

# Saving Innocence

“Sex for Fish” Really!!!

**Challenge 2017**  
**KALANGALA ISLANDS**

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Young girls trading their bodies in exchange for fish to keep in school!!



Inspired by Essie; Uganda's Ambassador for Women and Girls

## Introduction

The “Saving Innocence” Challenge is a 5 year initiative in the Office of the Ambassador for Women and Girls in Uganda launched in 2015.

It aims at engaging empowered girls from city schools to mentor and coach girls who are most vulnerable to gender based violence, poverty, teenage pregnancy and HIV to dream bigger and better through an expedition in a selected Uganda’s most vulnerable rural district.

# Situation Analysis

Kalangala district is characterized by high prevalence of gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS, generally poor health care, lack of government services, frequent family breakdown, widespread belief in witchcraft, alcoholism and high levels of commercial sex work all of which shape the world they know. Many come to escape the mainland from stigma from HIV/AIDS, law, or abusive situations and as a result, many struggle with the deep heart issues of rejection and worthlessness.

Family structure is nearly non-existent leading to vulnerable women and children at risk for neglect, abuse, and increasing problems with unwanted pregnancies and the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Women are treated as objects rather than wives as the men continue to spend money on entertainment (alcohol and women), rather than investment. Men fish, but women and young girls are often employed for sorting and cleaning fish. They are poorly compensated and often expected to provide sexual favors for their employers. Because they own neither boats nor fishing gear, young girls are forced to trade their bodies in exchange for fish so as to earn and provide for themselves basics like sanitary pads in order to keep in school. The only job that pays well for women and young girls is commercial sex work, which many women do in order to provide for themselves and their children. Most children grow up with no father figure and find no difficulty engaging in sex trade because they have witnessed their mothers freely do it and they think it is the order of the day.



Esther Nakajjigo, the Ambassador for Women and Girls in Uganda on the ship to Kalangala for a fact finding mission where she spent 2 weeks living in the community. It was on this mission when she found out that young girls sleep with older fishermen to get fish to sell to afford basics and to keep in school. She designed the 2017 challenge to take place in Kalangala to boldly campaign against sex for fish practice.

Children are viewed as inconvenience and are beaten, neglected, and even abandoned when their parents move to other islands pushing them further into the sex trade. Teenage girls become pregnant and abort since they do not know the fathers, some live others die.

Kalangala is home to 50,000 people who can be described as a hodgepodge of tribes, rebels, and migrants from all over Uganda. Former child soldiers from the North and others journey to the island, anticipating wealth in the fishing industry, but are usually disappointed.

To quench their frustration, they choose to go on sex rampage with young girls as young as 10: an 11 year old girl was raped and impregnated by her own father. The situation is catalyzed by the gender ratio (almost 3 men for every woman), and the consequent spouse sharing and prostitution. Young girls are employed in bars to offer sex and entertain revelers with nude dance. Kalangala and its 84 islands has the highest HIV prevalence which their local government 5 year development plan puts at 24.4%. On specific islands it is said to be 40%.



**Kalangala district located in Lake Victoria has 84 islands, 64 are habited and 20 are not. People in the islands live in makeshift houses, the shelter in the background located at Mweena landing site on Bugala Island acts as a bar and lodge where sex for fish takes place. Because fishermen fish at night, they engage in sex activities during the day. Young children peep in the holes of these makeshifts and are exposed to sex at a very early age. It is no wonder Kalangala is one of the places in Africa with the highest HIV prevalence as high as 40% on specific islands. Kalangala is the most risky place in Africa for a girl to grow.**



Fishing is fairly lucrative, meaning the young men who dominate the business can buy alcohol and sex and because fishing is generally a risky venture; they could drown in the lake, get eaten by crocodiles.....they perceive HIV as a lesser risk compared to immediate death from other occupational risks which motivates them to engage in high- risk sexual activity. The few hours boat ride to the mainland leaves them a forgotten people group and one that seems to be too costly and complex for the government to provide effective health services. Did geographic and socioeconomic segregation stop Jesus from investing in and loving anyone?

Over time, as City Girls will learn you too will learn and that will be the beauty of it all. As they will see faces and hear stories of the forgotten girls of Kalangala, you will as well and together we will grow in our understanding of the needs as well as the ways Esther Nakajjigo a young girl with a golden heart is championing City Girls to work and transform this community deeply loved by God!



**Esther being carried from the boat to the mainland by a fisherman at Mweena landing site. Fishermen who are the perpetrators of sex for fish have a belief that the more women you sleep with before heading for the waters to fish determine your catch. Because the ratio of women to men at the islands is 1:3, fishermen porch on innocent bodies of young girls as young as 11 upon tricking them with money. Since government became tough on illegal fishing, parents now spend the entire day drinking, some have sex in their small wooden houses in broad day light in front of their children.**

## Goal

To empower island girls to escape the “Sex for Fish” gender based violence by supporting them to create survival alternatives to ably address poverty and keep in school.

