



**NEWS FROM
KAMPALA
UGANDA**

**IMPACT
HIGHLIGHTS
FROM SAIC**

**C4D
COMMUNITY
FEATURES**

COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

SAFE & INCLUSIVE CITIES

Implemented by:



Tracing back the steps.

By Francis Mawejje
ACTogether Uganda

The safe and Inclusive cities project is a four year strategic intervention funded by Denmark through the Danish International Development agency (DANIDA), and is implemented in four cities in four countries; Kampala - Uganda, Nairobi-Kenya, Harare-Zimbabwe and Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

In Uganda, the safe and inclusive cities program which commenced in 2018 and has been implemented by a consortium of partners including Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL), ACTogether Uganda and Plan International Uganda has aimed at creating a diverse and strong civil society that influence urban governance and development processes and contribute to making cities safe and inclusive for young women and men.

As such, there are three outcomes that have been implemented to achieve the above mentioned goal; Outcome 1: Urban violence and conflict affecting young women and men have declined in fragile urban areas targeted by the strategic partnership.

Outcome 2: Vulnerable and excluded young people, especially young women, working in the urban informal sector are enabled to engage in decent work

in cities targeted by the strategic partnership.

Outcome 3: Through strong CSOs, young women and men are influencing urban governance and planning on safety

responses to urban violence and fragility affecting young women and men.

In Kampala, the safe and inclusive interventions have been implemented in 10 wards; Katwe I and Kibuye I in Makindye,



and economic opportunities in cities targeted by the strategic partnership.

Outcome 4: Civil Society effectively generate and use knowledge to ensure evidence-based

Banda and Mbuya I in Nakawa, Makerere III, and Bwaide II in Kawempe, Kamwokya II and Kagugube in Central, Nakulabye and Lungujja in Lubaga division.

Making Kamwokya a crime-free neighbourhood possible through safety initiatives”

By Jimmy Kanonya
ACTogether Uganda

In, Kampala central division, Kamwokya settlement, young men and women formed a Boxing club as an initiative to wipe out crime and violence in communities. According to Tumusiime Vanessa a safety champion from central division, Kamwokya is among the settlements well know for drug trafficking, use and criminal activities.

Many young people are addicted to drugs, and they attack people at all hours of the day and night. Their only excuse is that they have been unable to find jobs. Vanessa said.

As a result of the trainings, Vanessa has taken a key role in founding a boxing club(Kamwokya boxing club) with other young people who, according to her, they are considering enrolling a number of young people who are in drugs,



crime and unemployed but believe talent will help them find work.

“Boxing is one of the activities that young men and women in communities are passionate about. They see boxing as a fast way to make money”.

Prior to my appointment as chairperson of the club, the idea of boxing existed, but it lacked direction and leadership. She said. “I used my lobbying skills to find appropriate duty bearers who could aid in the promotion of this initiative. Vanessa clarified.

There are about 30 young people in the club who have been involved in drugs, others have been unemployed and idle. According to Vanessa, they also obtained financial and equipment assistance from government departments such as the state House.

We invited relevant officials from the police , and they enthusiastically accepted the proposal, promising to continue to help our club. ”. She concluded.

From community safety champion to community leader.

By Jimmy Kanonya
ACTogether Uganda

How mukungu Abel has been empowered to become a leader of Kibuye 1 settlement and now has a goal of increasing youth engagement leadership, decision making and productive work.

Mukungu Abel, a 22-year-old youth from Makindye, Kibuye 1, claims that his settlement has a relatively high number of young people who lacked a sense of community, direction, and information on opportunities around them. "There was a gap between the youth and their leaders; most young people had no idea who their representatives are. As a result, they were left alone and no one would listen to them or answer their problems." He stated.

Mukungu completed a safety-toolkit training and has been actively participating together with other young people in various initiatives facilitated by the program. Painting murals on walls, raising awareness on domestic violence, and installing security lights in neighbourhoods are the initiatives that aimed at resolving safety issues and combating drug and alcohol abuse.

