

**United Nations**



**Nations Unies**

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**United Nations Commission on the Status of Women  
Fifty-sixth session  
27 February – 9 March 2012  
New York**

**INTERACTIVE EXPERT PANEL**

**Emerging theme: Engaging young women and men, girls and boys,  
to advance gender equality**



With this knowledge I founded Self Help Foundation Uganda<sup>3</sup> to fill the information, knowledge and skills gap that existed in the communities of Northern Uganda, a place I called home but a region that had suffered two decades of civil strife and war. I consider education as a long term solution to the temporary recovery problem that the people of Northern Uganda still face even today. Armed to the tooth with ideas, I mobilized a team of five other young people that wanted to help; we designed a strategy to talk to the communities and encourage them to embrace education, send and keep their children in school. Self Help Foundation started working with one school but today it has expanded with work in six schools and three partners. We got help from student associations, charity org

Most young people in Uganda are poor, for a young person in Uganda, poverty ranges from failure to attend school, limited reproductive health services and socio-political instabilities to unemployment. To them unemployment would be more of a problem than unequal relationships. Education is expected to expand opportunities for young people and for women in particular. This is not happening because the economy is not growing fast enough to create jobs for the young people. The 2009/2010 Uganda National Household survey used the labour force participation rate<sup>i</sup>



