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### ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACOYDE</td>
<td>Action for Youth Development Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UYONET</td>
<td>Uganda Youth Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIVICUS</td>
<td>World alliance for Citizens participation</td>
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<td>SRHR</td>
<td>Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights</td>
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<td>YADNET</td>
<td>Youth Advocacy Network Uganda</td>
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<td>GBV</td>
<td>Gender Based Violence</td>
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<td>GNBU</td>
<td>Girls Not Brides Alliance Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>Information education and communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Change agents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAN</td>
<td>District advocacy Network</td>
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<td>PE</td>
<td>Peer Education</td>
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<td>WIUDU</td>
<td>African Women in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>IWPG</td>
<td>International Women Peace Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSW</td>
<td>Convention on Status of Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non Government organizations</td>
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<td>GEF</td>
<td>Generation Equality Forum</td>
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<td>UN SDGs</td>
<td>United Nations Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO/CSW</td>
<td>NonGovernmental Organization Civil Society Working Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAGE</td>
<td>Gender Adolescents Global Evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDGC</td>
<td>International Day of the Girl Child</td>
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<td>WPS</td>
<td>Women Peace and Security</td>
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Dear Friends,

Greetings from Action for Youth Development Uganda (ACOYDE): What a blessing it has been to work with a talented and powerful team at ACOYDE! The leadership of ACOYDE, including the board, staff, volunteers, partners, donors, consistent givers, change champions, and ardent backers of our community work. We were able to make sure that both girls and boys in and outside of school continued to receive our information and services during the unannounced, abrupt, and uncertain lockdowns and limitations in Uganda.

Many significant firsts occurred in 2021. A year of working digitally and partially physically to encourage local engagements in our communities followed by the first track COVID-19 vaccinations. In order to change thousands of young people, we collaborated with numerous partners to have the greatest impact on women, girls, and youth who identify as gender non-conforming, we set out to find the best ways to reach our beneficiaries and target communities. We also strengthened the global movement for gender equity and made social, economic, and climate justice a top priority in everything we did. More than 37,000 young people, both in and out of school, benefited from ACOYDE’s good influence in 2021. With greater access to healthcare, education, climate justice, and economic opportunities, we are successfully promoting stronger laws, policies, and programs that will lead to better futures for all.

We created a new strategy for the years 2022 to 2026 in 2021, which will provide our communities direction during the pandemic and a new normal working environment for our youth. As we work and walk together on this transformational path, I am enthusiastic about the 2022 actions and look forward to sharing even more wonderful stories of the transformation with you.

I’m constantly appreciative to our team, led by the team leader, for continuing to support our work while we deal with unheard-of and drastically altering circumstances around the globe. To our partners, donors, we appreciate you working together with us to make the world more fair and just so that no young person will face discrimination. with deepest gratitude.

für immer zusammenarbeiten

Ms. Deborah Auma
Board Chair
Quote of the year:
You can get everything in life you want if you will just help enough other people with what they want

2021 marked another impressive year for ACOYDE and partners. ACOYDE was able to notably and successfully implement its work plan in line with its strategic objectives at the programmatic levels. The year that began with a theme of “IChooseToChallenge” calling for action towards elimination of social injustices, unequal opportunities. This was successful due to the strong, bold, brave, hardworking, creative and value driven team and the partners who made it possible for the work done in 2021. As a youthful organization we are aware of the powers associated with young people towards building the most transformative communities.

At ACOYDE we worked so hard towards ensuring that girls, youth and young women issues at local and national levels are heard, financed, implemented and monitored to promote inclusive and transparent allocations to benefit resources for the benefit of the young people in the second year of living with COVID-19.

You are all aware, how the COVID 19 pandemic led to the closure of most sectors of the economy including academic and tertiary institutions in 2020, which hitherto productively engaged and acted as protective structures for the girl child against teenage pregnancy and child marriage in Uganda. It is estimated that, over 15 million learners are out of school and almost half of these are girls and young women. The study carried out by Save the Children (2020) indicated that when child protection systems including schools are locked down, all children (boys, girls and children with special needs) are affected, but the marginalized are more vulnerable. And if this is not worked on, there is a likely hood that closure of schools may worsen the gender inequalities. This led to increased rate of teenage Pregnancies and child marriages as a result of the pandemic as observed by different partners across the country.

In addition, our impactful activities was due to our amazing staff, partners and the incredible stakeholders that walked a peaceful journey with us to continue building strong adolescents and youth voice as we broke the ceiling amidst COVID19. Our impact in 2021 doubled our reach through committed partnerships. It is now a critical moment as we call upon for more partners to come together in building a sustainable unity across the board to ensure that girls, boys and young people of this country understand their rights and are able to meaningfully engage in promoting gender equality, peaceful communities, education and health for all, social economic and climate justice.

Through the Girls Not Brides Alliance (GNBU)
we were able to reach more girls, we ran the Power to Girls campaign lets end child marriages together. Our Power to Girls campaign called for immediate and urgent action to end child marriage. The global Girls Not Brides and member organization’s helped in amplifying the call to decision makers to act now, so that girls are able to decide, when and who to marry. The campaign aimed at seeing a world where girls live free from childhood, early and forced marriage and unions, and are able to have the opportunities and the agency to achieve their dreams.

We therefore recommended that the Ministry of Education and Sports works closely with community organizations and schools administrators to provide a conducive and accommodative environment for girls to return to school after giving birth. For those that may find it hard to catch with studies should be supported to acquire vocational skills that will economically empower them to break the cycle of vulnerability. In a special way I utterly take this opportunity to appreciate our board members, staff members, volunteers, interns and everyone that made our year a success by working so hard and ensuring ACOYDE stays relevant to its strategic plan and its work. We will continue to count on the partnerships, commitment and financial support of all stakeholders as we walk this journey!! Working together for sustainable development!! vitória é certa!! Mungu akubariki!!

For God And My Country

Ms. Caroline Owashaba
Team Leader

This situation led to increased Gender based violence (GBV) cases and as well raised a lot of concerns on how to keep learners safe, secure and also progressing with their studies. Unfortunately, by May reports started coming in of teenage girls who had fallen prey to sex predators resulting into abnormal rates of teenage pregnancies, child marriages and other forms of sexual violence in all districts across the country, this triggered our efforts of activism amidst COVID19 lockdown.

Our activism and advocacy work being lined to girls and women had to be carried out online and ensure girls and boys continue learning amidst the COVID19 pandemic and create awareness on COVID19 to secure safe space for adolescent girls and young women. Have carried out Radio talk shows, online Name and shame campaign in order to retain the prices of the goods at a normal price. Influencing the local leaders to budget and plan for girls and women who cannot afford MHS materials during and post COVID19 pandemic.

