Promoting Civic Responsibility among Youth in Uganda

GRANTEE: STUDENTS FOR GLOBAL DEMOCRACY UGANDA

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PROJECT NAME: PROMOTING CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AMONG YOUTH

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SGD-Uganda staff Edward Sendagire and Hawa Nalule in conjunction with the Uganda Police carrying out a community clean up exercise in Mattugga, Wakiso District
Community cleaning exercise in a Fishing Community in Massese Landing Site, Jinja

Photo 1: Mobilized youth from Jinja Town by SGD Uganda cleaning out in a fishing community in Massese Landing Site, Jinja
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a narrative report for the First Quarter (October 2011-December 2011) of the SGD Uganda ‘Promoting Civic Responsibility Among The Youth in Uganda’ Project, which is a NED funded project that will run for a period of 12 months. This report highlights the project activities that were carried out during the concluded First Quarter Phase of the Project, October to December, 2011. The report is made up of sections highlighting most importantly the kind of activity carried out, the places where activities were carried out, project inputs, project outs, emerging issues among the youth on: governance, democracy, justice, youth needs and future of Uganda with the current status of the youth. This report is prepared in response to a need by the project funding institution, NED to assess the progress and achievements of the project on its intended purpose.

It also serves as an informative tool for the various partners especially the Civil Society Organizations which SGD Uganda approached and worked together with during the implementation in the realization of the concluded First Quarter Phase of the SGD Uganda ‘Promoting Civic Responsibility Among The Youth in Uganda’ Project. The SGD Uganda ‘Promoting Civic Responsibility Among The Youth in Uganda’ Project developed by SGD

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Uganda is among the various interventions that SGD Uganda has devised as a response to address the worsening situation of youth exposure to dangerous risks and vulnerabilities brought upon them by a growing culture of violence feeding on youth frustrations, despair, disillusionment, disenfranchisement, resignation and apathy that are promoted by bad politics, increasing crime, youth marginalization, youth unemployment and deliquesce amidst worsening poverty in Uganda.

The project aims at correcting youth violent behavior and culture resulting from the above negative conditions by enhancing youth vibrancy and active participation in democracy, governance and development processes through corrective civic responsibility and responsible citizenship that will see the youth more involved in public decision-making and policy formulation, formation of advocacy and lobby groups, formation of political parties, vying for public political offices, working in media houses for information dissemination, mobilizing youth in awareness campaigns for public accountability, and engaging in self-help economic enterprises development are important aspects of youth enlightenment and empowerment which is at the heart of changing the overall quality of youth life in Uganda.

The NED funded project, ‘Promoting Civic Responsibility Among The Youth in Uganda’ involves a series of project activities that form the components of a strategy by SGD Uganda to prevent the ongoing institutionalization of youth violent behavior as a coping mechanism, on one hand, for the youth as an instrument of their survival given the narrowed opportunities for the youth, and on the other hand, for the politicians and other unscrupulous people who have taken advantage of the weak and vulnerable situation of the youth, and are now using the youth as instruments to wield violence especially for those people’s personal selfishness.
BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

Uganda is a country caught between cross-roads, on one hand a struggle by citizens to try and consolidate progress on the newly ushered-in political dispensation of democratization under multi-party politics from one-party politics under ‘movementocracy’ political system, and on the other hand, a struggle by citizens to try and engage in gainful productive activities to get through the wide spread and worsening poverty amidst contracting accessibility and availability of opportunities towards personal and group socio-economic empowerment and development. At the heart of these two struggles is the fight by citizens to make their leaders and politicians more accountable to citizens’ demands for transparency, responsiveness and accountability on proper rule of law practice and proper services delivery amidst misery perpetuated by bad politics.
reflected as: regime overstay in power, nepotism, despotism, favourism, marginalization, discrimination and rampant corruption. The above have taken their toll on the people of Uganda. No category of people in Uganda has been the most and worst affected as the youth population of the country.

It is no surprise that: many youth are increasingly descending into severe poverty amidst worsening underemployment and unemployment; many youth are increasingly becoming the most vulnerable group and at very high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS associated with a severe poverty political-economy that involves cross-generational sexual relations, socio-economic factors of human-trafficking and slavery, and modern urban prostitution; many youth are increasingly resorting to crude dangerous survival and coping strategies to adopt to the difficult life such as: the recourse to robbery, recruitment into terrorist-inspired groups, recruitment into rebel groups involved in subversive illegal activities against the state/government, recruitment into paid-up hitman murder/assassins squads, involvement into black market activities like small arms and light weapons trafficking, drug trafficking, illegal mineral smuggling, goods smuggling, counterfeit currency transactions and recruitment into transnational criminal gangs and their associated evils. Critical to note about the above, is that, at the heart of all the activities is the application of violence as an instrument of survival. Moreover, the effect upon the youth is there increased erosion of values and virtues which gives way into severe immorality and its associated dangerous individual personality and behavior that builds in the individual.

The above is a reflection of the extent to which the youth in Uganda are a highly vulnerable and a very high risk group. This level of vulnerability and risk has prompted the youth into negative behavior and exposed them to a number of dangerous precedents. Important to note is the youth’s increased vulnerability to exploitation by unscrupulous people especially politicians who have mustered the employment of violence in politics using the youth as the instrument of wreaking violence to promote fear and intimidation in the opponents. No wonder the youth are the people deployed by the politicians in state power to beat up demonstrating people on the streets, even if, such people are rightfully exercising their right to demonstrate. The youth are involved in forming the rigging squads and machinery that rig for the politicians during elections maintaining the politicians in power illegally. The case in point are the ‘Kibooko Squads’ commonly known to be
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recruited with the knowledge of Uganda Police. Youth are the group involved in violently evicting people from pieces of land being reclaimed by government and sometimes private parties. Even when, these evictions are legal or illegal, the instrument of eviction is violence involving sometimes the use of guns and sharp lethal instruments such as the Nakawa Evictions, June 2011. Generally, the youth are gripped in an environment nurturing them into a culture of violence; thus, eroding their respect for human values of love, tolerance, accommodation, reconciliation, peace and justice.

