “We concentrate on corporate development in an international context. Exploiting markets beyond our own borders is the core theme for Uganda’s future.” In addition to this, MUBS focuses on company financing – in a country with an infant stock exchange. “We are interested in discovering how effective microcredit really is and what other approaches we can adopt,” says the economist. Part of thinking internationally involves other aspects, too: for the last five years, Chinese classes have been offered on campus. Not only students but also business people grasp the opportunity to learn the language of the Asian economic giant which is also represented in Uganda.

Geoffrey Bakunda cooperates with many universities throughout the world and networks with African neighbours on student and researcher exchange, especially as developments in drought areas have serious economic implications for Uganda. “Our imports and exports are transported by sea around the Horn of Africa, so we are badly affected by the political situation. Apart from this, we have been sending food to Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia for a very long time. As a result, we ourselves became short of food, and prices rose – a difficult situation for the poor rural population.”

Geoffrey Bakunda (44) is a political economist and dean of the Faculty of Marketing and Hospitality Management at Makerere University Business School in Kampala. An expert on agricultural and trade policy, he is an advisor to the Ugandan government and one of the founders of the Ugandan NGO “African Centre for Trade and Development (ACTADE)” which focuses on political consultancy and trade policy research. He completed his dissertation on “The Effects of Trade Deregulation on Poverty in Uganda” on the strength of a DAAD In-Country Scholarship. Geoffrey Bakunda is the local coordinator for a university partnership, financed by the DAAD, involving universities in eleven countries. They are developing a centre of excellence for “Studies on Money, Finance, Trade and Development”.

## UPGRADING AND MARKETING MEDICINAL PLANTS

John Tabuti: preserving traditional wisdom

Traditional healers are popular in Uganda: in rural areas they are consulted on all kinds of ailment. “Many people believe that traditional medicinal plants are very effective in treating certain illnesses,” says John Tabuti, ethnobotanist at Makerere University in Kampala.

In the villages there is only limited access to western knowledge and western medicine, and traditional medicine plays an important role. But, in the towns, too, people flock to the healers. “In Kampala and its neighbourhood people tend to trust traditional wisdom, especially when it comes to psychological problems or chronic diseases for which western medicine has no conclusive answers, or if it’s difficult to get hold of medicines,” explains John Tabuti.

This includes AIDS: in Uganda more than a million people are infected by HIV, and many of them put their hope in traditional remedies even if they do have access to anti-retroviral drugs. “Traditional healers don’t claim to be able to cure HIV, but they use their knowledge to identify, control and treat the symptoms related to HIV infections,” 46 year-old Tabuti explains. He is interested in this valu-

able knowledge. Together with researchers from Trinity College, Dublin, he interviewed 25 healers and identified 103 different plant species used by them in their treatment of HIV/AIDS. The results were published in the international Journal of Ethnopharmacology in 2010.

### Developing marketable products

Together with botanists and pharmacologists from Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi John Tabuti now wants to develop his ethnobotany research in an interdisciplinary research project being funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and implemented by the Inter University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), through the Lake Victoria Research Initiative (VicRes). Traditional healers in all four countries will be interviewed in order to identify medicinal plants which can then be investigated to determine their actual effectiveness in the treatment of HIV/AIDS. For this purpose the scientists will analyse their chemical composition to discover whether they can be used to heal certain bacterial or fungal infections and whether the substances are safe for humans.

“We hope to end up with a marketable product,” says John Tabuti. If this works, it is important to him that the healers and villages providing the knowledge about medicinal plants benefit from their success, too. “We have agreed with the communities that the profits will be divided equally,” the ethnobotanist emphasises. “In Uganda profit sharing is taken very seriously. The Uganda National Council for Science and Technology only sanctions research projects in the communities if you can prove that the communities themselves are in agreement and will also benefit.”



### Sparking environmental awareness

John Tabuti hopes to sensitise people in the villages involved to conserve nature and biodiversity and show them the value of traditional medicinal plants. Much of the forest in Uganda is being cut down; in some places villagers use firewood to cover 99 percent of their energy needs. Thus, in the context of the research project, a central garden of medicinal plants is planned in each country. Here scientists will determine the optimum conditions for cultivation and

distribute seedlings and cultivation knowledge to the communities involved. The villagers will be expected to reforest their local forests and set up school gardens where children and young people can familiarise themselves with the species. “My long-term goal is to find medicinal plants that help the communities to earn livelihoods and to protect them.”

*»In Uganda profit sharing is taken very seriously in indigenous communities.«*

Ethnobotanist John Robert Stephen Tabuti (46) investigates the effectiveness, cultivation, protection and marketing of traditional medicinal plants. Together with botanists and pharmacologists from Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi he is the Ugandan leader of an interdisciplinary research project examining the sig-

nificance of traditional medicine in the treatment of HIV infections and AIDS. Tabuti is a professor at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at Makerere University and is an advisor for Oxfam. From 1995 to 1997, he held a DAAD In-Country Scholarship to support his Master’s thesis.

## HOLISTIC HEALTH RESEARCH

Lawrence Mugisha: informing humans and protecting animals

They come scampering out of the forest grabbing the bananas thrown to them by the caregivers. It is lunch-time at the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, 40 hectares in Lake Victoria south of Kampala. 44 chimpanzees live here. Caught by poachers to sell as pets and confiscated by game wardens and police, they are often ill, undernourished and traumatised. But on Ngamba Island they are given medical treatment and nursed back to health until they can be released into the wild in conservation areas.

Lawrence Mugisha stands on the viewing platform amongst the day trippers and watches his charges. He knows them all, has examined them all on his operating table in the little veterinary hospital, inoculated them, and sutured the wounds inflicted on them by the poachers' traps. Ngamba Island is almost his second home. It was here he started working as a chimp vet in 2003, and five years later he became head of the sanctuary. But after a while, the 40 hectares proved a bit too exclusive. "As a researcher I have more influence on what I personally want to achieve." And so he moved into research.