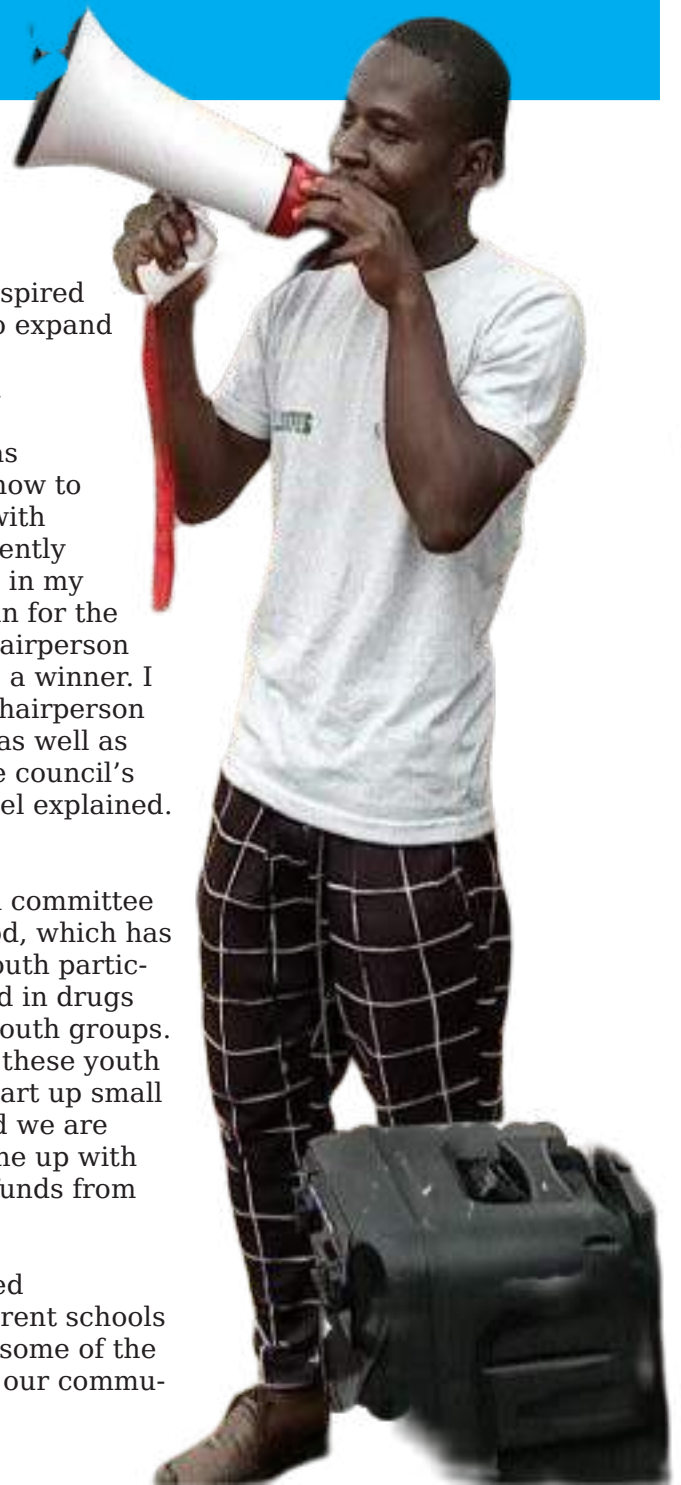
Abel, along with other young people were recommended for skilling with the aim of empowering them to overcome obstacles constraining them from achieving opportunities.

As a result of his involvement in this process, Abel was able to engage with local leaders, felt inspired and is now ready to expand his efforts to assist other young people.

"The programme has empowered me on how to advocate and deal with problems. In the recently concluded elections in my neighbourhood, I ran for the position of youth chairperson where I emerged as a winner. I am now the youth chairperson of Kibuye 1 parish, as well as the parish executive council's youth delegate". Abel explained.

Mukungu Abel has now formed a youth committee in his neighbourhood, which has begun mobilising youth particularly those involved in drugs and crime to form youth groups. "We are sensitizing these youth groups on how to start up small scale enterprise and we are helping them to come up with proposals to lobby funds from government.

We have also secured bursaries from different schools and institutions for some of the vulnerable youth in our community". Abel said.



An emergency fund that saved my life.

By Benon Lutakome
KYCTV

The young always use their learning skills, knowledge and trainings during the energetic age to transform, plan for their families, life and communities for a stable future. If well guided as peers by the strong pillars of their own community, this defines youth age as an age of community planning in development and safety of the society.

Hassan is a young man raised by a single mother together with his three siblings. "Our lives have not been like of those that one may call 'the good families' but our mother has always been supportive of us at all costs". Being a first born, Hassan has seen his mother's daily struggles with their education and necessities in their single roomed house and a times at the mercy of the neighbors who used to look after them in her absence. "We grew up in the outcasts of Kampala in the one of the most populated slum communities Nankulabye zone 6".

Faced with many adversities, Hassan and his siblings attended many public schools in the struggle to obtain an education that would perhaps open doors for them. However, when Hassan's mother lost her job due to illness, Hassan dropped out of school and joined local community gangs.