Given the above state of affairs for the youth, the situation now, more than ever before, demands an increased focused and meaningful concerted effort by the youth working together with other well wishers to devise a collective youth-initiated self-help strategy towards addressing the inadequacies in democracy, governance and development that have left the youth the most vulnerable and risky category experiencing the effects of marginalization and discrimination. A number of youth are trying to rise up to the challenges facing the youth. Through teaching and imparting values of civic responsibility among the youth, it is hoped that the growing culture of violence among the youth can be prevented. Youth vibrant and active participation in democracy, governance and development processes is the only way of promoting civic responsibility and building responsible citizenship among the youth. Youth involvement in public decision-making and policy formulation, formation of advocacy and lobby groups, formation of political parties, vying for public political offices, working in media houses for information dissemination, mobilizing youth in awareness campaigns for public accountability, and engaging in self-help economic enterprises development are important aspects of youth enlightenment and empowerment which is at the heart of changing the overall quality of youth life in Uganda.

While it is possible to improve the situation of youth in current efforts being rolled out by the youth to the grass root communities through youth-to-youth and youth-to-public approaches for the sake of strengthening youth collective efforts at all levels, the biggest challenge on this path of enlightenment and empowerment is making the process youth and people-centered by increasing overall citizen participation. Making the youth the owners and controllers of the process of empowerment because they are the biggest percentage of the citizenry is therefore a pillar to this transition. This project is designed to make a contribution towards making the young people more
active responsible citizens relevant in the processes of active governance, democracy and development by increasing their meaningful active participation, beyond merely taking part in the electoral processes to seeking accountability, getting their voices heard, benefiting from government public policy formulation and implementation, and informed participation in decision making.

Students for Global Democracy Uganda (SGD Uganda) is now implementing the First Phase of the ‘Promoting Civic Responsibility Among The Youth In Uganda Project’ in the four pilot districts of Kampala, Mpigi, Wakiso, and Jinja. This is Quarter I of the III Quarters in which the project is divided. This project is a continuation of the recommendations made from a needs assessment project on the situation of youth violent behaviour and culture that was carried out in 2010-2011 seeking to establish causes of increasing youth violent behavior and come up with possible solutions to prevent vulnerability and risk associated with violent youth behavior. It its core strategy is the involvement of youth in more active youth-orientated active participation in civic activities promoting active governance, democracy and sustainable development. This phase of the project seeks to build on the achievements and lessons learnt over the years by SGD Uganda on youth enlightenment and empowerment to consolidate youth participation in youth-orientated initiatives for improving overall youth situation to have youth issues incorporated into the overall process of governance, democracy and development of the country.
Photo 4: Youth in Mengo, Lubaga Division in Kampala heading to the tree planting exercise
**PROBLEM ANALYSIS**

The youth in Uganda form the largest section of the country’s population. They are estimated to constitute slightly over half (about 51.7%) of the total population of about 33 million people now. The young people between the age of 12 and 22 years form the largest portion (about 67.5%) of Uganda’s youth population. Adult youth between the age of 27 and 35 years form the smallest portion of Uganda’s youth population. These two categories are very critical to the country because, the young people require a very critical attention to prepare them for the future challenges when they begin to live on their own; while the adult youth require an enabling environment to very urgently respond to their needs, dreams and ambitions as the most productively grown and developed human resource of the country. Unfortunately, these two categories in Uganda are being exposed to regressive patterns of life exposing them to great risk and vulnerability and therefore transforming them into a liability to their communities.

For young people, growing levels of crime: youth prostitution, youth murdering, youth robbery, youth corruption on job, youth smuggling, youth drug trafficking and youth gangsterism, seem to demonstrate to them that life demands can be met by crude informal and unacceptable ways. This erodes the very essence of their innocence and morality turning them into dangerous people. For adult youth, growing marginalization amidst misery, frustration in the government, discrimination amidst contracting opportunities, rampant corruption, disenfranchisement, disillusionment and persistent hopelessness, seem to demonstrate to them that formal processes of earning a life are irrelevant, hence, the recourse to immorality. That said, it is no surprise that youth are the largest portion of criminals, constituting most mysterious deaths, involved in dangerous fights, most voluntarily displaced from home, most involved in drugs and most recruits into dangerous underground operations for survival.

Against this background, youth have increasingly accepted and tolerated a bad culture of violence and immorality cropping up and institutionalsing itself as an alternative mechanism for youth

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survival. This has further exposed the youth to more compromising situations detrimental to their own lives and the peace, stability and security of their countries and world at large. Youth are the prolific prostitutes of modern times beginning through cross-generational sexual relations; forerunners of the most dangerous human-trafficking syndicates; promoters of modern slavery and exploitation; smartest, lethal and daring robbers; highly intoxicated radical terrorism-inspired agents; most ready and available recruits into rebel subversive activities and quickest paid-up hitman murderers/assassins. Critical to note about the above, is that, at the heart of all the activities is the application of violence as an instrument of survival. Moreover, the effect upon the youth is their increased erosion of values and virtues which gives way into severe immorality and its associated dangerous individual personality and behavior that builds in the individual.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overall goal is to strengthen individual youth sense of responsible citizenship and civic duty towards non-violent behavior and responsible way of life.

The general objective is to strengthen individual youth love and respect for volunteerism and community service in the life of the individual youth person in their daily living.

Project Activity Objective

To promote individual youth respect for, love for and stewardship towards the community and community members living in the community

Project Activity Specific Objectives

- To increase active youth participation towards love for volunteerism for community and individual empowerment
- To increase the active capacity of the youth and their local communities to manage and sustain the on-going volunteerism and community service culture initiated under the current ongoing project activities

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• To increase the active capacity of the youth towards mobilization and organization of fellow youth at the grassroots and community through community-based advocacy and lobby that comes out of a youth-to-youth approach

• To promote active advocacy and lobby activities at the local level as a way of building momentum for voicing youth concerns at the national levels.

Photo 6: Youth, staff of SGD Uganda and community residents clean in Kisenyi, Central Division in Kampala District

PROJECT ACTIVITIES MEANT TO BE CARRIED OUT DURING THE QUARTER

• Community cleaning exercises

• Community tree planting exercises

• Community zebra crossing and sign post erection exercises

• Community volunteer placements

• Mobilizing and Collecting donations and gifts

• Organising fundraisings

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• Documentary Video shows
• Visits to prisons, hospitals and remand homes
• Testimony sharing forums on violence
• Drama shows on violence

The period between October 1st and December 31st was the pre-scheduled period within which the above activities were slated to be carried out during the implementation of the First Quarter Phase of the overall project.

