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Project Title: Promoting Civic Engagement among the Youth.

fig1: Mr. Kigonya the Main facilitator of the Mindset Change and Civic Responsibility presenting to the Youth leaders from the 7 sub-counties that makeup Wakiso District to start mobilizing, organizing and engaging themselves to find solutions to problems that affect them.
Project Summary:

This project is about Promoting Civic Engagement among Youth and drawing its success form the Promoting Civic Responsibility and Civil Culture against Violent Behavior among Youth supported by NED in the 2011-2012. This project that engaged young people in activities that were geared towards enhancing their individual love and respect for volunteerism and community service in life.

The current project is undertaking a dimension of community organizing and social action ideas that impact young people and communities in a number of ways. Young people’s active citizenship and participation in governance can provide significant value-addition to national and local level agenda-setting process working towards ensuring that their role in governance within the framework becomes a reality.

Whereas political participation is core to good governance, the political landscape currently in Uganda does not permit participation with political competition. This scenario is worsened by the deliberate move by the regime to depoliticize the population and divert them from discussing issues concerning their welfare. In the same vein, the government is busy enacting laws that dampen the morale and spirit of public speech and debate, the public space for debating national issues is therefore shrinking and where its available, it is heavily under surveillance thus narrowing the space for dialogue, in long run creating room for disengagement from political-civic participation.

The project will be at the heart of encouraging young people to analyze social problems, formulate thoughtful strategies, question assumptions, and develop their understanding on particular issues. It will contribute towards building a citizenry of young people who strives to build a better society with tools that are democratic and non-violent, respectful of the opinions of others, endowed with critical thoughts that strive to challenge the status quo taking into account of the diverse range of opinions using the principles of democracy.

Project overall Objectives

- To build a citizenry of young people who are politically, socially and economically vibrant.

Project Objectives

- Stimulate young people to reflect on the essential characteristics of citizenship
- Promote platforms and spaces to engage duty bearers on public matters
- Expand on Individual youth and Group opportunities towards employability
Objective 1: To stimulate young people to reflect on the essential characteristics of citizenship

- Induction meetings and Community mapping (3)
- Students leadership convention (3)

Objective 2: To promote platforms and spaces to engage duty bearers on public matters

- Citizens Voice and Action Platforms
- Social Action School Challenge

Objective 3: To Expand on Individual youth and Group opportunities towards employability

- Community social Action

Activity Summary

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Activities:

Activity 1: Progressive Meeting of the Local Employment Byelaw- Kawempe Division Urban Council (SGD-Uganda community Social Action I Kawempe Division - Kampala District).

The progressive meeting was organized by the Committee of Finance and Business of Kawempe Urban Council headed by Councilor Lukwago Ramathan of Kawempe 1 East in partnership with SGD-Uganda. The participants included 2 youth councilors male and female, Chairperson Labor Committee, Office of the Deputy Mayor Represented by Mr. Andrew Kaweesa, the Political Assistant to the Deputy Mayor Kawempe Urban Council and the Area Urban Councilors mainly to discuss updates on the proceedings of the already passed Local Employment Byelaw for Kawempe Division Urban Council; how it is going to be implemented and also sharing responsibilities to community members, political leaders and the technical wing of Kampala Capital City Authority during this stage.

Fig2: Mr. Lukwago Ramathan Chairperson of the Committee of Finance and Business of Kawempe Urban Council informing the Hon councilors of Kawempe Urban Council to start sensitizing the community about the already passed Local Employment Byelaw (Community Social Action I for Kawempe –Kampala District).
During the progressive meeting of the Local Employment Bylaw, the Chairperson of the Committee of Finance and Business of Kawempe Urban Council headed by Councilor Lukwango Ramathan of Kawempe I East shared with members the Byelaw to promote Employment, Employability, and Entrepreneurship among the young people as a basis for achieving social well-being and economic transformation in their locality and the country at large.