Our work on tracking the food relief and donations that were provided by different international agencies, individuals and also the government allocation of the resources that were provided by the government of Uganda by ensuring it reached its beneficiaries. We managed to organize webinars, attended and participated in over 40 online webinars as presenters, facilitators and participant on issues related to gender based violence and risk health related issues, youth and women participation in leadership, governance and democracy processes. Through making the new normal and scientific approach, implementation, reaching out to communities.
About Girls Not Brides is a National alliance with a membership of 104 Non-Government Organizations working at community, district, regional and national level committed to Ending Child Marriage and enabling girls fulfill their potential. The Alliance aims at maximizing synergies with the core objective of bringing Child Marriage to national attention. Building an understanding of what it takes to End Child Marriage and embark on proactive interventions aimed at combating child marriage through advocacy for stronger legislation, policy development and enforcement of laws meant to protect young girls and ensure that every girl can attain their full potential. GNBU western region is coordinated by Action for Youth Development Uganda in Mbarara District.

Action for Youth Development Uganda (ACOYDE) is an Indigenous Not for Profit, youth Community-Driven and advocacy organization that focuses on adolescents and young people through working with citizens and community-based organizations to influence issues, policies, young people’s challenges at grassroots, local, national governance and development processes. ACOYDE was founded in 2010 and became operational in 2014. ACOYDE’s head offices are in Mbarara District, South Western Uganda.

ACOYDE influences pro-development programs, policies, empower adolescent girl’s youth and young women to peacefully co-exist and work towards sustainable development of their communities. ACOYDE has over the years implemented a number of projects involving the education, health, ending poverty, human rights and social justice, youth economic strengthening programs, gender equality, social justice, Girls talk programming, ending child marriage campaigns, climate justice and environmental conservation and biodiversity programs, Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights as a sustainability strategy for socio economic well-being of poor and marginalized women and youth for sustainability. ACOYDE works with girls and young women in rural and refugee communities to ensure girls are free to reach their full potential through education, advocacy, lobbying and influencing policies to end child marriages.
WHAT DRIVES US?

VISION
A vibrant, healthy and productive generation.

MISSION
To promote a fair and sustainable environment where adolescents and youth have a right to life without being questioned of their status. Through transformational leadership, empowerment, community driven approaches, advocacy Mobilization, coordination and networking to create freedom of choice.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:
ACOYDE aims at creating space for the adolescents and young people to reshape, redirect and uphold the values of social transformative leadership through advocacy, training, capacity building, networking and research.

ACOYDE’S CORE VALUES
Transparency, Active participation, openness, hard work, integrity, creativity and innovation
To protect and promote human rights, social accountability, transparency among vulnerable young people by promoting policies that protect their wellbeing.

To enhance and accelerate efforts towards ending child marriages and teenage pregnancies among adolescent girls through the amplification of voices of girls at risk of child marriages and defend girls’ rights to health, education and create opportunities to their fully potential.

To advocate for gender equality and climate justice by promoting social economic skills and entrepreneurship that will led to financial freedom, enhanced financial literacy and green based technologies.

To advocate for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights services (SRHR) and youth friendly services for young people in the community through health education, advocacy campaigns and dissemination of information on health and youth friendly services control and maternal health.

To develop partnerships, collaborations and networks among the key stakeholders and promote the sustainable development goals (SDGs).
and transformative leadership for all. We build, train champions and mentors who foster conversations and raise awareness on the links related to girls, boys, young women on education, health, climate change and social justice for all.

OUR PROGRAM AREAS

Ending child marriages and Gender Based violence, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Human Rights and good governance, Entrepreneurship, Education for young people, climate justice activism Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) interpretation and tracking.

OUR COLLABORATIONS

We work with educators, schools, girl and boys, youth, religious leaders, legislators, community organizations, private sectors, youth led organizations, social ventures, businesses and non-profits globally. We create locally-adapted programming for adolescents, families, and communities. Girl Rising’s corporate and media partners extend our reach to millions.

ACOYDES BENEFICIARIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

The primary beneficiaries of ACOYDE are adolescent girls and boys, young people, parents, religious leaders, communities and all Ugandan youth from all the backgrounds, underserved, marginalized, youth intending to create change in their communities, youth at all levels of leadership and non-leadership. Other beneficiaries include youth in media, youth networks, youth organizations, governmental parastatals, Academicians and civil society organizations.

ACOYDES ACTIVATION

We ideate, create and ignite action for girls, boy’s education, youth and gender equity by focusing on changing attitudes and harmful gender norms through programming and campaigns reaching families, communities, corporations, governments and the general public. We build the voices and amplify the agency and life skills for them to foster inclusive learning environment for improved social justice, economic and education
From villages in rural communities of Uganda to the National level: ACOYDE works with its partners and stakeholders both at the grassroots and national levels and across the borders in East Africa and at regional levels to ensure that tasks are accomplished and more young people are reached very well through synergies, alliances, networks. The results of programs in the last year had direct results on citizens, families, children, youth and young women. Our programs include families enrolling their daughters in schools, girls and boys advocating for themselves, parents deciding against arranged child marriages, teachers changing their methods to better support girls, and boys joining clubs to help end gender discrimination. Community mentors mentoring young people, economic empowerment and enhanced value addition skills for social and economic development.

**REACH & IMPACT**

- Check out the results of our community statement and the impact of girls; Increased pregnancies and child marriages amidst COVID19 on website www.actionyouthdev.org the situation, statistics and recommendation.
- Reaching out to adolescent girls and other citizens affected by floods in Kasese District check on our website www.actionyouthdev.org
- ACOYDE through the peer educators and Change agents reached out to more young people in the hard to reach areas with SRHR
- Keeping (adolescents) girls learning amidst COVID19 pandemic and closure of schools, the shifting attitudes, changing mindsets, hand craft skilling, life skills training by peer educators and change agents plus the social media engagements impressions. We reached out to over 1,000 girls and boys.
- Gender and climate change (Women resilience amidst COVID-19) check on our website www.actionyouthdev.org and COVICUS web.
- Statement of demand for Conference of Parties COP26 Glasgow.
- 30+ articles online and webinars organized and published by ACOYDE and its partners
- Girls, boys and partners in top media impact score from Participant Media in the districts
- Western region girls summit reached over 2000 girls and other key stakeholders, both physical and online.
- ACOYDE managed to reach out to more than 500,000 M people through radio and TV programs throughout western region and Uganda, reaching 50,000 households in communities where electricity and television are rare luxuries with the support of community journalists.
- ACOYDE fundraised online to distribute food relief, material support for new born babies to 60 adolescent girls who were affected by COVID19, distributed food, beddings and clothes to over 100 girls and women.
• ACOYDE managed to translate the International women’s day 2022 and 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV) content into the community local languages Runyankole and Luganda.

• ACOYDE reached out to the young people affected by landslides and floods in Kasese districts. Adolescent girls and boys, women and men, district holders etc.

• ACOYDE trained 8 community journalists to help in cascading information on creating awareness on gender and climate change impact.

