



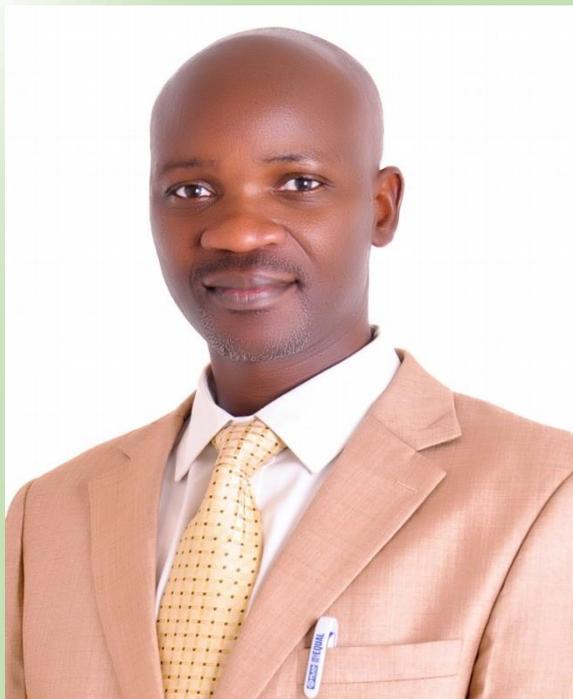
2023

Annual Report



***“The Future is Bright—
Let’s Illuminate It!”***

Message from the Executive Director



Dear Partners, Stakeholders, and Friends,

It is with immense gratitude and pride that I present the Nebbi District NGO Forum's Annual Report for the year 2023. This year has been marked by impactful initiatives, collaborative partnerships, and steadfast commitment to fostering sustainable development across the greater Nebbi districts.

2023 has been a year of both challenges and significant progress for Nebbi District NGO Forum. Despite the ongoing global uncertainties, our commitment to improving lives and empowering vulnerable communities remained steadfast. Together with our dedicated staff, volunteers, and

supporters, we have managed to expand our impact, extend our reach, and deepen our relationships with the communities we serve.

Our journey in 2023 has been a testament to the power of collective action and shared vision. Through the unwavering support of our stakeholders, donors, and dedicated team, NDNGOF has implemented a wide range of programs aimed at enhancing education, strengthening governance, and advocating for improved service delivery.

In education, we empowered teachers and school management bodies in Zombo District through targeted capacity-building workshops, training sessions, and exposure visits. These initiatives have not only enhanced teaching methodologies but also strengthened school governance, resulting in improved learning outcomes. The development of a training manual for School Management Committees (SMCs) and Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) was a significant milestone, equipping stakeholders with the knowledge and skills to better serve their schools and communities.

Our advocacy efforts took a monumental step forward with the initiation of the District Ordinance on Education. From sensitization meetings with key stakeholders to the drafting and passage of the bill, this ordinance lays a solid foundation for improved education standards across the district.

The grassroots community remained at the heart of our work. We trained and supported 14 community-based organizations (CBOs), empowering them to establish income-generating activities and school feeding programs that directly benefit schools and learners. Furthermore, our collaboration with *Piranyim* group of Artists to produce audio-visual content (music video dubbed *Nyara Kesom* (My daughter study first))

promoting girl-child education amplified awareness on the importance of inclusive education.

In governance and accountability, NDNGOF's role in coordinating civil society activities and presenting CSO position papers at the regional and national levels underscored our commitment to transparency and improved service delivery. Our partnership with the Office of the Auditor General facilitated citizen engagement, ensuring their voices were heard on critical issues affecting the region.

These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff, the generosity of our donors, and the trust of our partners. As we reflect on 2023, we are reminded that while challenges remain, our collective efforts have made a meaningful impact. We are inspired to forge ahead, continuing to advocate for equitable development, transparency, and improved service delivery in the years to come.

We are incredibly proud of the milestones we've achieved this year, particularly in the areas of education, Governance, advocacy and CSO coordination and collaboration. This report showcases the lives we've touched, the challenges we've faced, and the strategies we will pursue to continue making a difference.

On behalf of the NDNGOF, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, volunteers, the communities that inspire us daily and all who have walked this journey with us. Together, we can and will build a brighter future for our communities.

Thank you and Warm regards,



RONALD OFOYRWOTH
Executive Director
Nebbi District NGO Forum

Mission and Vision

About Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGOF)

Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGOF) with a current membership of over 130 civil Society Organizations (CSOs) was formed in June 2001, as a platform through which CBOs, NGOs and FBOs in the Greater Nebbi District can network, share information, influence policies and legislation and advocate for equitable development. The Forum is an umbrella organisation responsible for coordination of activities and sharing of information for all members of Civil Society Organisations operating in the 3 districts of the Greater Nebbi (Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach) and supporting its Member Organisations (MOs) and the CSO fraternity to comply with the relevant laws and regulations governing CSOs operations in Uganda among others. NDNGOF is a member of the District NGO Monitoring Committee in Nebbi District in accordance with section 20 (2)(e) of the NGO Act 2016.