Photo 7: Part of the youth and young people in Nansana, Wakiso District breathing a morning light shower to receive briefing on the day’s event and exercises from an SGD Uganda staff, Otim Ivan

ACTUAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

The key project activities that were undertaken to in fulfillment of the above objectives during this phase of the project were;

• Community cleaning exercises
- Community tree planting exercises
- Community zebra painting and sign-post erection exercises
- Youth-to-youth issues dialogues and discussions
- Youth-to-youth sensitization, knowledge sharing and skills development exercises
- Youth-to-youth community youth mobilization and organization exercises
- Youth-to-youth local level advocacy and lobby exercises

The above project activities were the actual and concluded activities carried out between October 2011 and December 2011 which is a period of three months that made up the First Quarter Phase of the whole project meant for three Quarters ending in September 2012. The actual implementation of the First Quarter Phase started on 5th October 2011 and ended on 21st December 2011. Within this period, the above mentioned activities were carried out and concluded.

Photo 8: One of the activities carried out was Youth-to-youth sensitization, knowledge sharing and skills development exercises. Here Staff of SGD Uganda and Local Area Councilor III for Kisenyi, Central Division in Kampala using past election IEC materials sensitize youth on responsible election participation which is part of the noble civic duty of responsible citizenship.

ACTIVITIES PROGRESS

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• **COMMUNITY CLEANING EXERCISES**

SGD Uganda (SGD Uganda) facilitated the cleanup exercise involving sensitization and awareness-raising elements in the exercise in all the places through which the exercises were held. Staff from SGD Uganda, implementing partners, local leaders and community members plus the youth engaged together in a concerted effort to improve on the quality of physical health of their local community environments. This was to essentially mainstream the community’s right to a clean and healthy environment, whilst emphasizing individual roles and responsibilities in preserving and protecting their environment. At the heart of the activities was the need to promote a sense of respect for volunteerism and community service which resonates into building a responsible citizen. The exercises were based on the philosophy that responsible citizens participate in cleaning and keeping their environment clean, and everyone has a right to a clean and healthy environment.

![Photo 9](image_url)

**Photo 9:** One of the activities carried out was the community cleanup exercise involving sensitization and awareness-raising elements to improve quality of physical environmental hygiene. Here youth in Jinja Town, Jinja Central in Jinja sweep and uproot grass on the streets of Jinja Town
The cleanup exercise involving sensitization and awareness-raising elements encompassed a diversity of activities from digging in bushy patches, thrashing or cutting down tall grass patches, dredging and cleaning in the trenches and channels, burning dry rubbish and illicit refuse such as polythene, plastics, and wooden materials, removing and cleaning decomposing garbage heaps and transporting garbage to public damping ground. Also sweeping and cleaning within and around public places of big crowds like the market areas was done, plus weeding through roadsides to collecting and loading rubbish on to awaiting rubbish trucks. SGD Uganda staff together with the staff of partner organizations in the activities focused on sensitizing the communities on the positive impact of creating wealth out of waste through charcoal briquette making; outlining the environmental benefit as an alternative fuel source, due to the reduction in the depletion of trees through obtaining biodegradable waste, and the cost effective benefits compared to these fuel sources. SGD Uganda staff together with the partner organizations also reiterated that waste
plastics, when collected and sold to the recycling industry, is a source of additional income for communities.

- **COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING EXERCISES**

The tree planting exercises facilitated and supervised by SGD Uganda were carried out in public places where free physical space for trees would be found and in places where once planted the trees would also enjoy a reasonable level of freedom from interference from the effects of physical infrastructure development. The tree planting exercises were another important step to restoring confidence in the communities that the public outside cares to focus on community empowerment, a demonstration of the public’s commitment to creating social and economic benefits to the grassroots people, whilst improving the environment and quality of life for the community. The tree planting exercises aimed at improving the green spaces in the areas in the long term which is associated to bringing much more benefit to a local community than just a good view. On the long term side, trees were purposely planted because they have been proven to improve health, reduce crime, increase social well-being, improve environmental quality and reduce pollution.
Photo 11: Part of the community tree planting exercises in some places also overwhelmed the very young people and excited them to join in the exercise. Seen here are the pupils of Spire Road Primary School in Jinja together with Mike Munabi, a staff of SGD Uganda.
Photo 12: The very young people demonstrating the value of mentoring aspects of the project during the community tree planting exercises. Seen here are some pupils of Spire Road Primary School in Jinja together responsibly planting trees around school compounds a sign of learnt responsibility.

During the tree planting exercises the local leaders of the communities said they embarked on active participation in the exercise because they are cognizant of the significance of demonstrating it out through leadership especially for the young people that maintaining the environment is one of the aspects of responsible citizenship and humanity. In their messages a common addition was that the planting of trees will improve the environment as well as create awareness among the community members about the significance of a good and healthy environment. They emphasized that since livelihood was importantly interdependent on the environment, the importance of trees cannot be over emphasized. Green environments give us food, shelter, medication.

Humans’ lives depend on the planet whose equilibrium depends on trees, that is why we want to inculcate it in the young people and we will make sure that the young people maintain the trees to
grow, whilst noting that in future, the efforts should be intended towards expanding the exercises by involving the communities more actively at large. During the exercises it also came out that the local leaders used the occasion to call on people to complement the efforts of the CSOs and implore their government to actively support CSOs by ensuring an enabling environment through which sustainability of the environment can be promoted beyond mere tree planting but also nurturing those that are growing. The exercise was appreciated generally as a fundamental instrument in the quest to complement government’s efforts in sustaining the environment and capturing its beauty under the auspices of the role and function of NEMA Uganda.

- **COMMUNITY ZEBRA CROSS PAINTING AND SIGN-POST ERECTION EXERCISES**

During the community zebra cross painting and signpost erection the youth took the opportunity of talking to the police who also participated in the exercise given that issues concerning roads and transport in the country are really the preserve of the Uganda Police (UP). The youth engaged with the police on matters of civil-military relations enabling a discussion on civic, governance and democracy issues that are directly associated to the police force and its operations in Uganda. The youth were concerned over the police’s increasing tendencies towards partisan operations—meaning that the police has become an instrument of the ruling party (NRM/A) rather than a civilian institution that is supposed to act impartially. They were concerned over the increased brutality by the police during its operations especially citing the scenarios like the walk-to-work campaign by the opposition in which a number of people were brutally injured, some killed and others arbitrarily arrested, and are still in prison languishing there. While the level of police violence can be a deterrence towards talking to them on matters of their operations, the community zebra cross painting and signpost erection exercise provided a basis along which the youth, community members and police would interact on matters of civic duty and responsibility. It was also a way of enabling the police members clarify and justify certain things to the communities over misperceptions and reality, something which may not be possible because of lack of a neutral forum upon which to discuss freely.
Photo 13: Some of the youth in Mpumudde in Jinja District participating in the community zebra cross painting and signpost erection. Part of the significant participants were the Uganda Police as seen here in the photo a lady policewoman stands watching the youth do their job.