The significances of the Local Employment Bylaw include the following:

1. Grants community members to have a shared view of their society’s growth path
2. Defines the role-play of all community stakeholders in engaging society challenges.
3. Creates a positive working relationship among community stakeholders, local leaders, Business Enterprise Managers, FBOs, CBOs, NGOs, and the Public.

The Local Employment Byelaw is also to generate sustainable solutions that support skilling of the local people, principally youth development initiatives towards skills training, Apprenticeship, Internship, Talent Development and Creation of Employment Opportunities.

The local Enterprises are to recruit 30% of young people in the locality to enhance employability and in the long run contribute to community empowerment. The chairperson for labor Kawempe division council informed fellow members that “We the councilors have passed the Local Employment Byelaw (SGD-Uganda project Community Social Action1), but there are still challenges, that include the minimum wage bill which has not yet been passed by the Parliament of Uganda, for example Hema Water Company in Kawempe pays 2,800/= to youth workers a day and these youth work from 6am-5pm, other companies pay 6,800/= with-in Kawempe division urban council.

The negative attitude of youth towards work is also part of the challenges with-in the byelaw. Since many youth have limited skills and access to information this has been partly addressed by setting up the Youth Counseling and Innovation Center (SGD-Uganda Community Social Action II Kawempe Urban Council –Kampala District).

**Ongoing Processes of the Local Employment Byelaw:**

During the first quarter of this project, the Local Employment Byelaw was presented to the councilors by both the community and SGD-Uganda team to be considered as a tool to reduce on the unemployment levels in Kawempe Urban Council. The councilors recently passed the Local Employment Byelaw with an amendment of the percentage from 40% to 30% residents to be employed in a given enterprise within the locality of Kawempe. The councilors later sent it to the Town Clerk of Kawempe Urban Council to deliver it to the Attorney General for review and then send it back to the Division Mayor of Kawempe Urban Council and Councilors for signing.

The Urban Councilors were assigned tasks by Mr. Lukwago Ramathan Chairperson of the Committee of Finance and Business of Kawempe Urban Council to sensitize the community about the Byelaw.

SGD-Uganda was also given an opportunity with the community members’ representatives to come back and present the Byelaw and also share how to address the challenges encountered during the implementation of the Byelaw.
Note: The local employment bylaw will operate although there is still a challenge of the minimum wage bill that has not yet been passed by the Parliament of Uganda.

Date and Location: The activity was organized by SGD-Uganda and the Office of the Chairperson Finance and Business Committee at Kawempe Division Urban Council held on 28th/04/2017 at Kawempe Division Chambers.

Main Outputs

• Increased awareness about the proceedings of the byelaw and amendments made by the councilors before it was delivered to the Town Clerk to present it to the Attorney General i.e. the employment percentage was reduced from 40% to 30% of citizens within the locality of Kawempe Urban Council.

• The community thanked NED for its continuous support to SGD-Uganda because this support has enabled SGD-Uganda to mobilize and organize youth to actively participate in decision making and also addressing our own issues as we have come up with the Youth Counseling center and developing the local employment byelaw within Kawempe Division.

• The councilors voluntarily accepted to actively participate and share information about the local employment byelaw and also engage and sensitize the community members about the byelaw especially by using the local media houses like Radios and TVs to reach a wider population.

• SGD-Uganda and the community representatives were granted an opportunity to present and share the need and the importance of the local employment byelaw during one of the council meetings to be held at Kawempe Division Chambers.

• The meeting also provided a platform for political leaders to discuss the issue of the minimum wage bill which is currently before the Parliament of Uganda. Councilors committed to engage their Members Parliament to speed up the passing of the minimum wage bill so that the local employment byelaw (SGD-Uganda project community social Action.1) is affected.
Activity 2: Youth Mindset Change and Civic Responsibility training (Community Social Action1 Wakiso District)

Fig3: Mrs. Edina sharing with the participants the ideas she has used in her area to change the mindset of youth through engaging them into enterprise initiatives like Liquid soap making and paper bags and identifying market for their products.“There is no democracy without empowerment, leaders lets mobilize, organize and engage our fellow youth as leaders to change their negative attitudes to positive change”.

