

**Uganda Network for Empowerment of the
Marginalized Child and Youth (NEMACY
Uganda**

Review of

**Improving Access to Basic Primary Education
(IBAPE), Project Code UG 052J, K & L**

And

**Child Rights Radio Program and Strengthening
Child Protection Systems (SRRP), Project Code
UG 052A & C.**

Draft Report

DRAFT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank all those who supported me during the review process of NEMACY Uganda two projects of IBAPE and SRRP. I am grateful to Management and BOD of NEMACY for their role in coordinating key actors that participated in the review. Special thanks go to Jinja District Leadership for their passion and interest to see that the results of these two projects are incorporated within their work plan.

In particular, we would like to thank Mr. Willy Felix Ngobi and Pastor Paul Batambuze for their support in identifying and mobilizing other informants for the review. I further wish to express my gratitude to all respondents in the local governments, the other organizations, and the communities in Jinja. Last but not least, I am grateful to my research assistants, who worked with great commitment as usual.

Africano Kasingye
Review Facilitator

Executive Summary

This report contains the findings of the review of two projects that have been implemented by NEMACY Uganda for the past three years in Jinja. The main purpose of this review was to assess the extent to which the project objectives were achieved and determine the impact each of the projects created on the target beneficiaries, specifically the children and document lessons learned that could be replicated elsewhere.

Key Findings

NEACY Project Changes on the lives of the targeted population

The findings show that NEMACY Uganda's support to the targeted communities in Jinja have had tangible impact, reflected in children's school attendance; involvement of key stakeholders in addressing child abuse cases and above all child participation in development initiatives has been realized and this has contributed to reduction in child abuse cases and realization of children's rights.

Capacity of Community structures

Equally significant has been NEMACY Uganda's contribution in strengthening the local capacity of community structures to manage the various interventions. The presence of various structures such as Child Protection Committees, child rights clubs, child care givers (teachers, School Management Committees and parents) that are reasonably established and function provides a good basis for sustaining the achievements. The members of these structures have reasonably positive attitude to retain responsibility for managing their own development.

Linkages with Local Government structures and other development actors

NEMACY Uganda's interventions have strengthened the link between civil society actors and Government structures. The two project strategically targeted employed a partnership approach to implementing planned activities. Much as this was not well embraced at the beginning, by the end of the project, all stakeholders attest that this was the best approach to use to address challenges affecting children. Such approach has addressed challenges of resources and expertise as well as mandate of different actors. This has for instance made all actors accountable because their delay for instance to respond to aspects of child abuse

It's because of this approach that the district leadership is calling all civil society agencies to adopt the approach used by NEMACY Uganda. One of the notable positive trends in this direction is the added role to NEMACY to represent other civil society actors in district security committee coordinated by the Residence District Commissioner. It's this working relationship created by NEMACY that has contributed to achievement of project goals. A notable example has been the back to school campaign spearheaded by NEMACY Uganda to increase on enrollment and retention has now been adopted as a district approach to mobilizing communities because of the enforcement arm of government.

The radio program has been instrumental in creating awareness on the rights of children as reflected from increasing number of cases being reported especially by children and response from duty bearers in following up on reported cases. At least 10 cases of child abuse are reported to police on a daily basis and Uganda Human Rights Commission Jinja has been receiving at least a case of child maintenance on a daily basis. All this has been achieved because of using the radio as an entry point to community sensitization that has been reinforced with other outreach activities in the community as well as other government dialogue meetings especially the monthly Baraza conducted by Uganda human Rights commission.

Apart from the above achievements, the following lessons have been learnt that can be adopted by any other actor in implementing such interventions;

- a. Child participation in development programs is dependent on the support of adults after appreciating the value addition of children's role in development intervention. Children participation has contributed to increased school enrolment, better school grades and reduction in child abuse cases. Consultation of actors at all levels reduces resistance and increases the likelihood of project success. There is need to demonstrate the need for change, communicate the implications of the change and ascertain buy-in at all levels. Earlier identification and involvement of the targets of change is important to change their attitudes and solicit support for the project. Some categories of actors especially male parents and cultural leaders have not been strategically targeted to support child participation efforts.
- b. Project success largely depends on the commitment of the project staff. The stable and focused implementation team ensured consistence and continuity in the realization of set objectives. It was noted that key personalities in championing child rights campaign have contributed to this change.

- c. Working with government through established structures is a key strategy for developing sustainable results. This has been achieved through openness in sharing information between NEMACY Uganda and Local Government structures.
- d. Capacity building for effective service delivery is a process and not an event. It also needs a lot of patience, especially where the level of literacy and exposure is low. While building the capacity of community structures especially SMS/PTA and other child protection committees, NEMACY Uganda adopted a participatory approach relevant to the needs of communities and building from community experience. These processes need to continue as at the end of the project, most of the actors are beginning to appreciate their role and how to play their role in child protection.
- e. Promoting and advocating for child rights need to go hand in hand with child responsibilities especially in the context of most Ugandan communities where the direct translation of child rights in Lusoga differs and creates an impression of child freedom.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report contains the results of the reviewing NEMACY Uganda's two projects of IBAPE and SRRP implemented in Jinja District for the past three years. Data for the review was collected during the month of July 2014 in the targeted communities.