He collected data and samples on Ngamba Island for his doctorate on potential pathogen transmission between chimpanzees and humans and evaluated the samples at the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) in Berlin. He demonstrated that diseases are transmitted between chimpanzees and humans and developed recommendations for reducing the risk of infection in conservation projects. "98.7 percent of the genetic makeup of chimpanzees and humans is the same, so it's quite possible to pass disease back and forth," Mugisha notes. His research earned him important recognition in the guise of the 2010 Rudolf Ippen Young



Scientist Award, granted by the European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians and the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Berlin. “This motivates me to keep working hard.”

#### Rocky road to education

Just as during his Master’s studies at Makerere University, the DAAD also supported his doctoral dissertation by granting him an In-Country Scholarship and several travel grants for laboratory work at RKI. “DAAD funding was a huge breakthrough in my career,” says Mugisha, who grew up with his widowed mother in a village of just 200 inhabitants in southwestern Uganda. He had to start work at an early age in order to finance his schooling. But having attended a mission school, he managed to obtain a scholarship from the Ugandan government to study for a Bachelor’s degree in veterinary medicine. “I’m one of the only people in my village to go to university; most leave school after Year 7 to start earning a living,” he explains. From this difficult beginning, he now maintains contact with distinguished American and German universities and research institutions, like the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, is invited to conferences around the world, is a consultant veterinarian to the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, which comprises 20 primate sanctuaries in Africa, teaches at Makerere University, and trains vets and caregivers. He wants to use his international contacts for the benefit of junior researchers: young scientists from Africa should receive training at universities and laboratories in Germany; German doctoral candidates should come to Uganda. Mugisha is bursting with energy and new ideas – for his research, for environmental protection in Uganda, for humanity.

#### Ecohealth for humans and animals

As a postdoc, Mugisha is now focusing on villages in southwestern Uganda with primates living nearby. There are still some 5,000 chimpanzees living in the wild in Uganda. They often interact with local communities searching for food and thus come into contact with human and domestic animal excrement. “Infectious diseases like tuberculosis, Ebola or SARS, that can strike both humans and animals, are a global problem. We urgently need to monitor the hotspots to make sure that these diseases are not transmitted and able to spread,” he explains. His response was to establish the interdisciplinary research group Ecohealth. “We are going to take samples from apes, humans and domestic animals and first of all search for Escherichia coli bacteria to discover potential transmission pathways.”

Doctors at local hospitals will be involved, too, in line with the One Health approach the research group intends to adopt. “Doctors and vets used to work quite separately. Now we’ve come round to the idea that we have to take a holistic approach to researching animals and humans,” says Mugisha.

#### Developing alternatives to poaching

But research alone is not enough: humans and animals should benefit from the results. “I don’t want to be one of those scientists who collect their data and then disappear off again,” he says. So, at the beginning of 2011, the 36 year-old established a non-government organisation, the Conservation & Ecosystem Health Alliance (CEHA). “This platform combines training, research and nature conservation and works together with the people living near the primates.” If poaching is taking place in a community, for example, CEHA will help the government to develop economic alternatives. “If we improve people’s conditions of life and health, the wild animals will benefit,” explains Mugisha. “In the long run, I would like to help the people in the villages and train them to master their own problems and protect nature for the generations to come.”



*»I don’t want to be one of those scientists who collect their data and then disappear off again.«*

- 🌐 Mugisha’s NGO, Conservation & Ecosystem Health Alliance: [www.ceha.co](http://www.ceha.co)
- 🌐 Ngamba Island: [www.ngambaisland.com](http://www.ngambaisland.com)

**Veterinarian Lawrence Mugisha (36) is researching into the transmission of infectious diseases between chimpanzees and humans. DAAD supported him with an In-Country Scholarship during his Master’s studies and doctorate, which he completed at Makerere University in 2011. He worked as a vet at Ngamba Island in Lake Victoria from 2003 to 2010, tending chimpanzees released from captivity. Mugisha was granted the Rudolf Ippen Young Scientist Award for his research in 2010.**

## EDUCATION, NOT CIVIL WAR

Christine Dranzoa: a passionate paedagogue

In Arua, in northwestern Uganda, Muni University is being built, the sixth state university in the country. Its mission is to provide academic training tailored to the needs of the people in this poor area and give them an opportunity to earn a living wage.

“Most of the people in this area work in agriculture. The women, in particular, bear the heaviest burden – literally,” says Christine Dranzoa, describing the region she comes from. A zoologist and vice chancellor designate of Muni University, she is heading the development team. She knows precisely why a university is so urgently needed in this particular location. “Arua is strategically situated in the triangle between Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan. So we have an enormous catchment area. At the same time, this part of the country has been shaped by poverty, its neighbours’ civil wars and the refugees from these countries.”

Christine Dranzoa herself is a child of war. She lived with her parents in a refugee camp in southern Sudan but decided to return to Uganda on her own, despite the difficult situation. Today, she is a well-known academic, ecologist, teacher and feminist. “When I visit the girls and women in the Arua district I try to give them a new perspective on their lives, because I see how important a good education is right here.” For five years, while she was a professor at Makerere University, she sat on the selection board for DAAD In-Country Scholarships. “Young university teachers are our capital, so we allocate the scholarships according to very strict criteria.”

### Transforming lives

Just how important this support is becomes clear when Christine Dranzoa describes the last selection meeting. “One of the DAAD scholarship holders is a Master’s student in software engineering. When he has completed his degree he’ll help to set up the IT department at the new university.”



“Transforming lives” is the motto on the website of the new university. From 2012, the first 250 students of nursing sciences, IT and engineering are due to begin their studies at Muni University, earning the opportunity to provide for their own livelihood and drive progress in the region. “We’ll only be able to develop Uganda when we have solid grassroots education,” the 47 year-old is convinced.

Christine Dranzoa tries to achieve this goal beyond the campus, too. As secretary of the Africa-wide Forum for African Women Educationalists she regularly visits the villages in her home district. Here, and in her own home, where she is currently bringing up 15 adopted children, she strives to be a role model and live out the wish her mother passed on to her: be different!