The Youth Mindset Change and Civic Responsibility training (community social Action1 wakiso district) was organized by Wakiso District Youth Council in partnership with SGD-Uganda and youth leaders from zonal and parish levels with a theme “The role of youth in promoting civic responsibility and accountability”. The district has total population of 1,997,418 people according to the census report of 2014 and the majority are unemployed youth. During the community mapping and stakeholders meeting in Wakiso District with the youth leaders headed by the Youth Chairperson for Wakiso Town Council Mr. Andrew Kiryowa enlightened more about the major problems that hinders young
people from developing themselves i.e. unemployment, illiteracy, lack of skills, lack of career guidance, Negative attitude towards work. In addition to address such challenges, the community called for the youth mindset change and civic responsibility training as their community action1 during the project implementation. Many youth in Wakiso District were affected after the 2016 general elections, the elected political leaders failed to organize, mobilize and engage the youth to address the main issues that affect them as young people. There was no any meeting organized by the elected leaders to engage their citizens on issues that affect them in order to own the solutions together as the community. Youth have lost trust in their leaders and neither participate in decision making because no access to information, unemployment and illiteracy.

During the youth Mindset Change and Civic Responsibility training (community social Action1 wakiso district) which was held at Wakiso District headquarters with youth from the 7 parishes that make up Wakiso District,youth were given capacity and strategies to addressing the increasing challenges of unemployment and participation in decision making mainly by promoting community organizing in their home areas because this was to help them getting organized, mobilized and engaged so that they can be able to identify the solutions to their problems as the youth. The training also strengthened active youth participation in shaping democracy and accountability of governance in Uganda hence building a vibrant youth movement that is informed and equipped with information to improve the level of participation at the National level which has currently been a challenge in Wakiso District. The youth used the platform to share skills and opportunities with their fellow youth i.e. Liquid soap and paper bags making, Bakery, Construction specifically in building, metal fabrication works and also Kyoga Youth Network that collects necessary information on the available opportunities in the district for young people hence easing access to information.

Date and location: The activity was held on 03rd/05/2017 at Wakiso District Headquarters.

Main Output:

- Increased awareness about the available opportunities at the district with in the community for youth to tap into and reduce unemployment i.e. Garbage tenders and supply of stationary at the district, Liquid soap and paper making, Bakery, Construction Company specifically in building, metal fabrication with the community.

- The training also rebuilt and awakened youth to take action by mobilizing, organizing and engaging themselves to discuss public polices to develop their own communities hence promoting community organizing.

- During the platform youth were able to network and share opportunities on entrepreneurship skills for gainful employment i.e. Liquid soap making, Bakery, paper bag, building skills and promoting talents through sports and creative art.

- Young people agreed to enterprise so that they can get resources for solutions instead of waiting for the government to provide for them.

- The negative attitude of youth towards participation was also addressed by directly engaging
them in policy making and also coming with policy alternative on the already existing laws like on the youth livelihood program which requires a lot documentation to access the fund and lack of trainings for the community members on how mange the fund when provided.

- The young leaders that attended the training committed themselves to help and recruit other young people within their communities in their cottage industries with a purpose of providing them skills at free cost in order to address the negative mindset of youth towards work hence reducing on the unemployment levels with in the district.

**Activity 3: Resource Mobilization for the Wakiso District Youth Innovation Office (Community Social Action II):**

The Resource mobilization for the Youth Innovation Office was organized by SGD-Uganda with the Wakiso District National Youth Council on 4th/05/2017, to mobilize resources to innovate the District Youth office with office equipments including computer, printer, box files and other office materials to help in the day-to-day service in the office. The aim of innovating the youth with the mentioned equipments was to facilitate it to enable the youth gather all the necessary information regarding youth issues and policies. Many youth in the district had a critical challenge of not accessing important information either on employment opportunities within the district, so the chairperson for youth, Mr. Kiryowa committed himself with and the entire team to effectively map out all companies within the district and engage them to seek for employment opportunities for the youth
Fig 5: The chairperson youth Mr. Kiryowa of Wakiso district informing his fellow members that main challenge is that youth office is never facilitated by government and we are the majority with only two councilors that represent us at the district and limit our participation as young people because we can’t even be LC5 persons or being Mayor.