This report is organized into three sections, namely, Section 1 – introduction and background which also includes the methods sub-section; Section 2 – which contains the results of the review; and Section 3 – which presents the conclusions from the review and recommendations based on the findings.

1.1 Background

NEMACY UGANDA has been implementing two projects notably Improving Access to Basic Primary Education (IBAPE) and Child Rights Radio Program and Strengthening Child Protection Systems (SRRP). The two project are now coming to an end and hence NEMACY UGANDA is desirous to conduct an evaluation of the two projects to assess Effectiveness, Efficiency and Timeliness the Projects and henceforth deduce lessons, experiences, best practices, unforeseen situations, risks e.t.c and as such recommend what can be passed on best fit for transforming society, beneficiaries and creating lasting positive change, among others.

1. IBAPE

NEMACY-UGANDA in partnership with Jinja District Local Government (Education Department) and Jinja Municipal Council (Education Department) with financial support from her Development partner Terre des Hommes Netherlands has been implementing a Project entitled; Improving Access to Basic Primary Education (IBAPE), since July 2013 in 16 Government aided target primary Schools in three Sub-counties of Mafubira, Buwenge and Butagaya of Jinja district and one division of Walukuba/Masese of Jinja Municipal Council – Jinja District.

The objectives of Improving Access to Basic Primary Education (IBAPE) are;

- a. To improve stakeholder involvement in school management and enhance quality of primary education in target schools,
- b. To advocate for primary education policy implementation,
- c. To improve school learning environment in target schools,
- d. To improve capacity of teachers in target schools and
- e. To strengthen capacity of NEMACY UGANDA in implementation of the Project

2. CRRP and SRRP

NEMACY Uganda has been implementing the Child Rights Radio Program and Strengthening child Protection systems Project (SRRP) since January 2013 with financial support from Terre Des Hommes Netherlands. SRRP Project is building on the foundations set out during implementation of child rights radio program (CRRP) phase one (2009 – 2010) and two (2011 -2012), Program of Cooperation (2010 -2013) implemented by a consortium of three agencies (NEMACY UGANDA, CRO-Jinja & ADSN) and Stop Child Exploitation Project (2010 -2011) implemented by a consortium of four agencies (NEMACY, CRO-Jinja, ADSN & Platform for Labour Action in Kampala).

The goal of the project is to contribute to the reduction of child exploitation in Uganda through using the radio as a channel of communication to inform; educate and advocate for child rights and strengthen child protection systems in Jinja – Busoga Eastern Uganda. The project objectives include;

- a. To create awareness among communities on child rights and child protection mechanisms,
- b. To offer legal and psycho social support to victims of exploitation and vulnerable children,
- c. To address child rights and child protection policies to be responsive child rights
- d. To strengthen capacity of NEMACY UGANDA in Project implementation.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION

The purpose of evaluation is twofold;

- a. To establish the efficiency, effectiveness, timeliness of IBAPE and SRRP Projects mirroring in Project agreement clauses.
- b. To assess the Projects' strength, weaknesses, lessons learnt and draw a way forward and henceforth inform NEMACY UGANDA's on-going strategic plan review process.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 General Approach

A mix of retrospective and cross-sectional multi-level data gathering approaches was used for this review. The review mostly utilized qualitative data collection methods supplemented by extraction of some quantitative information, mainly from secondary sources. The approach adopted for this study was based on the understanding from the ToR that this review was not intended as an impact evaluation per se, but an assessment of the changes in the lives of the targeted groups more especially children. The methodology adopted was also designed to pay attention to issues of gender. The review approach employed aimed at carrying out consultations NEMACY Uganda's

projects' beneficiaries and partners; identifying actions and interventions which have had lasting improvement in the lives of children.

2.2 Study Sites

The evaluation was carried out in Jinja District with particular focus on targeted schools by IBAPE and actors who have implemented SRRP.

2.3 Sources of Data and Study Participants

The study drew from both primary and secondary data sources. In terms of primary sources, interviews and discussions were conducted involving Implementing agency – NEMACY Uganda, NEMACY membership, Local Government officials, Community structures (SMC/PTA, child rights club members, radio listeners clubs), and other government actors who have worked and partnered with NEMACY to implement the project.

The secondary data sources mainly consisted of a review of NEMACY Uganda Project Plans and reports, district, national levels documents that were deemed relevant to the interventions implemented by NEMACY Uganda. Key documents from the various levels which were reviewed included: Program documents such as the NEMACY Strategic Plans; project progress reports; District Development Plans; District OVC Strategic Plan; the National Strategic Program Plan of Interventions for OVC [NSPPII]; National OVC Policy; The Children's Act; the Millennium Development Goals; Sector Performance Reports; the UDHS 2006; and the Spatial Poverty Trends report by UBOS.

2.3 Data Collection Methods and Tools

A predominantly qualitative data collection methodology combined with analyses of quantitative information obtained through documents review was used. A mix of data collection methods was employed. They included; community participatory meetings focus group discussions (FGDs), in-depth interviews with Key Informants and document/desk reviews.