- **YOUTH-TO-YOUTH ISSUES DIALOGUES AND DISCUSSIONS**

During the community cleaning and tree planting exercises, SGD Uganda together with the participating partners such as the local leaders, implementing partner CSOs, and adult responsible and event well-wishers from the various communities saw the need for holding dialogues and discussions after the exercises as a way of consolidating on the message that had been passed on practically among the youth. The dialogues and discussions were conducted in all the four project
districts during the period after the community cleaning and tree planting exercises had been concluded. As forum for sharing knowledge and experiences, the dialogues and discussions involved networking interactions between the available youth leaders from the partner CSOs and the youth stakeholders from the communities and the participating local government leaders, SGD Uganda and well-wishers. These discussions were intended to disseminate the identified emerging issues from the communities to the local leaders in response to the need that was identified during the cleaning and tree planting exercises.

The emerging issues from the exercises highlighted the young people’s glaring ignorance of the available possibilities for self-help initiatives towards enlightenment and empowerment, therefore this activity sought to enhance the capacity of the youth to understand and apply relevant strategies for youth enlightenment and empowerment in their day-to-day operations. The dialogue was also aimed at strengthening the capacity of the partner CSOs to manage and sustain the ongoing district level advocacy. The dialogue gave insight on how the youth can gainfully participate in the government programs by forming groups and actively participating in planning and budgeting processes at all levels of decision making. The dialogue was also seeking to create greater public awareness of youth issues at local government level. The district officials elaborately discussed the legal and institutional framework in which the young people should operate. They called upon the youth to make good use of the national youth structures which are fully established and operational from local to national level. It was also indicated that most of the government programs have a special component for the youth but they have quite often than ever missed out on such programs because of negligence and laziness.

- **YOUTH-TO-YOUTH SENSITIZATION, KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT EXERCISES**

During the main project activities, it was also realized that during the day’s event, there needed to be a youth-to-youth sensitization in which knowledge and skills development exercises would be carried out for the sake of the youth to learn to better their strategy towards youth advocacy and lobbying for youth enlightenment, empowerment and development. At the end of the day’s event, sensitization sessions would be held in which staff of SGD Uganda and partner youth CSOs
would engage the youth in the target communities in sensitization sessions. The sensitization was geared towards contributing to targeted youth in the communities building capacities together with local partner CSOs in the development of better strategies for local community enlightenment and empowerment on youth issues. The sensitizations would focus on promotion of the idea of volunteerism and empowerment of local community through applying organized voluntary programs. In this, standardization of procedures in organized volunteers programs was shared out with the youth.

Sensitizations were educative trainings about volunteerism delivered in a manner that was youth-to-youth centered. In each session there were at least 20 youth participants. The planning for the sessions expected that perhaps the numbers would be less than 20 given that the sessions would be held after the main event of the day and also after many people seemed a little exhausted after the cleaning and tree planting. Although, they would be given refreshments after the main event, it is expected that people normally turn away and leave, but the youth were patiently enthusiastic to hear from fellow youth. 20 participants per session was a big enough number to create a critical mass on which to consolidate in the future. It also shows that youth representatives of the area had done a good job of mobilizing and organizing fellow youth for the whole day’s events. Even the adult people for whom the project activities were not specifically intended were actively interested in educative initiatives organized and delivered by youth for fellow youth. Adults would have been expected to be less interested in the sessions, and also because sometimes youth take time on issues, and may be as adults with a lot to do, they would rather attend on a few minutes of the events.
Photo 14: Sensitization for the purpose of sharing knowledge to reduce ignorance and improve on knowledge, and build capacities in skills through practical demonstrations and trainings for community self-help initiatives was part of the sensitization, knowledge sharing and skills development exercises in the project activities. Seen here are the youth of Kisenyi undergoing a sensitization and training on improved community water and sanitation hygiene by the Secretary of Community Affairs of Kisenyi, Central Division in Kampala District. Standing in a yellow T-Shirt is the Councilor, Hajji Mutasa Abdul who was contacted by SGD Uganda for the exercise.

In the sessions which although were short, youth were tasked to come up with presentations on strategies of youth mobilizations and organization aimed at enhancing volunteerism and management of volunteer work. Youth were asked to form groups in which they would carry out the task. It was required of them to create action plans to be implemented in their local communities. It was observed that those who were present showed truly enthusiastic expression for topic on volunteerism and management of volunteer work. During the trainings participants had several ideas, and planned altogether 5 future local actions. Since a mock demonstration of the locally developed future local action was done to illustrate the practical reality of the actions developed, and considering that the mock demonstration was successfully done, it reflected that
educative trainings held had an important role in establishing the new state of mind in the youth and their enthusiasm to work towards their local communities empowerment. The whole project activity minimum local actions developed merged into the idea for an SGD Uganda Youth-to-Youth volunteerism manual that will be developed into a product after an extensive analysis and debate in future project activities which are also geared towards mainstreaming the spirit of volunteerism in daily living. The doctrine of the SGD Uganda Youth-to-Youth volunteerism manual will revolve around the youth demands that the ongoing program of patriotism by government be a more actively sensitive initiative for enhancing the value of volunteerism as the basis upon which the youth shall participate in their local communities and the national level for the sake of responsible citizenship. The SGD Uganda Youth-to-Youth volunteerism manual has been captured in draft form awaiting inputs from the other future project experiences. The only challenge that SGD Uganda Youth-to-Youth volunteerism manual will have is to broadly popularize it among the youth population to make them own the issues therein. The SGD Uganda Youth-to-Youth volunteerism manual shall also be addressed to key stakeholders especially institutions for redress through meetings and dialogues.

- **YOUTH-TO-YOUTH COMMUNITY YOUTH MOBILISATION AND ORGANISATION EXERCISES**

During the pre-planning, planning and post planning periods/project activity execution and implementation, SGD Uganda and partner CSOs agreed to employ a youth-to-youth approach of mobilization and awareness in the target communities where the project activities were to be carried out. The essence of this was to ensure that the youth who were the target beneficiaries rather than the organizers would own and control some aspects of the project activities. In this youth were organized on what to do and were sent out in teams to mobilize fellow youth and alert them of the forthcoming activities geared towards community and youth empowerment. The mobilization of the communities for the project was largely done by the organized youth teams under the supervision of the staff of SGD Uganda and partner CSOs. To better facilitate the youth in this task, procurement of IEC materials was done by SGD Uganda and partner CSOs to construct youth friendly IEC messages. Messages were revised by youth to reflect both youth

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centered issues and community rights-based messages. Continued mobilization was ensured also into the implementation phase so as to ensure that awareness to the communities and young people be done in preparation of the sensitization exercise that would be done as a concluding activity to the whole day’s event.

