

# What in the World is MU doing? ...

## Combatting HIV/AIDS in Uganda through the MU Family Life Program

*"If it were not for Mothers Union, many families in our country would be in shambles."*

That is the verdict of one University Professor commenting on the contribution MU has made towards the stability of families in Uganda through the MU Family Life Program. The program's main objective is to work across boundaries to build strong families and united communities in which everyone has a chance to grow and prosper. It brings a holistic approach to tackling issues such as food, security, health, sanitation, agricultural skills, and environmental degradation.

The spread of HIV/AIDS is one of the biggest challenges facing families and Communities in Uganda today. So the Family Life Program program also includes practical instruction on living with HIV/AIDS in the community, education on awareness of HIV/AIDS, and how to care for those suffering with the disease.

### **HIV/AIDS Orphans.**

In central Buganda, Mothers Union Worker Maulica Kigula has provided care for terminally ill parents until their untimely deaths, leaving children bereft and orphaned. Having built up strong relationships with each of the children, Maulica then meets them each week, and gets them to agree to cooperatively take turns to work each other's land, so they are able to grow enough food to support themselves.

Through the Family Life Program, the children have developed songs and dramas together and they visit neighbouring communities raising awareness of HIV/AIDS prevention. These children well know the havoc and devastation that HIV/AIDS brings and they are keen to prevent other families from suffering.

*"Before Family Life Program, people in the communities expected hand outs - free things. But now the Mothers' Union is giving them knowledge. Knowledge is better! They say 'with knowledge we can get what we want'."*