• Developed a documentary on women and climate change

• Developed statement for negotiators for the COP26 in Glasgow

ACOYDE reached 450 adolescents girls, 15 youth leaders, 18 religious leaders, and district stakeholders during the girl summit held in Mbarara district and over 1000 citizens through the 16 days of activism in Mbarara District and western Uganda through media channels

ACOYDE reached more young people through strong partnerships with Girls Not Brides Uganda, UNASO, Great Lakes Region for peace, NYAP, YADNET, EYIT, RTU, YAGNET, Vibrant Communities etc.,

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED & SERVICES OFFERED

Capacity building in SRH access advancement and advocating for SRH access among young people

We partnered and supported the supervision of the District level structures; through peer educators and District Advocacy Networks

We also held Radio Talk shows, to conduct community campaigns against violation of SRHR

Through: Facilitating partners to participate in district Covid19 task force meetings to voice out Adolescent Girls, Youth and Women rising needs to address GBV challenges as a key priority.
Supporting District Advocacy Networks (DANs) to undertake local advocacy initiatives

- Conduct community dialogue meetings on Gender relations and adolescent girl’s rights with district stakeholders and partners.
- Conduct a community flash mob to create awareness on 25 years of Beijing platform for Action and Generation equality.
- Community outreach on Gender based violence and discrimination against women and girls.

Despite the impact of COVID19 on the social economic and wellbeing of different individuals. We achieved a lot, as we doubled our efforts towards working and transforming the lives of young people amidst COVID19.

Increased access to health services and youth friendly services as a result of evidence based youth advocacy to promote SRHR; as well as increased responsiveness of duty bearers towards youth demands on improving SRHR.

END PERIODIC POVERTY: HIKING TO BREAK STIGMA AGAINST MENSTRUATION

Action for Youth Development Uganda (ACOYDE) joined the 20 organizations to the long journey to Moroto to hike for the girl child in order to break stigma against menstruation. There is a serious problem in the region which escalates to the whole country. Research says over 55% of girls do not attend classes during their menstruation periods in Uganda. ACOYDE joined the rest of the team to advocate for the Girl Children who are challenged in managing their menstrual cycle due to lack of access to pads and underwear, girls who have to trek for 30 minutes every day to school and then expected to compete its high time.
The Hike is organized by Raising Teenagers Uganda (RTU) a member organization of Girls Not Brides Uganda that works in partnerships to end child marriages. The campaign which was launched in 2017 and has since purposed to convene to commemorate the unique challenges faced by women and girls during menstruation and lay strategies to support them. It has previously been carried out in the low income settings such as Kigezi region, Rwenzori region and Karamoja, where menstrual hygiene accounts for the biggest percentage of absenteeism among girls in schools.

The hiking event was able to raise funds to procure pads for girls who cannot afford them in Karamoja region. There is a challenge of poor menstrual health caused by lack of proper menstrual products such as pads for girls. The lack of pads continue to force girls to miss and drop out of school, lose self-esteem and some girls get sexually harassed by men in their search for money to buy pads, making them susceptible to sexually transmitted infections, teenage pregnancies and child marriages.

P1. Action for Youth Development Uganda (ACOYDE) in partnership with Great Lakes Youth Network for Dialogue and Peace are implementing a project dubbed Our Diversity – our Opportunity! co-funded by the European Union (EU) and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ. The project is aimed at building the momentum of peace in the region through dialogue and opportunities of exchange for youth organizations and other key actors. The project is a crossroads between youth groups and local, national and international stakeholders in politics, the private sector, civil society, NGOs, academia and the media.

It is also aimed at promoting the most active, cooperative, sustainable and positive role of youth actions, creating a strong network between them and bringing all stakeholders on board towards contributing to peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region. The project will reach many youths in the region to take action and as well be part of the solutions that the Great Lakes Region needs. This will contribute to a peaceful great lakes region and create solutions to the challenges they face and make their voices heard.
About the project

The project will take a duration of over three years, it will offer the following unique opportunities; strengthening organization’s internal capacities in most relevancy of our work: effective communication, advocacy, resource mobilization, organization structuring etc., through high quality training workshops, including a training of trainer’s component. The project will also offer a sub-granting scheme and a mentoring program for the best project ideas to be supported. Secondly, it will also enable to build a network with other youth organizations in Uganda and in the region through frequent exchanges, cross-border discussions and three regional summer schools. Thirdly, it will offer access to a strong national and regional network of stakeholders to encourage exchanges and possible cooperation in the future.
It covers gender equality, environment (including natural resources) and climate change, political representation, democracy and good governance, land and inheritance, economic stability and employment, media, education, culture and religion and forced migration.

It is a partnership of Youth-led, youth-serving and youth-focused initiatives/organizations, actively implementing activities in the following target regions/provinces of the project countries – DRC (North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Tanganyika), Rwanda (from the whole country), Uganda (Western Region, Central Region) and Tanzania (Kigoma, Kagera, Geita and Mwanza provinces).

Action for Youth Development Uganda joined the rest of the world to commemorate International women’s Day 2021, in Biharwe Mbarara city dubbed #IChooseToChallenge. The campaign held the following activities:

The International women’s day 2021 dialogue, was a big milestone to ACOYDE as it brought together the women at the forefront in the Uganda Police. The dialogue that was about creating space and opportunities for women leaders in the communities, was blessed to have seven categories of people amidst. The most core important value during the celebration, leaders present were able to discuss the issues that affect women and how they can be mitigated in the society today.

The dialogue consisted of the Uganda Police officers, the religious leaders, the young women leaders, the representative of the PWDs, the teachers, the grassroots women, the Civil society representative and university students among others to dialogue openly to set collective actions and interventions that are sustainable and very achievable by all people at all times. At the end of the dialogue there was a collective intervention of action that was set for the members of the community to use as an approach in
case of GBV and sexual harassment related issues. The topic was “Creating Women Opportunities amidst COVID19 World”

Through the same campaign ACOYDE was able to conduct a community open space commitment meeting to build capacities of youth and women led organizations where CSO’s can operate to become champions of social change towards achieving gender equality and as well set strategies that are pro-people by challenging the gender bias against women and girls in the society.

**Gender and Climate Change**

As the world continues to advocate for eco-friendly products that are geared towards improving the lives of people as well as protecting the environment. The need for biodegradable products and packaging is growing in Uganda. Uganda government ban on polythene packaging is still in effect but supply of biodegradable packaging bags is still low. The emerging category of eco hotels has created a demand for eco-friendly products for the hotel furnishes. This has necessitated the clients to look for innovative ideas in greening environment. The demand for green energy among the clients is key for CHACHA decision to commercialise charcoal briquettes from the generated banana fiber waste. And also the passing of the climate change bill by the 10th parliament is also another opportunity for young people and women to utilise towards creating employment in the agricultural sector and also advocating for proper and meaningful implementation of the agricultural plans and polices at the district and sub county levels.
The project aimed at promoting community social inclusion, gender equality through policy advocacy on climate change and information dissemination on production of eco-friendly and environmental products for sustainable women’s livelihoods:

To localize and operationalize the climate change bill among key stakeholders: online orientation and digital awareness meeting on the climate change bill with key stakeholders. There is need for more comprehensive research on Climate Change and gender, most people don’t understand the linkage. Neither do they understand climate change issues and policy, negotiations and participation with linkage to gender.

**ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT**

- Virtual meeting with district policy makers to influence Climate change policy implementation with key stakeholders.
- Building capacities of climate change advocates to accelerate information to the grassroots:
  - Trained 15 community journalists to create awareness and sensitize communities on climate change and women.
- Created awareness on community green skilling among young people and women through Radio and TV shows.
Equipping Women with social economic skills through banana value chain to produce Cha-cha/British council

CHACHA adds value addition to banana stems through extraction to produce banana fiber which is later used for craft production i.e. door mats, Pillows, Interior decorative Items, wall hangers, Inter key holders, table mats, Door mats, bags, shoes and which results into production of environmental eco-friendly and biodegradable thus a solution to climate change. The waste generated from the banana fiber extraction and application is recycled to produce high quality charcoal briquettes that are used by the youth and women as a heat source for both domestic and cottage industries hence reducing the cost of energy fuels and while increasing the household incomes. As the world continues to advocate for eco-friendly products that are geared towards improving the lives of people as well as protecting the environment. The need for biodegradable products and packaging is growing in Uganda. Uganda government ban on polythene packaging is still in effect but supply of biodegradable packaging bags is still low. It’s the project that was initiated using the active Citizens model during the active citizen training in Uganda.
PURPOSE

The purpose of this Project is to improve the incomes of women and youth in Mbarara district, through the processing of banana stems, by providing training and employment opportunities. Uganda is among the largest producers of bananas in the world. Although most Ugandan farmers are aware of the nutritional/economic benefits of banana fruit, they are not aware that they can utilize the abundantly available banana stem that is left over to decompose and rot after the banana fruit has been harvested. Specifically, the banana stem can be used to create several biodegradable products. Therefore, there is a need to capitalize on this local byproduct in order to locally produce more biodegradable household products.
CHA-CHA & ACTIVE CITIZENS

Action for Youth Development Uganda (ACOYDE), had previously empowered the economic and social status of youth and women in Uganda. Through its CHACHA Banana Fiber Project, ACOYDE has been picking the stems from the backyards of subsistence banana farmers and oversees fiber extraction, processing and sorting to create bio-degradable products such as handicrafts, sanitary towels, sacks, ropes, tents and woven fabric. ACOYDE transfers these innovative value addition skills to unemployed youth and young women farmers in western Uganda.

- The CHACHA Banana Fiber Project trained and equipped 150 youth and 57 young women with banana fiber extraction and value addition skills.
- The CHACHA Banana Fiber Project trained 57 women farmers in extraction of fiber, twining and coloring.
- Each farmer will earn approximately 1000 Ugandan Shillings (UGX 1000) per kilogram of fiber extracted from the banana stems, which will increase their annual income by approximately UGX 1,110,000.

KEEPING GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN SAFE AMIDST COVID-19:

The COVID 19 pandemic led to the closure of most sectors of the economy including academic and tertiary institutions in 2020, which hitherto productively engaged and acted as protective structures for the girl child against teenage pregnancy and child marriage in Uganda. It is estimated that, over 15 million learners are out of school and almost half of these are girls and young women. The study carried out by Save the Children (2020) indicates that when child protection systems including schools are locked down, all children (boys, girls and children with special needs) are affected, but the marginalized are more vulnerable. And if this is not worked on, there is a likely hood that closure of schools may worsen the gender inequalities. ACOYDE was able to run a campaign to provide food relief to the most affected girls and women.

FIG. 2
THE PROUD TEAM AFTER THE TRAINING IN SHEEMAGIRLS AND WOMEN
Girls Not Brides Uganda (GBNU) is a National alliance with a membership of 103 Non-Government Organizations working at community, district, regional and national level committed to Ending Child Marriage and enabling girls fulfill their potential. It has been a key partner to the Ugandan government in implementing the National Strategy to End Child Marriages and Teenage Pregnancies (2014/2015 -2019/2020). The strategy is currently under mid-term review with UNICEF, UNFPA and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

The key strategic focus areas are; improved policy and legal environment to protect children and promotion of the girl child’s rights & protection services ; improved access to quality sexual and reproductive health services, education and other opportunities; changing dominant thinking and social norms related to child marriage in the communities; empowerment of both girls and boys with correct information to enable them recognize child marriage and early pregnancy as a gross violation of their rights and take mitigating action; and coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the implementation effective of the strategy. empowerment of both girls and boys with correct information to enable them recognize child marriage and early pregnancy as a gross violation of their rights and take mitigating action; and coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the implementation effective of the strategy.
GNBU Western Region brings together members of Girls Not Brides Uganda working within the Western region to collectively work together to achieve the broader objectives of the alliance: It is coordinated by Action for Youth Development Uganda (ACOYDE). Girls Not Brides Uganda Alliance Western region and partners are organized a second western region Girl Summit that aimed at providing a safe platform to discuss issues affecting the girl child during this Covid-19 period.

OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL GIRL SUMMIT

1) To call for actions towards ending child marriages and removal of barriers to girl’s freedom and agency that will provide opportunities to make choices about their bodies, lives and futures.

2) To create an inclusive platform and friendly space for the marginalized including girls and boys in refugee communities, PWDs to participate in actions towards ending gender based violence and discriminations.

3) To contribute towards improved community livelihoods through social economic skilling for sustainable development amidst COVID-19.

4) To create awareness and agency on healthy living and self-care for the most affected young people and parents.

5) To share experiences and learn from positive parenting and violence prevention against teenagers amidst COVID19 that will contribute towards ending child marriages and teenage pregnancies.