The **VISION** of the Forum is ***a well-coordinated and strong Civil Society Organization in the Greater Nebbi Districts.***

The **MISSION** of the Forum is ***“to provide a platform for CSOs operating in the Greater Nebbi Districts to increasingly participate in development processes and contribute to policy dialogue through advocacy, networking, and information sharing”.***

The **GOAL** of the Forum is to develop civil the society into institution able to participate as effective partners in the conception, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, legislation and other aspects of development processes.

The Objectives of the Forum

The Forum sees itself as a platform whose existence is;

- 1) To enable CSOs harness their collective strength to advocate and lobby government and development partners for pro-poor policies and programmes
- 2) To promote good governance and human rights
- 3) To improve the institutional capacity of the Forum and its Member Organizations to effectively mobilize and utilize their resources to achieve their objectives

- 4) To improve networking and linkages among its MOs and between CSOs and development partners
- 5) To adequately, timely and reliably share information among its MOs to effectively mobilize and utilize their resources to achieve their objectives.
- 6) To do anything or activity that is legal to further the objectives of the Forum.

Mandates of NDNNGOF

1. Capacity building of Member Organizations (MOs).
2. Carrying out lobbying and advocacy with MOs
3. CSO Coordination and Networking with MOs and other Organizations
4. Information sharing with MOs and other stakeholders
5. Research, documentation and information dissemination
6. Implementation of pro-people projects singly or jointly with member organizations

Membership

Membership is drawn from national and International NGOs, CBOs, and FBOs from the following Thematic Areas

- Good Governance and Human Rights
- Environmental Conservation and Management
- Education, training and Research
- Agriculture and livelihood
- Appropriate Technology
- Health, Water and Sanitation
- Women, youth, disabled and the elderly, etc.

Highlights of activities – Key Achievements and Impact

NDNGOF was engaged in various activities that included coordination CSOs, policy lobbying and advocacy especially working with the District NGO Monitoring Committee (DNMC), participating in District and Lower Local Governments Budget processes as well as implementation of Project activities especially the AKS Project in Zombo District which had entered into its year 2 phase.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

Alochi Ku Somu (AKS) Education Project in Zombo

Funders



NDNGOF received funds from COOPERAID – Switzerland the sum of UGX 486,499,044 (Four hundred eighty-six million four hundred four hundred ninety-nine thousand, forty-four thousand shillings only); NDNGOF Received another batch of UGX 525,765,174 (Five hundred twenty-five million seven hundred sixty five thousand, one hundred seventy-four shillings only) in 2023 to expand the project in the 4 new sub counties mentioned below in year two of the project.

Project locations

NDNGOF operates in all the 3 districts of Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach. However, the Alochi Ku Somu (AKS) Education project is located in Zombo only. In year 2 (2023), AKS is implemented in Zeu and Akaa Sub Counties (in Ora County), Athuma and Nyapea Sub Counties (in Okoro County).

About to AKS project



Figure 1 Participants are for group work during Training of Trainers' training for SMCs/PTAs of the AKS project Schools

The AKS Project is a 3 year consortium project (2022-2024) being implemented by NDNGOF in conjunction with Life Concern (LICO) and CEFORD. The Consortium is directed by a steering Committee that is chaired by Nebbi District NGO Forum which is also responsible for project reporting and communication with the donor. The AKS Project goal is to achieve an established active school management and an established learning process for teacher teams in the project schools. In the first year 2023, the project rolled out into 4 sub-counties of Zeu, Akaa, Nyapea and Athuma. NDNGOF is responsible for implementation of outcome of “improved learning and school governance.” The outcome is dependent on objective that focuses on trainings and activities for teacher teams, directors and school bodies (SMC/PTA).



Highlights of activities implemented during 2023 under AKS Project;

- Meeting District authorities and key education stakeholders to gain project support
- ToT for SMC/PTAs on their roles and responsibilities and how to support the school projects
- SMC/PTA conducted multiplication training for other SMCs/PTAs of other schools
- Project Implementation Partners conducted several Steering committee meetings
- We conducted PLC ToT for Award winning teachers and head teachers of Project schools
- Head teachers' training in Leadership & management
- Joint groups' formation ("WACOPO" GROUPS) from SMCs, PTAs and Mama/Baba clubs
- Training of CBOs on Income Generating Activities-IGA selection, planning and management
- Routine support visits & mentorship visits to Teachers, Head Teachers/SMCs/PTAs, CBOs
- Exchange visit to Awarded Teachers and Head Teachers to best performing schools in Arua.
- Support to the District council toward formulation of the District Education ordinance 2023
- Training of Kindergarten of Nursery and Lower primary school by consultants –APCO
- Kindergarten teachers conducted multiplication trainings to fellow teachers
- Capacity building for Teachers of Acamukech P/S and Ajere Army school
- Supply of text books to Acamukech Primary school (primary 1-7) in all subjects
- Income Generating Activities (IGA) refresher training for CBOs /WACHOPU Groups
- Provision of seed capital to 14 CBOs to initiate school based IGAs in project schools
- Advocacy meeting with District Authorities and SMCs nomination bodies
- Conducted two Performance review meetings with key project stakeholders
- Termly follow-up meetings with teachers, SMCs, PTAs, CBOs and other stakeholders
- Community Mobilization through Radio Talk shows and educational Film-show outreaches

