



## **Vision**

Our vision is that the basic needs of all people with mental illness and epilepsy throughout the world are met and their basic rights are recognised and respected.

## **Mission**

Our mission is to enable people with mental illness or epilepsy and their families to live and work successfully in their communities by combining health, socio-economic and community orientated solutions with changes in policy, practice and resource allocation.

## **Background of BasicNeeds UK in Uganda (BNUU)**

BNUU is a Ugandan non-profit NGO that supports access to mental health services through training, research, advocacy and awareness raising, targeting sufferers of mental disorders as a result of poverty and conflict. It partners with local government, NGOs, the Ministry of Health and self-help groups to counter neglect of mental illness. It addresses stigma, discriminatory policy, and access to quality mental health care, poverty affecting Persons with Mental Disorder and Epilepsy (PMDE), and effective representation for PMDE.

## **Organisation main activities**

### **Capacity Building**

We identify, mobilise, sensitise and train mental health and development stakeholders.

### **Community mental health**

To enable effective and affordable community oriented mental health treatment services, we provide mental health education for users to ensure sustainable supply of medicines. We provide counselling and follow up to ensure adherence to medication.

### **Promoting sustainable livelihoods**

Once feeling more stable, many mentally ill people return to work that they were doing before they fell ill. After a while some of the participants join formal savings and credit schemes along with other members of the community.

### **Research and advocacy**

Understanding the context in which the programme operates, with the involvement of all the stakeholders so as to build an information base to represent the people who are mentally ill. A series of life-stories with the voices of mentally ill people at the centre of the narrative has been developed. This information is the tool for which we advocate to change or strengthen existing policy.

### **Accomplishment**

- Since 2004, BNUU has reached 51,665 Persons with Mental Disorder and Epilepsy (PMDE) and helped 278 self-help groups with 8,335 members (53% women) form for the purposes of collective advocacy at sub-national level, peer support and protection. The self-help groups have reformed mental health service provision in primary healthcare and

influenced the integration of PMDE in 23 district poverty reduction projects.

- BNUU has successfully implemented projects funded by international donors e.g. DFID and Comic Relief for integrating mental health and development in Uganda and provision of psychosocial and income generating support to formerly abducted children in northern Uganda; and The National Lottery Fund (formerly the Big Lottery Fund) to provide livelihoods training and livelihoods start up grant to people with mental illness.
- BNUU has successfully lobbied for inclusion of psychiatric staff in local government Human Resource structures and the inclusion of 'essential mental health medicines and health supplies' in the essential medicines and health supplies list. It was a core member of the drafting teams for the mental health policy, the Mental Health Bill 2015 and the Uganda National Strategy for Mental Health.
- BNUU has delivered Mental Health Gap Action Program (mhGAP) training for the PRIME project in Uganda. BNUU is most proud of supporting 130,548 PMDE, their caregivers and families. BNUU has experience of advocacy, mobilizing PMDE and their caregivers to understand and exercise their rights.