## Objectives

- i) To withdraw, rehabilitate and return to school 300 island girls trapped in the “sex for fish” exploitation of children in Kalangala district by the end of 2017.
- ii) To sensitize 300 island girls by the end of 2017 to ably understand and appreciate the dangers of using their bodies “Sex for Fish” for survival through engaging girls from city schools as role models using a peer to peer approach.
- iii) To support 300 island girls by the end of 2017 to ably identify opportunities around them and in their communities and with guidance from the city girls creatively transform them into small businesses that will offer an alternative to “Sex for Fish”.
- iv) To form a movement of 300 Girl-Child Ambassadors based in the islands by the end of 2017, who under the *Appeal of Uganda’s Ambassador for Women and Girls* will be primary spokespersons in the community advocating for island girls to abandon the trend of “Sex for Fish” using themselves as living examples.
- v) To train island girls in 6 USE schools in skills of making their own reusable sanitary pads to prevent them from dropping out by the end of 2017 and empower them to establish school enterprises to support marginalized girls in their custody.
- vi) To create a movement of 30 city Girl Child Ambassadors who by the end of 2017 will be fully knowledgeable about the concerns of the forgotten island girls and will hold the banner alerting the world about their plight and fundraise for resources to continue supporting them.



## The Challenge 2017 - KALANGALA



Esther Nakajjigo training city girls going for the Challenge in Kalangala at the Ministry of Gender board room. 3 girls from 6 top schools in Uganda were selected for the challenge to transform lives of child mothers to see light at the end of the dark tunnel while strengthening the Ambassador's message to in school girls of the 4 delays; Delay 1<sup>st</sup> Sexual Encounter, Delay Marriage, Delay 1<sup>st</sup> Pregnancy, Delay Dropping out of School.



Nabisunsa Girls Secondary School one of the top 5 schools in the country was the first team to be flagged off for the challenge in Kalangala. The SAY NO to SEX FOR FISH project will strengthen the interventions made by the city teams in Kalangala

# Budget

## # Team Nabisunsa

No.	Mentor School	Mentee School	No. of girls to be enrolled	Type of School enterprise	Supervisor
1.	Nabisunsa Girls Sec School	Kibanga Primary Sch	50	Tomato growing	Head teacher
			Unit cost to keep a girl in school for 1 year USD 175	Required capital to establish the enterprise USD 2,600	
			USD 205 x 50 girls x 1 year	USD 800 will be locally raised.	<b>Total</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>			USD 10,250	USD 1,800	<b>USD 12,050</b>

## # Team Princess Diana

No.	Mentor School	Mentee School	No. of girls to be enrolled	Type of School enterprise	Supervisor
1.	Princess Diana High School	St. Kizito Bbeta Pri Sch	50	Rabbit Raring	Head teacher
			Unit cost to keep a girl in school for 1 year USD 175	Required capital to establish the enterprise USD 1,934	
			USD 205 x 50 girls x 1 year	USD 215 will be locally raised.	<b>Total</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>			USD 10,250	USD 1,719	<b>USD 11,969</b>

## # Team Namagunga

No.	Mentor School	Mentee School	No. of girls to be enrolled	Type of School enterprise	Supervisor
1.	Mt. St. Mary's Namagunga	Bumanji Primary School	50	Maize Farming	Dep. H/T
			Unit cost to keep a girl in school for 1 year USD 175	Required capital to establish the enterprise USD 2,647	
			USD 205 x 50 girls x 1 year	USD 411 will be locally raised.	<b>Total</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>			USD 10,250	USD 2,236	<b>USD 12,486</b>

### # Team Nabbingo

No.	Mentor School	Mentee School	No. of girls to be enrolled	Type of School enterprise	Supervisor
1.	Trinity College Nabbingo	Serwanga Lwanga Mem. Sch	50	School Canteen	Dep. H/T
			Unit cost to keep a girl in school for 1 year USD 175	Required capital to establish the enterprise USD 2,154	
			USD 205 x 50 girls x 1 year	USD 334 will be locally raised.	<b>Total</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>			USD 10,250	USD 1,820	<b>USD 12,070</b>

### # Team Lugazi

No.	Mentor School	Mentee School	No. of girls to be enrolled	Type of School enterprise	Supervisor
1.	St. Mary's College Lugazi	Busanga Primary School	50	Vegetable growing	Dep. H/T
			Unit cost to keep a girl in school for 1 year USD 175	Required capital to establish the enterprise USD 1,114	
			USD 205 x 50 girls x 1 year	USD 210 will be locally raised.	<b>Total</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>			USD 10,250	USD 904	<b>USD 11,154</b>

### # Team Buddo

No.	Mentor School	Mentee School	No. of girls to be enrolled	Type of School enterprise	Supervisor
1.	Buddo Secondary Sch	Bp. Dunstan Sec. School	50	Maize Farming	Dep. H/T
			Unit cost to keep a girl in school for 1 year USD 175	Required capital to establish the enterprise USD 2,912	
			USD 205 x 50 girls x 1 year	USD 311 will be locally raised.	<b>Total</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>			USD 10,250	USD 2,601	<b>USD 12,851</b>