

CONCEPT NOTE ON CREATING CHILD LABOUR FREE ZONE IN WAKISO DISTRICT

1.0 1.0 Context and background

RUBAGA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (RYDA) was established in 1992 as a Community Based organization (CBO). It is now a fully-fledged Non-Governmental Organisation which is registered with the NGO Board of Uganda, as well as a company limited by guarantee without share capital.

It was also established to make an impact on the growing problem of vulnerable children and out-of-school youths rights to sustainable development. RYDA is dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights of children and young people in Uganda as articulated in the U.N. Conventions on the Rights of the Child. RYDA offers Vocational Training, continued Formal Education, counseling and Rehabilitative Services.

Over the past years of grassroots' development experience, RYDA has realized that promotion of self-help initiatives of social and economic empowerment of vulnerable groups is a key requirement for sustainable development of local communities.

Vision: Improved quality of life of vulnerable children and out-of-school youth.

Objectives:

- To build Community capacities in the aspect of human rights, peace building and good Governance.
- Promote basic Education through mobilizing Communities and supporting schools in the area of operation.
- To spear head efforts geared at eradicating Poverty in communities through mobilizing people to participate in sustainable income generating activities (IGAs)
- To strengthen and support the capacity of families to protect and care for the AIDS Orphans and other Vulnerable Children.

Activities implemented by RYDA in the past.

- HIV/AIDS Prevention activities in schools and the general community.
- Assistance to OVCs through provision of scholastic materials, psychosocial support through home visits.
- Vocational skills training Centre built at Buloba.
- In 2001- 2002 RYDA implemented a child labour project supported by ILO/IPEC targeting out of school youth working in hazardous conditions in Kampala city. This project equipped RYDA with relevant skills and knowledge on how to work with children engaged in Child labour especially the hazardous working conditions and specifically on monitoring of beneficiaries.

- RYDA in partnership with ILO/IPEC is currently implementing a project intended to eliminate child labour in Wakiso District targeting the worst forms of child labour.
- RYDA Vocational centre offers vocational skills training in motor vehicle mechanics, tailoring, electrical installation, bricklaying and concrete practice, weaving and knitting, catering and hotel management, metal fabrication and welding, hair dressing to the youth aged between 14 to 17 years referred by other non-government organizations such as **Vision For Africa, God Help International** just to mention a few among others. It offers counseling in HIV prevention as one of its community outreach programme and training in business entrepreneurship.

1.1 Analysis of the Problem

The elimination of all forms of child labour is linked to the provision of formal, full-time and quality education for all children, which is a crucial factor for the attainment of children's rights and the eradication of poverty¹.

Figures published by the ILO's Global Report in 2006 indicate that there are 218 million child laborers aged 5-17 around the world today. That is one in seven children going to work instead of going to school. They work in fields and factories, they sew footballs and t-shirts, they pick coffee and cocoa, they mine, they dig, and they fight in wars. Sub-Saharan Africa has the greatest incidence of child labour – 26.4% of all 5-14 year olds.

These children are trapped in poverty with little hope of escape. Child labour deprives children of a childhood and the opportunity to develop their full potential. It jeopardizes their overall development and interferes with their right to education. Without basic skills and education children remain in low paying (and often dangerous) work. These children and their families are consigned to a life of poverty and vulnerability. Moreover, child labour keeps adults out of the work force or at low wages since employers prefer to hire children because they are cheaper and more obedient. Therefore, child labour also undermines the development of the community and country as a whole.

To fight poverty one needs to address child labour and provide formal, full-time and quality education to all children. Education is the primary vehicle by which economically and socially marginalized children and their families can lift themselves out of poverty. Studies by ILO-IPEC² conclude that the benefits of eliminating child labour will be nearly seven times greater than its cost.

Child labour is commonly defined as work done by children under the age of 18 that may be harmful to their physical, emotional, intellectual and social development (UN Convention on the Right of the Child). In a recent study conducted by KIN; it was observed that child labour constituted the reason for many child rights related challenges. In fact child labor intensified suffering in most communities where majority children were victim.³ Child labour encompasses every non-school going child – irrespective of whether the child is engaged in wage or non-wage work. Any form of work therefore that interferes with

¹ And in accord with the combined mandate of the ILO Core Labour Standards and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in order to contribute to the realization of MDG 1, 2 and 3 as well as Education for All goals.

² ILO 'Investing in Every Child, An Economic Study of the Costs and Benefits of Eliminating Child Labour' (February 2004).

