

THE RAKAI HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAM

The Rakai Health Sciences Program (RHSP) was established in 1988 as the Rakai Project. It was renamed (Rakai Health Sciences Program) in 2004. RHSP represents a research and health service collaboration between the District of Rakai, the Ugandan Ministry of Health through the Uganda Virus Research Institute, Makerere University in Kampala, Columbia University in



the USA and Johns Hopkins University in the USA. The Rakai Health Sciences Program focuses on HIV/AIDS research and prevention, health education, promotion of family planning, laboratory and clinical research, randomized trials, health professional training and provision of community health services.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT

The Safe Homes And Respect for Everyone (SHARE) Project;
or
The Rakai Health Sciences Program

Please visit us

Office hours

(Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm)

or contact us via telephone, fax or email.

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Rakai Health Sciences Program



Improved Health Through Research



THE SAFE HOMES AND RESPECT FOR EVERYONE (SHARE) PROJECT

The Safe Homes And Respect for Everyone (SHARE) Project is a community-based intervention conducted by Rakai Health Sciences Program, a registered non-governmental organization in Uganda.

The SHARE Project works in partnership with community-based residents, local leaders and professionals of Rakai District to raise awareness, build capacity and implement change toward the prevention and mitigation of domestic violence and HIV/AIDS, and the promotion of improved reproductive health and respect for human rights.



THE SHARE PROJECT

The Safe Homes And Respect for Everyone (SHARE) Project was initiated in August 2005 by the Rakai Health Sciences Program (RHSP). It is currently supported by funds from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

MISSION STATEMENT

To help residents of Rakai District work toward improved reproductive health, happy and fulfilling intimate partnerships that are based on mutual respect, positive parent-child relationships that involve open dialogue about life issues, loving and supportive family settings, and safe communities.

SHARE PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. To mobilize community members at the grassroots level to change the attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate domestic violence, contribute to reproductive health problems and exacerbate the HIV/AIDS situation.
2. To build the capacity of key individuals and groups to understand the impact of domestic violence, reproductive health problems and HIV/AIDS and motivate them to initiate positive changes at their places of work and in their communities.
3. To train community-based volunteers and volunteer counselors to conduct activities that work toward the goals and objectives of the project.
4. To advocate for change within existing community structures to create an environment supportive of equal treatment of men and women, respect for human and reproductive rights and support and respect for all people living positively with HIV/AIDS.

AREAS OF OPERATION

- ▶ Katana
- ▶ Buyamba
- ▶ Kalisizo
- ▶ Kabira/Kifuuta

SHARE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The **SHARE Project** uses six main strategies for working towards its goals and objectives.

Capacity Building

Capacity Building Department works with professionals (health care workers, HIV/AIDS counselors, HIV/AIDS service providers, police, social workers, religious leaders) and other key groups in Rakai to influence policy and practice within the workplace around domestic violence, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and women's rights. Activities include training workshops, seminars, and on-site follow-up and development support.



Community Activism

Community Activism Department works with community volunteers to engage local residents and local leaders to prevent domestic violence and HIV/AIDS and promote improved reproductive health at the grassroots level. Activities include: village meetings, music, dance and drama, poster exhibitions, booklet clubs, public events, film shows and special programs for adolescents.



HIV/AIDS Outreach

HIV/AIDS Outreach Department works with volunteer counselors to provide them with skills to offer basic psychosocial support to local residents seeking HIV and violence-related counseling services. This department also organizes self help/support groups for people living with HIV/AIDS, and provides counseling services to participants of RHSP's ARV program.

Reproductive Health Outreach

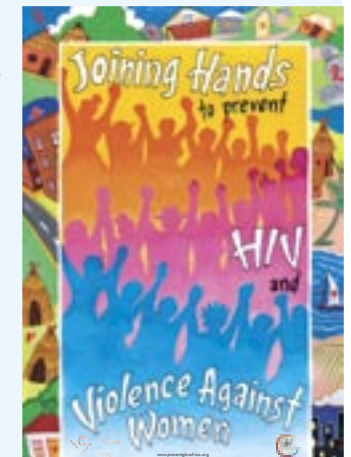
Reproductive Health Outreach Department works with local residents, professionals (health care workers, HIV/AIDS counselors, and traditional birth attendants) and other key groups in Rakai to raise awareness about how to recognize and respond to the serious reproductive health problems (adolescent pregnancy, unwanted pregnancy, non-use of contraception, danger signs in pregnancy and delivery, unassisted births), and the link between domestic violence and reproductive health). This department offers specialized programs for youth on adolescent reproductive health.

Counseling and Referral Services

Experienced and trained counselors are available (by appointment or through referral) to provide confidential psychosocial support services to anyone experiencing domestic violence or emotional trauma related to HIV/AIDS or reproductive health problems.

Learning Materials

The SHARE Project uses and distributes a variety of learning materials to raise awareness and stimulate dialogue about the importance of preventing domestic violence, HIV/AIDS and reproductive health problems in the communities of Rakai District.



Poster developed by Raising Voices, www.raisingvoices.org