"The gangs grew big that we could even visit the neighborhood communities where we were not known to robe, snatch bags, phones, break in houses and on main roads during traffic jam and come back in our hide outs." On many occasions, Hassan could come home to the parental counseling that were given by his mother based on the reports of the vices and crime reports implicating her son.

"My mother counselled me to an extent that she could even shed tears before me something that traumatised me, I could feel her pain penetrating through my blood vessels in every inch".

These words and moments always struck his mind everyday.

On one occasion, he was called by the LC.I chairman when the SAIC partners came to

mobilize vulnerable young women and men to join the safe and inclusive cities initiative, a program that was aiming at promoting safety and inclusion through young people. Hassan was among the few selected but his acceptance to join the program was for his mothers' sake he says. "At first it was a waste of time for me fearing to be laughed at by my peers for having started spending little time with them. However, slowly I picked interest together with the other friends of mine in the community this alone helped me to drop some of my vices."

One thing that he vividly remembers, beneficiaries were always encouraged to form savings groups and start saving but this was some thing that he personally overlooked because he thought he had nothing to save.

However, at many occasions, Implementing partners always gave beneficiaries some transport and lunch allowance in some activities from which he started saving.



With time, his savings began accumulating as he also learnt to always save a little for tomorrow and as he interacted with different people (implementing partners, local council leaders, police and KCCA) he started realizing the positive change in his life.

"This time around I started spending more time with my family and less time with my peers, I also started my driving lessons something that continued to motivate and shape me because I had to learn something that I had wanted in life thanks for the project implementers because I got my driving permit after the learning period."

2020 is the year that changed his perspective on life as faced unprecedented challenges in life when the covid-19 induced total national lock down was pronounced on 18th March 2020.



“When everything came to a stand still I felt stuck in mind, my mother was not earning big from her small business but yet she had to feed us I went to my savings group chairman person and asked for my savings in order to support and be my mother as a man”.

He was surprised to find out that in that short period he had saved 140,000 Uganda Shillings. Now his plans of starting a business of his own were closer to reality, this was his entry point. “I had ignored a place in the neighborhood that was given to me rent free for at least 3 months by a close family friend”.

Hassan took his savings and trotted from Nankulabye to the city center where he bought a sack of new plastic sandals locally known as “Niigina.” For the first week, he made a good profit some thing that challenged his peers. One of his colleagues who saw this picked interest and asked if he could join the business, he contributed 350,000 shillings on the next purchase together, they managed to bring two sacks of shoes.

With this much capital, sapce was limited and so they had to look for another place to open up another outlet which was managed by the partner and at the end, they could balance their books and started a new saving scheme for the business its self.

**It is never too late
to start saving.**
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“My business occupied most of my time throughout the lock down dropping all antisocial behaviours, negative peers groups together my partner. Out of the bussiness profits I could support mum with the basics, manage the supplies of the two outlets being that we are well known youths who where transforming our images and responsibilities before the community our market was always readily there at all time”.

At the time, the country was moving into a political season and the political atmosphere during that time motivated Hassan to stand for a political position in his community as a youth counselor on National unity platform ticket something that amplified his image and responsibilities in the community. Hassan says that although he did not go through, this opened more opportunities for him. As the government eased the lockdown measures, the two business partners restocked more into their business with second hand garments from one of the big markets in town owino.

With the impacts of the covid-19 lock down on small businesses starting to bite, it was becoming hard to cover rent for the two places, they closed one of the outlets and planned to open another in one of the slums closer to city centre for a bigger market.

For the new out let in the city center I tried to explore new products in my stock being that the market available at my disposal are vulnerable youth I sell biscuits, orbit, sweets, hard drinks, and cigarettes.

“As much as I can atleast save 10,000/= shillings from all my businesses daily, I have dreams to support my mother and my siblings beyond what I am currently providing”.

Hassan has hopes of making a big shop but lacks the capital to uplift his endeavours and future plans. “I will always be thankful for the person who taught me how to save for tomorrow if it wasn't for my saving I would now still be vulnerable youth like the rest of my peers in my circles who are still stuck in community corridors and vulnerable to all sorts of crimes”. Hassan says that whenever he talks to many of his peers who are still trapped in the vicious circle of poverty and crime, they show willingness to change but need support to face their own challenges. If the support is provided, the community will be a safer neighborhood for all.

How bad peers groups lure youth into drugs and criminal activity.

By Jimmy Kanonya
ACTogether Uganda

In, Rubaga division, lungujja settlement, Esperito a former member of the groups and now a safety champion, is taking on the mantle of counselling young people to change their mindset off drug use.