[www.muni.ac.ug](http://www.muni.ac.ug)  
[www.fawe.org](http://www.fawe.org)

## 3 QUESTIONS FOR

SILVER MUGISHA

Water Management Executive

### 1 Why did you apply for a DAAD In-Country Scholarship?

I consciously decided to go for a scholarship that would allow me to do my doctorate in Uganda. We desperately need people who love their country and want to drive it forward economically, because we’ve still got a long way to go. At the time, the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) was in the middle of restructuring, and I wanted to contribute some innovations to the reforms. The DAAD scholarship was a great support, and now I encourage young members of staff to choose the same route. If they are going to address the problems of this country, they should be doing their research on the spot, in the system where the problems lie, not in a well-regulated system abroad. European water issues do not exactly rhyme with the water issues in Uganda.

### 2 How did NWSC avoid privatisation?

Private sector participation was a major topic at the time because that was what the development partners wanted us to do. We decided to improve our efficiency as a public corporation instead. I had the opportunity to apply the results of my doctorate to the changing management process. One of my recommendations was to boost efficiency by increasing the financial incentives for all the staff: the better you work, the more money you’ll get. Today, NWSC is well-positioned; we make modest annual surpluses which we can plough back immediately into investments instead of having to pay shareholders. Our vision is to be one of the best water utilities in the world – we already advise a lot of other African countries.

### 3 What does water mean to Uganda as a resource?

Water is a crucial factor in a country’s socio-economic development. If everyone has access to clean water, people’s health is improved and so is their productivity. It also influences industrial development because nearly all branches of industry need water. In Uganda at present, the figure for water supply in the towns is 75 percent. Our goal is to achieve 100 percent. But one of the major problems is the growing pressure on water resources caused by environmental damage and climate change. So we are working closely together with the parent Ministry (Ministry of Water and Environment), which has already drawn up comprehensive strategies in the field of resource conservation.

Civil engineer Silver Mugisha (43) is responsible for institutional development and external services at Uganda’s National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) which has been transformed into a well-functioning public enterprise in the last ten years. DAAD supported Mugisha from 2001 to 2004 while he was working on his doctorate at Makerere University. He investigated the effect of financial and emotional incentives on increasing the efficiency and productivity of staff. Mugisha is a senior lecturer at the UNESCO Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE) in Delft in The Netherlands and mentors students and doctoral candidates at Makerere University.

»We desperately  
need people who love their country  
and want to drive it forward economically,  
because we’ve still got a long way to go.«





MBARARA UNIVERSITY

## IN FOCUS: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Uganda's second state university

### HISTORY

Founded in 1989, Mbarara University of Science & Technology is Uganda's second state university, situated in the southwestern district capital of Mbarara. The university first established a Faculty of Medicine and, in the 1990s, expanded and set up a Faculty of Science and a Faculty of Development Studies. The Institute of Computer Science and the Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation complete today's portfolio.

Almost 3,000 students, 200 teaching staff and 400 administrative personnel work on the campus. The university plans to move to a central campus at Kihumuro – seven kilometres from Mbarara – in the near future.

[www.must.ac.ug](http://www.must.ac.ug)

Partner: University of Oldenburg

[www.ibkm.uni-oldenburg.de/14617.html](http://www.ibkm.uni-oldenburg.de/14617.html)



## FOR A UNIVERSITY OF THE FUTURE

Simon Anguma: a dedicated higher education activist

Even while he was still a student, Simon Anguma supported himself by working as a teacher. His admiration for this profession and a strong will to introduce changes in higher education have made their mark on his career.

To take responsibility – this is the motto of Simon Anguma's life. As dean of the Faculty of Physics at Mbarara University he campaigns on behalf of his university, his students and his subject. "Even as a schoolchild I admired my teachers, and was really delighted that I was able to come to Mbarara to teach physics after I completed my Master's," recalls the 44 year-old, reviewing the beginnings of his academic career.

The rector at Mbarara soon took an interest in the dedicated university lecturer but was concerned that he would not be able to retain him due to the modest salary. "Of course, money is important, but it's not the primary consideration," explains Simon Anguma. "I wanted to grow, and so I stayed." And that, despite the fact that, as the oldest son, it was his duty to look after the rest of his enormous family. His father had five wives and a total of eight children to care for. "First of all, I considered changing subject and trying my luck in the booming IT field." However, the rector convinced his

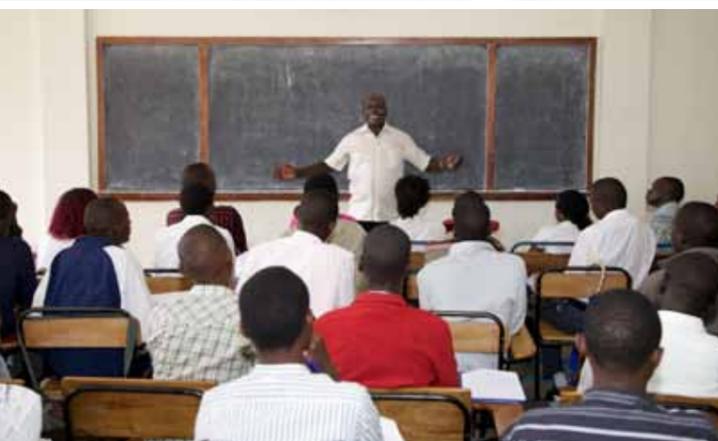
protégé to go for a doctorate and made him vice-dean of the Faculty of Physics: an opportunity and a challenge all rolled into one.

### Administration and research

As well as his research, Simon Anguma immersed himself in the often arduous business of administration. "I'm responsible for the acquisition of material resources at the university. A sensitive field, because it offers a great deal of scope for corruption," he says. In 2007, he became dean and took over chairmanship of the university's ethics committee, which absorbs a lot of his attention. It requires him to examine the potential ethical implications of research proposals and write the relevant reports.

