



## MEET OUR PARTNER: **Agape of Hope Female Youth Development Association**

Location: Kasese, Uganda

Year Established: 2005

FCDE Partner Since: 2013

*Agape's mission is to empower female youth in Kasese District.*

### OUR PARTNERSHIP

Agape of Hope works to empower female youth by improving access to skills development and promoting community sensitization about adolescent reproductive health and human rights in Kasese District. Over the last four years, Agape has greatly expanded their services with support from FCDE. In 2015, Agape hosted and international intern, Sidharth, through FCDE-Isla. During his three-month internship, Sidharth developed a training manual to guide Agape staff on how make reusable sanitary pads and how to train primary school aged girls to make their own reusable pads using local materials. In Uganda, the lack of access to sanitary pads is responsible for a sizable percentage of school dropouts among young girls. Agape reports that the manual helped them to work in more schools and reach more girls who were at risk of dropping out due to lack of access to sanitary pads. Since 2014, Agape has increased the number of schools where it conducts training from five to 35 in 2017. In addition to training, in 2016 Agape also supplied each of the 35 schools with a sewing machine to facilitate the production of reusable pads which were procured through a grant from the East Africa Children Fund. Agape stated they would not have been eligible for this funding had it not been for the assistance of FCDE and their Isla intern, Sidharth.

*"The internship program and other personnel support we receive has helped us realize many projects and expand our work. We have been able to grow our operating budget from 8 million UGX to 200+ million UGX. Now we can provide more services to the community!" – Agape of Hope*

FCDE also funded Agape's project that provides tailoring skills to young mothers in Kasese Municipality. Small grant funding was used to purchase four sewing and embroidery machines, as well as sewing materials. The



project began with 20 beneficiaries composed of vulnerable young mothers below the age of 18 years. These women participated in a nine-month training course, where upon completion, they will return to their communities with new skills and employment opportunities. Since 2014, Agape has trained 76 single mothers or otherwise vulnerable women in tailoring.

*"Without Agape's tailoring program, I would be doing nothing, just home in the garden digging. Now I have skill to start my own business. I have a future."- Jane, one of Agape's current beneficiaries. Jane is from Ibanda (Kasese District), and is one of four children.*