Nabumba has been using her phone to offer opinions, advice and raise awareness about key development issues in her community. "We send messages and then receive feedback," It is from these messages that ideas are picked and shared with other U-reporters in different parts of the country. Others are passed on to political leaders. Natumba has shared ideas about many topics including the effects

and other stakeholders to give these young girls a second chance," she explains. The young lady believes she has been handed an important tool to be a voice of the voiceless. She is convinced that as time goes on, this U-report exchange will generate important ideas that will draw the public's attention and leaders attention to key issues in the community. "This will help to gradually change our society for the better." Nabumba

me about my surroundings.

Nabumba was born on September 25, 1991 to the late James Wilson Ssenoga and Rose Nabweggamo Sanyu. She attended Lwadda PS in Matugga and Kyadondo SS. After her O levels, she joined BRAC Uganda, where she works as a project assistant.

She trains young girls from the ages of 13-22 in the communities. She lives in Luwero and enjoys reading

so that the farmers are not be deprived by un buy their produce at low prices. 7) Government should construct stores at sub-counties, district and national level to store the excess surplus food.



Partner View

RIC-NET project on Healthy plants for healthy people' boosts food security



Renzori region is known as the basket of food and an assortment of fruits in Uganda. For a long time, farmers have experienced low production because of severe plant pests and diseases worsened by their limited capacity to identify the diseases and get medication for the plants; a great threat for food security in

Ms Bahangule Astalhuzi from Bwera-Kasese who operates a public 'plant clinic' in Mpondwe-Lhubiriha market, by attending to farmers who come with affected samples of plants, also runs a 'farmer to farmer' information-sharing at the farmer's gardens and a radio programme. With a bright face she narrates the success of educating farmers on plant pests and disease

control. "For a long time, farmers in my village have been facing a challenge of lack of access to timely and reliable information on plant pests and disease control hampering their productivity. The training received from RIC-NET and CABI-UK on information sharing, plant disease diagnosis, pests and disease management, opened my eyes to community plant clinic operations.

My advice to farmers on pest and disease control has increased farmers' production and helped them earn more income. I feel happy when I see a family which had a problem with banana wilt now boasting of healthy plants."

Ms. Astalhuzi is one of the 15 plant doctors and 20 Community Information Facilitators (CIF) and many Progressive Farmers who have received trainings on how to diagnose plants and manage pests and diseases through organic and non organic means. They disseminate information to other farmers through the existing network of information centres at county, sub-county, and Parish Information Points established by farmers with support from Rwenzori Information Centres Network

During the outbreak of pineapple and banana bacterial wilt last year, farmers exhibited knowledge and skills by identifying and managing the outbreak themselves.

http://www.ricnet.info/files/resources.html http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2010/05/ farmers-capacity-to-identify-crop.html

Ask the MP MP answers U-reporter question

: As an MP of your constituency, what have you done to help HIV/AIDS O : As all Mr of your conduce evidence because I am one of them.



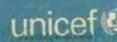
Hon. Florence Ekwau Ibi, MP Kaberamaido District: As an MP, I have been able to give the women's groups of HIV positive victims start up funds for their projects especially in Kobulubulu sub-county. I have been able to facilitate people living with HIV/AIDS in Okille parish also through asana. These groups are energised and feel they belong to the community. On psycho-social support, I was able to encourage them by talking to them and giving them hope at the end of the day to reach out to others.



AS A YOUNG UGANDAN YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD!

Text "JOIN" and send to phone number 8500. Every SMS is free.

"It has become our union of expression," M. Myco, aged 20, Wakiso















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22 February 2012

Dear Partner,

RE: U-REPORT 2012

With your support U-report has become a very strong innovative program over recent months and we continue to strive to have a U-reporter in every village in Uganda. Over 2011 the U-report SMS program grew to 79,000 members, and now has 87,000 participants sending and receiving SMSs every week discussing their community development needs. In 2012 the views of U-reporters will be used in advocacy efforts, policy decision-making and service delivery improvements.

However, there is still much work to be done and U-report must have your support to reach its potential. Our research shows that U-reporters who join through your organization stay in the program longer and contribute more to their community development. Therefore, UNICEF urges you to make U-report known to your vast youth networks so that members of your organizations and communities can have their voices heard on issues that affect them.

U-report will begin to support all aspects of UNICEF's work in keeping children alive, safe and learning so it will invariably impact the programs you are working on this year. You can also use U-report to capture community opinion on your other projects or activities independent of UNICEF but this will only be of use if your organization's members are aware of the free program.

Please accept my support in making U-report accessible to every youth and child member of your organization in 2012.

Let us work together to create a platform for youth to speak out on the issues that matter to them.

Yours sincerely,

Sharad Sapra

UNICEF Representative

unite for children