This does not leave much time for research. Simon Anguma is investigating the impact of the Ugandan climate on the use and efficiency of photovoltaic cells – an important theme for the future. PV modules are very expensive and exceed the budget of the entire faculty – another factor that hinders the progress of his research. But the physicist is not to be discouraged. "I would like to promote the field; after all, I was the first person in Uganda to investigate solar energy. I'm the father of the field." This is why Simon Anguma has run back his administrative activities: he is currently working on the final chapters of his dissertation. When that's done, he has a busy schedule ahead: promoting research in his subject, organising the construction of new buildings and expanding the university. DAAD scholarships have an important role to play in all this: "A short stay in Germany doesn't only promote the individual, but the other Master's students, too. They profit from sharing in the scholarship-holder's results," says Simon Anguma.

**Simon Anguma (44) is a physicist and, since 2007, dean of Mbarara University of Science and Technology. His research addresses the impact of the climate on the use and efficiency of photovoltaic cells and is supported by a DAAD In-Country Scholarship.**



## 3 QUESTIONS FOR

GRACE KAGORO RUGUNDA

Head of the Biology Department at Mbarara University



*»Women scientists in Uganda have to fight very hard if they want to make their way in society.«*

### 3 What are the difficulties faced by young academics in Uganda?

In our department we get very intelligent young scientists, but they are always held back by their financial situation, lack of mentors in some applied scientific disciplines, and poor technical equipment. Without external support it is very difficult to complete post-graduate studies and many drop out. When we get excellent students whom we would like to train as lecturers or researchers, we encourage them to apply for scholarships because not many of them are able to finance a stay abroad. But even with financial support, women are still disadvantaged. In a family setting, the man is the breadwinner and the woman the homemaker. A woman scientist faces many "domestic" hurdles to advance in her career. Over the years, however, the DAAD programme has made a great contribution to developing our teaching and research potential.

**Grace Kagoro Rugunda (41) is head of the Biology Department at Mbarara University. She currently holds a DAAD research scholarship at the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW) in Berlin and is investigating the medical properties of selected feeding plants eaten by chimpanzees. From 2003 to 2007, DAAD supported her doctoral thesis on the feeding habits of chimpanzees in the Kalinzu Forest Reserve in southwestern Uganda where she now advises the administration of the reserve on conservation issues. She coordinates agricultural research at Mbarara University and was in charge of setting up a Department of Indigenous Knowledge.**

### 1 You were one of the first lecturers in the Department of Biology at Mbarara University and have been head of department for several years. Where will the department go from here?

Our main aim was to train qualified biology teachers and researchers because there simply weren't enough of them in Uganda. Now, we have tenured scientists in the department who look after 240 students every year as well as conducting socially-relevant research in fields like resource management and environmental protection, pest control, and climate change. In future, we want to diversify into applied research areas such as biotechnology and indigenous knowledge and improve the networking between our department and other universities at home and abroad.

### 2 What can you tell us about your department's cooperation with the Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Berlin?

This is our first contact, and I really hope it will develop into a future collaboration. At IZW I have an extremely well-equipped laboratory at my disposal; we don't have a lot of this equipment in Uganda yet. Our young scientists urgently need international experience so that we can improve our research and teaching.



» I know I have a job to do here. «

Stephen Ttendo: pioneer anaesthetist in southwestern Uganda

People from all over Southwest Uganda make their way to Mbarara for treatment at the State Hospital on the university campus. With great personal engagement, Stephen Ttendo heads the Department of Anaesthesia and trains anaesthetists.

Stephen Ttendo strides through the corridors of Mbarara Hospital, a man with alert eyes and energetic gestures. He passes the maternity unit and the overcrowded wards of the 1950's building until he reaches a small room containing his anaesthetic equipment. With his team of three anaesthetists and two residents he attends 6,500 operations annually, often under difficult circumstances – because the hospital, which is also the university hospital, has not been extended since it was opened, and now serves the entire region. “I often wake up in the morning completely overwhelmed by the problems,” says Stephen Ttendo. “But it’s my passion. I know I have a job to do here.”

Or to be precise: several jobs. In addition to his clinical work, Ttendo mentors some 70 medical students and four postgraduates in anaesthesia. Every year, several students

from McMaster University in Ontario, where he has held an honorary clinical professorship since 2005, come to Mbarara. And, last year, yet another job came his way: Ttendo became President of the College of Anaesthesia at the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC), which is seeking to standardise and professionalise anaesthetics training in the African countries involved.

#### First scholarship-holder

A German anaesthetist who worked at Mbarara Hospital for a while was responsible for sparking Stephen Ttendo's interest in the subject. He did an internship with her in 1999 and was fascinated from the word go. “What she did was good,” he says, and it becomes clear that it was a decisive moment in his life. He was the first student to enrol in the newly-established Department of Anaesthesia at Mbarara Uni-

versity and soon became the DAAD's first In-Country Scholarship-holder at Mbarara. He wanted to stay there because he wanted to play a part in local developments. “I often observe that young people don't come back when they've gone abroad,” he notes. “Of course, they have to travel and discover new things, but it's just as important to improve training here in Uganda, too.”

For this purpose, Ttendo organises distance learning courses, for example, with renowned institutions abroad. “My postgrads participate in online courses offered by Massachusetts General Hospital.” And in order to remain abreast of developments himself, he often takes advantage of continuing education opportunities abroad. He recently received support from the DAAD to spend four weeks studying ultrasound assisted regional anaesthesia at Würzburg University Hospital. Back at Mbarara, he applied for the necessary equipment, and his application was approved. “I hadn't reckoned on that. We need so much at our hospital that many doctors get pretty frustrated. Recently, one of our surgeons left and went to Kenya.”

» Sometimes you get something out of it that isn't necessarily money. It just feels right – that's why I'm here. «

However, it looks as though the government is gradually having a re-think. In April 2012, the Ministry of Health opened a new hospital building at Mbarara, financed by a loan from the African Development Bank. The bright, white building could be anywhere in the world: the wards are modern, the number of beds has doubled and intensive care boasts state-of-the-art

equipment. “I would never have thought that we could get so far at Mbarara; you have to keep up the pressure and understand something about politics, then things happen,” says Stephen Ttendo.

