

# **MENGO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LINK**

## **ANNUAL REPORT FROM OCTOBER**

### **2009- OCTOBER 2010**

Mengo Youth Development Link (MYDEL) is a local Non-government organization with Reg. No S 5914/5142, which was conceived by Ugandans to contribute towards poverty reduction efforts in Uganda. MYDEL contributes towards poverty alleviation through enhancing the functioning and capabilities of the poor communities. MYDEL has contributed most of its efforts to the slums of Kampala district where the community is much affected with poverty brought by HIV/AIDS, non-parenting children, less education among the youth, women, PLWAs, PWDs, and many more.

MYDEL achieves this through improving community capacity and strengthening the ability of communities to increase social cohesion and through building social capital based on a philosophy that, with strong social cohesion and community capacity, members of a community can work together to develop and solve problems, make group decisions, and collaborate effectively to identify goals and get work done.

MYDEL empowers communities by encouraging local community associations formed around people with common interests like youths, women, Girl child, People living with AIDs and people with Disabilities. MYDEL builds community capacity through training and sensitising the communities on how best they can engage in development work and poverty reduction.

#### **MYDEL MAJOR OBJECTIVES**

To empower communities by enhancing their capacities to systematically identify, prioritise, and plan for their needs, and implement sustainable development initiatives

that lead to poverty alleviation in their respective communities. This will be achieved through the targeted group.

### **MYDEL MISSION**

“Empowering local Communities through training, sensitisation, and hand craft skill development to Eradicating Poverty among the youth, poor families, PLWAs PWDs in Kampala slums”

### **MYDEL VISION**

“Alleviating Poverty in Kampala slums through Improved Community Capacity”

### **MYDEL VISION FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITY**

1. A confident and socially inclusive community, living and participating in a shared and peaceful society with respect for community diversity, welcoming to all and working together to reduce poverty.
2. A Community Involved in area planning, decision-making regarding local services and development efforts made by partners in the statutory and other sectors.
3. A community able to make a difference to the social, economic and environmental well being of the area.
4. A community where all people want to live, that is recognized for its strong community infrastructure and self-supporting ethos. A model for others to follow, in terms of high levels of community participation and having a community sector with the power and significant influence to change things for the better by working in partnership with the other stakeholders.
5. In the long run we project a learning community characterized by evidence of strong policy analysis based on sound research and consultation. A learned community, giving every citizen an equal opportunity to realize his or her full

potential, treated with respect and as equals by those in authority. A community that has a real say in decisions affecting the poor”.

### **MYDEL THEMATIC AREAS ARE**

- ✓ Income generation
- ✓ Basic Education and Vocational skills training.
- ✓ Community health
- ✓ Community sensitization
- ✓ Provision of support and care to the needy communities
- ✓ Promotion of Human rights
- ✓ Community Conflict resolution and reconciliation

### **MYDEL CURRENT PROJECTS PLUS THEIR RESULTS**

#### **A. Basic Education and Vocational skills training with the OVCs**

MYDEL as managed to provide Basic Education and Vocational skills training to the needy OVCs, through this training the OVCs have managed to quire small business skills which equip them with skills on how to manage a small business in order to be able to live their own lives. It will contain simple mathematics, English, vocational skills, profit-gain education and counseling and in doing so the following was achieved:

- Provide training to 50 orphans at our orphanage centre in Nansana Wakiso district.
- Acquiring 80 scholarships for the neediest orphans.
- The vocational training provides skills to 78 youth and children through computer training, Crafts and Tailoring and paper beads.
- Reduction in idleness among the youth destitute and the slum young children.
- Increase on relationship between the young children and their guardians.

**B. We carry out Community Health and poverty awareness campaigns:** A healthy community is both a necessary condition and one of the central objectives of development. Household's economic status is linked with their health status as well as their social capital. MYDEL will work with communities to formulate community healthy interventions that will target the most common diseases.