Esperito, a resident of Lungujja parish in the Rubaga division, was a victim of poor peer groups that influenced him to use drugs. "Our settlements have several slums, and young people form gangs on a daily basis. Given the surrounding conditions, it is very tempting to join them". He said. When I first joined these groups, I became so addicted to drugs that I forgot about anything productive" He added.

Some young people, he says, are simply inspired and encouraged to join these groups and they feel good about it when they see other young people smoking.

"A large number of young people have joined drugs as a result of other people's inspiration". He added.

Esperito was selected among the youth that were referred for skilling. He expressed an interest in driving, and the programme assisted him in enrolling in a driving school (a prestige driving school). He says that if this chance had arrived sooner, he would not have lost time with peers and drugs. "We run out of options from time to time and since our parents are financially strapped, we end up in gangs.

Esperito is also a safety champion, who has been aided in implementing safety initiatives alongside other young men and women in the communities. These initiatives, are aimed at preventing young people from using drugs that later propel them into criminal activities.

For example, Rubaga, young men and women were facilitated to paint wall murals.

Esperito changed his life, and he is now working productively. According to him, it was a difficult moment to live his friends because he had spent so much time with them. He finally accepted it and decided it was time to stop using drugs and begin a new life. "Friends who used to hang with me are now seeking counselling I don't hesitate because I know that's where I came from". He said. Esperito now spends his free time watching sports and going to church as he waits for the weekdays to work.

Esperito has stopped abusing drugs and He's now living productively. He started offering counselling to his friends who are still abusing drugs. According to him, "Some are making positive improvements, such as reducing the amount of time they spend using drugs".





“I TYPE FOR PEOPLE DOCUMENTS AND THEY PAY ME, SO I NO LONGER HAVE TO BEG ON THE STREETS TO MEET MY NEEDS.”

**By Ssebagala Isaac
UYDEL**

Born in Dokolo, Rwala Village 24 years ago, Odongo Vincent, stayed with his family members (uncle) after both his father and mother passed on. He became disabled due to polio vaccination. The two legs were paralyzed at the age of two he says and during this time, he passed through a lot of discrimination from his very family members. So he resorted to staying with the wife in the village with whom he has 2 children one is three years and the other is 2 months His wife has no disability. They are working very hard to take care of the children.

Odongo was trafficked by a friend who promised him a job of shopping clothes and thereafter she sells them. When he reached Kampala he was left on the street. Thereafter a friend gave him transport and told him that instead of working he needs to resort to begging on the street. His life became so hard currently he stays with friends who are also disabled in Kamwokya a Kampala suburb in the passover area.

He has spent 7 months in Kampala. He used to face challenges since he was getting his earning through begging on the city streets in Kampala.

Turning point

He narrates that one time people approached him and they introduced to him that they are social workers working in UYDEL Kamwokya branch and that they are willing to enroll him into vocational skills training.

While at UYDEL he opted for Computer lessons and got skills in Microsoft word, Excel. He has now resorted to stationery shops working for people doing typing and printer work and they pay him money ranging from 5000-10,000/- since he was at least earning something friends advised him to join the united disabled group (a saving group in Kamwokya under the safe and inclusive cities project) in the saving group he adopted a saving culture and interpersonal skills and he now relates well with other people. "

He says that in the group has also helped him in networking in that the members in the fellow group have been able to connect him to other stationery shops where he types for people and earns an income "I type for people documents and they pay me, I no longer have to beg on the streets to meet my needs" Vincent says that the trainings in business and street smart life skills sessions have developed his self-esteem and changed his mind set. He learnt that he can put food on the table despite the fact that he is disabled.

Future plans

Vincent says that he is saving money and he wants to buy computers open up a stationery shop which deals in typing and printing so that he can also be self-employed. He hopes even to teach typing skills to other youth in the area who are disabled so that they also become empowered.

Trained to inspire change among boda boda riders.

By Sseruga Ivan
C4D

Kiiza Moses is a bodaboda rider and a resident of Makerere Kivulu Kagugube a Kampala suburb who used to cherish prevalent boda boda traits like halting insults to women and girls.

His plight changed when he learnt of the safe and inclusive cities initiatives in the public transport component that were being implemented in his community through his community chairperson.

"My rogue behaviors had landed me in trouble many times especially with the law and I had started feeling the need to change but I did not know how to change."

Said Moses. When the opportunity came, he had to sign up because he wanted to find a way out and be part of transforming the boda boda space into a decent venture that both users and operators are proud of. As a result of this training, Moses has reformed his ways and currently, his work ethic and conduct has improved, he respects rights of women and girls whether customers or passers by, he stopped insulting them. According to the Local council I chairperson of Kivuli Mr Muze Ronald, the boda boda riders in the Zone are now decent men. Cases of insults are almost non-existent now.

