



## MEET OUR PARTNER: **PeerLink Initiative Uganda**

Location: Rukungiri, Uganda

Year Established: 2005

FCDE Partner Since: 2015

*PeerLink envisions a society where women, children, and youth are empowered with skills and are able to contribute to community development.*

### OUR PARTNERSHIP

PeerLink began in 2003 as an educational exchange program between two schools, one in urban Kampala and one in rural Rukungiri District which is roughly 400 kilometers away from Uganda’s busy capital. Secondary school students from the city were transported to the countryside where PeerLink staff facilitated student-led discussions about HIV transmission and prevention. PeerLink was transformed into an NGO in 2005 and has remained committed to enhancing child, youth, and women’s empowerment in Rukungiri. Today they operate a trade school with courses in food service and tailoring, run a community library with over 2,000 registered local users, and have trained more than 500 adolescents and women on sexual and reproductive health issues and HIV/AIDS advocacy.



*“Before we partnered with FCDE we were doing a lot of work, but no one knew about us.”*

*-PeerLink Staff*



Since partnering with FCDE in 2015, PeerLink has improved their organizational capacity by gaining skills through FCDE’s trainings in strategic planning, project design and management, and grant writing. These trainings have enabled PeerLink staff to write stronger grant proposals and create organizational materials about their successful projects to share with their community and global stakeholders. FCDE has also enhanced PeerLink’s network, connecting them with funders who are eager to support their mission. With FCDE’s guidance and support, they recently received more than \$10,000 in funding from Segal Family Foundation to support their adolescent peer sexual health training program.

*“Now I decide for myself what I do with my own money. I will be able to help my parents as they grow old.” – Anita, 22, currently enrolled in PeerLink’s tailoring program (pictured at top of the page)*