This project focuses on:

- Reproductive health and Family planning
- Hygiene and sanitation
- Malaria control

In doing the above, the following results have been achieved

- Direct Community involvement in addressing health and poverty related issues
- MYDEL's partnership with Kampala City council in implementing Health programs in Kampala
- Carrying out community services in the slum areas. This involves cleaning drainages and garbage collection among others.
- Carrying out community out-reach programs both in Kampala and in Wakiso. Whenever MYDEL does this, it targets 700 people. The intention of this is to show the community that young people can fully exercise and utilize their talents through participation. (poverty and good health among young people are the central theme)

**C. HIV/AIDS Education and counseling;**

Under this project we focus on:

- Reduction on HIV/AIDS prevalence
- Prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS at workplaces through Information, Education and Communication (IEC)
- Giving support, protection and care to orphans and other vulnerable children in slum communities

- Supporting income generating activities to people living with HIV/AIDS
- Educating people living with HIV/AIDS about nutrition and coping mechanism;
- Improve partnership and coordination among all key stake holders in the fight against HIV/AIDS to get maximum benefits and un-limited resources
- Strengthen capacity of staff and community resource personnel to provide quality care to HIV/AIDS clients;
- Involve political leaders through advocacy so that they make appropriate policies and by-laws.

In doing so, the following has been achieved as a result:

- Behavior change among young people
- Reducing on the high rate of infection
- Open policy among the public on HIV/AIDS
- Reducing on stigma and discrimination
- Increased community participation in supporting OVCs and PLWAs
- Improved health and nutrition of the PLWAs and Orphans
- Improved parental relationship with children

**D. We Provide Communities with Income generation/enterprise knowledge and skills:** In order for an environment to enable communities to emerge out of poverty and develop, it must include services that enhance their capacity to respond to the MYDEL's strategy. Hence enterprise knowledge and skills are provided as crucial ingredients during the process of community empowerment.

The project focus on

- Enterprise training
- Group formation and dynamism
- Creation of model families
- Small enterprise development

In doing the above the following results have been achieved

- The slum youth and the girl children have acquired knowledge and skills in tailoring and crafts for sustainable development (150 young people have benefited from this program)
  
- We have trained 40 orphans on chicken rearing thus providing them with Entrepreneurial skills

**E. Environment and Natural Resources protection.** MYDEL aims at protecting a productive natural resource base and a healthy environment for improved livelihoods, poverty reduction and community growth.

- Tree planting
- Environment awareness

In doing the above the following results have been achieved

- We have educated the slum community on how to protect the Environment in their areas.
- We have planted up 15 trees in our community as the result of protecting nature Environment.
- we have carried out 2 community services where by we work with the entire community in cleaning the dirty slum areas and also educate them how to conserve the Environment in their areas of operation

**F. We support social development services for community development:** Social development promotes community and household level initiatives to reduce poverty and provides channels for the poor and vulnerable groups to access the benefits of development. MYDEL generates and sustains the required response of communities to participate in the development processes and improve their livelihoods.

## **G. Capacity Development Program**

Its main objective is to empower the rural poor with knowledge and skills through provision of training, exposure and advisory services to solidarity groups to enable them transform into viable economic entities.

Peer education for life program has also been integrated in MYDEL activities and this program has two phases. The first one is Peer development activities this includes seminars and workshops for behavior change for in-school and out of school aged 12-35 years and adventure unlimited seminar for children aged 9-14 years.

The second phase is Peer sustainable activities these include

- i) Choose freedom seminar.
- ii) Debates and discussions
- iii) Sports and Gala
- iv) National and religion drama festivals.
- v) Film shows and critiquing
- vi) AIDS walk functions
- vii) Youth camps
- viii) Country life skills workshops.

The result of education for life program is to unit to youth together and sharing of knowledge for sustainable development.

**H. Initiating Human Rights programs** to support the vulnerable groups in our area through Community Human Rights clubs that includes the Community Child Rights Club, and the Girl Child Rights Club.

As a result, we have managed to achieve the following.

- Improved relationship between the children and their parents
- Reduction on child labour.

- Strengthening and educating the rights of children in slum communities
- Work hand in hand with the local leaders, police, K.C.C. and other NGOs which are in the field of protecting children's rights.

### **Resource utilization and support**

In carrying out all these activities, MYDEL has taken all its efforts and resources say labour, time and money to help its target population. We take this opportunity to give credit and thanks to all our partners who have supported us both locally and internationally.