The financial literacy knowledge that Moses and the other riders acquired have enabled them start a savings club called Kagugube boda boda riders association which Moses chairs and through the association, the riders have access to financial services. Through the safe and inclusive cities project, I attended a week long training with other boda boda riders in the area where we learnt road safety rules and regulations, plus personal financial literacy.

Despite having been in the boda industry for close to 10 years, but these are things he had not paid attention to and never thought of them as important because to him, all that mattered was the knowledge of operating the motor bike.



Mindset change of our local leaders was the silver bullet.

By Kasirivu Steven
C4D

Makerere III a Kampala suburb located in the southern part is known as a hub of insecurity due to the prevalence of criminal acts fueled by a number of factors. For the 4 years, Makerere III has been among the ten wards where the safe and inclusive cities project has been implemented.

According to Mr Mutebi Moses, the local council II chairperson speaks of the safe and inclusive cities project as a project that has had tremendous positive impact that has changed the look of things.

The lack of skills by young women and men in the area has significantly contributed to the high rate of crime, the safe and inclusive cities consortium has imparted vocational skills to over 150 vulnerable young women and men in the community in addition a host of safety initiatives.



Mr Mutebi says *“The most significant change has been the transformation of mindsets for the local leaders in the area.”*

Local council I chairpersons in the community have developed a fresh perspective on community safety and inclusion aspects for young women and men. Village chairmen in the ward now reach to youth gang groups with development focused information.

“These are groups that we could not consider for any development intervention before, but now the change registered is evident and good.” Jafari Ssen-gondo LC1. Chairman Sebina The interventions implemented have reduced crime, violence and harassment within Makerere III.

Positive mindset change of the local leaders is key for community transformation.

A shot in the arm, how SAIC gave Bashir a chance child hood dream.



By Deborah Atim
C4D

Kizza Bashir a young man aged 21 years, is a resident of Bwaise II a Kampala suburb where he has spent all his life. His dream since childhood was being an electrician and as such, he was fascinated by all things that use electric power.

He knew that this was the very thing he was born for and he studied hard to make this a reality until he was told by his parents that they could no longer support his education after they lost their source of livelihood.

"At that point I felt that it was over for me, I did not know what next to do or how to survive because I had just started secondary school."

This new reality pushed Bashir into every sort of violent behavior as he struggled to make sense of the world. He says a day could hardly pass by without him getting involved in a fight with peers and other people in the community.

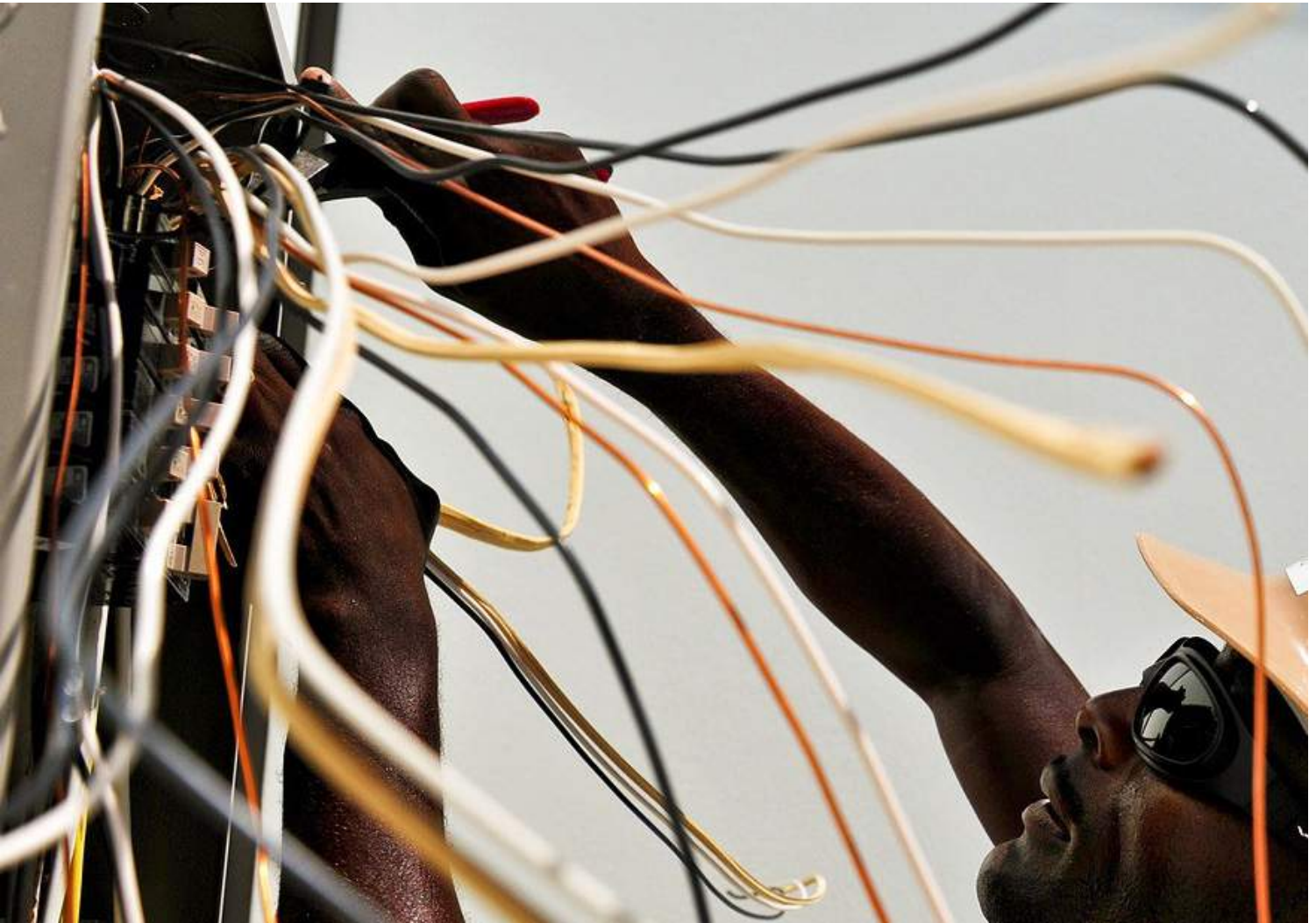
This reckless behavior got him thrown out of his home and now he was out to face the world on his own by 17 years. The job he got of cleaning the community centre paid him 20,000 Ugandan shillings a month which could not meet his needs. To make up for this shortfall, Bashir took on sports betting and petty crime, for him there were not many options.