2.4 Data Processing and Analysis

Data from the FGDs, In-depth and Key Informant Interviews was transcribed, edited and typed out. The notes were then read and re-read to identify responses that answer particular research questions, and to identify any emerging patterns. Results from the qualitative data are in this report triangulated with the quantitative data. Some quotations from the qualitative data are included in the report to bring out the voices of the study participants but also to support arguments made in the report. Some case studies (e.g. of success stories) relating to NEMACY Uganda's indelible mark on the lives of the target populations are also included in the report.

2.4 Organization of this Report

This report is organized under four sections. The first section has provided the background and objectives of the study as well as the methods used. In the second chapter presents a brief overview of NEMACY Uganda’s work in Jinja through the years. The next two chapters present the findings of the study with respect to: impact on children and their families and communities; capacity of local community structures to manage and sustain the interventions; and NEMACY’s partnerships with other actors; the last chapter draws some conclusions and makes some recommendations.

DRAFT

3.0 REVIEW FINDINGS

3.1 Contextual background

Despite the progress made in the national response for vulnerable children, their plight remains pathetic. The Government of Uganda has worked hard to develop policies, legislations and institutional frameworks to respond to child rights issues with minimal successes. Child protection actors at community levels have remained weak and uncoordinated, coupled with limited resources. Institutions such as institutions which include the Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU) of the Uganda Police and the Family and Children's Courts (FCCs) in the Judiciary are not adequately funded to respond to child abuse cases.

As a result, child vulnerability and child abuse has been on the increase due to social economic circumstances, poor child care practices, and inadequate capacity of families to respond to child abuse cases. Negative cultural practices have also contributed to child abuse cases. For instance, cultures that promote early marriages exacerbate the problem of child-mothers who apart from being vulnerable, give birth to children who become vulnerable to various threats, sustaining a vulnerability cycle through generations.

NEMACY Uganda operations and interventions are premised on addressing the above with limited resources from her development partners. It was on this basis that NEMACY has been implementing IBAPE and SRRP with funding from Tarre des homes for the past three years.

The review thought to establish any changes that have been registered as a result of implementing these two projects.

3.2 Impact of NEMACY's Work on children, Households and Communities

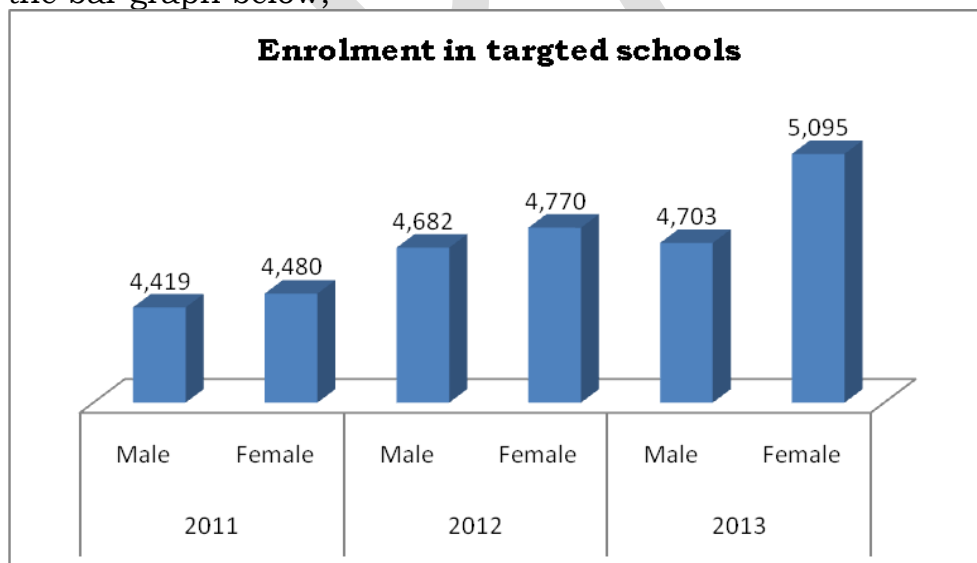
NEMACY Uganda has been implementing different interventions in Jinja since her inception that have ranged from Child rights and advocacy, Basic education, and Capacity building for partner organizations to improve the situation of children (Boys and Girls), their families, and entire communities where they live. This section presents findings on changes brought about by NEMACY Uganda's two projects of IBAPE and SRRP on children, their families and their communities. This is based on a qualitative assessment drawn from interviews and discussion with the beneficiaries and stakeholders. The findings in this section are organized according to the different interventions implemented in the communities and changes as per the five dimensions of change envisaged by the two projects. Efforts have also been made to highlight gaps in each of the interventions that could have affected realization of intended changes.