### **The list of our local funders includes: -**

- The local communities
- The local leaders and councilors
- Youth Action International
- National youth council
- Women of Uganda Net work
- VIVA CRANE Network
- Kampala city council
- Gibbuni Woori World
- Probation office Kampala Central Division
- Ministry of Gender ,labour and social development
- Youth out reach Uganda
- Member's contributions.
- Individual partners both local and international



### **The list of International Funders (Scholarships)**

- Vision for Africa
- Little Jesus International
- International Christian Youth Work
- Canadian Municipality for (orphans)
- Kagera Credit Development Trust Fund (orphan elderly youth and children.)
- United National Office of Drug control for (drugs and substance abuse)
- WORKAID
- UN-HABITAT

### **Current Major Challenges**

**Lack of enough space for Vocational training centre** is a big challenge to MYDEL as the available space is being rented and very small to accommodate 150 young who are currently benefiting from the program. This therefore mean that the existence of the center is being determined by the landlord who has power to re-develop his land, this also limits the expansion of the project and limited service delivery.

### **Lack of major funders**

Despite the fact that the organization carries a lot of activities as elaborated above, the project lacks a stable finance base. From the fact that MYDEL has no major funders both locally and internationally the project drives its sustainability from the small savings within its member and the communities but this small saving can't withstand the project's mission, a clear indicator that its areas of operation are sometimes limited by resources, its sustainability still stands a question of the day.

### **Lack of food for OVCs**

As early mentioned, MYDEL is blessed with a children's center that accommodates about 50 vulnerable orphans. The organization however finds it necessary to provide breakfast, lunch (which is funded by Sam&Birgit) and supper to its children; the children

are now taking 90 kgs of posho, 18 kgs of sugar, 30 kgs of beans and 1 (one)sack of charcoal per week. On top of that the organization is responsible for providing all other basic necessities to the children. This therefore proves to be a major challenge.

### **Special food and care for HIV+ boy.**

After carrying out HIV/AIDS test in September with A-Z charity foundation, we realized that one of our children is positive and we decided to take him to Family Hope in Ntinda for medication per now he is on septrin and doctors are advising us to always have special diet and care for him, currently the organisation cannot afford this because the children today depend on posho and beans.

### **Monthly bills**

The organisation today is facing a problem of electricity, water and medical bills among others. These challenges need to be addressed because they are very essential.

### **Domestic violence**

For many decades in Africa domestic violence has tremendously surfaced in various aspects; recently one of our children under MYDEL education scholarship had wrangles with her mother to the extent that she was sent away from home and stayed in Nansana children's home for three days as she feared to be killed as the mother promised her if she doesn't find some where to go. **NB** the girl is 15 years old.

### **Children going back on the street**

In this year, we have found problems where by some of our children that have been staying in Mengo are now going back on the street. It is surprising that Rashid and Edgar are now on the street despite the fact that they have been provided with each and every thing at the centre including school fees and other basic necessities.

## **Future plans**

Mengo Youth Development Link has for the last 5 years build capacity of the vulnerable communities and these include the youth, women, elderly and children we do look forward to strengthen our development capacity and to introduce the system of prosperity for all the among the poor communities so as to increase the incomes of the poor communities and to initiate self help projects to support the poor people in our areas of operation plus fighting against inequalities and violence and all types of disease in our targeted population as follows:-

- 1) To train 400 OVCs in Vocational training skills majoring in tailoring crafts and computer training in order to avail them with start up kits for self sustainable. Currently the vocational centre is accommodating 200 young people.
- 2) To increase knowledge that change the altitudes on sexual and reproductive Health Human Rights STI and STD and drugs use and above all to bring out positive behaviors changes among the youth and children aged between 9 – 30 of age.
- 3) To initiate farming program so as to end food problem and over dependency on donors. This program will include among others growing of crops say cassava, maize, sweet potatoes and vegetables plus looking after pigs and rabbits.
- 4) To review and Develop the organizations policies to streamline the running and management of MYDEL
- 5) To initiate more income generating activities to support and employ the young people in our areas of operation
- 6) To extend our activities in other districts in Uganda. Since we are now operating in Kampala and Wakiso districts.