During the meeting, the youth of Wakiso district pledged to mobilize resources among themselves to buy a computer set, reams of papers and printer. They pioneered strategies to mobilize more resources from the community to sustain more engagements on mindset change trainings for the youth in Wakiso district i.e. chairman youth was tasked to engage the technical wing and the youth councilors at the district to meaningful engage the political leaders to support youth and also engage them in decision making. Lastly, the youth leaders at parish and zonal level were tasked to mobilize and organize the youth in their community to meaningful participate in accountability programs hence promoting community organizing.

**Date and location:** the activity was held on 4th/05/2017 at the youth district office in Wakiso district headquarters.
Main outputs:

- Increasing awareness about the concept of community organizing and its importance in given community. Young people were brought together, identified their own problems that affect them including innovation of youth office and the problem of unemployment and later provided solutions to the problems that affect them including carrying out the mindset change and accountability training and mobilizing resources to buy computer set and printer hence building

- Youth were waken and strengthened to start owning the solution to their problems rather waiting for government to provide solution.

- Increased awareness about the existing government programs at the district i.e. Garbage tenders, stationary distribution and youth livelihood program.

- Youth leaders took the responsibility to collect all the necessary youth information at the district concerning youth including youth policies, government programs like community driven fund and youth livelihood program.

Activity 4: Accountability Platform for Wakiso District:

The Wakiso district accountability platform was organized by SGD-Uganda in partnership with Wakiso District Youth Council on 5th May 2017 with a theme: “The Role of the Youth in Monitoring and Participating in Government Programs”.

Wakiso district is comprised of Entebbe Municipality, Kakiri town council, Makindye Ssabagabo Municipality, Masulita Town Council, Namayumba Town Council Nansana Municipality and Wakiso Town Council. The district has a total population of 1,997,418 people according to the census report of 2014 and now is estimated to be with a total population of 2,246,800 people and the majorities are youth that are unemployed with limited skills. Many youth in the district have a negative attitude towards neither work nor do they participate in decision making and that has resulted to conclude that young people in Wakiso District are lazy, but they can not solely young be blamed for unemployment; young people don’t have jobs, because they are lazy, but there are no jobs and not all in Uganda but worldwide. Uganda has the youngest population in the world with over 78% of the total population below the age of 30, and the majorities are unemployed. We have government that is composed of so many old people who cannot understand unemployment as big challenge to the youth.

Many youth in wakiso district spend most of their time in sports betting and we are losing productive force of young people to gaming. We have the most enterprise citizens, but the system does not favor them. The education curriculum does not provide relevant skills that are demanded in the labor market.

During the Accountability Platform as shown in Fig 6, the chief Guest, Mr. Ssekagiri Frank, the Development Officer of Wakiso Town Council informed the youth that “they need to begin seeing themselves as a powerful tool for future of this country by meaningfully participating in decision making, monitoring government programs and also holding leaders accountable as they also hold themselves accountable, because leadership is responsibility. Many youth in wakiso district are
unemployed and as a district, we have supported youth projects through the Youth Livelihood Programme, but youth have misallocated funds and as a result the district in the financial 2015-2016 didn’t receive the Youth Livelihood Funds because the youth misused the funds”.

Fig6: Mr. Ssekagiri Frank, Development Officer of Wakiso Town Council informing the youth that the youth livelihood has not been handled well by the youth and we as the technical team we are losing trust in young people.