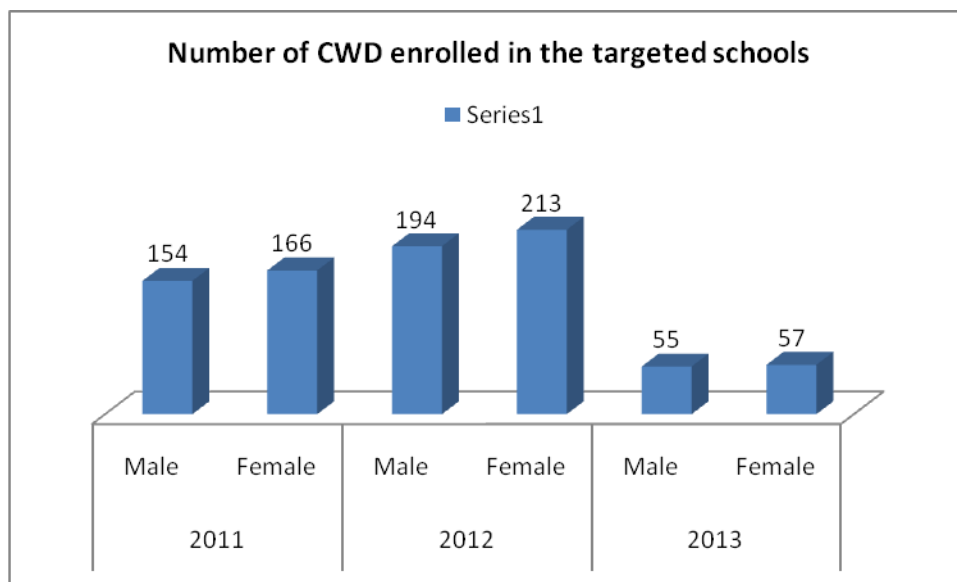
3.3 IMPROVING ACCESS TO BASIC PRIMARY EDUCATION (IBAPE) PROJECT

Improving Access to Basic Primary Education (IBAPE), Project was conceived from a study undertaken by NEMACY Uganda on the implementation of universal primary education in Jinja district. The study noted that whereas efforts were made by the district to implement UPE, the quality of education remained a major challenge. To address this NEMACY intervention aimed at addressing the challenge of enrollment and retention, build capacity of teachers in new teaching approaches, support stakeholders engagement, contribute to improving school learning environment and advocate for proper implementation of UPE policy. Due to limited resources, NEMACY interventions targeted only 16 schools in Jinja district. After three years of intervention, the following is what has been realized.

3.3.1 Increased enrollment, retention and completion rates

Enrollment rate and retention has been improving over the years though with some pockets of dropout and absenteeism especially during market days and farming session that compel some parent to engage their children in work related activities. With a campaign on back to school conducted by NEMACY in partnership with Jinja district, the number of children who had not been to school and those who had dropped out were re enrolled. There has been a 50% increment in number of children enrolled and retained in schools for the past three years. This is attributed to NEMACY campaign on back to schools as per the bar graph below;





3.3.2 Stakeholder involvement in implementation of UPE

The involvement of stakeholders was at the inception of the project seen as a gap that affected the quality of education in the targeted schools. Whereas each of the schools was expected to have a School management Committee and a Parents Teachers Association, many of such committees were dormant and not playing their roles save for only the chairpersons of these committees whose role remained on signing school documents.

The project has supported schools to re-constitute these committees and trained them on their roles. By the time of the review, there was evidence that at least in each of the targeted schools, these committees have been meeting regularly and have been involved in monitoring school performance using the school monitoring tool developed by NEMACY. The committees have also worked hard to mobilize parents to attend school meetings and participate in education of their children. Mobilizing parents have made a number of them realize their roles in their children's education. The pace at which parents have started engaging in school activities, has remained low

3.3.3 Improved inspection and support supervision by the district

One of the challenges that were to be addressed by the project was to support the district to intensify school supervision. Support to the district has not been informed of financial resources but rather explaining the added value of inspectorate department of education to schools. During the project implementation, the District Education Office worked with NEMACY Uganda to

ensure that schools are inspected. Whereas NEMACY Uganda only targeted 16 schools, this challenged the district not only to supervise and inspect the 16 schools but rather the entire districts schools both public and private schools.

The District Inspector of School has noted that Jinja district has improved on school supervision and ensures that at least each school is visited at least once a term. The nature of supervisor and quality of supervision has improved greatly. We are now doing support supervision where we spent time with head teachers and teachers trying to help them address their challenges. This has made teachers to appreciate our role.

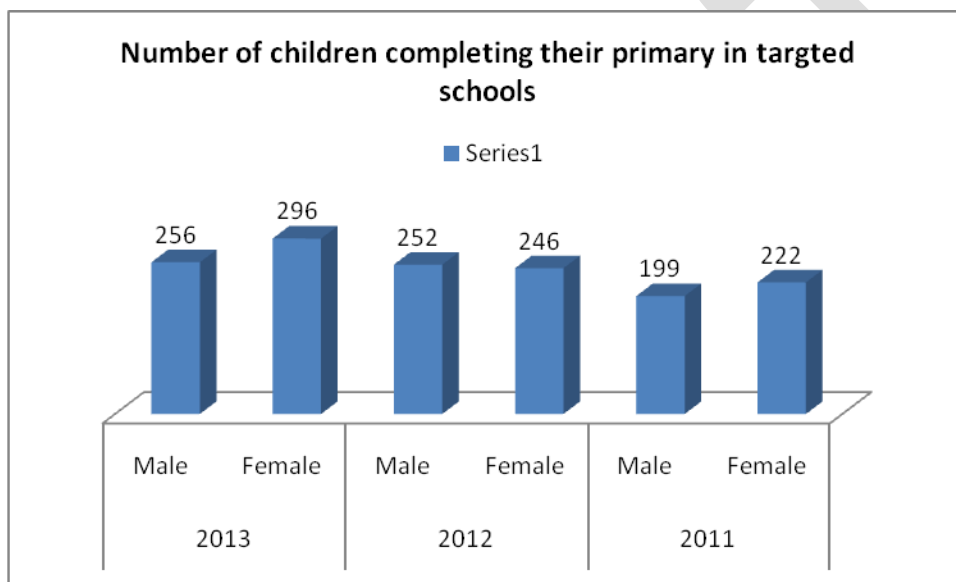
School supervision has also been decentralized and effectively conducted by Area Coordinating Tutors who are based near these schools. The district has also empowered parish Chiefs to monitor school performances especially on teachers and pupils attendance. This has greatly contributed to a reduction in school absenteeism for both teachers and pupils.

