



ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

**2013 UNAOC Youth Solidarity Fund
Final Report: Narrative portion**

Name of organization	Students for Global Democracy Uganda
Name of project	Addressing Ethnic Tension and Religious Differences among University Students In Uganda
Name of report's author	Otim Ivan
<p>Outputs (results) achieved Please review the project work plan and enlist every output which was planned to be reached. Please comment on the path you took to reach these outputs. If you achieved more than planned, please provide details on these additional successes. Response should include minimum 200-300 words dedicated to each output.</p>	<p>Output 1.1: 400 youth and student leaders are trained on inter-faith and inter-cultural understanding, peace building skills, nonviolent behavior in 4 Universities The output was reached through a series of activities that were designed with an approach of sustainability and communication strategy to achieve result identifying trainers, a 2 day Trainers of Trainees event for project Team leaders on interfaith, intercultural understanding, 4 planning meetings and 4 university Trainings.</p> <p>Result: A 2 day team training targeting 15 participants both project staff and volunteers was organized for team leaders to effect, implement project through a result based management model.</p> <p>2000 project brochures were designed, printed and distributed to communicate messages on interfaith, intercultural understanding, peace building and non-violent communication. The messages designed on the brochures were about culture, youth and Intercultural learning, inter-culturalism, multi-culturalism and tolerance.</p> <p>107 copies of project Report were printed and distributed amongst Political leaders, religious groups, academicians, civil society representatives, student leaders and university administrative leaders to communicate the project key areas, highlighted the key challenges and offer recommendation for government, media, universities, religious, cultural associations and youth.</p> <p>4 university planning meetings were organized for 67 participants involving university administrators, students Guild representatives, cultural and religious association at university. The meetings supported information gathering about the challenges of the ethnic tensions and religious differences and also enabled activity planning and scheduling.</p>

Through consultative meetings, 6 project partners including Uganda Youth Network, Sports Eye Foundation, Cross-Cultural Foundation, Global Peace Foundation, United Religions Initiative, Open Space Centre and Uganda interfaith network were engaged to support project in those areas, where we had no expertise.

420 youth participated in the 1 day training on inter-faith and inter-cultural understanding. The Training enhanced skills on dialogue and inter-religious understanding, this supported attitude change and behavior of students towards each other's identity thus enhancing peaceful co-existence within their respective, cultural association, religious groups and political parties.

In total, under this output the project reached 502 youth.487+15

Output 2.1: 800 young people reached out with messages to clear out misconceptions and myths on inter-religious and inter-cultural tensions

The output was achieved through mobilizing partners; 4 cultural and religious seminars discussing existing myths and misconception that bring about tension; 2 inter-cultural and inter-religious seminars, 4 documentary screenings and discussion forums on peace and inter-religious teachings, and 1 day sport gala under a theme "Sports for peace"-Culture and Religion for Sustainable Development.

Result:

Cross-Cultural Foundation, Sports Eye Foundation, United Religions Initiative, Open Space Centre and Global Peace Foundation were mobilized as partners. 558 people have been reached out through youth seminars with messages that encourage interfaith and inter-cultural co-existence in the universities.

8 civil society organizations, 20 local administrative leaders and 224 youth participated in the 2 community service events organized in Kampala and Mbale respectively. Through the inter-cultural and inter-faith civic engagement, messages that clear the myths, misconception were designed and branded on 100 T-shirts to communicate messages like 'Religion is not war', 'Opportunity is cultural diversity' and 'All Different all Equal'.

191 people attended 4 documentaries screening and discussion forums that were carried out in 4 universities. The screenings shown were from the documentary "Imam and the Pastor" - a Nigerian case, where lessons on religious tolerance and understanding are important in addressing inter-religious conflict.

96 people were directly involved in 1 day sport gala targeting 10 organizations including: Youth in Leadership Forum, Uganda Youth Network, Uganda Youth Development Association, Infectious disease institute, United Religion Initiative, NGO Forum, Open Space Centre, Youth after School, Action for Fundamental Change,

Global peace foundation and Hope Foundation. The event messaging was supported by a peace wall and banner that had messages like sports for peace” Culture and Religion for sustainable development.

In total, 511 youth have been reached under this output.

Output 3.1: 200 youth are trained to design, distribute and communicate peace messages among their peers in 4 universities.