His brother is a doctor in the United States, and the dedicated anaesthetist knows all about American salaries. But he's staying at Mbarara – even if that complicates his life. His family, including six daughters, one of whom is adopted, lives in Kampala. Stephen Ttendo does not manage to cover the 240 kilometres to his home in the capital every weekend. But he is still a family man. “Every day, I see poor women simply leaving their new-born babies at the hospital. That's why we're thinking of adopting again,” he says, describing one of the depressing aspects of hospital reality. And this is precisely why he is so dedicated: “I have a vision of using innovative research to create a centre of excellence for healthcare and medical training.”

Anaesthetist Stephen Ttendo (43) is head of the Department of Anaesthesia at Mbarara University and practises at Mbarara Hospital. He was the senior anaesthetist at the first open heart surgery to be conducted in Uganda. He holds an honorary clinical professorship at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario and is president of the College of Anaesthesia at the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC). He has been honoured by the Ugandan Ministry of Health for his services to anaesthetics. From 2003 to 2007, he completed his Master's in medicine as the first holder of a DAAD In-Country Scholarship at Mbarara University.





GULU UNIVERSITY

# PROMOTING AND TRANSFORMING – THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGION

Hope for the north

## HISTORY

In 2002, the University of Gulu opened its doors to the first 100 students of education. The university plays a special role in the northern Ugandan district of Gulu: it was the first university to be founded in an area in which many fell victim to the guerrilla war that raged until 2006. Some 1.6 million people lived in camps where they sought protection from the Lord's Resistance Army.

The university's motto is: Gulu University for community transformation.

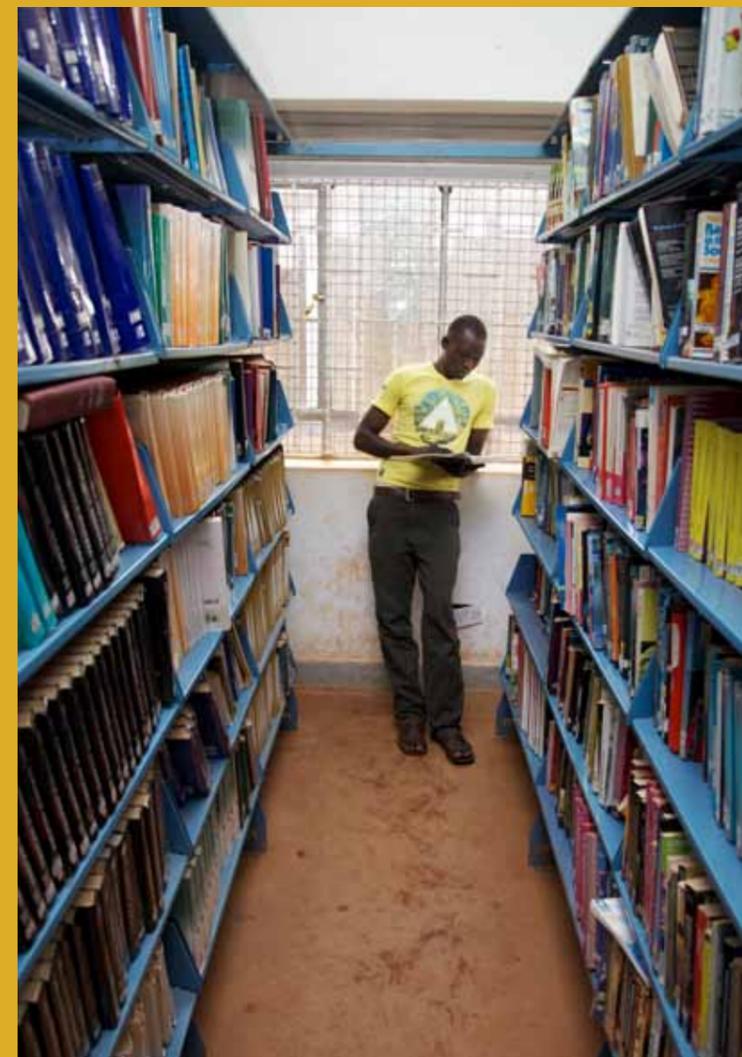
Altogether, approximately 3,500 students are enrolled in five faculties and two institutes.

- Agriculture and Environment
- Business and Development Studies
- Education and Humanities
- Medicine
- Science

In response to the particular history of the region an Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies was established shortly after the university was founded.

[www.ipss-gulu.org](http://www.ipss-gulu.org)

[www.gu.ac.ug](http://www.gu.ac.ug)



## NO EASY PLACE TO BE

Beatrice Odongkara: paediatrician in Gulu

Reviewing the life and manifold activities of Beatrice Odongkara you might expect to meet a middle-aged woman. But the paediatrician from Gulu in northern Uganda is only 34, a successful academic, committed head of an aid organisation and mother of four.



“When I was seven I knew I wanted to be a doctor, because I wanted to help the people around me,” says Beatrice Odongkara in retrospect. The desire to do something is partly a consequence of her place of birth. She was born in northern Uganda, in Gulu, where brutal guerrilla warfare racked the country until 2006. The Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) fought against the government, plundered villages, raped women, abducted children and forced them to become murdering child soldiers. “I was ten when the war began. The schools were closed down and we had to hide from the LRA soldiers in the bush. I stayed in the house for three years altogether or looked for somewhere safe to hide,” remembers Beatrice Odongkara. Her father had already fled to the capital, Kampala, and when the situation became ever more threatening the rest of the family followed. Not an unusual fate in Uganda, a country which experienced Idi Amin’s reign of terror, followed by the equally violent Obote regime. And the guerrilla war prevented any peace in the north until 2006.

