

KEEPING HOPE ALIVE-UGANDA

(KHA-UG)



PROJECT REPORT



MARCH 2020

INTRODUCTION

Bunyoro region, the now dubbed oil hub of western Uganda located approximately 300km from Kampala the capital city of Uganda that borders the Democratic Republic of Congo on the west, the greater Ankole cattle corridor on the east and the Tooro Kingdom. It comprises of 6 districts

Putting in context Hoima District that's approximately 300KM from the capital city of Uganda is a rural and developing area with the recently discovered oil in the district itself.

Having the minerals underground, the place has faced dire exploitation from investors who rake resources and take off with them which leaves the biggest group of population sinking in extreme poverty targeting mostly the Vulnerable individuals who are grouped as the minor population who of those belonging there are the orphans, Disabled, Widows and street children and culturally its perceived that a child born with a disability even at a mature stage is destined for a life of dependency. For the poor this burden can be extreme. Disabled Persons can be a social, financial, mental and physical burden to their families. Through lack of knowledge and skills of the family, even the children do not get the appropriate help they need in form of school fees and other scholastic materials.

Upon realizing this, Like minded individuals of 9 people came together in 2019 amidst scarce resources and begun mobilizing the affected communities that led to the birth of KEEPING Hope Alive (KHA-UG) a community Based Organisation (CBO) and legally registered in March 2020 whose main Mission is to Help the Deprived, Excluded and Vulnerable persons to improve their lives and the opportunity to change their communities with all details in the Constitution and other relevant official documents under Hoima District Local Government(HDLG)

To achieve this overall goal, the project was and still working focused on five identified key project results:

- (i) Protecting and empowering persons with disabilities.
- (ii) Promoting Income generating activities
- (iii) Promoting and protecting human rights for all.
- (iv) Enhancing protection of children and youth.
- (v) Sexual and Gender Based violence.

The project is implemented under the auspices of relevant national policy of People With Disabilities' act 2019 which supports the inclusion of vulnerable persons and KHA-UG targeting the disabled that fall in the same category in income generating activities and other development programs, on discrimination in employment activities and prohibits the inhuman and degrading treatment of Persons or People With Disabilities (PWDs).

PROJECT AREA

The project being implemented by a Community Based Organisation (CBO) keeping Hope Alive, Uganda (KHA-UG) is limited to its community of registration that is specifically in the Hoima Municipality targeting the people within eight villages in Kahoora Division. The Project areas include: Lusaka, Lusembe, Busiisi, Bujwahya, Mandela Annex, Kasasa, Kibingo, Kasingo and Rwenkondo Villages.

The selection of these villages was based on two major criteria; (I) Available statistics proving presence of the highest number of vulnerable people specifically the vulnerable and People with Disabilities (PWDs) category. (II)Willingness to participate in the participation activities.

METHODOLOGY

The evaluation assignment sought to gauge progress, success and impact of activities implemented towards delivery of the five expected results as identified in the project document and subsequent annual activity plans. To deliver on this, number of methods were employed and some instances overlapping in order to authenticate some observations. These methods included Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in project villages.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS (FGDs)

Groups of 8-10 were formed and individuals would first be grouped or categorized basing on two factors: (I) the expert's knowledge on one's ability in relation to the option of the activities available (ii) According to their form of disability and the preference of activity that they would wish to get involved in and the range of groups would be three to four depending on the number of the people in that specific village. For the individuals with extreme conditions, a direct or biological member of the family would be the immediate beneficiary and Consultations were done with relevant Villages and District officials ,members of the project steering committee in the project areas and the Community Development Officer of the Division were also consulted who provided the initial statistics of the disabled people in different villages along with the Village leadership committee (Local Councils)that would guide us in the their identification and location.



Members of Kibingo village local council committee in an engagement meeting with the Project Steering committee of Keeping Hope Alive Uganda (KHA-UG) laying down strategies on how to engage the Persons with Disabilities in the area in the programme.

FINDINGS

Findings of this project exercise are presented in a manner with reference to site and time specific activities where and is necessary for demonstrating and exemplifying reported achievements and /or setbacks for future improvement. Essentially, evaluation is quarterly rolled out to appraise the below stated project result seen listed which does not however necessarily reflect their order of importance.