³ KIN, 'The responsiveness and effectiveness of communities towards child labour in Uganda' (April 2008)

the child's right to education must be eliminated since it deprives children of a childhood, an opportunity to develop their full potential and any hope of escaping poverty.

The complexity of child labour is that it permeates the various sectors of society and affects those other children who are not yet in employment. A comprehensive study of child labor in three Districts (Rakai, Mbale and Wakiso) was in 2009 conducted by the Uganda Bureau of Statistic (UBOS) to determine the extent to which child labor hampers the growth of children in those regions. The revelation of the study comes to a similar conclusion as most other earlier ILO findings included in this analysis: 75,800 children in the District of Wakiso were engaged in economic activities, while 12,000 were found in conditional hazardous work. The fact that child labour remains acceptable and accessible to children is a dangerous precedent for other innocent ones who have never tried the trade. The study also concludes that the situation of child labour may be worse than presented due to the various economic and non economic activities in the District⁴. Our argument at KIN is that no matter what reason, a child's priority should be to study for a meaningful future.

The challenges presented by child labor have far reaching consequences for upcoming or underdeveloped Districts like Wakiso. The same study goes on to elaborate that despite the various trials of both government and the private sectors, the District still has many gaps in social service provision, which deters most households from having social protection. Also that many children who are enrolled in education lack basic needs such as scholastic materials, health care, protection from abuse, food, uniforms and many other domestic and scholarly requirements. The fact is that, most services that are provided by development programs in the District have not had expected impact because they lack coordination.

Elimination of child labour, requires an approach that involves all key stakeholders (The Integrated Area Based Approach), which is a good step towards accessing vulnerable children with relevant development programs to the children. It is against this background that RYDA intends to use IABA has a philosophy to achieve a child labour free zones in Wakiso District which will be shared with other relevant organizations and Ministries and Local Governments for replication. The total abolition of child labor is an ideal that can be achieved through concerted efforts. Both the IABA and 'child labor free zones' approach therefore call for networking and using referral systems as a major condition by which results can be realized. It is important to note that 'child labor free zones' does not necessarily mean that the designated areas are already free of child labor but that they are combat zones, which must realize the total abolition of child labour through a given strategy in a given period of time.

1.2 Program Strategies

Child labor zones were first conceived by the MVenkat Foundation (MVF) in India after observing that no matter how much is injected into child labor; results never satisfy if efforts are not concerted. RYDA has studied the approach and intends to pilot it in two Sub counties of Wakiso and Namayumba in Wakiso District where many children have become dropped out of school as a result of child labor. Child labor free zone means concentrating in an area to build systems that will completely end child labor in the given area over a given period of time. The strategy that RYDA will employ in the mentioned areas will

⁴ UBOS, "Child labor Baseline survey", draft report 2009

include identification of the target population, awareness creation, provision of quality skills to 50 children and formal education to another 950 children and building community monitoring systems, which will ensure that many other players get involved to end child labor during and after this initial project implementation phase. 100 extremely poor families, which are struggling to improve their lives but are hampered by capital income, will be provided with IGA inputs in kind. All this will entail training, monitoring and network building, which will enable the community members themselves to fully participate and make the program their own. As opposed to exclusive direct outreach to children and vulnerable families, RYDA will build community systems to participate in this strategy. Community selected members will be provided with bicycles to help in the work especially, outreach, monitoring and networking. The community members will comprise teachers, Local Councils, parents, leaders, etc. It is important that during implementation some stall or workshop owners agree to use their business as child labor points and that, schools establish child labour notice boards for open learning and discussion on the subject of child labour. RYDA has had very good experiences in working with communities, schools and local governments and this will add more dynamic and creative initiatives this time.

2.0 TARGET GROUPS

2.1 Direct Beneficiaries.

2.1.1 Children to benefit from services.

The main beneficiaries under this category are the children. In Wakiso many children are still found in commercial sexual exploitation, domestic work, fishing, quarrying and vending among many other illicit activities. 200 children who are engaging in full and part time child labour whether considered worst forms or hazardous will be fully withdrawn. 150 of those children will be mainstreamed into quality full time education and the other 50 children in skills training. Community structures will take a leading role in this activity as RYDA intends to build consensus among communities and to increase their responsibility towards children. In the meantime, 800 other children at risk of entering child labour will be prevented from entering child labor through quality full time formal education.

2.1.2 Adult beneficiaries

RYDA will also identify and select 100 vulnerable to be supported with inputs to enable them engage in IGAs in the two communities.