Even today, Beatrice Odongkara still remembers the many deaths and kidnappings – images from childhood that remain with her and shape her life. These impressions and her

strong faith motivated her to finish school despite the difficult circumstances and study for a Bachelor of Medicine at Makerere University in Kampala. “I wanted to get back to Gulu the whole time. It’s not an easy place to be, but it’s where I have my roots and I had a goal to strive for,” she says, describing her bonds with the northern Ugandan city. And as coincidence would have it, a medical faculty was founded at the university there in 2003: Beatrice Odongkara started working as a teaching assistant.

Young medics were rare, but essential for building up the faculty. So, Bachelor’s graduate Odongkara grabbed the opportunity when she heard about the DAAD’s In-Country Scholarships. “During the application process I suddenly realised what an important role qualified junior researchers play in my country. The scholarship meant I could contribute, too.” Three years later, she had become a Master of Medicine in Paediatrics and Child Health. The topic of her Master’s thesis demonstrates Beatrice Odongkara’s professional mission to combine medical knowledge with solving urgent problems: she investigated the role of nutrition in the transmission of HIV from infected mothers to their children.

### Finding families for orphans

But science alone is not enough. In 2006, Beatrice Odongkara, her husband and a number of like-minded people set up an NGO called KAIROS to provide on the spot support. KAIROS – the Greek word for ‘the right time’ – takes action in the Gulu district where the need is greatest: amongst the population traumatised by the guerrilla war. “The former child soldiers first came to the reception centres completely uprooted and psychologically damaged. Here they met peo-

a German NGO, KAIROS ensures that AIDS orphans grow up in families in their own villages. “We actively involve the people in the villages in what we are doing: they identify the most vulnerable orphans to be supported in each family; and thus back up our work wholeheartedly,” the paediatrician explains. Currently, 40 orphans are living with 20 families. KAIROS pays for psychosocial support, nutrition support, healthcare and schooling – the four basic tenets of

ple who had also spent a great deal of time seeking protection in camps, who were destitute and sick. We want to help these groups learn to live together again, independently and without any stigma,” says Beatrice Odongkara, describing her approach. A labour of Hercules, because in addition to the consequences of the war, Ugandans also have to deal with the grave consequences of AIDS.

*»As a university teacher  
I have three duties: research,  
teaching and community  
service.«*

Almost half of the two million or so orphans in Uganda have lost their parents to HIV/AIDS; many of them are barely provided for and live in poverty. KAIROS built a health station where patients can receive counselling and medicines. Beatrice Odongkara and her staff train people in the villages so that this important, basic medical knowledge can be passed on. With the support of A.I.M.E! International,

development. However, the long term plan is to guide the families towards self-sustainability by establishing self-help projects for income generation.

### Striking a balance

“As a university teacher I have three duties: research, teaching and community service. KAIROS is thus part of my vocation. These three aspects give me strength, and are relevant and important for my country,” Beatrice Odongkara notes. With her own special brand of energy she is active in all areas – no small achievement with four children, especially as career mothers are viewed critically in Uganda. She masters all her duties together with her husband who works in university administration on the campus in Gulu.

As a member of the university’s ethics committee Beatrice Odongkara reviews the ethical implications of every research project and feeds this knowledge into teaching and research. She is currently building up contacts to colleagues abroad because she would like to address a topic that has not been examined in Uganda so far: “Ever more children and adolescents are contracting diabetes, and we don’t have any specialists. We’re short of experts in other endocrinological

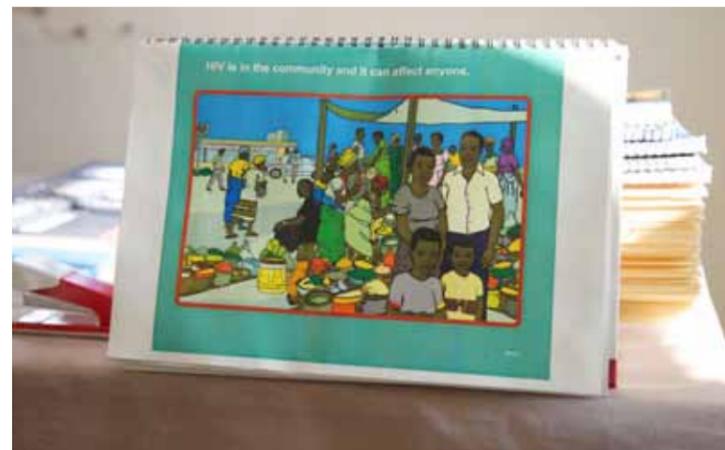


disorders, too. That's why I'm going to found a children's hospital and start up research in this field." Until 2012, she has a fellowship from the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) at Gertrude's Children's Hospital, University of Nairobi and Agakhan University in Nairobi in neighbouring Kenya. Here she hopes to acquire the necessary know-how and make contacts with research colleagues.

Beatrice Odongkara was convinced by the idea of In-Country Scholarships because it would have been impossible for her to go abroad for an extended period. "During your Master's and PhD studies it's particularly important to maintain your contacts in your own country. Apart from that, we can also do something for Uganda alongside our own professional development. We may earn more money abroad, but our knowledge and ideas are needed here."

- 🌐 [www.kairoscharity.org](http://www.kairoscharity.org)
- 🌐 [www.aime-international.org/en/projects](http://www.aime-international.org/en/projects)

**Beatrice Odongkara (34) is a paediatrician working at Gulu National Referral Hospital at Gulu University. From 2005 to 2008, she completed her Master of Medicine in Paediatrics and Child Health at Makerere University in Kampala on the strength of a DAAD In-Country Scholarship. She wants to establish diabetes and endocrinology care and research in Uganda. Beatrice Odongkara is the head of the NGO, KAIROS, which supports former child soldiers and AIDS orphans.**



### 3 QUESTIONS FOR NYEKO PEN-MOGI

Founding Vice-Chancellor  
of Gulu University



#### 1 Why was Gulu University founded in 2002?

The north of Uganda has a long, war-torn history. At the turn of the millennium, there wasn't a single university in this region. Many people still lived in camps and the former guerrillas of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) returned there – altogether, a very difficult situation. Education is the basis for development. That's why, in 2001, we began implementing a government decision to build a university. We wanted to give the younger generation a chance to study in the region because most of them couldn't, and still can't, afford to study in Kampala.