**Photo 15:** Part of an exercise of youth-to-youth community youth mobilization and organization geared towards involving the community members more actively in the community self-help initiative of ensuring progress in the community cleaning exercise. Seen here are the youth of Kisenyi having mobilized the community members in the early morning in preparation for the cleaning.

At the selected venues to host the dialogues and discussions, and sensitization sessions normally at the local government public halls or at schools, churches and community resource social centers meetings would be held in preparation for the next forthcoming activity in the area. During this time, advices would be taken upon which ad hoc teams of youth would be organized and given the task of organizing youth out there in the community in selecting futures places where tree planting and other project activities in the next phases would be carried out. In all the four districts where the project activities were held, this sort of thing was welcomed and carried out. In the meetings that followed many youth would attend having been mobilised and organized
by fellow youth during the previous exercises. Those in attendance represented a wide range of youth stakeholders. The highly interactive meetings confirmed the fact that youth when mobilized and organized for youth action over youth pertinent issues youth can respond unprecedentedly. This was a common phenomenon throughout the districts and the need for not only prioritizing it as a strategy of youth empowerment and development but also taking practical steps at all levels to consolidate it as an instrument to address inadequacies in youth mobilization and organization. The youth were tasked to take charge in the planning meetings leading to the next project activities and this was praised by the youth and it created confidence among the youth especially because they were dealing on a youth-to-youth approach and initiative.

- **YOUTH-TO-YOUTH IN PUBLIC/LOCAL LEVEL ADVOCACY AND LOBBY EXERCISES**

During the cleaning and tree planting exercises, it came out through all stakeholder sharing that there was need to demonstrate out to the young people how advocacy and lobby can be done to raise awareness on youth pertinent issues. It was agreed that during the planning phase for the activity execution and during the activity implementation, some young people and youth would go around the target communities with gestures of active advocacy and lobby to raise awareness about the youth issues in their communities and also mainstream alongside local communities youth issues national youth concerns. In a way this would orient the young people and the youth to a practical introduction to advocacy and lobby thus enhancing on their advocacy and lobby organization skills. The exercise would be a way of assessing the achievements and contributions of the partner CSOs in trying to mobilize and organize the young people and the youth over the number of years or activities they have carried out in their local area jurisdictions. This activity was used to provide reflection on the side of the implementing partner CSOs their relevance as instruments for a youth platform on youth issues in their communities. It was as a direct way of assessing the capacity of participating CSOs to consolidate on achievements made by the participating CSOs over the past activities in their local communities.
All the CSOs were given the opportunity to present the achievements they have registered and the challenges they have faced during the previous advocacy campaigns undertaken. During the planning phase and post-planning phase leading to the activity execution, participating partner CSOs agreed to be tasked to facilitate the young people and the youth to further the local advocacy and undertake a concerted civic engagement aimed at creating awareness among the youth on the formal legal and institutional framework upon which their advocacy and lobby operations should be based starting within their local communities and expanding it at the national level and beyond after capacities have been strengthened. The CSOs were also tasked to solicit the views, concerns and aspirations of the young people to be integrated into a common report that would be filtered into the national youth manifesto. In preparation for the forthcoming project activities, SGD Uganda with further support from NED and other well-wishers to the project activities it was foreseen that engaging the young people at different local forums during the activities execution and implementation, collecting their aspirations and demands for presentation to the political actors especially government would be adopted as a part of the next project phase.
EMERGING ISSUES FROM THE YOUTH

Some of the youth in Kawempe during the community cleaning exercise highlighted a number of issues that reflected the situation of governance and democracy in their local area;

- The youth mentioned that there was generally lack of appropriate mechanisms through which the youth would pursue accountability issues in public resources management. The youth reflected that they were aware of scenarios in which public resources had been misappropriated however; it was difficult for them to pursue the culprits especially the public officials implicated in scandals of corruption, mismanagement and misappropriation. The cause for this they highlighted it as being the enormous collusion that goes on between leaders, hence, creating unfavorable environments in which to hold culprits responsible and accountable.

- The youth mentioned that they felt isolated and marginalized regarding local governance processes in their area. They were not being consulted on important matters of decision making such as in budgeting processes, election preparation and organization, scheduling official business and implementation of approved projects and programmes among others. The youth fell that their power has been usurped and that leaves them powerless to hold people accountable to their wrong doing. This situation of affairs according to the youth denies them a right to be active participants in addressing the inadequacies in public services, administration and management.

- The youth also mentioned that their situation was increasingly getting worse because of the lack of mainstreaming youth in the public development policy making. The youth attributed the insensitiveness of public development policy to youth issues because of the inadequate and ineffective youth representation at all levels of decision making.
The youth in Nansana Town Council in Wakiso District mentioned that;

- There was youth marginalization because of absence of a national youth policy upon which youth needs would be properly mainstreamed and programmed instead youth issues are planned on ad hoc basis without consultation with the youth. This denies the youth a right to own the process of planning for youth needs. It makes the youth dependent on the mercy of the politicians interests especially when they want to use the youth for their selfish political ends. The lack of a national youth policy that can provide a framework for coordinating youth participation in youth issues leaves the youth a category of disempowered people without agency of changing the bad situation affecting them.

- There is lack of political will to empower the youth so that they can participate in youth oriented issues. There is fear that organized youth can raise up against the government if they are influenced by the political opposition. It is therefore deliberate for government to alienate the youth from planning processes that directly make them an organized category of people. Instead the government and politicians deceive the youth that a youth policy it in development to sustain youth interest and support in the government. So, the youth find themselves not involved in youth policy formulation and youth needs planning. Instead government so-called youthful people for its manipulation of the real youth, to show that it committed to youth issues when it actually is not.