The elected youth chairperson of Wakiso Mr. Kiryowa called upon youth leaders from parish to zonal level to start informing their fellow youth that those who accessed the funding of Youth Livelihood Programme to run their projects should return back the money so that other youth can benefit from the funding too. The accountability platform gave an opportunity to access information on youth livelihood funds, and the youth were requested to come up with business proposals and youth office of wakiso district committed itself to give skills to the youth on how to develop project proposal in order to access the funding and how to manage it. The youth leaders from parish to zonal level were also tasked to mobilize and engage the youth in villages to actively participate in such programs to reduce unemployment levels. The main challenge of the youth livelihood funds is that youth open up business after accessing the fund, but there is no market for their produce and the researched statistics indicate that the number of youth business opened in the district equals to the number of those business that are closing.
The Program Officer of SGD-Uganda, Mr. Ivan Otim calling upon youth to start up their own businesses within their communities and also to participate in decision making at district level, so that they could come up with youth friendly policies of youth empowerment.

**Date and location:** The activity was held on 5th/05/2017 at Wakiso District Council Chambers

**Main Output:**
- Increasing information about youth livelihood program and how youth can access it and use it properly.
- Increased understanding of youth civic engagement during the accountability platform that leadership is responsibility and youth leaders promised to taken action and engage with their fellow about the development programs at the district.
- Mr. Ssekagiri Frank, Development Officer of Wakiso Town Council strengthened youth by committing himself to support them and working with them to develop their communities and providing the necessary information to accessing the government programs.
- The youth leaders were held accountable towards the campaign promises, the chairperson youth Wakiso district was questioned why he sometimes seconds only few youth groups that are
composed of his friends to access the funding and he was requested to stop it immediately.

- SGD-Uganda was appreciated for bringing together leaders, community-based organizations and the community to discuss the problems that affect them as youth in Wakiso district in order to have solutions to increase development in Wakiso district.

- The platform strengthened the working relationship between the district youth council and community leaders to start working together, so that information reaches to youth at the grass root.

**Activity 5: Youth Livelihood Project Training (Community Social Action I Jinja District)**

The Youth Livelihood Training (Community Social Action I Buwenge Sub County - Jinja district) was organized by SGD-Uganda in partnership with government officials including the Community Development Officer Buwenge Sub-county, Miss Babirye Jane, Youth Chairperson, BuleYusufu, Youth Councillor Buwenge Sub county Mr. Nadiope Micheal, Vice chairperson for youth Waiswa Micheal, Subcounty Chief Buwenge subcounty, Akuhaire Steven, Jinja Joint Development Association and Kagoma Youth Development Network with the aim of capacitating youth of Buwenge sub county on how to apply for the Youth Livelihood Fund and how to apply for it to address the problem of unemployment in Buwenge sub county.

During the training which was facilitated by the community Development Officer of Buwenge Sub county Miss. Babirye Jane, Many youth in Buwenge sub county have tried to apply and others have applied for the Youth Livelihood Fund to implement projects that can address unemployment in their sub county and these project include farming, Agriculture, Brick laying, Poultry, Bee farming, Carpentry among others, but some of youth got an opportunity to access the funding, but they failed to account for the money and some have been imprisoned due to failure to pay back the money so that other youth groups can access it. It was further reported that 7 youth have been imprisoned in Kamuli and some have disappeared from their home areas due to the misuse of the Youth Livelihood Fund i.e. the Youth Chairperson Jinja District has failed to pay back 7 million shillings for Youth Livelihood Fund and some youth come to Jinja and apply for the fund and after accessing it they also disappear and that has greatly affected the youth in Jinja district in general to access the youth fund, because ounce district fails to collect 50% of the money given to youth then it becomes hard to access it, so with that challenge many youth have denied opportunities to other youth to access the fund.