#### 2 What are the focus subjects and themes?

In both teaching and research we have a common goal: to promote and transform the region. This is why we began with the Faculty of Education, because training qualified teachers – both for schools and university – is still our mission. In the Faculty of Business and Development Studies we educate leaders for the public and private sectors. They are key figures in the development of the north.

Because of its history, Gulu has special responsibility for the area of "peace and conflict". It's not all that long ago that people slept on the campus and in the streets for fear of the LRA rebels. So, since 2003, Ugandan and foreign academics have been researching into these themes at the Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies. We have a "Community Outreach Peace Project", for example, in which scientific findings are coupled with the real-life situation of the rural population. What we want to do in the long run is to implement strategies for resolving conflict in collaboration with the people affected.

*»Because of its history, Gulu has special responsibility for the area of 'peace and conflict'.«*

#### 3 What course is the university setting in the next five years?

We are very keen for our lecturers to enhance their qualifications. Many already have a Master's degree. A doctorate gives them an opportunity to mature academically, broaden their horizons and educate the next generation accordingly. Our 4,000 or so students are our potential for the future. Apart from purely academic considerations, I think there is a need to empower young people to think in political terms and act responsibly.

The next subjects we want to establish on the campus are biosciences and environmental sciences. In this context we will discuss and investigate the issues determining our future. Uganda urgently needs its own experts to develop the right strategies for our country.

**Nyeko Pen-Mogi (64) is the Founding Vice-Chancellor of Gulu University. The veterinarian fled from Idi Amin to Kenya in the 1970s and took a Master's at the University of Nairobi supported by a DAAD In-Country Scholarship. He completed his doctorate there, too, at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) – also as a DAAD scholarship-holder. From 1996 to 2001, Nyeko Pen-Mogi was a member of parliament and was entrusted with the task of establishing Gulu University in 2001.**

## COPING WITH TRAUMA

Benjamin Alipanga: psychological help for child soldiers

Since 2005, they have been returning from the bush: some 25,000 child soldiers, abducted, abused and forced to kill by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Today, they live in their villages, side by side with the families of their victims.

“The whole of northern Uganda is traumatised. There are people living here who have seen dreadful things and committed shocking atrocities. It's very difficult to draw a precise line between good and evil,” says Benjamin Alipanga. He is a clinical psychologist working with young people and adults who have been uprooted. And there are lots of them: both those who were grabbed by the LRA and forced to become guerrillas, plundering and murdering, and those who had to spend years cooped up in camps for fear of the LRA. There was no such thing as normal life. Schools were closed down, the infrastructure destroyed – people's lives were dominated by fear.

Benjamin Alipanga comes from the north himself. He lost both parents and had a long, hard struggle to get to university. “Now, I want to work for reconciliation. It's important to explain to the perpetrators and the victims what a trauma is, where it comes from and how you can cope with it,” he explains. An omnipresent theme in Gulu District: it is estimated that there are approximately 25,000 former child soldiers here – which means a potential perpetrator is living in almost every family, and almost every family has victims to mourn. “These young people had to witness killings and massacres, were forced to march for days on end and to do the killing themselves. Lots of people are scared of them,” says the 44 year-old psychologist. Whereby these young people urgently need help. On behalf of the “Children for Tomorrow” Foundation, Benjamin Alipanga and a colleague are setting up a clinic for trauma patients with a special focus on children and adolescents.

### Reconciliation and recovery

“At the beginning, we sat in our office at the clinic and wondered why no-one came. The people don't think the war and their terrible experiences have anything to do with their problems.” They go to the healers in the villages who have their own interpretation of a post-traumatic stress disorder: if somebody hears voices, keeps seeing images of their gruesome experiences or is scared of other people, they diagnose it as “Cen”, as it is called in Acholi, the