3.2 Collaborating Institutions

RYDA intends to build on already existing good working collaboration with both the district key departments and other social service providers within Wakiso district during the implementation of this Action Programme. It will collaborate with families/households of Child labourers, local artisans, schools and employers of the children in the implementing area (Namayumba and Wakiso Sub counties) with whom has already established a strong Net-working relationship.

This will enable the above stakeholders to fully participate and support the struggle to eliminate child labour.

RYDA's collaboration:

Level	Agency	Areas of collaboration	Status	Desirable Action
Central Government	Ministries of Education and Gender and Labour.	Technical assistance, Provision of information, Policy formulation, Monitoring	No direct link with secretariat	Work towards initiating formal partnership.
District	District Education Officer	Children's enrolment and retention in schools, teachers' sensitization and implementation of SCREAM methodologies in District education programmes	Good working relationship	Maintain relationship.
	District Community Officers	Creation of Social protection scheme	Very good working relationship exists	Maintain relationship
	Police, LCs	Law enforcement	Collaboration exists	Improve on the regular updates on the partnership
	Labour officer	Provision of information on child labour and employment Inspection of work places	Existing relationship	Maintain relationship
UN Agencies	ILO/IPEC	Technical & financial support of the AP Quality assurance of the Action Programme implementation Monitoring of and evaluation of the Action Programmes Documentation and Dissemination innovations	Progressing partnership.	Work towards initiating formal partnership.
Government & private schools	49 Schools	To be considered for referral, train the beneficiaries plus teachers.	Relationship exists with some partners.	Maintain relationship by sharing information.
Local NGOs	UCRNN	Counseling in Child Rights Advocacy.	Relationship exists	Maintain relationship
	FIDA	Legal services	Relationship exists with some partners	Maintain relationship
	ANPPCAN	Training in Child rights & Psycho social support	Relationship exists	Maintain relationship through net working
	UYDEL,KIN,HUYSLINK	Collaborating & net working on child labour issues in Wakiso. Good lessons learnt in combating child labour.	Collaboration exists	Maintain relationship through net working

4.0 OBJECTIVES

4.1 Development objective

To contribute to the total elimination of child labour in Uganda

4.2 Immediate objectives

Objective 1: By the end of the project, 800 girls and boys who are at risk of becoming child Labourers in the target area will have been prevented from entering child labour.

Objective 2: By the end of the project, 200 girls and boys will have been withdrawn from the Worst form of child labour and provided with rehabilitation, counselling, formal Education and vocational training.

Objective 3: By the end of the project, community monitoring structures for supporting children and families who/which are affected by child labour will have been put in place in the project implementation areas.

Proposed implementation activities

1.2.1 Identification of beneficiaries.

This activity will be conducted through social workers, peer networks and the community structures that will be put in place to increase outreach in the target areas. The community structures will be empowered to make referral systems in the target child labor free zones. A selection criteria for identifying children at risk of child labour developed/agreed in participatory community meetings will be used to identify affected boys and girls to be targeted under this AP. Other means will include the following;

- Through interviews, **Social workers** will identify 1,000 girls and boys involved in the WFCL or at risk of being involved in child labor and other OVCs and obtain family background and the type of child labor that affects them. Priority for prevention will be given to young children below 13 years of age and withdrawal for children up to 17 years of age, giving special attention to girls. *This will cost Shs. 4,000,000 (\$ 1,739)*
- A **referral system** from communities, police, schools, churches, district authorities and other relevant stakeholders in the target area will be strengthened and used to reach the target children for identification. *This will cost Shs. 2,400,000 (\$ 1,043)*
- **Peer networks** will be actively used to identify children found in the worst forms of child labour.
- **Community structures** will be used to identify children who run away for cases related to crime, violence, drugs, CSEC and other social problems.
- A **child registration form** for every child will be filled by social workers and trained RYDA community members in order to obtain detailed information. The registration forms will be linked to the Direct Beneficiaries Monitoring and Reporting system. *This will cost Shs. 3,800,000 (\$ 1,652)*

1.2.2 Prevention

800 potential child laborers will be identified in two child labor zones to get help in formal education. The communities will be sensitized on this and through the free child labour zone community action, helped to benefit from the project. Identification of children in extreme danger of joining child labor will be done. Those identified will be counseled and provided with scholastic materials to remain in formal education. Girls and boys and other OVCs at risk of entering child labour will be **sensitized** about the dangers of child labor and value of education. Communities will be encouraged to contribute to the uniforms of prevented children and where not possible schools will be lobbied not to insist on them. It is important to note though, that the free child labour zones have an inbuilt strategy to eliminate child labour in a given community in a certain period of time. The free child labor zones have a philosophy which emphasizes that education is not negotiable, non alienable and therefore takes precedence in all communities. All children below the age of 18 are the main focus of this program.

