

The Permanent Secretary
Office of the Prime Minister
20th August 2007

Update report: The Northern Uganda Youth Development Centre

This project being supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat was as a result of a request made by His Excellency the President of Uganda to the Commonwealth fraternity.

The four broad objectives are to provide:

- Basic education, vocational and life skills training
- Entrepreneurship development
- Peace and conflict management skills
- HIV/AIDS, gender and environment mainstreaming

Target: the project targets the following categories of young people

- Youth that have missed out on formal education completely
- Youth that have stopped in primary seven
- Youth that have stopped in senior four
- Youth that have stopped in senior six
- And even youth that were not able to complete their university education

Below are brief updates of the progress so far:

Infrastructure development

The first phase of infrastructure development includes:

1. Workshops (carpentry, metal fabrication, mechanical, building and concrete practice)
2. Classroom blocks and laboratory
3. Administrative block
4. Staffroom
5. Abolition
6. 2 pit latrine
7. 1 Junior staff house
8. Agric training centre which includes, poultry, piggery units.

Progress to date has been commendable. The site was handed over to the contractor in February but the progress has been consistent. Thanks for the constant monitoring from the Minister of State NUR, The staff from the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Works,

project staff, the district staff and office of the LCV Gulu and the contractor who have shown due diligence.

All the infrastructure above except the agricultural training centre have received or are receiving roof by the time of this update. The delay in the development of the agricultural training centre has been due to the land constrains. I am happy to report that we have negotiated with the land owners who have consented to sell the land to the government of Uganda. The land measuring 15 acres has been surveyed by the Lands Department in Gulu and the Government is in the process of paying for the land. The land owners could not allow us to start building on the land until they are paid.



Workshop block
almost ready to
receive machines



Classrooms roofed,
ceiling being put.

- Already modules in vocational and entrepreneurial skills tailored to suit the various level of education have been developed by Lugogo Vocational Training
- 34 learners registered for arts and crafts training skill. For six month now, they have been undergoing skill training at the temporal site in Tetugu. Lecturers from Makerere University provided the technical support in this skill transfer. They are ready for graduation on the 28 September 2006

- Below are some of the products:



- The project conducted a peace dialogue consultation with the 25 young people. These were some of their recommendations:
 - a) There should be representation of the youth in the negotiation-taking place in Juba so that their concerns are taken care of since in any conflict the youth are the active participants.
 - b) A forum to learn and share their experiences be established at intercommunity and international level
 - c) They should be involved in peace building activities like sports
 - d) They should be empowered through training and education so that they should not revert into conflict
 - e) They should be empowered economically so as to be self reliant
- 102 youth were mobilized to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. 78 have registered and are participating
- A number of young people have shown interest in tree planting and the project is training them. They are also opening up tree nursery
- Because of the success of the first fish ponds the Jing winyi youth group who have 32 members have engaged 131 community members through food for work supported by WFP to open another fish pond.

Constraints

The biggest constraints in the project have been limited funding. Government has committed 1 billion UGX and is in the process of honouring its pledge.

The land issue for expansion has been resolved.

Way forward

- Need to solicit more funding from other partners. ILO promised to get back to us in September with a definite position.
- FAO promised to get involved in the Agriculture training centre and is asking for a proposal.
- We approached DFID again and they want us to put a proposal to them.
- Khulisa a South African NGO submitted a proposal to the Department of Labour DOL US Government on combating child labour in Uganda. Northern Uganda Youth Development Centre is one of the implementing partners if the project goes through
- We invited NGO Forum to the centre and they also promised to get back to us with their input.
- There will be need to build hostel in the second phase so that learners from far places can be accommodated.
- Last month there was a meeting for the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative in Namibia, most member nations are supporting this initiative through their respective governments, as a way of empowering the youth economically, the project is developing an initiative of accessing funding for the credit scheme which should be accessible to the youth to make them economically self reliant. Through your office the project is seeking ways of accessing funds from the Bona Bagagawale initiative
- Ministry of Water Engineer is going to the Centre on 24th August 2007. The Ministry said they have received instruction to have the water system in place by November. They promised to follow this through.
- The project manager of the Rural Electrification Agency promised to table the issue to their board but they had instructions to extend power to the Centre.
- The land title for the first offer of land should be ready since the papers were submitted to the Ministry of Land in May.
- While in her monitoring visit in April Mrs. Mugasha had promised £100K to support activities at the Centre and Dr Fatiha said there was some £250K for machinery and capacity building. These commitments will need to be followed through.

Conclusion

There is goodwill from the political and civil leadership both at the Centre and at the district level and the project is beginning to attract attention and visibility at the national and the international level.

Budget estimates for the 1st phase.

	Source of Funding	Amount UGX	USD
INFRASTRUCTURE (PHASE 1)			
Land	Community /GOU – 15 acres secured Additional 15 acres from Government	22,000,000 22,000,000	
Motorized water source	GOU/Local Govt – expected. Production well drilled	100,000,000	
Electricity	GOU - expected	100,000,000	
Administration Block		217,195,650	
Semi-detached junior staff house		122,901,500	
Piggery fattening unit		35,151,400	
Piggery farrowing/rearing unit		49,823,650	
Workshops	ComSec – secured	394,584,200	
Poultry breeding unit (4)		126,324,600	
Poultry breeding office and store		106,295,900	
Animal husbandry and crop science block		197,296,800	

Classroom block	ComSec – secured	202,236,400	
Staff room block		136,011,900	
Outdoor ablution block		61,946,450	
4 stance VIP pit latrine (2)	ComSec – secured	34,436,300	
External works		150,000,000	
MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS			
Workshop machinery		500,000,000	
Workshop Equipment			
Workshop tools			
CAPACITY BUILDING Trainings 4000 youth			
Instructors and personnel costs		360,000,000	
Equipment		100,000,000	
Administration cost		150,000,000	