School inspection has also contributed to full staffing of schools and recruiting substantive head teachers and teachers in all the 16 targeted schools. This has made teachers more committed and motivated to do their work better.

We are grateful to NEMACY Uganda, before NEMACY came here; we were neglected by virtue of us being in the island where even means of transport are hard to get. For the last one year, we received different inspectors each term. Inspector is now supporting us to do our work better. In the last visit, the inspector helped us on how to implement the new approach to teaching and to ensure that the school is a good environment for children. We have started using the new teaching approach which has made children happy and like learning.

3.3.4 Improved school grades and performance

The project has contributed much to improving school performance for both on-going progressive assessments and final PLE results. Following the increase in number of children enrolled and retained in schools, efforts were made to ensure that schools improve on their performance. Some of the measures and interventions adopted included, refresher courses for teachers, increased support supervision, school infrastructures development and joint assessment in the targeted schools. All these have contributed to an increase in number of children who are completing their primary schools in the past three years as per the bar chart below.



Likewise, school performance in the targeted schools has improved which have motivated teachers and pupils to continue working hard. This is evidence by an increase in number of children who pass their Primary Leaving Examinations. In all the targeted schools, the number of children with Grade X and Grade U have reduced tremendously, though not completely removed due to other factors especially where parents have not fully supported their children education and with pockets of cases of child abuse especially for girl child that make some of them miss out on their final examinations.

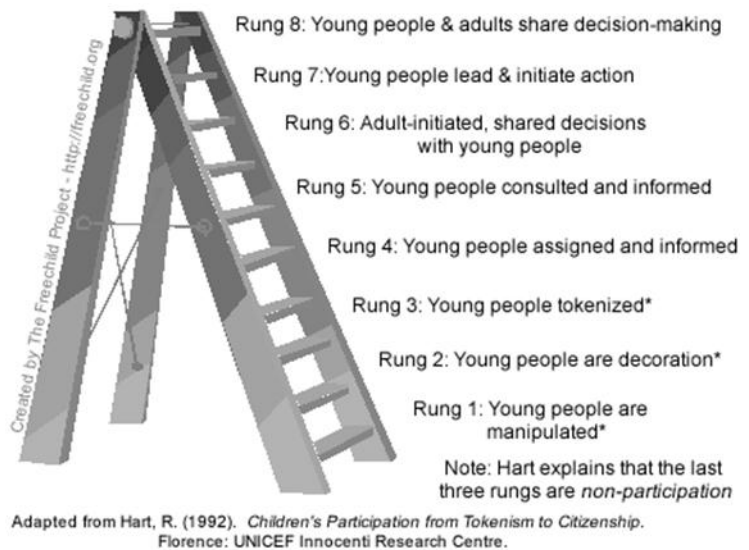
We are grateful for the project and support from NEMACY. Since our school was established, we had never got any first grade. We are happy that in 2014 PLE results, our school managed to score a first grade for the first grade. Noted a parent of Kisima Island.

3.3.5 Child Participation

Child participation is one of the principles and values of NEMACY Uganda. Before NEMACY Uganda intervention, children hardly participated in affairs that affected their lives. They were denied their right to play, food in case they failed to do home chores and would not be allowed to give their views on any issue that affected them. NEMACY Uganda strategized to change this attitude and behavior through a series of awareness campaigns on children rights. The strategy focused on creating awareness for duty bearers and children within the context of community values and customs. More emphasis was put on children responsibilities as they demand their rights as opposed to promoting only children rights. Children clubs were formed that enabled children to debate and understand their rights. Children started demanding their rights through many ways such as music dance and drama depicting real life experiences of children. This has slowly changed duty bearers' attitude towards children right to participate.

Whereas NEMACY had envisaged having “meaning full child participation” as per Harts ladder of child participation and following Uganda National Child participation Guidelines, the review showed that children have not had meaningful participation with many of the children interviewed indicating that they are at stage 4 as per the figure above.

Roger Hart's Ladder of Young People's Participation



Some of the aspects where children have participated include electing their leaders especially at school with minimal influence from teachers. Child leaders have been instrumental in presenting children's concerns to duty bearers as seen from a sharing from one of the children's club met. The fact that children get concerned to respond to child abuse cases and leaders are willing to support them is a good testimony that children have been empowered.