GIRL SUMMIT KEY THEMATIC AREAS:

1) Menstruation sanitation and Hygiene
2) Positive Parenting
3) Social economic & life skills and Skills development
4) Nutrition and healthy living
5) Safe Spaces & Young People Voices
6) Engaging Men & Boys
7) Partnerships & Networking
8) Adolescent Health & SRHR general services.
International Day of the Girl Child 2021 in Kasese District (Reaching out to the young people affected by floods and climate change in Rwenzori region)

Girls Not Brides Uganda Alliance (GNBU) western region chapter on 7th and 8th October carried out the pre-international Day of the Girl Child (IDGC) community outreach in Kasese District. The aim of the activity was to engage and create more awareness on the Gender based violence and child marriage among girls in Kasese district. The activity was purposely to create alternative learning opportunities for adolescent girls in Kasese district affected by climate injustices in the region. It brought together 11 partners to reach out to adolescent’s girls and young women in Kasese IDP’s.
A number of assessments by Kasese District Disaster Committee and other stakeholders were conducted and the results revealed that over 289 Households (1,445 persons) needed resettlement and continuous support since their sources of livelihoods have been obliterated. Therefore, on the 14th of December 2020, the Office of the Prime Minister together with Kasese District Local Government, made a decision to temporarily relocate and resettle all the 289 displaced Households on Muhokya Sub County land about 30 acres located along the Kasese-Fort portal highway, besides Muhokya HCIII. This IDP Camp continue to receive and host some households and people from communities which continue to be affected by floods.
The recent unfortunate natural calamities of floods that have displaced people from Kilembe, and the lower side of Kasese municipality among other parts of Kasese leaving many in shock and in dire need.

ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OUTREACH

Through GBU and other partners: we were able to;
To hold radio talk show at Guide radio (Guest speakers including local leaders and representative of the CSOs to discuss actions towards ending child marriages in Kasese).

The strategic courtesy engagements on 8th October 2021 to the office of the Resident District Commissioner, the Kasese district Chief Accounting Officer, and the Municipal Senior Community Development Officer.

The CAO said the protection of the girl child is very important however girls/women feel shy to open up or sometimes desperately offer their bodies for sex.
The families in the camp have lost.
The floods are continuing.
There a lot of efforts needed to fight against the continued detoriating river banks.
There is need to handle climate justice.
Need for collective actions towards ending climate change and gender issues in the region.
Conducted community outreach:
Through psycho-social support sessions among Parents, adolescent girls and boys and all children in the IDP Camp at Muhokya Sub County, reaching out to over 1000 people. We clustered the beneficiaries in three categories parents, children, youth and adolescents.

Through partnerships we were able to donate 25 mosquito nets, Assorted clothes for parents, teenagers and children, Re-Usable sanitary pads 250, Disposable pads 280, ( Boxes of 10 Bars of soap, 3 packs of 40 salt, 500 Kgs of posho, 3 balls, 3 jumping ropes, reading materials for school going children both primary and secondary, 111 re-usable face masks, 440 drinking water bottles, eating cakes.

CHALLENGES OBSERVED IN THE IDP CAMP;

- With all disasters happening, the lives of children and Girls are at risk. It is reported that many girls have fallen prey to sexual abuse and exploitation to get the sanitary pads and survival, children living in crowded camps with strangers and hope to return in their homes is no more as they await to be resettled - leaving behind their friends, schools and the environment they are used too since they were born.

- There is limited temporary latrine/bath shelters, in each IDP unit their exist only one latrine per unit serving over 50 and above households. There are reports that community has resorted to using the nearby bush as disposal sites for their faecal wastes.

- Inadequacy in nutritious food supply. Children, mothers, and adults are spending days on posho if available or even empty stomach, and this may result into malnutrition.

- The poor living conditions: the housing facilities
- Low levels of education
- Continued Climate change impacts
- Sexual violence
- Raised numbers of teen mothers
- Low levels of education
- Poverty
- Climate change impacts
Key Recommendations

- Quickly draw a plan and permanently resettle all the people in the IDP Camp
- Provision of water harvesting tanks as a reserve water source
- Increase on the number of and provide gender segregated mobile toilets
- Enable access to agricultural inputs especially vegetables to support production of nutritious foods for children. Or Supply of food items. Nutrient rich foods for infants, pregnant women and mothers
- Enable or provision of lighting facilities, Solar panels would work better in people’s small shelters
- There is need for desilting river Nyamwaba
- Continuous community-based sensitization meetings, for mothers and children on how to overcome, teenage pregnancies and early marriages
- Mandatory provision of sanitary pads for both women and girls, and frequent awareness on SRHR services within the Camp.
- Continuous community-based sensitization meetings, for mothers and children on how to overcome, teenage pregnancies and early marriages.
- Strengthening partnership with the district leaderships.
- There is need for government and other partners to create more awareness about nutrition and a healthy living. The malnutrition stands at 41% now.
- There is need for more partners working on Climate change in Uganda to create more awareness about CC and as well create solutions towards mitigating CC in Kasese Districts.
- Plan for an Economic sustainable project for the youth that where affected by climate change challenge to turn it into income activities like tourism, soil mining.
- Clean the river to let the water move in the right order
- More campaign, charity & donation support line of Education, Health and Economic employment is needed for the girls and women in the camp.
- Empower a grown up girl to become economically independent and they will be able to stand up for their rights. Girls have all the rights to get educated. Empowerment of girls and women is necessary to fight against the problem of gender-inequality
- Government should come up and help to mobilize support within government, and demonstrate public commitment to working on this initiative of Ending early marriages which has long been absent from national development agendas.
- Child marriage requires multi-sectorial engagement; strategies for engaging different sectors should be tailored to their interests and priorities.
- Girl Summit should be emphasized to help maintain government interest in the issue and to give international recognition to government leaders taking action on child marriage.
**Lessons Learnt**

Collective efforts and partnership with organizations is very relevant in reaching out to girls in displaced communities like Kasese district.

Need to support children, teenagers and women from the affected communities with Psycho Social Support every International Day of the Girl Child.

**Achievements**

- During International women’s Day 2021, ACOYDE and its partners were able to create awareness about women work, both paid and unpaid amidst COVID19 pandemic.

- We managed to create awareness about COVID19 and its impacts on women and girls and how they can work together towards the reduction of the impact. Thus this helped us to develop sustainable and immediate solutions to the current challenges that have been as a result of COVID19 pandemic in the communities.

- The forums helped us to discuss the recommendations and interventions that are community based. It helped in networking and linking partners to different individuals and organizations doing women related work. For example Ms. Claire Tumwine of King of Kings Church, The church takes care of children, youth and women through evangelism. They take on street girls and provide psychosocial support to them and provide skilling opportunities.

- **WE WERE ABLE TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING TRAININGS DONE:**
  1. **Gender mainstreaming:** aspects of gender mainstreaming in an organization and how gender mainstreaming can be embedded into organizational structures.
  2. **Monitoring and Evaluation the importance of M&E in an organization and how M&E can be carried out in an organization**
  3. **Critical Thinking** to enable members think objectively when addressing issues and taking decision.
  4. **Conflict and Conflict Management** how to mediate, manage and solve conflicts at organizational level and with other stakeholders
  5. **Public Speaking** how to make an elevator pitch, how to speak in a public domain and make effective speeches
  6. **Advocacy** what advocacy means in the organization and how to develop an advocacy campaign.
  7. **Communication** aspects of Non-violent
communication especially in the work environment, how an organization can use its social media platforms to engage with stakeholders in fundraising and visibility for their work, how to communicate effectively within the organization and other stakeholders.