- **Scholastic materials** will be provided to affected girls and boys and other OVCs at risk of dropping out of school due to lack of materials needs. *This will cost Shs. 20,000 x 800 children = 16,000,000 (\$6,957)*
- The children will be counseled by social workers and community outreach as a prevention strategy. *This will cost Shs. 2,500,000 (\$ 1,087)*
- **Seminars** for children will be organized to teach them about the dangers of dropping out from school and of child labor. The training will mostly focus on helping children to remain in school. *This will cost Shs. 2,500,000 (\$ 1,087)*
- **Community and family members** will be sensitized on child labour in order to keep an eye on at risk girls and boys and following them-up for counseling and educational services. Information on social protection measures will be used during sensitization. *This will cost Shs. 4,200,000 (\$ 1,826)*

1.2.3 Withdrawal and rehabilitation

- Children will be reached through visiting communities and children's work places as well as making use of former child laborers to reach those still at work. In addition, community structures which will comprise local leaders, parents, teachers, etc will be encouraged to refer children to RYDA for withdrawal and rehabilitation. 150 children who are targeted under this aspect will be provided with formal education and another 50 with quality skills. *This will cost Shs. 2,500,000 (\$ 1,087)*
- **Rehabilitation** will be offered to affected girls and boys and other OVCs who are newly withdrawn from child labour. They will receive counseling and psychosocial support. *This will cost Shs. 4,200,000 (\$ 1,826)*
- **Life skills training** will be offered to withdrawn girls and boys and other OVCs by RYDA social workers and community members who have been trained. Will be catered with the above rehabilitation activities

- **Sensitization on** child labour, HIV/AIDS, education and social protection will be carried out using SCREAM methodologies such as debates, role plays, creative writing among children. ***This will cost Shs. 5,600,000 (\$ 2,435)***

1.2.4 Education

- Education will strictly refer to formal education for all the target children. 950 children who benefit from this service will be provided with scholastic materials and mainstreamed in formal schools.
- With the help of counseling from communities and social workers, it is expected that all the benefiting children will be retained in school and protected permanently from going back to work. The SCREAM methodologies in the selected schools will include a child labour news board, where children and teachers will be encouraged to post stories and articles. ***This will cost shs. 3,000,000 (\$ 1,304)***
- **Life skills**, such as life-planning, problem-solving, stress-coping will be taught to both affected children who are withdrawn and prevented from child labour, using SCREAM methodologies such as debate, role playing, drama etc. This will be part of school technical support supervision.
- **Formal education** will be provided to ex child laborers after they have completed counseling and life skills training. Teachers will be sensitized on child labor and social protection using tools developed by ILO together with other training manuals, after which girls and boys will be placed into schools.
- **Scholastic materials** such as uniforms, books and pens will be provided to children who are placed in the education system under the country's Universal Primary Education Program. ***This will cost Shs. 20,000 x 950 = Shs. 19,000,000 (\$ 8,261)***

1.2.5 Vocational training

- Children above the age of fourteen who cannot fit into formal schooling will be provided with vocational skills training. The program entails identifying 50 children who are desirous of having good work skills and preparing them to RYDA Vocational skills development centre for a period of not less than one year.
- **A mapping exercise and a market analysis survey** will be carried out to identify vocational training skills which are viable for the identified children. ***This will cost Shs. 5,000,000 (\$ 2,174)***
- **Placement of 50 boys and girls and other OVCs into vocational training centers** will be done for children above 14 years old who are willing to develop their employment skills. ***This will cost Shs. 400,000 x 50 children for one year = 20,000,000 (\$ 8,696)***
- Train 50 children on **Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB)** to enable them acquire skills of starting their own business once they finish the Vocational training course. ***This will cost Shs. 4,000,000 (\$ 1,739)***

1.2.6 Creation of free child labour zones

The two target areas of this project will be the main focus of all activities. Community members who have been active on important community issues will be targeted for training on child labor issues and a vibrant community team built for the purpose of identification, training, awareness, referral, monitoring etc. Active members will be given activity bicycles.

