



“Community solidarity for quality health”

SAVE FOR HEALTH UGANDA (SHU)

“Healthier families with simplified access to quality healthcare.”



CORPORATE PROFILE

Revised Edition 2026

ABOUT SAVE FOR HEALTH UGANDA

Save for Health Uganda (SHU) is a Ugandan non-governmental organization and technical leader in community health financing and community health insurance. Established in 2002 and formally registered in 2003, SHU was founded to address one of the most persistent barriers to healthcare access in Uganda—financial hardship resulting from out-of-pocket payments at the point of service. Building on a successful community health financing initiative in the Greater Luweero region, SHU empowers communities to mobilize and manage healthcare resources while strengthening equitable access to quality healthcare.

Over the past two decades, SHU has expanded its expertise to include health systems strengthening, healthcare quality improvement, health financing policy and advocacy, institutional capacity strengthening, research, and community empowerment. Through evidence-based programming and strategic partnerships, the organization strengthens resilient health systems that support Uganda's journey towards Universal Health Coverage. Headquartered in Kampala, SHU implements programmes across Central, Western, and Eastern Uganda while providing technical assistance and policy support at the national level. Working closely with government, healthcare providers, development partners, civil society, financial institutions, and communities, SHU develops sustainable, locally owned solutions that advance national health priorities, improve livelihoods, and inform health financing reforms. Today, the organization is recognized for developing and implementing scalable community-based health insurance models, influencing health and social protection policies, strengthening institutional capacity, and generating evidence for policy and practice.

Vision

Healthier families with simplified access to quality healthcare.

Mission

To improve access to quality healthcare by promoting sustainable community health financing initiatives, strengthening health systems, improving healthcare quality, and empowering communities through innovative, evidence-based, and people-centred approaches.

Core Values

- **Integrity** –Honesty, transparency, and accountability.
- **Professionalism** – High technical and ethical standards.
- **Equity** – Fair access to services for vulnerable and underserved populations.
- **Innovation** – Practical and sustainable solutions to complex challenges.
- **Partnership** – Collaboration with government, communities, development partners, and the private sector.
- **Community Ownership** – Empowering communities to lead and sustain interventions.

OUR STORY

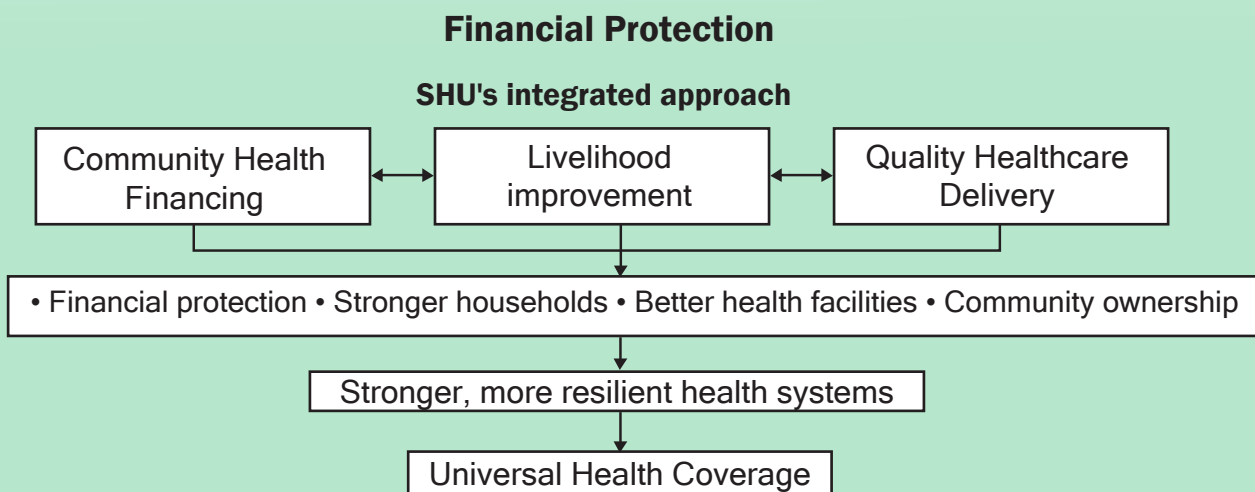
Save for Health Uganda was born from a simple but compelling observation: families were becoming poorer—or even losing their lives—not because treatment was unavailable, but because they could not afford to pay for it when illness struck. Many delayed seeking healthcare, sold productive assets, or were detained in health facilities because of unpaid medical bills.

Building on the success of a pilot Community Health Financing initiative implemented by the Centre International de Développement et de Recherche (CIDR) between 1999 and 2002, a dedicated team of Ugandan professionals who had been part of the pilot project established SHU to expand this innovative approach nationwide. Their vision was to create sustainable, community-owned mechanisms that enable communities to mobilize and manage healthcare resources while reducing financial hardship and improving access to quality healthcare.