His luck however would change one fateful day as one of the UYDEL community workers informed him of the opportunity to undertake a skills training in any field of his choice at no cost.

"For me, this was a shot in the arm, the safe and inclusive cities project that I would later come to learn of gave me a chance to achieve my childhood dream."

There was not anything to think about, he was already facing the world on his own and so he signed up and acquired the skills in electrical engineering as he desired and made friends with other young people whose plight was similar to his.

to achieve his



“This became my family, I could relate with their hustles, and we starting looking out for one another.”

It was during this time that Bashir got yet another opportunity to undertake the safety toolkit training that transformed him into a community safety champion for Bwaise II. Presently, Bashir is a qualified electrician and a safety champion that reaches out to the most vulnerable young people with information to transform themselves.

Bashir's participation in the SAIC project has enabled him to acquire electrical engineering skills which he depends on to earn a living, leadership and advocacy skills

and as a safety champion, he is been able to influence other vulnerable young women and men in the community and inspire them into active citizens. His self esteem and confidence are an inspiration to his fellow youth.

Together with the vice chairpersons, local community police and a network of other young safety champions, Bashir has been empowered to reachout, counsel and refer vulnerable young men and women to the nearest community service systems.

“In the national slum dwellers federation where I belong, we have a saying that information is power, when you know how to use it well.”

Bashirs' focus now is set on reaching out to other vulnerable young people in the community with a message of hope, encouraging them to make use of all available opportunities to change their story.

Speak; we are listening.

A popular word on the streets of Kampala goes “Talina kyatugamba” loosely translated as he’s got nothing to tell us. Things have become too bad in Uganda that many Ugandans have become fatigued with the 35-year-old speeches of the president.

The outbreak of covid-19 in Uganda has changed the landscape of things and the way it is, it looks like H.E Y. K Museveni is reaping big from the massive media campaign brought about by the covid-19 situation. A friend of mine has deep animosity for the NRM ideology and could never at any time see himself listening the age-old rhetoric.

Well, the times have changed for him and many of us, a kiganda saying goes that different eras come with different things. With time, you can witness things you had never thought of before, sometimes these are very strange predicaments like Uganda hosting Afghanistan refugees while other times it is just the anticipated stuff like the chaos and confusion over the Myooga funds.

Whereas the president means well to address the nation routinely on matters of national importance,

Now that I have got your attention.

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Whereas the president means well to address the nation routinely on matters of national importance, we have learnt that perhaps there is a concentration of authority in the office of the presidency which has diluted all other significant public offices and ultimately conditioning Ugandans to only listen when it is him speaking. es, the president has taken the onus upon himself to teach young Ugandans of the invaluable bush war lessons while slipping in the NRM ideology, to his ardent listeners; there is always more to the story.

