



## **Australia supporting Ugandan youth**

**Kampala, 12 May 2015**

Australia is helping Ugandan youth through its partnership with the Straight Talk Foundation (STF).

Over the past four years the Australian Government has partnered with STF to help some of Uganda's most vulnerable youth.

Australian volunteer experts have provided mentorship and training in media, special needs and disability programming, child protection and youth participation.

On Tuesday 12 May the Australian High Commissioner-designate to Uganda, John Feakes, visited STF to meet some of the young people whose lives have been enhanced. He also met with the staff and management of STF and Australian volunteers.

“I am very pleased that Australia has been able to support STF's work with young people. I am particularly happy that Australian volunteers have played a critical role in delivering this project. Young people are the future of any country and helping them to face the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is a major task for any country. Australia has particular expertise in these areas and we are pleased to be able to contribute” said Mr Feakes.

Moses, a 20 year old student at Kampala School for the physically handicapped said “The dialogues carried out by Straight Talk Foundation under AVID [Australian Volunteers for International Development] helped me to realise my abilities in doing business, and develop a business plan for my future endeavours.”

## **Background**

Straight Talk Foundation (STF) is a leading health and development communications NGO based in Kampala, and operating nationally throughout Uganda. The organization grew out of the Straight Talk newspaper, first published in 1993 with funding support from UNICEF, and was registered in Uganda as a non-government organisation in 1997.

Using a multifaceted communication for social change model that includes radio, print, and face-to-face programming, STF targets adolescents aged 10 to 24 years old – in and out of school, married and unmarried, male and female.

The Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program is funded by the Australian government and managed in Uganda by the Australian Red Cross.

Australia and Uganda share a warm relationship, built upon historically strong people to people links. An increasing number of Australians are investing and working in Uganda, building the economy and providing assistance where it's most needed. And every year, more and more Ugandans are travelling to Australia to study in our world leading tertiary institutions. Australia is represented in Uganda through its Honorary Consul, Mr Patrick Bitature, CEO of Simbatel.

### **For further information contact:**

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