

Mbale branch, Uganda Red Cross Society

Mbale branch supports 12 branches in Eastern Region, Uganda. It itself has four sub-branches.

The branch has 128 volunteers it can call on, 500 life and 230 annual members. In addition, there is an active Red Cross youth set-up, playing football in the local leagues and carrying out youth camps for entrepreneurial skills. Women's groups carry out dissemination and disease prevention activities alongside music and dance activities. Branch staffing has shrunk since the "best" year of 2013, when there were 4 project staff: now there is a branch manager and one project manager. An estimated minimum budget for the branch is USD 48,500.

The branch has been able to sell land and build an office: a regional disaster management centre developed with partial support from a foreign embassy functions as a training centre, warehouse and coordination office for the branch, bringing in income. While another USD 19,000 is required to complete the project, the branch has been able to continue the project in a piecemeal fashion as it has had surplus incomes to invest.

Networking with agencies and companies (including through youth football!) is an important way for the branch to build contacts, in particular as a basis for offering commercial first aid training.

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