During the Youth Livelihood Training, the community development officer gave skills to youth on how to apply for the youth livelihood programme and below were noted as the requirements to access the funds:

1. Youth should be registered citizens with National ID
2. Youth should have a permanent address
3. Youth bear accounting skills in order to manage the fund
4. Youth should identify project that they can manage and again from it and also be able to pay back the money with 5% interest
5. Open up joint account
The youth were also guided on how to manage funds and also develop reports regarding to any project that has been approved for funding by government, incase the project fails youth should be able to provide justifiable reports to government officials in-charge of the Youth Livelihood Programme. After the training, youth were advised to form groups and develop project proposals, so that they can apply for the Youth Livelihood Fund to implement the project by themselves after acquiring the skills and a decision was reached that projects will be partly monitored by SGD-Uganda.

**Fig8: The Community Development Officer of Buwenge Subcounty, Miss. Babirye Jane advising the fellow youth to stop misusing the youth livelihood fund and she also encouraged those that have not applied to come and apply for the fund to implement projects that will reduce unemployment in Buwenge subcounty.**

**Date and Location:** The activity was held at Buwenge community hall on 18th/05/2017.

**Main Outputs:**

- Youth increased skills and capacity to apply for the youth livelihood funds.

- Youth had an opportunity to directly engage the government officials responsible for the youth livelihood program and share with them challenges that affect them during application of the youth livelihood fund, including government officials asking for percentage from any youth group that is applying for the fund and that has also failed youth projects on ground.

- Youth leaders at zonal level were empowered by the community development officer of Buwenge Subcounty, Jinja district with necessary information regarding youth programs at the subcounty and encouraged them to share it with fellow youth at zonal level.
• The platform bridged the gap between youth leaders, community and technical wing of the sub county to discuss issues that affect all of them.

• SGD-Uganda was appreciated by the subcounty chief of Busedde, Jinja district for organizing organize such platform, because they created awareness for the youth on the importance of participating in policy making and promoting the component of community organizing in Buwenge subcounty.

• Youth where empowered on how to write better proposals to lobby for the youth livelihood funds.

• The activity gave the youth and government officials a platform to air out the challenges they face in trying to access the youth livelihood program, so that they could come up with solutions together for example some group members like the Chairperson for Youth Jinja District misused the money.

Fig9: Participants being trained during the Youth Livelihood training in Buwenge Sub County JinjaDistrict (Community social Action I Jinja District)
Activity 6: Busedde Community Action Project (Community Social Action II):
The Busedde Community Action project was organized by Jinja Joint Development Association, youth leaders from zonal to sub county level, LC111 Chairperson, subcounty chief, community development officer of Busedde and the community with a purpose of building back the culture of volunteerism in Busedde Sub County in Jinja district. The community members in Busedde Subcounty have been affected with a problem of clean water and poor sanitation, so during the stakeholders meeting which we organized in Jinja district mainly to identify the key issues affecting youth in Buwenge and Busedde sub counties, youth leaders requested to carry out a community action project including cleaning of Nalinaibi well and Busedde health center II together with the community.

During the community cleaning, citizens were educated about the importance of maintaining the only Water Well they have in Busedde subcounty and keeping Busedde Health Center II clean, because these facilities belong to them as community and all of the citizens pay tax, so everyone was empowered with the responsibility of monitoring them since they belong to the community not political leaders. The LCI Chairperson was given full responsibility to sustain the cleaning of the two facilities including the well and the health center.
Fig 10: The LC1 Chairperson (in a yellow T-shirt), Habiba Nakanwagi (SGD Uganda Media Personnel) and Mutyaba John Bosco (field officer) planting a tree at Nalinabiri well during community cleaning in Busende sub county.

Date and Location: The activity was held in Busedde Subcounty at Nalinabiri well and Busedde health center 11 on 19th/05/2017
Main Outputs:

- The citizens of Buwenge sub-county directly contributed hoes, pangas, spades and brooms among others and also volunteered and participated towards the community cleaning of Nalinaibi well and Busedde health center 11.

- Increased understanding of the importance of community organizing in a given community because people were taught to take action to any problem in the community without waiting for political leaders or government. ie citizens directly cleaned their health center 11 and the well voluntarily.