- 7) To enhance Education for the Young people, Youth plus all the entire Community on the Dangers of Drugs and Subsistence Abuse.
- 8) To provide capacity building for CBOs and FBO, which are involving in HIV/AIDS services and community welfare organizations to formulate and implement effective sustainability program so as to achieve there desired objectives.
- 9) To liaise and disseminate more information materials on Human Rights, HIV/AIDS, child abuse and gender based issues in Uganda
- 10) To strengthen our newly girls enlightened program in order to address and voice out the challenges of the Girl child in Uganda
- 11) To carry out fundraising functions in order to raise more funds to support our activities

**“Working together with and for youth, orphans and other vulnerable children in slum communities”**

**END OF REPORT**

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER TOUCHING MOMENTS

### MENGO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LINK (MYDEL)

Am called **Kirabo Kenina**, a refugee and an orphan from Rwanda. My father died of HIV/AIDS when I was 3 years old my mother got another husband and after 3 years she died too. My step dad married another woman (step mum) and since then, life became hard for me.

#### **Challenges**

My step father blames me that my mother carried a disease that is currently disturbing him.

I was denied chance to study not until our land lady brought me at MYDEL after witnessing my suffering.

Lacking parental care and love. My guardians used to harass me and I had become the house girl for the whole community as every one would look for Kenina when she/he wants some one to go and buy something at the shop then given heavy punishments when I lose the change. For example, denied food, flogged, and suspended from home for some days etc.

Both my step mum and dad are claiming me now because they expect favor from MYDEL being an organization that is supported by whites yet I want to be under the control and supervision of MYDEL and our Land lady which to me I think is my care taker or mother.

#### **Appreciation**

Special thanks go to entire MYDEL community that has enabled me to get both formal and informal education it's really great. Currently am staying at MYDEL's children's home in Wakiso district where the organization is providing us with all basic necessities of life, I stay with other children totaling 50.

I also thank all people without leaving behind our land lady, Visitors from UK and USA that brings us gifts and support us. They are really doing tremendous job towards uplifting the status of marginalized orphans and vulnerable children (OVC's)

#### **My dream**

When I grow up, want to become a professional counselor or social worker such that I can talk to people especially children under going same suffering. **GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND PLEASE JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE.**

## TOUCHING MOMENT

### MENGO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LINK (MYDEL)

Am called Kasigwa John 13, a 1994 Rwandan genocide remnant. Both my father and mother died, my father died in 1994 during genocide and my mummy died in 1999 after being bewitched by our uncle for the reason which up to now I have failed to know. After realizing that we are his next target and the world has become small for us, we decided to cross to Uganda via Lake Kivu together with 5 (five) brothers and 2 (two) sisters totaling 8 (eight).

#### Challenges

When I remember the way my mother died, I really don't feel my self for couple of days until uncle SAM (Administrator) talks to me and I can't resist it because she really loved me and loved her too. Being a total orphan is a very terrible challenge I have ever seen.

Our family (sibling family) is headed by the elder brother who is 25. So it becomes absolutely difficult for him to look after such a big family due to a fact that he is unemployed.

Today, the family is lacking basic necessities of life like food, clothes, shelter and education among others. Coupled to that, in 2008 we were evicted from the house by our land lord after failing to raise 280000 shs rent for 4months and this forced us to stay at the nearby church for 8months

Whenever other parents come to visit my friends at school, I really feel so lonely and in total grief. This reminds me of our days with my one and only lovely mum.

#### Recognition

I thank MYDEL for giving me opportunity to access formal and informal education. Currently am staying with my brother Eric Twishime and Mutoni Deborah (sister) at MYDEL children's home in Nansana where they provide us all the basic necessities. They are really doing a very wonderful work towards the protection and caring of orphans and war remnants (refugees).

#### Dream

One time our family will be very happy and peaceful as it used to be and since am being looked after by an organization, am also looking forward to help the needy children in future. **WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE AND THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES. Please think of a Nation with no children, to me it will expire/perish after one generation.**