- The IDGC call for action engaged all the stakeholders in communities all together in the whole district by defining their roles and responsibilities to the public. This helped women and men to understand the how to continuously live in a world that constantly devalues them and pressures them to meet unrealistic ideals.

- The dialogue helped to set up interventions that will help women and girls create safer spaces for community leadership.

- The #IChooseToChallenge concept helped many community people to stand up and show support for social change and transformation.

- We were able to show the public the importance of engaging men and boys in the gender equality conversations. The community people who identify beyond the gender binary in the conversation during women’s day celebrations in solving women issues at hand.

- At least everyone stood up by challenging to call for equal social economic opportunities and calling out against gender bias’ Ms. Jackline Arinaitwe the programs officer at NAWAD an organization that helps women at grassroots through water harvest. Talked about the challenges women go through to access clean water especially in the cattle corridor communities. She empathized the issue on the male change agents to help accelerate women to greater heights. She chose to challenge all parents to guide boy child to respect girls and women, challenged all CSO’s to go to the grassroots and see the challenges faced by women. This will reduce on the persecutions towards women in the communities.

- In addition, the online campaign helped to empower the online and physical advocates for gender equality in workplaces, homes, private and public spaces.
ACOYDE and its community stakeholders were able to reach more girls, parents, guardians and the most vulnerable communities on raising awareness on gender equality, social justice, economic justice, and fair treatment of women, women in decision making, public space and private space.

Climate change injustices that affect women engaged in the agricultural sector and home givers. The impact of COVID19 on girls and women and its impacts on the livelihood on the deeper levels.

The creation of the platform for knowledge and information sharing about GBV and SRHR services accessibility.

This was evidenced by Florence Nabagala a young women leader, a student and the community journalist volunteer with Action for Youth Development Uganda, who talked about the impact of COVID19 on young women and adolescent girls through the following Sustainable Development goals (SDGs) 3, 4 and 5, 8, 13 and 16 to speak directly on issues of good health and wellbeing, gender equality, education, social economic justice, climate justice and peace building respectively.

The planting of tree’s during the women flash mob was a representation of 200 women in and out of the community. To show how climate change affects women, if we all don’t come together to take on the challenge.

We managed to reach the most vulnerable communities in Biharwe, Kakoba Mbarara City. We sensitized communities using community, dance and drama, comic, tree planting and also through local musicians and branded materials.

We used the male champions, youth, children, adolescent girls, university students, Uganda police women etc. to walk and sensitize communities about the same. ACOYDE was able to commemorate the 25th anniversary during #IWD2021 in the community and make them understand the meaning of Beijing Platform of action and community development.

We managed to reach out to the most vulnerable communities that affected by GBV less and rarely receive community outreach o the same. The public campaign #IChooseToChallenge was used for the day’s community flash Mob to strike and create awareness in the public. And its impact on the local grassroots level. This helped to create awareness to the most vulnerable communities international Women’s Day flash mob helped us to celebrate how far women have come in society, in politics and in economics, while the political roots of the day and to awareness of continued inequality.
• We managed to create public awareness about issues regarding climate change bill 2020 and women in our community, through posting and advocating for the bill to be localized. We were able to alert the responsible authorities in implementing climate change policies on what needs to be done for example localizing the climate change bill, meaningful implementation and evaluation of the Action plans.

• Through Cha-cha we were able to empower the youth and women in communities through economic skilling.

• We trained women who are now able to provide a livelihood to their households and able to continue to their children basic needs.

• Cha-cha contributed to the mitigation of climate change through utilization of the banana waste to productive and resourceful production in the community.

• Cha-cha has led to the social, economic and environmental positive impacts in the community, through engaging the communities in dialogues and meetings.

• There has been enhanced community social cohesion through social and economic trainings.
Priorities

• The need to carry out more research on gender and Climate Change in Uganda, with a linkage to gender sensitivity on the impact of women and girls.

• There is need to advocate for a better education curriculum that will help our girls and boys to access equal education opportunities both at home and school. The current approach puts a girl child at risk of not understanding anything since most of the time is dedicated to childcare, home care and domestic and community work than compared to the boy child.

• There is need to interpret statistics to the locals in a friendly language.

• To develop a district bi laws to make leaders accountable and engage everyone in the implementation strategies.

• To build more energy on social media platforms through radios, play station and use of local community journalists to show the world different perspectives online.

• Schools should be empowered on usage and understanding of climate change through smart agriculture gardens.

• There is need to Promote climate change resilience among communities and train more community journalists using info graphs to easily localize the climate change language and content.

• There is a calls for equal participation of all individuals without discrimination at all.

• The need for government interventions to support women who have been affected, through creation of equal opportunities for all.

• The economic perspective should be given a priority and as well think of providing more space for women in leadership and public space if we achieve goal 5 of the sustainable Development goals.

Challenges

• There is a lot that needs to been done beyond the containment measurements by the government to manage COVI-19 and its impact on the livelihoods of girls and women?

• Financial constraints: many people would wish to be part of the project but we are limited by the funds.

• There has been limitation of people to meet in one place due to COVID-19 SOPs.

• There is more need for community partnership, collaborations to create space, opportunities for women to work in a more peaceful transition.
• The social economic inequalities in the society are the major cause of Gender based Violence for women, when women lack income, they become violated, stressed and also helpless, which makes them vulnerable.

• There is need to empower more women in the society on issues of political participation, decision making so that women have more voice at the decision making tables.

• Disability is not Inability.

• There is power in collective efforts put together by different stakeholders in the community to create sustainable solutions towards access of SRHR and GBV.

• Corruption has affected women, the budgets allocated to women services has been diverted by the decision makers to other priorities that don’t make a woman a better person in the society.

• There is need to advocate for more eco-feminism at all levels. The need to engage more men and women in planting trees. When climate change affects the environment, At the same time and it affects the woman as Wagari Mathai put in her book. “Women are the key givers of life, if we can’t protect nature, then a woman livelihood will be affected including her offspring’s.”

• Women need to empower women beyond affirmative action. The mainstream politics provide for a more competitive space that gives women more opportunities to take on decisions at a higher level.

• The religious and spiritual sectors play a big responsibility in communicating and creating awareness among the citizens if engaged in all the forums. It’s on record that the majority people run to church’s for revenge, and the majority of these people are women and girls.

• Using young people in advocacy is a good approach, the use of info graphs makes life easy, to interpret messages and create change in the community.

• Physical platforms create more visibility to the public than the platforms that acquire internet to access. For rural and hard to reach communities radios and TVs work for them well.

• Learnt the most people are not aware about Climate Change bill and Climate Change associated opportunities that can be utilized for women to thrive in their social ventures.