- The activity positively changed the mindset of youth towards positive change in their community of Busedde. Youth who had neglected voluntary work were directly engaged in the activity to build back to mind of community organizing in Busedde.

- Sustainably, the LC111 Chairperson appointed the LC1 chairperson to continue taking lead of mobilizing his citizens to keep carrying out community work every last Sunday of the month.

Activity 7: Jinja District Accountability Platform:

The accountability platform was organized by SGD-Uganda in partnership with Jinja Joint Development Association and Youth leaders from the sub-counties mainly to promote youth meaningful participation in Jinja District and coming up with a strategy to sustain and push forward the culture of volunteerism among youth in Jinja District. Jinja district has total population of 489,000 persons. The district has 2 counties comprising of 6 rural sub-counties and 3 town councils. One municipality comprises of 3 divisions with 59 parishes and 399 villages in Jinja rural Municipality.

The high level of unemployment in the district has greatly affected the youth to actively participate in democratic processes since there is no empowerment done by political leaders to provide an alternative. Youth in Jinja district have tried to access funding from government programs, but they have ended up failing because there is limited market for their produce and also limited capacity to run business. The political leaders have not taken up the their civic responsibility as promised during the 2016 general elections; they say that they were not elected to focus on getting young people jobs but to make sure that the duty bearers deliver services to the community. Youth leaders in Jinja district were accused of mishandling the Youth Livelihood Fund, and the Chairperson for Youth Jinja District was one of those singled of 7 millions.

During the accountability platform, the Vice Chairperson Mr. Mahad Bogooli of Busedde sub-county informed the participants that 2 young people in Buwenge Sub-County have also been imprisoned and seven are wanted due to the misuse of Youth livelihood Funds. During the accountability platform, the youth demanded for district youth office to be put in place to handle youth issues and to help them gather all necessary information regarding youth programs so that youth can easily access information which has been the main challenge in the district. The Chairperson for Youth of Jinja Central informed the participants that they are also not involved in any budget process and they don’t know the exact funds allocated in youth budget for the district and unfortunately, the youth leaders at the district have not taken any action to engage the community. The youth in attendance also reported that the government officials have been asking for a percentage from youth groups that are applying for the Youth
Livelihood Funds in order to access the funding from the district and no action has been taken and that has greatly made youth to fail their projects and failing to pay back the money with 5% interest. The youth leaders at zonal level and sub county level took the lead to advocate for youth office at the district and coming up with Jinja Local Employment Byelaw to demand companies to employ certain percentage of youth in any enterprise in Jinja District since the livelihood program has failed to benefit youth of Jinja district.

**Fig11: The Vice Chairperson Youth Mr. Mahad Bogooli, Busedde sub county, who is a member of Busedde Young Stars calling upon youth to start believing in themselves as the first resource when starting up business not only thinking on government funding’s towards youth.**

**Date and Location:** The Jinja District Accountability platform was held on 20\(^{th}\)/05/2017 at Jinja District Town Council Hall.

**Main Outputs:**

- The platform increased youth understanding of meaningful participation in government programs like the ongoing budget process for the financial 2017-2018.

- The main output of the platform, citizens appointed a team of youth leaders which was led by Jinja Joint Development Association to start the process of lobbying funds for the youth office in Jinja district since it currently has no youth office yet it has youth councilors.

- Youth were motivated to effectively start taking action and hold their political leaders accountable and also promoting meaningful participation in decision making in their areas.
Observations

- During the progressive meeting of the local employment with the councilors and youth leaders, we observed that young people work in bad conditions and with less pay i.e. Hema Water company pays 2,800/= per day and this is because Uganda as a country has no minimum wage, so young people are paid exploited.

- The Local Employment Byelaw was recently passed by the Kawempe division councilors and it was a great success to SGD-Uganda and to the community of Kawempe division.

- Youth in Kawempe have limited skills to access jobs within the available companies and that may affect them to benefit in the already passed local employment byelaw to reduce unemployment.