In his repetitive speech All manners of antics are pulled out and when you listen to the street talks in the preceding days, the highlights are always on the idle non serious issues of the speech. Is this a way of listening without listening!!!

Could this be signs of the fatigued listeners that turn detractors by dramatizing the most unimportant parts and make them go viral! Could we miss out on very important issues as we pay more attention to the banter!

Francis Mawejje; In my View.

Francis Mawejje is a social worker and programme officer at ACTogether Uganda.



The hope against drugs is not lost.

By **Dickson Ojakol**
C4D

Drugs are a big deal; - Around 269 million people used drugs worldwide in 2018 according to the UNODC WORLD DRUG REPORT 2020.

Drugs lead most young people into violence and crime. In Banda community about 7/10 young people aged [15-25] in Kampala slums used or uses drugs says- Zamboki not real names- a youth safety champion in banda, Nakawa division.

Marijuana, brown sugar, aviation fuel, "Enchuwiri" is among the most consumed illicit substances. Kabanga a recipe made from a mixture of herb and tobacco sells like hotcake. This drug especially marijuana [herb] comes from the outskirts of the city and It's supplied through dealers.

The hotspot is katoogo in Nakawa division a suburb in Kampala. Young people engage in using drugs because some don't have hope; some lost their parents, others because of stress and unemployment.

However, the environment also contributes, you find a home where a mother uses it, and it's a source of income to sustain a household.

Some parents involve their children in this shoddy but lucrative business because they know children can't be suspected and arrested by authorities or police says- Allan a safety champion from Banda community. This could be solved if the addicts are sensitized and trained about the dangers of using drugs and given skills as an alternative. The local authorities should engage the adults selling drugs and empower the youth to overcome drug abuse, it's possible to end it says - Salongo an opinion leader in Banda parish.

How to overcome drugs

There was a scenario where a youth was bitten to death because he to snatched 2000ugx from a little child sent to the shop.

The local community on average would lose two young stars to mob justice or bullets due to theft but that has changed.

The safe and inclusive cities project awakened youth to actively acquire skilling, trainings, and participate in community dialogues.

I see some young people going around selling liquid soap to earning a living.

There is positive change, hygiene and sanitation also improved due to sensitizations, solar lights installed in dark spots and mapped criminal gangs' says-Ben Nangabo the local council chairperson Banda. Chronic use of some drugs can lead to both short- and long-term changes in the brain, which can lead to mental health issues including paranoia, depression, anxiety, aggression, hallucinations, and other problems.

Many people who are addicted to drugs are also diagnosed with other mental disorders Compared with the general population; people addicted to drugs are roughly twice as likely to suffer from mood and anxiety disorders, with the reverse also true. In 2015, an estimated 43.4 million (17.9 percent) adults ages 18 and older experienced some form of mental illness (other than a developmental or substance use disorder). Of these, 8.1 million had both a substance use disorder and another mental illness.¹ Although substance use disorders commonly occur with other mental illnesses, it's often unclear whether one helped cause the other or if common underlying risk factors contribute to both disorders, says- THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE [NIDA]



A breath of hope for girls; sanitary pads made in Kawempe.

By Shakira Nalubega (C4D) and Ibrahim Ochaka (KYCTV)

Girls were telling me; they were struggling to purchase sanitary pads due to unaffordable prices. It was such statements that I kusiima Joseline, 29-year-old, female Ugandan, a team leader at girl smart pad project led to the birth of the venture.

Girl smart pad project is located along Tula road, in Kawempe division opposite Taibah junior school.

About girl smart pad, is a project which was initiated by a team of youths at smarter factory in 2019, with initiations of helping keep the girls in school without dropping out or absenteeism through producing affordable reusable sanitary pads.

The reason why we came out with girl smart pads was since in Uganda one out of ten 1/10 girls drop out school every day due to lack of menstrual materials and those on the market are sometimes expensive for a rural girl.

Girls end-up dropping out of school, that's why as girl smart pad came up with a project majoring in producing reusable pad.

target on SDG goal number 4 of ensuring quality education and also ensuring inclusive and equitable education to promote opportunities for all. As girl smart pad we do As the project objective, we do train girls in schools on how to make reusable sanitary pads using local made materials & produce pads,

also strengthen menstrual hygiene management in school with help of senior women teachers.

As the project in teaching the girls, started way back and have managed to train over 150 girls in districts of buyende, adjumani, kampala, lira, aleptong, Kamuli, & tororo. Besides that, we have managed to train girls on Trainers of trainees (TOTs) in order to strengthen the number of girls to reach. Since the outbreak of covid-19 in Uganda, we did have developed a methodology where we trained over 8 girls for every district.