• That communities should not only focus on COVID19, the same has been said by experts who have warned that single-minded focus on COVID19 by government is likely to do more harm than good as the major killer diseases like Malaria, HIV/ AIDS and TB see a resurgence.
Recommendations

- The PWDs Mobility/movement especially the young women, who lost jobs during the lockdown and how they can be helped. The challenge is that women didn’t have a relief fund to support them which has continued affect them.

- There is need to build capacities of women both at the grassroots and the national level. Women must understand who they are, what they stand for.

- There is need to focus more on emotional and psychological torture in the community, that creates trauma among young people and nothing has been done since it’s invisible. The government of Uganda should focus on training sub county social psychologists, councilors to handle emotional and psychological affected individuals.

- To engage men in the women discussions so that, men are able to accept women participation in development programs.

- There is need to document the work done by girls and women in the community.

- The discussion should further focus on market vendors, marginalized communities like Batwa people, IWD should be celebrated beyond towns and boardrooms if we have to make women count meaningful beyond boardrooms.

- There is need to consider the community elderly forums since they share advisory messages to public. A lot needs to be done in engaging stakeholders in ensuring women are brought back to the dining table were decision makings are made.

- Need to encourage more women in public space to influence issues that will impact a woman and girl directly. Encourage more women to participate in both local and national leadership through affirmative Action and mainstream politics to ensure more women leaders at the decision making levels.

- There is need to focus on social economic empowerment for women in order to have more independent and autonomous women in the society.

- The reading and information materials should be translated in all local languages, in addition media houses should open up discussions in the local languages for wider reach audience.

- There is need to outsource the PWDs materials with reasons of leaving No one behind in the meaningful engagements in the community for sustainable development.

- To Build Capacity of technocrats and influencers.

- Continuous creation of awareness through massive sensitization online with the help of community journalists and use of info graphs

- To involve more partners to the project, in order to have more sustainable plan on implementation

- Inclusion of Gender equality should be paramount in all programming
• There is need for amplified involvement of adolescents and young people in the national adolescent health issues through learning, networking and experience sharing with key actors attending the conference and to chart a way forward for enhancing meaningful participation and involvement of young people in the monitoring and accountability framework of the National Adolescent health policy and guidelines, and decision making.

• Scaling up youth engagement/involvement and devising strategies in ending teenage pregnancies, SRHR issues and the increasing suicidal tendencies among youth in Uganda.

• Facilitate learning, foster relationships and build confidence of young people through dialogue and panel discussions with their icons/role models.

• Increase young people’s understanding of the existing adolescent health policy environment in the country and equip them with the required information and skills to engage in social monitoring and accountability for the commitments made to improve quality of and access to adolescent health services and information.

• The Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development to set interventions to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy in Uganda in order to curb the escalating cases of child marriage and teenage pregnancy, and ensure it is funded.

• The government and National Information and Technology authority to invest more in ICT skilling to encourage young learners to learn from home.

• The Ministry of Education and Sports introduce interventions towards opening schools to curb down the number of child marriages and teenage pregnancies.

• Government to effectively enforce the implementation of laws against defilement, child marriage and other forms of child sexual abuse and exploitation as well as engaging in sensitization of parents on their roles on the upbringing of children.

• Government provides adequate resources to the institutions of the Police, Local councils and probation officers to enable them to perform their roles in protecting girls against teenage pregnancy and early marriage.

• We further recommend that the Ministry of Education and Sports works closely with community organizations and schools administrators to provide a conducive and accommodative environment for girls to return to school after giving birth. For those that may find it hard to catch with studies should be supported to acquire vocational skills that will economically empower them to break the cycle of vulnerability.

• Uganda being a signatory of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Uganda has committed gradually retrofit public spaces to make them more accessible for people with disabilities however there is need for more effective implementation of the policy.
Ms. Caroline Owashaba the Team leader for Action for Youth Development Uganda (ACOYDE) in her key note speech she said. International women’s day, is a special global day to celebrate women, who are leaders in communities, societies, homes, churches, schools, and the entire society. She informed the public about women right, she told them to fight for their rights and what they deserve, and they should not settle for less, they deserve to be at a high table. She further requested for a collaborative action towards promoting social justice, equal opportunities and human rights for all. And it’s high time the public decided to appreciate and recognize women as leaders all ways.

Treasure Angie further said that: Not all students are in school, some are at home and cannot afford to study online. Those at home are face challenges of concertrating and perfecting home chores, washing dishes, cooking, taking care of their siblings etc while the boy child still enjoys household freedom. The practical sessions are not attended at school due to COVID19 closure of schools. She requests the government of Uganda to revive the education system to fit the students claiming to be learning when in actual sense there is nothing like learning amidst COVID19.

Understanding the importance of male agents in changing the perspective on women, this helps a lot in accelerating women to greater heights. She choose to challenges all the parents to guide the boy children, girl child and CSO’s to go to the grassroots and do some work.

Asp. Norah Mirembe said that, we must appreciate the government for observing the International women’s day in Uganda and honoring it as a public holiday which some other countries have not gazetted in their constitution. She further said that police has a mandate to protect people and their property of which the majority are women and in Uganda police women cater for women to avoid gender based violence and sexual harassments. The children and family protection unit of police and children and gender affairs help affected mothers and children and as well respond to the most affected families especially during the COVID-19 lockdown. There is need to work hard with all other government agencies like family courts, community Development officers, Mifumi, NAWAD etc to reduce on issues that affect women in the society.
During the plenary Discussion on creating women space and opportunities amidst COVID-19 pandemic world. Marina Salma, the secretary female affairs Mbarara city, said challenges during COVID19 saw most of the women as bread winners at a household and yet most of them were casual laborers who lost their jobs. She went on to tell the public what she had done for young mothers, and women who stayed in the market to provide for their families. She has trained over 100 young people in liquid soap making, and making artificial flowers so, that women can earn an income at the household level, she also trained them in urban/backyard farming till now, she continues to educate communities and as well train them. If we all did what Marina is doing, then they will be change and transformation of women and girls in our communities.

We learnt many lessons including understanding how woman love to be celebrated but have no space and environment to do it. How men are much willing to support women but have limited information. The power of grassroots mobilization in empowering fellow women. The traditional media radio networks work for people in rural settings while social media works so well for the people in urban communities both in business and formal sectors. The need to have the integration of climate change services in improving women livelihoods in the communities.
Our team was blessed to have two members graduate amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and its challenges. Geraldine Mwaka from Mbarara University of Science and Technology with a degree in gender and community development and Ms. Caroline Owashaba who graduated with a master's degree in Women, leadership, and Governance in Africa from the School of African Women Study Center, University of Nairobi.