3.3.6 Child rights club structure and mechanism

In each of the targeted schools, NEMACY Uganda endeavored to form child right clubs. The clubs are guided by an adult patron who mentors them to

understand their rights and how to claim them. These child rights clubs have also been linked to other child protection structures in the community. In each Village, there is a local council secretary for children affairs to whom the clubs relate on a regular basis. The secretaries for Children affairs in a parish form the parish Orphans and other Vulnerable Children Committee mandated to plan for child rights issues in the community. At sub county level, there is a sub county Orphans and other vulnerable children committee chaired by the sub county chief. This committee reports to the district Orphans and other vulnerable children committee chaired by the Chief Administrative officer.

All these structures have been responsible for creating an enabling environment for children to participate in development affairs.

DRAFT

3.4 CHILD RIGHTS RADIO PROGRAM AND STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS (SRRP)

The Child Rights Radio Program and Strengthening child Protection systems Project had its foundation from related projects of child Rights radio programme and programme for cooperation and Stop Child Exploitation that were implemented by a consortium of Child rights actors in Jinja. Key actors in this project included NEMACY Uganda, CRO –Jinja, ADSN, and Platform for Labor Action. Other members of NEMACY though originally not part of key partners have participated and supported the project because they all contribute to the reduction of child exploitation in Uganda. Whereas major programmes were aired on Radio BABA FM, the demand for information also required actors to undertake outreach activities in schools and communities where they would have much more time to interact with children, and adults in addressing child protection issues. Key changes realized by the project included;

3.4.1 Increase in number of child abuse cases reported to duty bearers

Where there were a number of children who were facing different forms of abuse in the targeted communities, many of these cases were hardly reported. The community had taken it as normal for children to face any form of abuse. A number of children had been sexually abused, others were engaged in hard labour with the different sugar cane farms, stone queries and others were engaged in fishing. Also majority of child abuse cases were happening at home especially due to domestic violence that had contributed to a number of child neglect cases and increase in number of children on the streets. Although almost all the above forms of child abuse still exist, the number of cases of child abuse reported has increased.

The project has registered a number of children reporting cases of abuse on their fellow children and some have even reported abuse that have happened to them.

We have been in a child rights club for the past two years and some of our activities are to ensure that children are not abused. We were given a radio to listen in the program but also to collect issues that can be aired on Baba FM. Whenever we get a case of child abuse such as a child who is battered at home, or one who is denied to go to school, we flash the helpline number and NEMACY has been able to call back and guide us on what to do. Noted a member of Nakanyonyi Child Rights Club

The number of cases received by NEMACY on her help line has increased over the year, receiving on average at least of cases on a daily basis.

Extract a chart of cases handled by NEMACY on the toll free

Likewise, other actors including police, Uganda Human Rights Commission and other members of NEMACY have also registered an increase in number of cases reported by children. Such increase in number of cases is reflected and attributed to awareness created and trust that actors will follow up on reported cases.

3.4.2 Improved response and follow up on child abuse cases reported

The increase in number of cases reported has also been attributed to the vigilance of duty bearers to follow up on cases reported and ensure that children are helped to recover from abuse. NEMACY and her members offered psychosocial support as the first line of support for abused children, but also ensured that child abusers are prosecuted. A number of defilement cases were handled with a number of them still on remand and a few sensitizes passed against defilers. There have been challenges especially in prosecuting defilement cases due to poor investigations especially by police.

Bring a a case of defilement in Buwikwe – check in one of the newsletters.

NEMACY has also intervened to reconcile children with their parents especially children who have been helped to get out of the street and resettled with their parents.

Bring a least two cases of child re integration with their parents.

Case of rescuing a child from marriage by PEFO need to get it from the gentle man who attended stakeholder review meeting

3.4.3 improved coordination amongst child protection actors

Working as a team was one of the strategies adopted by SRRP. This was built on assumption and experience that no one can handle child abuse alone. As a result even the awareness was conducted as a team and children as well as adults were introduced to a referral network that would help in handling such cases. Although this was done during awareness, still it did not stop people from reporting cases to any actor, but the different actors had ways of working together to ensure that cases and handled by competent authorizes.

The coordinator was also enhanced by monthly and quarterly review meetings where partners would be able to share their experiences and challenges. Through this a referral path way was developed and has worked in addressing child abuse cases.

Involvement of Government especially the office of the Resident Commissioner to coordinate security meeting and seeking inputs of child rights members and tasking NEMACY to coordinate has helped to dispel other security issues arising from child abuse.

Bring out the purpose of these RDC meeting and what impact they have caused in addressing child abuse cases

3.4.4 Child Rights Protection

Over the years NEMACY Uganda's interventions have focused on responding to child protection needs by empowering duty bearers to provide as well as equipping children with skills to claim their rights. Different community structures have been strengthened to respond to child abuse cases including Local Council members, elders, parents' teachers associations and school management committees. This has led to an increment in number of children who would not be enrolled in schools to be enrolled and retained in schools. In the targeted schools, special facilities to respond to needs of vulnerable children including girls and children with learning disabilities have been priorities for those schools. Special wash rooms, latrines for girl children have been reserved in the targeted schools. This has enabled girls' children to remain at school when they are in their menstrual periods. While at community levels, there is an increased reporting of child abuse cases which has exposed defilement cases and early marriages.