Since its establishment, SHU has evolved from a community-focused initiative into a nationally recognized technical organization with expertise in community health financing, health systems strengthening, healthcare quality improvement, health financing policy, organizational capacity development, and community livelihoods. Through long-term collaboration with communities, health facilities, district local governments, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, and development partners, SHU has contributed to Uganda's journey towards financial risk protection, social protection, and Universal Health Coverage.

Today, SHU combines grassroots implementation with technical assistance, research, policy engagement, and institutional strengthening to develop sustainable solutions that improve health outcomes and strengthen resilient health systems.

OUR INTEGRATED SOLUTION



OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS

SHU translates its Theory of Change into practice through three mutually reinforcing strategic pillars: **Community Health Financing, Livelihood Improvement, and Quality Healthcare Delivery**. Together, these pillars address the financial, socio-economic, and service delivery barriers to quality healthcare while creating sustainable, community-owned solutions that strengthen resilient health systems and contribute to Universal Health Coverage.

1. Community Health Financing

Community Health Financing is SHU's flagship area of expertise and the foundation of its integrated model. For more than two decades, SHU has pioneered the establishment and strengthening of Community-Based Health Financing (CBHF) and Community Health Insurance (CHI) schemes as sustainable, community-owned mechanisms that protect households from catastrophic health expenditures while expanding equitable access to quality healthcare.

SHU provides technical support in community mobilization, scheme design and governance, institutional capacity strengthening, financial management, healthcare provider accreditation, quality improvement, performance monitoring, and policy engagement. The organization also promotes women's leadership and meaningful participation in CBHF and CHI governance structures to strengthen inclusive decision-making, accountability, gender equality, and community ownership.

2. Livelihood Improvement

Livelihood Improvement strengthens the sustainability of Community Health Financing by improving household economic resilience. SHU supports financial literacy, savings and credit initiatives, enterprise development, income-generating activities, and access to inclusive financial services, enabling households to maintain Community Health Insurance membership while reducing vulnerability to the financial consequences of illness. These interventions strengthen financial protection and contribute to healthier, more resilient communities.

3. Quality Healthcare Delivery

Quality Healthcare Delivery ensures that communities receive accessible, affordable, responsive, and quality healthcare services. SHU works with healthcare providers, district local governments, and national stakeholders to strengthen healthcare quality, accountability, and people-centred service delivery.

Through CHI, SHU promotes timely reimbursement of medical claims, improving health facility cash flow, strengthening cost recovery, and reducing losses from unpaid bills and absconding patients. The organization complements this by institutionalizing Client Relations Desks, promoting continuous quality improvement, strengthening healthcare provider capacity, and providing supportive supervision to enhance service quality, responsiveness, client satisfaction, and sustainable partnerships between communities and healthcare providers.

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

SHU's integrated approach is underpinned by strong technical expertise across community health financing, community health insurance, health financing policy and advocacy, health systems strengthening, organizational and institutional capacity development, community engagement and social and behaviour change, monitoring, evaluation, research and learning, healthcare quality improvement, and multi-stakeholder partnership development.

These complementary capabilities enable SHU to establish and strengthen community health financing systems, improve household economic resilience, enhance the quality and responsiveness of healthcare services, and support national efforts to build resilient and equitable health systems.

HOW WE WORK

SHU implements its integrated Theory of Change through close collaboration with communities, healthcare providers, government, and development partners to deliver sustainable improvements in health outcomes. The organization links household economic strengthening, Community Health Insurance (CHI), and quality healthcare delivery to expand equitable access to quality care.

In practice, SHU establishes and strengthens CBHF and CHI systems, supports livelihood interventions that enable households to sustain participation in these schemes, and works with health facilities to improve service quality, accountability, responsiveness, and client satisfaction. This integrated approach addresses the financial, socio-economic, and service delivery barriers that limit access to healthcare.

All programmes are implemented in close collaboration with government and development partners and are guided by evidence, strategic partnerships, continuous learning, community empowerment, institutional capacity strengthening, policy engagement, and operational research to ensure interventions are effective, scalable, and sustainable. Across all programmes, SHU promotes gender equality and social inclusion by advancing the meaningful participation and leadership of women in CBHF and CHI governance structures, strengthening inclusive governance, accountability, and equitable access to quality healthcare.

Through this integrated approach, SHU translates community-based innovations into scalable, practical solutions that strengthen health financing systems, improve service delivery, and contribute to Uganda's progress towards Universal Health Coverage.

OUR REACH

Since its establishment, SHU has progressively expanded its geographical footprint from its origins in the Greater Luweero region to serve communities across Central, Western, and Eastern Uganda. The organization currently implements programmes in 13 districts while providing technical assistance and policy support at the national level.