- There is a lack of full acknowledgement of the youth as a vulnerable social category as a vulnerable social category that requires the urgent attention of the government. Instead government engages in politics of acknowledgement and recognition of certain particular social groups like the women, children and disabled people living with HIV/AIDS for the purpose of enlisting their support whenever it is time for elections. Denying the youth special acknowledgement and recognition denies them special rights that are being bestowed and given to other social categories. In essence, the youth having for instance youth rights denies them the opportunity to legally claim the enjoyment of social justice as it is for social categories like the women with women’s rights, children with children’s right’s or even girl child with girl child’s rights’. In effect the youth are discriminated against leading to their marginalization.
Youth in Jinja during the community cleaning exercise, mentioned that;

- The youth in the area are highly intimidated by the police, army and security agencies because they youth are labeled as supporters of the opposition. The people who are involved in intimidating the youth are state agents working in the various security and intelligence organizations. What annoys the youth as that most of the state operatives who coerce and intimidate the youth are fellow youth who are recruited by the state to work for it. Because the youth become fearful of what could be done to them, their fear leads them into self withdraw, they become passive, do not feel free to voice their concerns, hence, they are left without a voice through which they can voice their issues.

- There is a deliberate feeling by the government and the politicians of the day to prevent the youth from organizing themselves into the formation of political parties and strong pressure/interest groups through which they can voice their issue in a much stronger manner. There is fear of the politicians and government that if the youth are encouraged and allowed to organizing themselves into parties, then they can become a difficult category of people to control and can sometimes become agents of change employed by other political opponents against a sitting government. The lack of an enabling environment in which the youth can organize themselves politically, denies them the possibility of holding the leaders at all levels and generally the government accountable. One feature of the un enabling environment is the fact that youth cannot register a political of their own even then, the process of registration is delayed so as to make it hard for youth to think about how better they can organize themselves.

Youth, during the community clean exercise in Mpuumude Market Zone mentioned that;

- They perceive themselves as a very vulnerable group because they are not enlightened about their rights – both as individual persons and as a group. Unaware of their rights the youth have become unable to afford legal aid and institute legal procedures against government through the courts to compel government adopt youth friendly poliices and measures for youth empowerment.
The youth perceive it, that their marginalization from mainstream economic development is because the politicians want them to be poor so as to maintain a patronage-client relationship. The politicians do not want the youth to engage in gainful economic production but rather stay dependent on handouts from the politicians. Even the other older people who have been working in their current state of employment do not want to leave the jobs for retirement. By this the youth are left without incomes that can enable them personally develop. This ends up making the youth socially become marginalized in economic terms.

The youth during the zebra crossing Painting activity at Mpumudde Primary School in Jinja exercise mentioned that;

- They are ignorant about many things taking place in government and other places of Uganda although they are very enthusiastic to know what goes on in their local areas, government’s plans and other issues of great importance. They blamed this on the lack of information flow from the local government structures, public organizations and government as a whole. They acknowledge that there is no access to information which is vital for their enlightenment. Information seems to be deliberately denied of the youth. Also it is difficult for the youth to act information on socio-economic opportunities for youth empowerment because the information is expensive to get and yet most youth are poor so even if the information is available it becomes inaccessible because of the expenses involved in getting it. They mentioned the case of expensive internet.

- Youth highlighted the fact that they are not given strategic offices in all levels of leadership and decision making. This makes the youth simply followers of what is being decided by other people. Even when, what is decided is about youth issues and is not favoring the youth there is nothing the youth can do. They mentioned that matters are made worse when even the youth members in leadership positions and in other positions of management are few. The youth perceive it that it is deliberate for politicians to encourage fewer youth in organizations (especially public organizations) so that, these organizations can be controlled by the older people. The lack of youth in strategic leadership positions and their fewer members both in strategic positions of leadership at
all levels and other management positions of decision-making leaves the youth a category of un empowered people who cannot change the course of events in their country.

- The youth mentioned that it is also deliberate by the ruling party to place youth in leadership positions of public organizations only to serve the interests of the politicians in the ruling party. The youth in such positions only act as a link between the politicians and the other youth when the time comes for the politician to need their youth support especially in elections time and public propaganda campaigns.

- The youth mentioned the fact that although they are enthusiastic to organize themselves into organizations for the youth, the available opportunities for public funding for organizations is manipulated and controlled by the ruling party to make sure critical youth are kept out of any opportunities that can enable them develop their leadership skills and also for their voices to be heard. The ruling party only encourages youth organizations that are pro- the party and this promotes an environment where such youth organizations are used for only propaganda and brain washing the youth population to create submissive and ignorant youth.

The lack of youth ability to get public funding creates an environment of denial for the right to freely associate which entails enjoyment formation of groups, parties and organizations through which to advocate and lobby on youth issues.

- The youth mentioned that they are victims of bad politics of tribalism that has brought about favoritism, nepotism and despotism by many politicians – both at the presidency level and at the lower levels of leadership, management and exercise of state power and authority. The youth cited that many of them are not employed because they are not of the tribe of those people who are in influential positions at any level of decision making. The youth also acknowledge that even other opportunities such as education scholarships, vital trips abroad based on mutual beneficial exchanges between countries, and funding for aspects like enterprise/business development, project implementation and critical health cases of disease like cancer, HIV/AIDS of Heart problems etc, are all influenced by tribalistic sentiments to qualify a person to benefit on an opportunity.
This ends up into making many youth by virtue of them not being members of the favored tribe being left out on the opportunity. The youth perceive this as marginalization resulting from segregation on the basis of tribes’ cultural affiliations. Meanwhile, other youth also cited the issue of disability and gender/sex as another issue upon which many youth focused themselves missing out on opportunities for personal and group development and empowerment. The youth mentioned that there is a wide perception that girl-child or women cannot do certain work because it is culturally unfit for them to do such work. For the disabled, there are perception that disability is taken as inability and also the feeling that disabled people are just not worthy to deserve including in anything tangible. Disability is taken to be a form of curse upon the family or the person being associated with bad omens and curses. Therefore, people think disabled people would rather be kept away from the public to save the family from humiliation or to avoid becoming a victim of partaking in the associated curse upon a disabled person when relating with disabled people.

The youth went ahead to note that disabled people are disadvantaged because of the lack of an enabling environment in the work place for instance, disabled people cannot easily access points in buildings; they fear to move because they are blind; they fear to transact on their own because they cannot see, hear or smell. All the above are issues which bring about certain sections of the youth becoming marginalized because characterized associated with them which promote segregation and discrimination. This denies those youth the enjoyment of social justice.

**ASSESSING PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESSES**

The First Quarter Phase is an indication that the overall project is up and running as planned. The project implementation has been running on schedule. For the last three months, October, 2011 to December 2011, the first quarter of the project has been realized. The project has registered vast support from the district officials, community members and CSOs. They have highly applauded SGD Uganda for its efforts and SGD Uganda’s Sponsor NED for supporting a youth led youth-to-youth and youth-to-public initiative that has exposed the young people to civic responsibility and responsible citizenship in discussing matters of public policy formulation and implementation,
active governance, democracy and development, community empowerment and public enlightenment issues both at the local community level, district and national levels.