The output was achieved through developing and printing questionnaire, 8 organized focus group discussion, designing and distribution of 2000 brochures that supported religious pluralism, 4 peace clubs developed, 50 young people mobilized as peace ambassadors and a monthly newsletters published using social media.

Result:

80 research questionnaire guide and tools were designed and printed to aid data collection on the factors that affect inter-cultural and inter-religious understanding and harmony in 4 universities. The data collected used tools like baseline survey and questionnaire designed by project team with a professional guidance from a consultant.

8 focus group discussions were organized targeting 121 participants both males and females, as tools to support information gathering on factors that affect inter-cultural and inter-religious understanding. The focus group discussion increased awareness among young people and project team on the project intervention area and strategize how better to communicate.

4 Peace clubs were formed as a sustainable tool (50 youth per 1 club; 200 youth total) and 50 young people mobilized to design and distribute peace messages; they were motivated to take on action and demonstrate to others through a youth to youth messaging the importance of peaceful co-existence. Currently the messages of peaceful co-existence are running among Students Cultural Association due to the fact there still exist inter-ethnic tension within student groups.

200 copies of existing literature on religious pluralism were distributed to enhance inter-cultural understanding among young people in 4 universities. Through existing literature, we had increased knowledge and information on what has been achieved.

A monthly newsletter was designed and published using social media tools. The newsletter was part of the communication plan and strategy to the wider public.

1 peace wall was designed as a messaging platform to influence young people to sign their commitment and declaration putting into practice words like interfaith work, mutual understanding, cooperation, nonviolence, relationship, culture of peace, reconciliation, cultural inclusion, trust and understanding, national unity, harmony, collectivity, communication, equality, reconciliation, tradition shared aspirations,

respect, national dialogue, community building, intercultural communication, tolerance, religion is not war, All different all equal, opportunity in cultural diversity and national cohesion.

4 cohesion dialogues were organized and 207 participants attended the dialogue. The dialogue offered young people opportunity and space to reflect on what challenges are happening in their respective university institutions. The dialogue increased space for conversation and debate around the emerging challenge that is deep rooted. In total, 328 youth have been reached under this output. 121+207

Output 4.1: 200 Stakeholders, youth groups and media mobilized to discuss forces that fuel polarization, extremism and dialogue on national cohesion and identity

The output was achieved through organizing a 1 day youth reflection meeting targeting 60 participants and a 1 day National stakeholder conference on Ethnic tension and religious difference targeting 100 participants.

Result:

58 participants attended 1 day youth reflection meeting that offered young people space to internalize and discuss questions like – ‘How can we be part of process to cultivate dialogue to address any irrational fear of “the others”’?, ‘How do we enhance dialogue as a key component to build trust and understanding amongst ourselves’? ‘In the virtues that we are all human beings, how do we enhance our interconnectedness that we see each other as a linkage and How do use the concept of me and my identity where people see themselves first and then see others as fellow human beings’? During the youth reflection meeting, young people were able to discuss the challenges happening elsewhere in other parts of the world like in central African Republic, Republic of South Sudan.

120 people and 20 organizations participated in the National stakeholder’s conference on Ethnic Tension and Religious Differences, involving media, civil society organization, academia, students, and university representatives.

The conference that was held under the theme “Fostering a culture of peace among ethnic and religious groups through dialogue”. The conference had sub themes that were paper presentation and these include: Opportunity In cultural Diversity, Religion is Not War, Multiculturalism under attack and Politics of Identity that supported action based solutions on how the growing problem can be dealt with. The participants discussed an action plan through which project sustainability should be initiated due to the fact that the project is addressing a national, regional challenge.

In total, 178 participants have been reached under this output.

Output 5.1. Project results evaluated and shared

The project output was achieved through recruitment of 1 project coordinator who was responsible for activity implementation and monitoring, 2 project evaluation