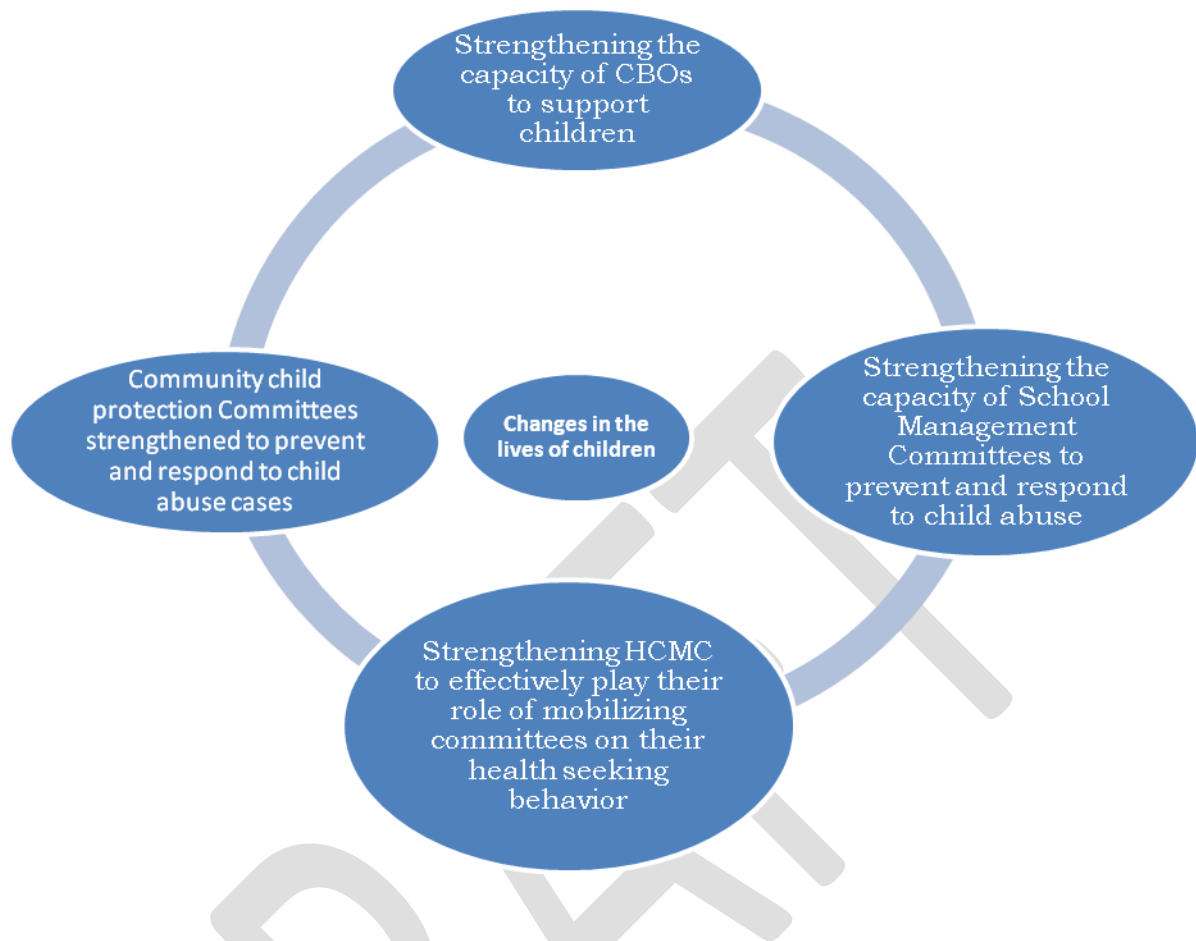
Children have also played a big role in advocating and claiming their rights through their rights clubs. These clubs have created an opportunity for

children to understand their rights and how to claim them. Members of the children rights clubs have conducted home visits to children who do not attend schools regularly and sought the intervention of parents. This challenged parents to keep their children in schools. In response parents' task forces to ensure that all children are enrolled in schools have been formed.

As a way of institutionalizing child protection, NEMACY Uganda intended to support the development of child protection that would compel all those in contact with children to respect their rights and promote their participation. Efforts were made and trainings conducted covering all aspects that would enable institutions develop child protection policies. All targeted schools and member organizations are aware of the child protection policies and have documented child protection policies.

3.4.5 Community Empowerment and Capacity of Local Structures

NEMACY Uganda has invested in developing capacity of local structures to manage supported development interventions as a way of ensuring that communities own and sustain their own development. In this respect, NEMACY Uganda has trained and supported School management committees, police child and family protection units, Court officials, and built capacity for sustainability through other ways. These activities are the focus of this section of the report.



3.5 Sustainability of child protection structures

It was noted that each of above structures has been strengthened to effectively plan its roles in preventing and responding to child abuse within each structures mandate. The review noted that members of each of the above structures are aware of their roles and how to play them as per operational guidelines set by the Government of Uganda.

However, sustainability of community child protection structures calls for a link and support from higher level structures. One of the noted challenges was in regard to District Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children Committee that has not been directly involved in most of the efforts more especially the office of the District Probation and Social Welfare Officer that is mandated to effectively monitor and offer oversight support to lower level health centre technical staff.

