

# Mutima Outreach Ministries

Entebbe, Uganda

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## Introduction

In Uganda, about 7.2 percent of the population is living with HIV/AIDS. This amounts to around 1.4 million people, including an estimated 190,000 children. Fishing villages along Lake Victoria are particularly impoverished and impacted by HIV/AIDS. One village in particular is home to many women who are supported by Mutima Outreach Ministries.

## Advice

(1) Research programs that will allow you to have an authentic cultural immersion. (2) Access to Internet and technology can actually hinder the experience.



## Community Partner

Mutima Outreach Ministries is a HIV/AIDS organization located within Entebbe. Mutima provides women's education programs aimed toward increasing self-sufficiency and HIV/AIDS awareness through outreach on hygiene and transmission.



## Project Information

Over the course of three weeks, I facilitated women's education lessons on various mental health topics, supported outreach efforts relating to health and sanitation, and spent time crafting with the women.

## Skills Utilized

- Cultural humility
- Assertiveness
- Empathy
- Engagement

## Outcomes

(1) Facilitated two round table discussions that demonstrated a clear need for a formal support group among the women. (2) Mediated the removal of an organization mandate that required volunteers to pay for weekly group meals and transportation of all persons conducting outreach.

## Lessons Learned

Through this experience, I challenged perceptions on privilege and oppression daily. This includes beliefs on gender roles, sexuality, consumerism, government policies, and stigma relating to HIV/AIDS.

## Acknowledgements

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## Career Connections

With each social interaction, I worked toward humility of the local culture. Given any diversity of my current and future clients, I want to present myself in a manner that is continuously inquisitive of the person I am supporting. Ultimately, I desire to find ways to generate a partnership best attuned to the uniqueness of each individual.

## Classroom Connections

SW 799 – HIV/AIDS: Evidence Based Programs, Policies and Services. This mini-course presented a brief overview of the history of HIV/AIDS in the United States as well as common barriers to treatment.