	<p>meetings were organized and reports prepared and shared.</p> <p>100 Copies of project report were designed and distributed to communicate project key areas, highlighted observations, lessons learned and communicate project recommendation.</p>
<p>Reach (direct and indirect) Review the work plan and recall all numbers of beneficiaries to benefit from the project, both direct and indirect, both youth (18-35 years old) and adults (over 35 years old).</p> <p>Direct participation: attendance of meetings, events, workshops, trainings, receiving services – direct engagement in the project.</p> <p>Indirect impact: members of the larger community, who may have been engaged in the project; received promotional materials/listened to TV/radio/media information. Please make sure you apply objective methods of counting indirect impact.</p>	<p>Direct participation in project activities: Youth (up to 35 years old): 1519 Young people in the 4 universities were directly involved in the 11 project activities.</p> <p>Non youth: 230 people were directly involved in the project activities held both in communities and in universities.</p> <p>Total number of people;1749 participants were involved in the project</p> <p>Indirect impact: Youth (up to 35 years old): 1612 young people were indirect participants reached through project messages distributed through brochures and project Reports</p> <p>Non youth: 600 adults were indirect participants reached through project messages distributed through brochure and reports.</p> <p>Total number of people: 2,000 with brochures and 212 project reports were distributed, totaling 2212 indirect participants.</p>
<p>Gender mainstreaming</p> <p>Please reflect on the initial project proposal and UNAOC’s call to ensure gender balance</p>	<p>The project emphasized gender as a key component to achieving project results, we encouraged equal participation of both men and women from all the 4 universities in Uganda.</p>

in project activities.	
<p>Impact assessment</p> <p>Please review every project objective (as per the work plan) and reflect / analyze the perceived impact of the project.</p> <p>Please recall your initial project proposal where the problem/issue has been identified by your organization and triggered the need for your project. Then, reflect on how objectives were reached and addressed that problem/issue.</p> <p>For example, do you see more trust among various groups who took part in your project, increased knowledge and understanding about other cultures or religions, new cross-cultural communication skills, new partnerships with previously unknown groups, new initiatives, greater awareness among people in the community on issues addressed in the project?</p> <p>Response should include at least 500 words</p>	<p>Objective 1: To improve understanding and appreciation of inter-faith and inter-cultural diversities among 400 young people in 4 universities in Uganda.</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <p>Increased capacity on cultural activism attained through learning during project team training. This was determined during the project implementation stages where project team developed capacity and activism on inter-cultural communication and understanding in the universities.</p> <p>Increased knowledge and understanding of young people on the need to promote values of peaceful co-existence and harmony through appreciation of other people’s cultures and faith traditions in the universities. This has been observed during the follow up activities after the training on inter-cultural and inter-faith understanding as there are changes in youth’s altitudes, beliefs and perception about each other.</p> <p>Increased desire of young people to engage in constructive conversations that break ethnic tension and religious difference at levels where the problem is deeply rooted. Decreased ethnic tension among students observed during students electoral leadership political campaigns in their respective political parties.</p> <p>There increased change in conversation that promote ethnic tension amongst university students. This has been observed in the students leadership electoral campaigns in their political parties and cultural associations.</p> <p>Increased capacity of young people to accept that they are living in a culturally diverse environment and this is important in promoting peace through respect and understanding. The project has supported young people ability to reflect on opportunity in cultural diversity rather than a threat within cultural associations and they have been changes observed during students entertainment platforms like debates, cultural and sports galas.</p> <p>Objective 2: To clear myth, misconception and tension of looming insecurities between 800 students from opposing political beliefs, religious and indigenous expressions in 4 universities.</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <p>Increased understanding of the project intervention. The project design supported better understanding of project intervention of religion and cultural emerging as threat amongst young people and various stakeholders. This influenced understanding of the challenge to be addressed.</p> <p>Students have become motivated to take on action and deal with the myth and misconception around political, cultural and religious groups in the universities Through existing platforms in the universities, students are motivated to take action through debating and conversation so as to break the misconception among around</p>