Seven activities have been conducted and carried out in the communities together with a number of participants including the target group, the youth and young people. The activities included: Community cleaning exercises, Community tree planting exercises, Community zebra painting and sign-post erection exercises, Youth-to-youth issues dialogues and discussions, Youth-to-youth sensitization, knowledge sharing and skills development exercises, Youth-to-youth community youth mobilization and organization exercises, and Youth-to-youth local level advocacy and lobby exercises. These activities have been conducted in all the four project districts, Mpigi, Jinja, Wakiso, and Kampala.

The community cleaning and tree planting exercises were main activities during this first phase of the project. Based on the community needs on the ground, SGD Uganda together with the partner CSOs and local leaders agreed to use the community cleaning and tree planting exercises as mobilization tools for the future project activities in the next quarters given that SGD Uganda had already passed on the project idea and components to the partners in great details. This was reached upon in the various pre-planning meetings that basically involved project idea and components sensitization by SGD Uganda for the participating CSOs and local leaders. The purpose of these meetings was to sensitize the participating CSOs and local leaders together with some youth on the applicability and relevance of the project idea and associated project components.

Reports that were received by SGD Uganda before the actual implementation of the project activities from the various districts where the pre-planning meetings that basically involved project idea and components sensitization indicated a big headway for the readiness of the local youth communities and local leaders to have highly embraced the initiative, and their enthusiasm to towards SGD Uganda and its sponsor NED for consolidating the youth as an important constituency for future development of humanity. The youth were very appreciative to NED for being a forerunner of supporting youth initiatives in Uganda geared towards strengthening youth active participation in active governance and democracy to achieve local community

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empowerment, national development and global stability. The youth implored SGD Uganda to continue with the spirit of enlightening the youth towards a more active and beneficial sense of citizenship through volunteerism and community service. The youth pledged their continued support for the initiative because it has directly impacted positively in their lives and operations.

In all 13 Community cleaning exercises were held and one Community Zebra Crossing was carried out. In each of the above 14 activities, at 30 purposely mobilized youth participated and at least over 50 more self-driven youth joined the day’s events after the activities had already kicked off. That places the number of youth directly reached to over 1000 youth in 14 days. These youth reached have directly benefited from these activities in the four project districts and many more have benefited through shared experiences.

During the 14 days, also a number of other self-driven and enthusiastically interested community members like the adults participated in the activities. At least 20 self-mobilized adults participated in the activities. In all at least over 250 adults community members gave their support as well-wishers by participating in the project activities in all the four project districts.

21 places in all the project districts were visited. These were local community zones as pre-arranged and planned in the pre-planning meetings.

Since there were 14 days for the activities, and an average of 8 man hours utilized out of the 12 hours in the day, over 100 man hours were productively utilized. This was far above the intended 84 man hours previously targeted. This means more time was put to use.

The project had a positive effect in raising knowledge about the relevance of volunteerism and community service in making the youth more productively focused especially for those youth who are in vocation holiday and school dropouts plus those youth who are in transition to get employment. Volunteerism and community service is a tool towards building resilience and hope that someone can be valuable to community even if they have not started working or are not educated. It created a possibility for participants to exchange their knowledge and expertise in that
field. Many participants had understanding of at least some effective volunteerism aspects and community service which they had come across during the various community self-help initiatives on crime prevention methods or had some experience in working with risk groups, etc.

The project has exposed the participating CSOs to opportunities at the local community level and also higher formal administrative local government levels from Sub County, county and district to national level. This is because, participating CSOs were able to show case their relevance in the communities more than it has been for them in the past. In effect, the district officials have committed themselves to giving priority to youth led CSOs and partner organizations in terms of small grants from local government level. The project has also exposed some youth and youth led CSOs to the formal national youth frameworks for advocacy and lobby, e.g., the National Youth Council and other SGD Uganda partners.

Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) is currently thinking of better strategies of involving youth led CSOs in building capacities among the youth as a more productive force towards cleaning the city given KCCA’s desire to achieve city hygiene by the end of the 5 years of its first operations.

This phase of the project has seen a number of partner CSOs strengthen their capacity and effectively participate in governance and development processes through discussion, advocacy and lobby although it is at the local level where the project activities were intended to focus.

The project has increased the visibility of SGD Uganda and its CSO partners at local and district level. SGD Uganda has been recognized as a vibrant youth organization that is immensely contributing to the cause of the young people in Uganda by providing a platform for articulation of their interests through building values of volunteerism, community service and humanitarianism which deter violent behavior.

Young people have been inspired to take up locally-based home grown initiatives of involving the youth into values of volunteerism and community service as a way of enhancing responsible leadership for the future in society.

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CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED

Partner CSOs were begging for money as a measure of payment for the work done in the local communities. However, SGD Uganda in her budget funded by NED did not ever include payment of partner CSOs for work done rather facilitation of the processes for implementation of the project activities. Many partner CSOs are poorly funded and perceive working partnerships as an opportunity to get money rather than doing the work related to the partnership.

The lack of an organization vehicle compromised SGD Uganda’s ability to take advantage of time at its disposal. Since the vehicles were hired from public taxi operators, SGD Uganda would be placed at the mercy of the vehicle owner who would determine what time to turn up to drop the staff of SGD Uganda and the accompanying logistics to the area in which the exercise is to be done.

There was also a misinterpretation of our community activities in some communities especially by the ruling party politicians as being politically motivated by the opposition leaders as an undercover to mobilize and organize the youth to rally against the government.

We also found challenges in mobilizing youth for the community activities in communities where the local leaders had misunderstandings among themselves e.g. between the those from the ruling party and the opposition side, yet we were relying on them to mobilize youth in their communities.

Negative perception of our community activities; some leaders especially from the ruling party perceived the community activities as being politically motivated by the opposition to mobilize young people to criticize the current government and force it out of power.

Due to the alarming illiteracy levels especially among youth in the remote areas were we carried out our activities e.g. Mpumudde in Jinja and among the fish mongers at both the old and new landing sites in Massese in Jinja district, some youth did not write their names on the participants lists, as a result this affected our registration records in some areas.

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The lack of volunteerism culture among Ugandans and even the young people being brain-washed by the petty cash given by the ruling party politicians especially during mobilizing them for their political interests, some youth wanted to be given money before they could engage in the community activities and even others were saying that the government has given us funds to do these community activities.