**ELICANA NDUHURA**
Our community journalist scoops an international award.

Elicana Nduhuura, a final year Medical Student at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Elicana joined the circle of innovative healthcare professionals in pursuit of good health and wellbeing for all. When he won the scientific award which is aimed at improving the health sector, Elicana who teamed up with 2 scholars Kenza and Julie from Belgium and USA respectively, joined other students from Uganda and the rest of the world to answer a question. The team drafted a proposal under the theme “Towards Responsible Genomic Surveillance: A review of Biosecurity and Dual Use Regulation” which was evaluated at a global competition organized by Nuclear threat Initiative and Next Generation Global Health Security Network. We congratulate our colleague upon achieving this milestone.
I want to appreciate Action for Youth Development for continuously giving me the opportunity to cautiously attend to the local issues in Rubirizi District as a Community Journalist. That is; Climate Change and Environmental conservation, addressing challenges of young women and amplifying their voice to recognize their role in the society, COVID 19 pandemic lockdown relief funds and food accountability and stigmatizing corruption in the community.

The capacity building from the meetings with Action for Youth Development have shaped my understanding on relating Climate Change with young women in entrepreneurship, acknowledging accountability as one of the most necessities to inclusive and fair service delivery and also recognizing the role of private not for profit establishments in fostering social development in communities.

My role as a Community Journalist with Action for Youth Development opened my space for more intellectual engagement with other crucial personalities and organizations in respect to the cause of the project and thusly enabling me to initiate more knowledge and practices to continue fostering an inclusive and fair society.

Conclusively, I continue to call out to Action for Youth Development for more of this partnership and capacity building as I look to delivering more as a Community Journalist.

Thank you
ACTION FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.

BEINOMUGISHA FREDRICK, COMMUNITY JOURNALIST, beinfredrick@gmail.com / 0781871270
I have been working as a community journalist under Action for Youth Development Uganda, since May 2021 to date where we basically advocate for Girl child, end of child marriages and teenage pregnancies and climate justice. We have done most of the work through advocacy and creating public awareness on different social media platforms to increase knowledge formation and awareness mostly via virtual platforms.

WHAT I HAVE GAINED AS AN INDIVIDUAL, I HAVE;

- Increased my exposure hence resulting into broadening my knowledge and skills regarding climate change, gender equality, child marriages and teenage pregnancies.
- Improved my communication and interpersonal skills.
- Improved skills regarding the use of social media.
- Improved team work skills.

It has been a great experience working with Action for Youth Development Uganda in advocating for the girl child and climate justice. It has been a great opportunity working with selfless people.

MS. POLEEN KYAKUNZIRE, COMMUNITY JOURNALIST at ACOYDE (May2021 to date)
VOYAGER ADVENTURES
HOSTS ‘GIRLS NOT BRIDES UGANDA, WESTERN REGION

On 8th October 2021 to 10th October, Voyager adventures (Voyager Equator Lodge Kasese Branch) was delighted and proud to host ‘Girls Not Brides Uganda’. This is an NGO that advocates for the Girl Child’s rights and works towards eliminating child marriages in Uganda. They were such a kind, lively team that loved nature and humanity. Their visit helped to increase the percentage on domestic tourism and their unique nature, was evident in the way they enthusiastically mixed work, leisure and charity.

They genuinely appreciated the nature, wilderness, animals, river Nyamwaba’s beauty and soothing fresh airs of Queen Elizabeth National park. The team helped us revive our corporate social responsibility (CSR) for we joined them to visit the needy community, of the IDP Camp in Muhokya village. At the camp, the displaced persons were grouped according to age, then given psychosocial and emotional support, healthy talks, and hope of life. The team also played & prayed with them and we finally gave out of items. The activity was so touching, to an extent that people shed tears of joy as they received the items.
The Girl Child was most vulnerable in this insecure environment of both sexes, where boys and men seemed so desperate and looked to have given up on God. But the gifts, the talks and assurance put reassuring smiles on their faces. We pray for this charity continuity.

Voyager Adventures looks forward to more of such associations with “Girls not Brides Uganda.” Thank you, and come again.

VOYAGER TEAM

YAGANET COLLABORATED WITH ACOYDE TO REACH MORE GIRLS AND BOYS IN THE IDP CAMP, DISPLACED DUE FLOODS.

Young Agro-Green Africa Network (YAGANET) a community based and national registered organization founded in 2016 with the aim of promoting Climate Justice Agribusiness and response to the effects of climate change; Gender and financial inclusion; research and Advocacy; Mentorship and Life skills empowerment among underserved vulnerable young people and women while leveraging on partnerships.

The recent unfortunate natural calamities of floods that have displaced people from Kilembe, and the lower side of Kasese municipality among other parts of Kasese leaving many in shock and in dire need.

Given our scope of work, YAGANET in partnership with Action for Youth Development Uganda (ACOYDE), Child Rights Empowerment and Development Organization (CEDO), Girls Not Brides Uganda, Creations Forum Afrika (CAF) and The Mountain Girl Initiative, Inspire Girls Foundation (IGP), among other partner organizations, found it very relevant and organised a pre-event outreach in Kasese district on 8th October and supported children, teenagers and women from the affected communities with Psycho Social Support during the celebrations of the International Day of the Girl Child that is always celebrated annually on 11th October.
PICTORIAL MOMENTS
THE TEAM
Organic impact is a Ugandan registered non-government organization that aims at enhancing people’s livelihoods by mobilizing them to use readily available resources to improve their incomes, food production, and health to attain a better and rewarding education.

Collaborating with partners is critical to achieving many milestones as far as a sustainable nation can be. Partners are at the heart of the way we work at Organic Impact. The relationship we have built with Action for Youth Development Uganda over the years has allowed us to leverage resources and extend our reach to nurture the capacity of marginalized groups of girls and boys in the western region.

In 2021, Organic Impact with support from Squaring the Education pyramid (STEPi) extended material support of inspirational reading materials to the children affected by floods in the camp in Kasese during the international day of the girl child in October and the Girls Not Brides Western summit – Mbarara in November. Through ACFODE, the young people who had been affected with the long-term lock down of schools received inspirational reading materials and story books that promote a holistic approach to education hence instilling a behavior of self-competence in the love of reading, learning to read and reading to learn.

Working together, supporting each other and developing long-term relationships allows us to achieve far more than we could achieve alone. Many thanks to ACFODE for the continued Partnership.
1. Girls Not Brides Uganda Alliance
2. CIVICUS
3. Innovation village western region
4. Enable
5. Hunger Project
6. UNASO
7. Raising Teenagers Uganda (RTU)
8. Mbarara District Local Government
9. Mbarara City
10. Ribirizi
11. Isingiro District
12. YADNET
13. YAGNET
14. Active Citizens- British Council
15. Dorah single Mothers Foundation
16. Creations forum Africa
17. Education Forum Africa
18. Inspire Girls
19. UBC
20. Grace Radio
21. TV-West
22. Good News
23. Horn of Africa Youth Network
24. RHU
25. Girl Power
26. 16 days of Activism
27. Generation Equality
28. Shine Cares
29. Organic Impact
30. Vibrant Communities
31. Youth for Fraternity Change