	<p>political, cultural and religious groups in the universities.</p> <p>Objective 3: To create space and practical stepping stone towards building a culture of peace between the students in the university and the country at large</p> <p>Assessment: Enhanced learning on tools and message development. Influenced leadership of young people to sustainably create space and platforms to get engaged towards building a culture of peace amongst themselves. Student leaders are using the existing spaces to promote messages that promote cohesion and peace.</p> <p>Increased learning and access of new information that promote inter-cultural learning. The project sustainability plan was drawn from formation of 4 university clubs in the universities, these were formed through mobilization 50 young per university as peace ambassadors to design and distribute peace messages. However, the existing clubs have been embedded within cultural association and these have supported increased knowledge of inter-cultural learning and how best young people can be used their cultural association to promote cohesion and peace within the university.</p> <p>Objective 4: Foster mutual relations and a cross-cultural dialogue amongst 200 stakeholders on issues of national cohesion and identity.</p> <p>Assessment: Increased collaboration and partnership achieved throughout the project life supporting the organization to build capacity around key project component areas. Recognition of the project addressing a national and regional challenge. Through strategic meetings held at the earliest start time of the project life, the project was recognized by university administrators and students, as one is a addressing a university challenge, it was in this case appreciated by partners like Cross-cultural Foundation, Global Peace foundation, International Alert and others stakeholders as one that is addressing a national challenge of ethnicity and religious differences in the university and the country at large.</p> <p>Increased Organization capacity to manage collaborative project.</p> <p>Strategic partners have deepened their collaborative relationship.</p> <p>There have been changes in project visibility as local media covered stories about project issues raised by the students and public.</p>
<p>Success story What is the most impressive aspect of your project? Why do you consider this aspect the success story of</p>	<p>At Kampala International University, the students leader stated that because of the information and knowledge accessed from the project,” Addressing ethnic Tension and Religious difference amongst university students. They were inspired to start organizing a graduation party of South Sudan students at the university something that was successful organized without tensions during the time when their country was under internal conflict.</p>

<p>your entire project?</p> <p>Response should include a total of 200 to 300 words</p>	<p>This act in the organization understanding and assessment was not just celebration but was a direct symbol that unity can exist despite our difference and this was observed during the ceremony and this would act as communication message to the leaders whose role the conflict happened. There always have been conflicts, run by threat of students attacking each other, however in this case students from diverse backgrounds always mobilize themselves to associations and within those association, there exist internal conflicts that is as a result of diversity background and competition but through the lesson learned in the project, it was observed that it was possible to unite despite differences.</p>
<p>Lessons learned</p> <p>What were the top 3 lessons that you learned throughout your project? How did you learn this lesson? How is this lesson going to be applied in your future work? Now that you know this lesson, how would you do things differently next time? Please be as precise as possible.</p> <p><i>If you have learned over 3 lessons, please feel free to add to this section.</i></p> <p>Response should include a total of 100-150 words per each lesson learned</p>	<p>Lessons learned 1:</p> <p>Through the capacity building provided by UNAOC team, skills in project design with an approach of communication strategy and sustainability plan is an important success achieved by the organization. The organization is using the skills learnt to design projects using this approach.</p> <p>Lessons learned 2:</p> <p>Through the 2006 Cultural Policy, Uganda celebrates diversity with 65 indigenous communities that have to be harnessed for development. The lesson learned through the project are supporting the organization to initiate a discussion on the 2006 Cultural Policy and identify gaps for review to be put forward to agencies like Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda National commission for UNESCO. We will use the information accessed and push for review of the policy and advocate for government enhanced responsibility of encouraging national cohesion, inter-cultural learning and platforms where other cultures can showcase and be appreciated.</p> <p>Lessons learned 3:</p> <p>During the project life, the lessons learned was lack of political parties as a platforms for young people to nurture themselves with multiparty politics, this has pushed students to side with their cultures and mobilizing themselves on religious grounds. We will use this lesson learned to advocate for change on the challenge of young people mobilizing themselves along ethnic lines and religion within their association and push for university administration to reinstate political parties for student leadership.</p>
<p>Documenting project</p> <p>Please attach to the Final Report pictures/images that most prominently show the activities of the project.</p> <p>If manual/brochure were published, please</p>	<p>Pictures: picture folder on flicker will be shared when picture are uploaded</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Students-for-Global-Democracy-Uganda/196262373745269</p> <p>https://www.dropbox.com/lightbox/home/UNAOC%20Project%20Pictures</p> <p>Published documents:</p>

<p>report. In this section, enclose all media which covered your project (name of magazine, or radio, or TV station, etc)</p>	<p>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXKwErAfVbA&list=SPWuYED1WVJIPsj2wtEwxnYyF9eGipoX7P with 213 views http://unaocyouth.org/ysf/2013-ysf-winners/addressing-ethnic-tensions-and-religious-differences-amongst-students-in-universities-of-uganda-uganda/ Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Students-for-Global-Democracy-Uganda/196262373745269 Facebook reach messaging link: http://ivanotim96.pbworks.com/w/file/75691787/UNAOC%20FACE%20BOOK%20%20Reach.xlsx</p>
<p>Other comments Are there other comments you would like to share with the Alliance of Civilizations with regard to the narrative portion of this final report?</p>	
<p>Date</p>	<p>Ivan Otim, March 1, 2014</p>