There was also a logistical challenge especially with the refreshments to feed the youth participants in instances were they turned up in big numbers for the community activities than those in our budget, so the participants ended up sharing one plate for two people.

There is a challenge of shortage of resources to adequately cover the extensive youth constituency. There is need for more resources committed to this program to enhance the civic competence of the youth so as to support inculcation of values of volunteerism and community service that are critical for building good leadership and responsible citizenship that draws down to good governance and sustainable development given the fact that the youth form the majority of the population.

High expectations from the youth and members of the public tended to distort the objective of the program. Some people misconceived of the efforts of the youth as a gesture of trying to present themselves as potential future candidates for youth political offices, so in a way they, tried to order around the youth to clean their environment after all, the people are the voters who must be pleased and appeased for their votes. By this, some youth felt annoyed because the people failed to see value in the youth’s efforts to make their local communities physically clean, although it is known that local government is meant to clean the communities.

Majority of the people thought that SGD Uganda was a donor agency since it was working hand-in-hand with local area CSOs, and once they become members of the partnership, they were of the view that the programs started were a way of earning them permanent jobs. So to them, the
programs would be fully funded, and failure to meet this expectation leads to discouragement and consequent withdrawal from the partnership.

Negative perception of our community activities; some leaders especially from the ruling party perceived the community activities as being politically motivated by the opposition to mobilize young people to criticize the current government and force it out of power.

The local community mobilization was initially affected by low level of youth enthusiasm and response because, the normal school calendar has changed and youth especially school-going youth are thoughtful about their studies which tend to pre-occupy their time. It was until much later when the youth-to-youth mobilization strategy was done by the school drop-out youth that that the youth in school in the community started getting interested in what fellow youth had in stock for them.

The salient features of the local civic campaign and advocacy were initially affected by low level of youth awareness and response to empowerment initiatives. Majority of the young people are not aware of their civic rights and responsibilities and this makes it difficult for them to comprehend and appreciate the purpose of encouraging them into adopting strategies that can enable them reach out to the local leaders and politicians through advocacy and lobby of the kind that volunteerism and community service can mobiles and organize for a youth campaign.

Despite of the well established youth structures, there is lack of effective policy, legal and regulatory framework to address numerous youth concerns. This makes the youth have a general apathy about youth-oriented initiatives which they see as a waste of time when the most important thing o them is getting money for survival. The youth councils that would have been instrumental in addressing youth concerns are almost defunct, they have never changed leadership since 2001 and the current youth leaders are over and above the constitutional age requirement and this has made the body ineffective as a platform for addressing youth issues. Moreover, the youth structures have also become captured by party politics especially of the ruling NRM such that any effort that mobilizes youth must be politicized to deliver NRM political objectives and goals.
RECOMMENDATIONS

In the course of the implementation of this phase of the project, the following recommendations were made:

- During the evaluation exercises, it came out that the value of this approach of building responsible youth and responsible citizenship in the youth to prevent vulnerability and risks to violent behavior and culture needs to be expanded in its activities and a continuation of the components into other parts of Uganda especially the Northern Uganda as demanded by youth coming from northern Uganda but are currently residing in central region and participated in the same project activities. They recommended that Northern Uganda where the youth have been affected so much by the past conflicts and war have developed aggressive behavior and violent culture is a part of their lifestyle, so such initiatives which are lacking in northern Uganda need to be expanded there to help the youth of the region, so that, the region is not left behind.

- Also evaluation exercises with local leaders and local government institutions participating in the project demonstrated that there has and still is a lot of calls in demand for this kind of initiative to be expanded in the slum-like areas and peri-urban rural areas where most youth have been gripped into juvenile deliquesce, and that such youth are degenerating steadily into worse levels of crime culture because of disillusionment, frustration and despair amidst empty promises from government, unscrupulous individuals and worsening survival environment in which they live. Many of such youth are the school-drop out whose idle time is presenting many risks and vulnerabilities to manage.

- The only way to capture this demand effectively is for SGD Uganda and established partnerships to establish an institutional basis where all these great ideas could be channeled and coordinated together with all stakeholders including the youth themselves. Then SGD Uganda on behalf of all stakeholders and in some instances together with the stakeholders try to secure larger funding to establish the institutional and sustainable base for coordination of these ideas and develop them into formal public policy practice.

- SGD Uganda should consider developing out the initiative into a program so as to include formalized trainings on the role of volunteerism and community service as an alternative
avenue for youth engagement productively to enhance their employability potential, leadership potential and individual personality behavior management. This once again featured in many local communities who thought that breaking through life would be achieved if volunteerism and community service is built as a foundation upon which ambition is properly guided. The cited examples of achievers like the American President Barrack Obama whose community mobilization and organization efforts were able to mentor him and other people as well.

- SGD Uganda and partner CSOs should continually orient and empower other CSOs, local communities and youth into new strategies and approaches of non-violent behavior/culture and mentoring into responsible citizenship to improve quality, effectiveness and efficiency of youth to effectively participate and contribute to good governance and development processes. This would mean getting more funds to expand the coverage by taking on new practical activities in which volunteerism and community service can be mainstreamed by participating CSOs, and thus be able to increase the number of critical mass for future mentors of patriotism of a meaningful character. This appeal came from all the four project districts but was much stronger and passionate in the peri-urban areas where the youth there had given up seeing value in themselves after having wasted themselves into drugs, prostitution, crime and failure to complete formal education with qualifications.

SGD Uganda on the completion of this first phase of a much bigger project once again deeply extends its thanks and appreciates goodwill of the project sponsor NED for its kind support towards this very important initiative and looks forward to further engagements on the rest of the project components.
Police officer watering a newly planted tree, in a Tree planting Exercise in Kisenyi, Kampala
Otím Ivan of SGD-Uganda planting a tree in Mengo, Kampala

Mobilized youth ready for a cleanup exercise, in Kiguli zone, Kampala

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Mengo Kisenyi youth & other SGD-Uganda members ready to carry out the tree planting exercise. And Below a resident liaise with City health officer while a journalist covers them.
Michael Kigozi of SGD-Uganda explains Project concept to the residents of the Kisenyi III community, during the cleaning exercise.
Massive turn up of the community in the cleaning of the drainage system, while in the background a member of Kingston Youth Association mobilizes more residents to engage in the activity.

Media covering the clean up exercise.
Mobilizing with a megaphone residents and youth to come for the cleaning exercise

Below Traders in Matuga join the cleaning exercise
Below cleanup exercise in the Mattugga market, Wakiso District.