

# Leadership in Action with the Kasiisi Project in Uganda

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This past summer, I spent 6 weeks on the health team in Uganda. It was an amazing opportunity, and we were able to accomplish a great deal while making a real impact on the community. I also made a fantastic group of friends who helped push me to become a stronger leader. Overall, this was one of the greatest experiences of my life and I thank Laidlaw Scholars for giving me this opportunity!

## Basic Life Support Training

- We created basic life support training focusing on if someone is unconscious or needs help, CPR, recovery position, and if someone is choking.
- We authored a document that describes how to perform the training so the individuals we trained would be able to train others.
- Held two classes teaching VHTs and primary school teachers the materials with demonstrations.



## Village Health Team Handbook

- We held multiple focus groups with local village health teams (VHTs) and determined what knowledge they felt they were missing and what they wanted to learn more about.
- Wrote the handbook based on this information that included infographics, instructions for basic first aid, and descriptions of common conditions and diseases.
- A local nurse and physician ensured the information was accurate and relevant.
- Translated it to the local language.

## Primary School Lessons

- We developed lesson plans and worksheets for primary school students on sexual and reproductive health, hygiene and sanitation, and sanitation.
- We taught these materials for classes at several local primary schools, and then further refined our materials.
- We also created educational health posters based on these topics to be placed in the local communities.



## Data Collection and Cleaning

- We visited numerous clinics and hospitals to gain a better understanding of what Ugandan health care looks like.
- From some clinics, we collected their medical records and created a dataset with the end goal to compare the data to mobile clinics.
- We were also sent data from mobile clinics, which was cleaned to eventually be used in an analysis.
- These two datasets will be used for grant applications to gain further funding for the mobile clinic.



## Mobile Clinic

- The mobile clinic travels to villages around the Kabarole Forest (the national forest the Kasiisi project is focused on protecting) that don't have easy access to clinics and provides health care.
- We volunteered as often as it ran and provided support through running the pharmacology station, taking blood pressure, checking patients in, and running tests.
- We were able to see how much of an impact the mobile clinic makes while enabling more patients to be seen.



## Not all Work and No Play

We didn't spend the entire time working! Our guesthouse was on the grounds of the Kasiisi Primary School, so after work, we would play football and spend time with the kids. We also immersed ourselves in the culture and received Empaakos (part of the cultural heritage of western Uganda), attended a wedding, and went into town. We were also able to enjoy the natural beauty around us and went hiking in the Rwenzori mountains, learned about the process of making coffee and banana-based drinks, swam in crater lakes, and traveled to Queen Elizabeth National Park at the end of the summer.