Secondary functionality of community child protection committees has not been considered by local governments as a key assessment indicator that would compel both Higher and lower local governments to allocate resources for the operation and functioning of community child protection committees. The good news is that the Chief Administrative Officer who Chairs the District

Orphans and Vulnerable Children Committee has strongly supported NEMACY Uganda interventions.

3.5.1 Overall NEMACY's new direction for Sustainability of Interventions

A key evaluation issue was to ascertain the extent to which NEMACY Uganda's two projects of IBAPE and SRRP have caused change and owned by different stakeholders. The review therefore assessed the extent of ownership of structures and the likely continuity of project benefits or results. The assessment revealed the following;

NEMACY Uganda is very conscious of the fact that the communities' ability to demand for services and manage them is the basis for sustainability of such services. In its new strategic direction, NEMACY Uganda emphasizes the following:

- a. Empower communities to know and demand for accountability /services
- b. Focus on playing a facilitating role as opposed to direct implementation
- c. Conduct more trainings for capacity enhancement

Overall, these are good benchmarks for enabling sustainability.

4.0 RELEVANCE AND APPROPRIATENESS OF PROGRAMME AND INTERVENTION STRATEGY

NEMACY Uganda in partnership with other child rights actors have implemented IBAPE and SRRP. This section shows the interventions that addressed the priority needs of the targeted program areas and the suitability of program interventions.

4.1 Relevance of the projects

NEMACY Uganda implementation right from her inception was to address the challenges faced by abused children. There has been evidence from studies that child abuse and exploitation has been on an increase in Jinja District. At the inception of these two projects, 96.8% (7.5 critically vulnerable, 45.5 moderately vulnerable, 43.8 Generally Vulnerable)¹ of children in Eastern Uganda, were vulnerable to abuse. The interventions were however in response to addressing such gaps and creating better environment for children in Jinja.

¹ National Strategic Program Plan of Action for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children 2011/12-2015/16. Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development

The review assessed the extent to which the projects responded to the needs and priorities of targeted communities, households and children and whether or not the approach should be replicated. While issues of replication require addressing after considering all issues unearthed by the review, below are key findings on the extent to which the project addressed needs of targeted beneficiaries.

- a. The trainings improved knowledge and skills of key stakeholders and member organizations in addressing child rights issues and how to sustain such interventions. The training approach of hands on support to beneficiaries enabled them to first track the challenges in order to realize direct benefits.
- b. The direct interface with local governments' technical staff and other implementing civil society agencies in the targeted communities has partly contributed to leveraging of resources that has created a cordial working relationship amongst actors in the targeted communities.
- c. Information sharing amongst implementing partners enabled NEMACY Uganda to continue reflecting on community challenges.
- d. Community child protection systems have been revived and empowered to respond to child abuse cases. This has also included establishing child friendly facilities in schools that has contributed to enrolment and retention of children in schools.
- e. Children have been empowered to start claiming their rights mainly through child rights clubs.

4.2 LESSONS LEARNT

The lessons provided have been drawn from observations made in the analysis provided in the text above. They are not exhaustive but key to the experience of this project. The following are some of the lessons that can be replicated in other projects;

1. Meaningful child participation requires dialogue between the children and the adults based on mutual respect and power sharing with the aim of giving children the power to shape both the process and outcomes of their participation. In trying to promote child participation, NEMACY Uganda targeted all actors including parents, teachers, care-givers, local authorities and supported them to adopt the right attitude in respect for children's views in matters that affect them. This helps to remove barriers between children and adults that may rob children of the needed guidance and support.
2. Working with government through established structures is a key strategy for developing sustainable results. NEMACY Uganda has had a close work relationship with Local Government through sharing reports and joint planning. This has enabled NEMACY Uganda to achieve success especially with the enforcement arm of government.

3. Effective engagement with the Local Governments (LGs) requires openness in sharing information, an operational MoU for the interventions and constant feedback on jointly implemented activities. Engagement with lower level units within the administration structures might not be appreciated by higher level management units culminating in poor accountability and visibility of the partnership.
4. Information sharing amongst member organizations and other actors enabled them to learn from each other and develop workable approaches. Internal NEMACY Uganda M&E system facilitated this learning on a quarterly basis. The reports were key in informing decisions on what worked and what did not work.

4.3 CONCLUSIONS

It is the well considered opinion of the review facilitator that the two projects had significant impact on the lives of targeted communities and specifically children and young people. The review indicates that there is a marked improvement on a number of parameters as per the situational analysis before the two projects.

There have been a number of initiatives in ensuring sustainability of project outcomes such improved coordination and partnership amongst child rights actors, strengthened child protection structures (SMS/PTA) as well as incorporation of NEMACY intervention approaches in district development plans.

The review facilitators' specific conclusions are as bellow;

- a. NEMACY Uganda has tremendously contributed to the building of service infrastructure and actual delivery of services targeting vulnerable children.
- b. The services provided have enabled children and their families to better meet their survival and development needs, and to acquire skills and resources for meeting their future needs.
- c. NEMACY Uganda has strengthened the capacity of communities, community structures, and local organizations to address local needs and manage development interventions.
- d. Child protection challenges however have not been completely addressed, there is need to build on what has been achieved and implement lessons learnt in other communities especially beyond Jinja district.