SHU works through long-term partnerships with district local governments, healthcare providers, community-based organizations, and Community-Based Health Financing (CBHF) structures to strengthen local ownership, institutional capacity, and district health systems while ensuring interventions remain locally responsive and sustainable. This partnership-driven approach enables SHU to remain closely connected to community needs while contributing to national health financing reforms and policy dialogue.

SHU's operational network comprises 34 partner and accredited health facilities, five Community Health Insurance (CHI) schemes coordinating 127 parish-based CHI sub-schemes, two Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), five community savings groups, district local governments, community leadership structures, and national stakeholders, creating an integrated platform that strengthens local ownership, institutional capacity, financial protection, and equitable access to quality healthcare.

RESULTS AND IMPACT

Through its integrated three-pillar model: Community Health Financing, Livelihood Improvement, and Quality Healthcare Delivery. SHU has generated measurable improvements in financial protection, healthcare access, service quality, institutional capacity, and health systems strengthening.

1. Strengthening Community Health Financing Systems

In 2025, SHU supported five Community Health Insurance (CHI) schemes comprising 127 parish-based sub-schemes across 13 districts. The schemes facilitated 1,677 outpatient and inpatient medical claims, resulting in the payment of over UGX 101 million in healthcare costs and protecting households from catastrophic healthcare expenditure.

SHU has also strengthened the sustainability of CHI schemes through improved governance, formal registration, innovative premium collection partnerships, digital information systems, and institutional capacity development, building resilient, community-owned financing mechanisms.

2. Improving Quality of Healthcare Delivery and Provider Accountability

SHU has strengthened healthcare quality through institutionalized Client Relations Desks, continuous quality improvement, structured provider engagement, and timely CHI payment mechanisms. These interventions have improved service quality, accountability, responsiveness, cost recovery, health facility cash flow, and patient experience while reducing losses from unpaid bills and absconding patients.

The institutionalization of Client Relations Desks has strengthened client-centred care, contributing to 96% client satisfaction and 90% satisfaction among health facility managers, with increasing uptake demonstrating the sustainability of the model.

3. Strengthening Health Systems, Evidence Generation, and Policy Influence

SHU contributes to national health financing reforms through evidence generation, technical assistance, policy advocacy, and strategic partnerships. As a nationally recognized technical leader in Community Health Financing, SHU has supported the development of policy frameworks, institutional systems, and government-led financing initiatives that strengthen Uganda's journey towards financial risk protection, social protection, and Universal Health Coverage.

Key achievements include developing and submitting Community-Based Health Financing (CBHF) Guidelines to the Ministry of Health, supporting the harmonization of CBHF models, strengthening digital and governance systems for community health financing, and supporting the establishment of the Luwero District Community Health Financing Scheme. SHU has also played a leading role in increasing national awareness and recognition of Community Health Insurance through the National Community Health Financing Conference, stakeholder engagement, publications, and participation in national policy platforms, advancing dialogue on integrating CBHF into Uganda's evolving National Health Insurance framework.

GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

SHU is governed by an experienced Board of Directors that provides strategic oversight, policy direction, and fiduciary accountability. The Board is supported by a multidisciplinary management team responsible for organizational leadership, programme implementation, financial stewardship, partnerships, and institutional performance.

SHU has established strong systems for transparency, accountability, and effective management of financial, human, and technical resources. It continuously strengthens institutional capacity through strategic planning, performance monitoring, financial management, procurement, risk management, and organizational learning to ensure effective and efficient delivery of programmes.

SHU's technical team brings expertise in health financing, health systems strengthening, programme management, monitoring and evaluation, research, community development, and institutional capacity strengthening, enabling the organization to deliver integrated and results-oriented solutions.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Partnership is central to SHU's approach to achieving sustainable health outcomes. The organization works with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, district local governments, healthcare providers, development partners, civil society, academic institutions, community organizations, and the private sector to strengthen health financing systems and improve access to quality healthcare.

These partnerships strengthen local ownership, facilitate policy dialogue, and enhance sustainability through complementary expertise and long-term collaboration built on mutual accountability and shared commitment to improved health outcomes.

WHY PARTNER WITH SHU?

For more than two decades, SHU has combined technical expertise with practical implementation experience to develop sustainable solutions that improve equitable access to healthcare. The organization brings strong capabilities in community health financing, health systems strengthening, institutional capacity development, and policy engagement, with a proven track record of results at community, district, and national levels.

Partners benefit from SHU's evidence-based programming, strong government linkages, community presence, and commitment to learning and innovation. SHU's ability to bridge community realities with national policy processes makes it a trusted partner in advancing Universal Health Coverage and strengthening Uganda's health system.

CONTACT US
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