We as a project have donated up to 200 reusable pads to schools in Kampala like mperere primary school, prima secondary school, mbogo primary school, so as to enable girls stay in school.

We have worked with refugees in adjumani camps, trained them on TOTs and making of reusable menstrual pads.

As any venture, we also have come across challenges, one being delay in implementations due to limited funds to enable reach to all girls and support. Would not forget smarter factory Uganda for providing facilities to use in production. The local council structures that embraced the project, we were able to reach out deeply in the

community, the teachers and schools have greatly been the backbone of the success and reach to the girls.

Oh, did I mention the venture is a registered company and with a license to manufacture reusable sanitary pads.

I call upon donors to come and support the cause. We have plans to procure a van to help on the transportation to reach out to a bigger number across the country. We plan on having more branches to extend services closer to them mainly in the districts highly affected due to menstrual pads. Together we can keep the girls in school.

FEATURES

ONLINE AND PRIVATE COACHING AS AN ALTERNATIVE.

By Sandra Favor Nakimera
C4D

Online and Private Coaching acting as the new Normal ever since the pandemic hit Uganda. The coronavirus brought various sectors to a grinding halt and school going children and students were stuck in a limbo. Some students like myself were in exams, so this lockdown came as a shock. Classroom Education became unrealistic given that for studying to continue, every institution had to observe the standard Operation Procedures.

And the thought of wasting a year was so terrifying. Favor and Sheriff Youth Advocates from Makindye a suburb of kampala, with a passion, power and knowledge to transform their communities academically opted to share notes and learning materials like newspaper on education section from all levels where parents could Print the material shared for their kids.

These Youth Advocates created WhatsApp groups at every academic level and parents and students were added to help in the continuation with their learning despite the lockdown. They have further volunteered to do private Coaching to children at no cost so as to help them not forget what they learnt in schools and keep them busy in the lockdown this reducing on the crime rate.

Talking to some teachers and school heads, they believe that the integration of information technology in education will be further acceleration and online education will eventually become an integral component of school education.



However, talking to Hajjat Aisha a parent, says that online and Private Coaching is becoming expensive as some of them cannot afford Data and paying private coaching is costly thus becoming a challenge.

And the government is not doing enough to solve this problem like taking off taxes on the data costs because now the future of learning is online. Private Coaching and online learning poses many more challenges like organizing work, Lack of Gadgets, high of Data and the tax rate.

Lack of concentration since someone can easily be distracted this making it hard to learn, Lack of interaction between teachers and students.

Mr. Kisamba a head teacher of Katwe Noor secondary school making thoughts on the challenges of connectivity and high data charges, however he hopes that the integration of information technology in education is will eventually become an integral component of school education.

He further calls on government and supporting institutions with support of parents and students so as to adopt online learning and private coaching as an alternative. Never the less online learning carries along many chances and practical advantages to learners of the 21st Century.

How to control Child Abuse Amidst the Lock Down

By Isaac Ssebagala
UYDEL

Uganda as country went into its second wave of lock down in June 2021 it's on this directive that the president ordered for the closure of schools in order to curb down the spread of the disease this means that a big number of children are now at home and most of them are at risk of being abused. According to UCHL march 2020 report, 52.6 percent of all the violence cases reported were concerning child neglect with girls being the most affected. Reported cases mainly include child neglect, physical and sexual abuse with two cases of murder.

However, parents have a big role to play in that children are not abused. Such kind of abuse happens physically, Socially and Economically a one on one talk with the children will help you as the parent to understand their stress factors, the social problems they do face and this you can be able to support them as a parent, the probing can help the parent to notice the nonverbal communication within the children like during interactions, anger and many more. you as part in their life many



times this has been the work of teachers at school during the physical fitness training but now its high time we as parents adopt this

If it's possible hire a psychologist, counselors or a social worker to monitor the progress of your child such a trained person will be able to identify the post-traumatic stress disorders, anxiety depression within your child at home.

This is because most of the families have been affected during this lockdown the children themselves are not in school, most of the families have lost their loved ones, parents have stopped working since there is no movement of vehicles and most of the business are shut down and on top of that others lack what to eat.

Community engagements need to be considered starting with the community police stations local council members, probation and social welfare officers.

These will help to present technical advice on juvenile cases in court, toll free like Sauti 116 sharing of all contacts of the focal child control help lines so that the children know where they can run to because its unfortunate that some of these problems do happen to our children but they do not know where to begin from and some times the community fears to report such people to the concerned authorities.