(I)Project partnership and collaboration

The project has developed effective partnership and collaboration with relevant organs in the project area. At the district level, its solely the Department of Community Development that is responsible for overseeing the project activities unless there is collaboration with a sister Department even though there is no formal agreement or a sort of a Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU) on seconding the district personnel to the project activities other than having officiated introduction of the project and it being legally registered and then authored with operation Certification requirements. The project officials have been given access and therefore been consulting the department for Expertise/technical discharge of activities in the project village as, where and when needed. Major activities which had quite demanded expertise include prioritizing the village and deciding which should come first in line with quarterly and Yearly plan of the district and the division.

Other partnership was with the local private Companies like the Avemar Medical Services that have reasonably been involved in in some project activities especially the Medical bit that includes grouping people according to the Physical disability that calls for technical knowhow.

(ii)Community Perception

Community perception on the origin, roles and rationale of the project was revealed to be satisfactory. The project was initiated by nine members of the target communities and the then later on spread to be a complete Community Based Organisation legalized and full operational in March 2020. Extended awareness should continue within and beyond the target communities as per the Organisation Objectives to be elevated to a Non-Government Organisation that the Vulnerable groups such as the disabled, orphans and others though termed a the minor and so much marginalized have hidden talents, have equal rights and therefore should also be included in any form development engagement. Initially they are excluded especially the disabled for the assumptions that they are slow at coping up with normal people who have no disability, their inclusion is expensive.

PROJECT RESULTS

The contract period for this project report was set from 10th January 2019 to 20th January 2020 that was basically implemented in phases of quarterly. In every quarter phase, the project would engage 6-10 persons per village depending on the number of the people in every group with limited number of graduates per phase due to financial, environmental and time factors.

(I) With a total number of 10 villages, the project has helped and enabled at least 50 disabled people in the first and the second phase of last year's quarters to start their own income generating activities that include Candle making, Shoe making, Carpentry, farming and IT skills through developing skills of the same kind.



A one Sarah Kyomukama one of the beneficiaries of the project receiving her startup capital in form of packed seeds to engage in Agriculture with her family as per her decision since she has very big inherited piece of land.

(ii) On the other hand, many individuals and families are becoming ambassadors of the inclusion of the people of Disabilities (PWDs) in development activities and employment opportunities in their respective villages and communities after living an exemplary life either as direct or indirect beneficiaries of this project through the skills attained as a result of our involvement.

(iii) People with Disabilities (PWDs) who have started their own business and start to earn a living is increasing and their standards of living are steadily improving characterized by provision of home use requirements and paying school fees for their children.



Tumukunde Innocent one of the members and a facilitator taking one of the groups through candle making process in Busisi Division.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

(i) Financial sustainability –A plan demonstrating how each activity will be sustained after the termination of inputs is key to success. Sources of financial sustainability include subscription fees for the Board and local members of the Organisation (Money that the graduates pay after having taken instruments like the tailoring machine on loan that they pay later on in installments as their startup capital, local individual donations and the projects plans to establish demonstration sites like the Banana plantation and Cattle farm that will help to cater for other costs like the administration and paying allowances for Volunteers.

(ii) Human Resource sustainability-This is usually addressed through our call for Volunteers that is done through advertising for their being retained is expensive though giving them small allowances to keep them running for the permanent workers though one that should be prioritized is expensive for a financial struggling Organisation.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The major achievement through the project's life span is creating awareness in the community of action about the importance of actively including People with Disabilities (PWDs) in both development and entrepreneurship programmes and only through their taking part in both the decision making process and the implementation stages.

The project has been able to deliver startup capital in form of assets like sewing machines, seeds for farmers and work shop equipments to the graduates that they monthly pay a certain installment of money that allows the continued number of beneficiaries to increase and the process to continue to the next phase. However the following are the brief recommendations proposed to inform and advice the next phase of the project to effectively contribute towards achieving the project's goals.

- The project manager is over whelmed by activity work load. There is need to have field officers and support staff to assist the project manager in day to day project activities, follows ups and adaptive evaluations.

- The project should expand its communities of operation to the neighboring communities for there is need and statistically they are on the same level with the current ones basing on the available data for the vulnerable individuals which calls for the Organisation to elevate its status to the National level legally.
- The project should seek strategic partnership with other national and international Organizations. This can be done through developing contacts with the existing organizations with the same mission, goals and objectives that will act as the overriding advantage that will the end help the Organisation to meet its objectives.
- The Organisation should formulate other ways of sourcing for finances that will help in the day to day activities of the Organisation especially the training materials and equipments that will to employing modern modes of facilitation in some sections .These may include Organizing fundraising events, Online fundraisings ,Proposal writing and Organisation projects.
- The project should establish strategized study centres in areas with the highest number of trainees to enhance easy accessibility and their mobilization categorized according to their needs also.