- **A mapping** of two places in Wakiso and Namayumba will be done to determine where the child labour free zones will be established and work will commence upon completion of this. This will be done together with the mapping for viable Vocational skills
- **Active community members** will be identified and trained as child labour agents in the target area and support provided to them for working with children who are targeted for withdrawal and prevention. This will be intensive training for community selected committee members who will be key to the implementation of the project activities. *This will cost 60,000 x 40 people x 3 days = Shs. 7,200,000 (3,130)*
- **All service providers** in the area will be sensitised about child labour and encouraged to take it up as a responsibility. *This will cost Shs. 1,600,000 (\$ 696)*
- **A referral system** that concert efforts in the free child labour zone will be enhanced for the purpose of proving children with enough services as a social protection. *The coordination and training will cost Shs. 2,600,000 (\$ 1,130)*
- **A house to house campaign** will be commenced in the area to educate every family about the challenges of child labour and the need for all children to be in school. *Purchase of bicycles for Committee members Shs. 150,000 x 40 bicycles = Shs. 6,000,000 (\$ 2,609)*
- **The government and other service providers** will be actively involved and lobby campaigns will be used to bring other missing services to the target zone for purposes of fulfilling the objective. *This will involve training and coordination which will cost Shs. 4,000,000 (\$ 1,739)*
- **Follow up visits** by the social workers will be made to ensure that the system is working well and that children are benefiting from it. *This will cost Shs. 5,000,000 (\$ 2,174)*

1.2.7 Income Generating Activities and Savings

100 families from the identified child laborers will be targeted for support with IGAs. They will first be trained and then provided with training materials and additional tools and materials for running income generating activities. The poor families will be provided with training on savings and child labor. KIN will be very strict on savings and will ensure that this activity adds gains to the free child labor zones where the project is located. Through referral and networking, all stakeholders will be connected to other service providers. Four IGA holders will be requested to use their business for child labor advocacy. This means that they will be expected to abide by the principles of the project and to talk to people about child labor especially women and men who give away their children to go for work.

Income Generating Activities (IGAs)

- At least 100 families to benefit from income generating activities will be identified using criteria to be developed/ agreed in participatory community meetings. ***This will cost Shs. 1,200,000 (\$ 523)***
- Specific IGAs to be promoted will be identified taking into account their ability to generate income, capacity of households to carry out these activities and resources available. This will be done during the mapping of the Vocational skills trades
- In collaboration with the ILO-WEDGE (Women Entrepreneurship Development & Gender Equality) project, IPEC-SNAP will provide the Implementing Agencies and District Authorities with a tailor made training, called: “GET Ahead” – Gender & Entrepreneurship together in order to build capacity in training beneficiaries on identifying, starting and running IGAs. ***This will cost Shs. 6,000,000 (\$ 2,609)***
- Family members will be offered specific training activities in undertaking the selected IGAs as well as marketing, recording etc. ***part of the above training***
- 100 selected families will be provided with IGA inputs that will have been identified. This will be basic support that can enable households earn an income and learn how to save. ***This will cost Shs. 300,000 x 100 Households = Shs. 30,000,000 (\$ 13,043)***
- Families will be provided with technical assistance through extension services in the implementation of IGAs by the existing structures like National Agricultural and Advisory services. ***This will cost Shs. 2,400,000 (\$ 1,043)***
- RYDA will undertake monthly monitoring and evaluation visits. This will require fuel to facilitate RYDA reach out to the supported households. This will be part of the extension services provision.

Savings and micro credit development

The focus of these savings activities will be to help the 100 participating families to have strong sustainable businesses.

- A savings scheme involving families will be developed and implemented in project implementation areas.
- Families participating in the savings scheme will be trained in savings and micro credit management. ***This will cost Shs. 1,200,000 (\$ 522)***
- Coordination meetings with participating families will be conducted.
- Organize study tours to successful IGAs to enable participating families to learn from experiences of those IGAs. ***This will cost Shs. 2,500,000 (\$ 1,087)***
- Link families to micro credit schemes and other resources within the area.

1.2.8. Linking Families to existing social protection mechanisms

A number of agencies provide some form of social protection in the health, education, legal aid and other sectors. This action program will build on and promote utilization of these services by undertaking the following.

- Carry out a mapping exercise to identify social protection measures and schemes in the project implementation areas. This will do during the mapping exercise of the vocational skills development.
- Provide information to all families about existing social protection measures and schemes.
- Facilitate periodic coordination and support meetings between affected families and the various social protection providing agencies. *This will cost Shs. 2,000,000 (\$ 870)*
- M&E activities *Shs. 10,000,000 (\$ 4,348)*

Proposed Budget

Activities Shs. 180,400,000 (\$ 78,435)

Administration 30% of activities budget Shs. 54,120,000 (\$ 23,530)

Grand Total Shs. 234,520,000 (\$ 101 965)

Local contribution 10% of the total budget Shs, 23,452,000 (\$ 10,197)

Total required form donor Shs. 211,068,000 (\$ 91,769)