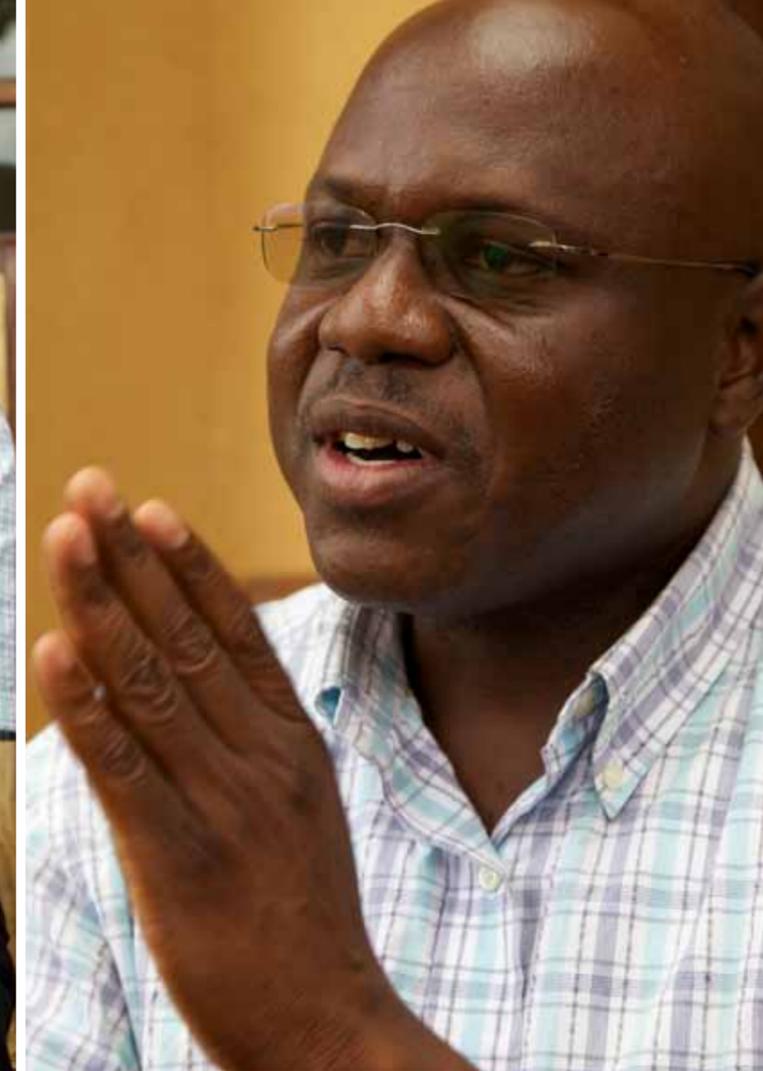
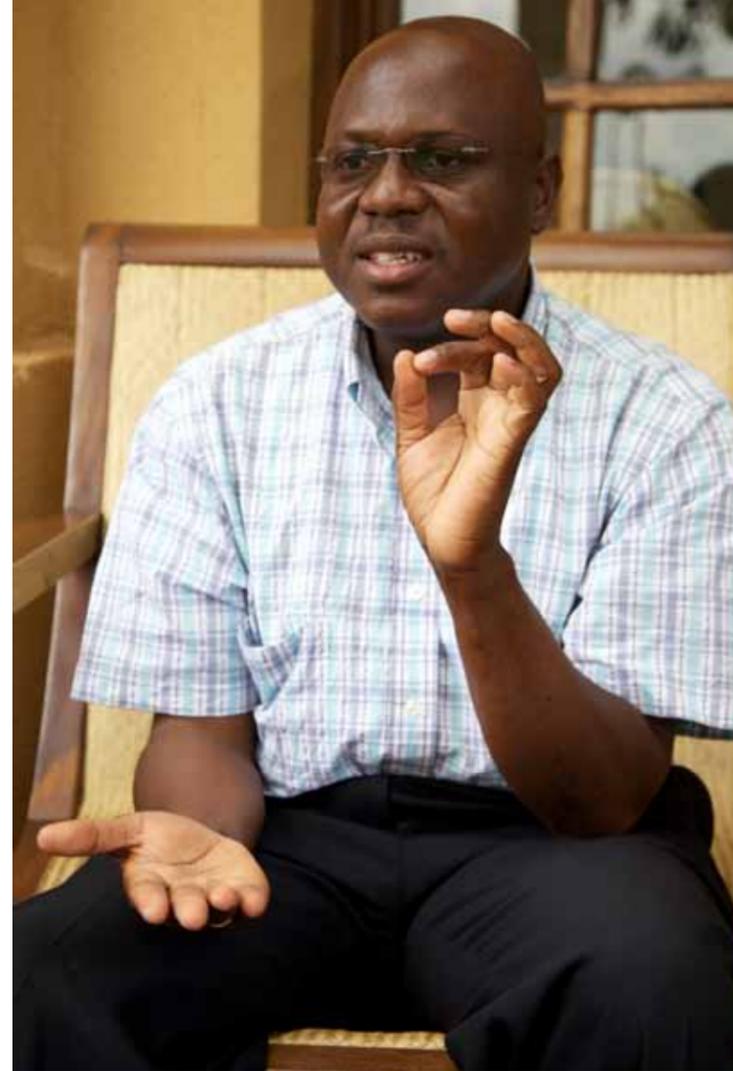
language of the largest ethnic group in northern Uganda. They believe that the spirit of the dead person is haunting and punishing the murderer. “Reconciliation rituals are held by way of cure: the perpetrators meet the families of their victims and they all eat together as a sign of remorse and forgiveness. The life of the community is restored in this way, and this is more important than an approach centred on the individual,” explains Benjamin Alipanga. He himself employs a scientific definition of a trauma and uses cognitive behavioural therapy. But theory alone doesn't stand a chance in Uganda. “If people believe in the power of prayer, I encourage them to continue praying. At the same time, I offer them support.”

In order to be able to help all those affected, multipliers have to be trained. “We go into the villages and explain to the teachers, nurses and police how they can recognise trauma and other mental health patients and refer them to us. Local knowledge is key to the process of recovery and reconciliation,” Benjamin Alipanga is convinced. His work is also the theme of his doctoral dissertation. By interviewing young people, parents, teachers and other actors in the community he is investigating the impact of experiencing violence in youth on the process of reconciliation in his native region.

Together with researchers from Belgium, he is involved in a network called “Centre for Children in Vulnerable Situations”. He examines the work of the numerous NGOs in Gulu. “Many of them claim to address mental health issues. But our surveys show that they usually concentrate on social work and the psychological aspects get neglected,” he says. That is why he and his Belgian colleagues train the staff working for the NGOs – another step towards helping those afflicted.

### Lost generation

“It's often forgotten that the people who spent years living in camps are affected psychologically, too. The children grew up in overcrowded camps, got their food and



»Local knowledge is key to the process of recovery and reconciliation.«

clothing from foreign organisations and experienced their parents' helplessness and, often, alcoholism. That's the basis for the rest of their lives,” says Benjamin Alipanga. This “lost generation” has to get a grip on their own lives and deal with the former LRA perpetrators – an insurmountable task. Benjamin Alipanga: “Traumas are passed on from one generation to another. Strictly, everyone here in the north should receive care and treatment.”

[www.children-for-tomorrow.de](http://www.children-for-tomorrow.de)

[www.centreforchildren.be](http://www.centreforchildren.be)

Clinical psychologist Benjamin Alipanga (44) works with trauma patients in northern Uganda. A DAAD In-Country Scholarship helped him to complete his Master's degree at Makerere University in Kampala. He is currently working on a doctorate, supported by Belgian Technical Cooperation in Ghent and Kampala, on the impact of experiencing violence in youth on the process of reconciliation after civil war. He is setting up a trauma clinic in Gulu on behalf of the “Children for Tomorrow” Foundation and trains multipliers in the villages.