- During the Progressive meeting of the local employment, we found out that the elected councilors are not involved in policymaking and they are less informed about laws about employment.

- During the Youth Mindset and Accountability Training, we observed that the youth in Wakiso District are less informed on the available youth programmes at the district, and if it was not this platform organized by SGD-Uganda, the gap between political leaders and community would continuously affect the youth in Wakiso District.

- Youth in Wakiso district were not given enough capacity to manage the resources from the Youth Livelihood Programme and that is why youth have failed to return the money back to government for other youth to benefit also.
Fig12: The Chairperson for Youth in Wakiso district, Mr. Richard Kiryowa informing the fellow youth during the Mindset Change and Accountability Training, that his office (youth office) has started imprisoning youth that have failed to return funds got from the Youth Livelihood Programme.

- Wakiso district authority has started imprisoning youth that have failed to pay back the funds for youth livelihood program because in financial 2015-2016 the district was suspended from receiving the funds because it did not operate well in terms of collecting back funds that being to youth.

- Youth meaningful participation is at low levels because there is limited youth-leaders engagement and there is high level of bureaucracy for the youth to access to information from the district.

- We also observed that the districts lack platforms or spaces where the youth can engage their elected leaders to hold them accountable on their election promises.

- Youth in wakiso district are also affected with the way leadership is structured; the district has only 2 youth councilors both male and female but within the 8 sub counties further youth at the age of 35yrs cannot be mayors or LC5 chairpersons and that limits youth participation in decision making.
• During the Mindset Change and Accountability Training, we observed that youth have started up companies like stationary, construction companies, liquid soap making but the environment does not favor them, however the distribution of stationary at the district is done by people outside the district, so how will the youth in Wakiso district have market for their products.

• Youth in wakiso district are taken to be lazy and not hard working and this has highly affected them to employable.

Achievements:

• SGD-Uganda in partnership with the community, local leaders and political leaders managed to pass the Local Employment Byelaw (Community Action I Kawempe-Kampala district) with reduced percentage from 40% to 30% at division level.

• The project through the community social actions i.e. developing the Local Employment Byelaw, Mindset Change and Accountability Training, Establishment of the two youth offices both for Kampala and Wakiso District, Skills Training to access the Youth Livelihood Training and Community Service projects in Jinja, have promoted the culture of volunteerism among the youth and elected leaders in their communities.

• SGD-Uganda managed to engage all the National Youth Councils of Kampala, Wakiso and Jinja to start their role of mobilizing, organizing and engaging the youth to find solutions to problems that affect youth in a given community.

• Youth had an opportunity of networking and sharing productive ideas mainly during the mindset change and accountability training, where youth were acquiring skills like making liquid soap and bakery.

• SGD-Uganda has managed to mobilize, organize and engage the youth to get resources to buy equipment for their offices through community organizing i.e. 2 computers and 1printers and stationary.
Recommendations:

- Government should think of initiating community training programmes on the Youth Livelihood Fund, so that youth are well informed on how to use youth fund in meaningful and also providing market for youth products.

- Imprisoning of youth due to misuse of the Youth Livelihood Funds will not end unemployment levels among the youth but government should come up with youth friendly measures on how youth can return the money i.e. reducing on the interest rate or removing all the interest rates.

- Government should take tough actions on all government officials that ask for a percentage from the youth who want to access the Youth Livelihood Funds, since this was highly observed in Jinja municipally were technical people ask for a percentage.

![Fig12: the Sub county chief of Buwenge sub county committing himself to work directly with the youth to identify those government officials that request for percentages when issuing out youth livelihood funds.](image)

- Youth should stop misusing the Youth Livelihood Funds for their personal gains i.e. the community development Officer in Buwenge sub county informed the participants that youth that have accessed the youth fund have resorted to giving birth and marrying wives, so youth should be responsible to account for money and also use it for right purposes.
• Citizens should adopt the culture of volunteerism in their communities, since it promotes community organizing hence leading to community development.