KEY ACHIVEMENTS OF ALOCHI KU SOMU (AKS) IN ZOMBO DISTRICT



Figure 2: The Prime Minister of Alur Kingdom (Prince Opar Angala - Standing, 4th from right), attended the inception meeting for introducing the AKS Project to new Sub counties

Alochi Ku Somu (AKS) project is continued intervention of CO-OPERAID, Switzerland, and the Ugandan NGOs NDNGOF, CEFORD and LICO who are all established development aid actors in Zombo working toward improving education in Zombo district. This work was started way back in 2012. “Despite selective progress in some dimensions, the challenges remained glaring and effort is needed to ensure all children of school going age are enrolled in school. This requires all actors ranging from parents, the community, CBOs and

government actors to join hands and mobilize to promote education and help end poverty and illiteracy” the education authority of Zombo wrote in a 2019 report. The project aims is to improve infrastructures and therefore conditions for teaching and learning, but at the same time improve teaching and learning itself by offering trainings and the chance for enriched capacity/qualifications of teachers, directors/Head teachers and school governing bodies (SMC/PTAs).



Figure 3 The District Education Officer (Mr. Nicholas Odeba – Trainer) crosschecking with participants' group work during SMC/PTAs ToT training in Zeu, Zombo district.

The training component of the project aims at reaching a considerable part of the staff and actors of the education sector of Zombo. Trainings of trainers target directly about 8 Head Teachers and 10 Teachers annually, who are expected to become trainers of others (reaching additional 100 teachers). The same applies to 35 SMC and PTA trainings of trainers who are also expected to become trainers of others (reaching additional 175 SMC and PTA).

The trainings are an attempt to enforce the staff and members of school governing bodies to become the persons who develop education in Zombo. The recent perception of most actors still is that the solution of the problems of education will come from outside. The project aims at changing the mindset for education actor to realize that they themselves are the solution to their problems. The trainings want to support the active part of the staff, enforce the positive deviance and create more role models. This process is led by the local NGOs and as representatives of the civil society, they lead and guide an important process for the development for the Zombo population.

The project focuses on basic education at primary schools and at kindergartens (Nurseries), but it has additional ambitious aims to touch other aspects of education. It also seeks to empower the role of Zombo youth and make their voice heard and to appreciate Education as a right and the youth given the chance to express this fact and express themselves.

Training Of Trainers For Kindergarten Teachers/Caregivers At Njuba-Kasubi Kamu from 27TH -31ST MARCH 2023.



Figure 4 Amadam Claudia Derungs (Director of Njuba Kindergarten) taking the teachers through a lesson preparation session

NDNGOF organized 5 days TOT for the 10 selected teachers in the year 1 of the project. 8 teachers were selected from the 11 Nursery schools in the project Sub counties. Two teachers were selected from Atyak Sub County (Adiadwol and Atyak Nursery). Rural sub counties such as Kango and Kango were given a chance to participate. The objective of the training was for the teachers to learn practically and share

experience on time management, good teaching techniques and quality teaching, team work spirit among teachers and discipline among pupils can improve learning; to enhance the knowledge of participants on teaching techniques and to help in preparing and improving on teaching of learners in Zombo district by drawing lessons from the new knowledge and experience shared to them.

Refresher training for Acamukech Parents' Primary school teachers.

Acamukech Primary School is a parents' owned Primary school (not aided by government) located in a rural community of Pakia in Zombo District. The school is located in about 4-5 kilometers away from the nearest school and the pupils (especially young children) from the community cannot afford commuting those long distances. The school was selected to benefit from the AKS project as they were found to have already mobilized 100 Iron sheets, 14,000 burned bricks, stone aggregates and sand in a bid to construct a better school. A two classroom block was built for them. However, all the teachers of the school had not received ant teacher education training and they only depended on borrowed text books.



Figure 5 The CCT- Nyapea Mr. Adit Dai Charles taking the teachers of Acamukech and Ajere on Scheme of work for teaching



Figure 6 Teachers engaged in group work during the refresher training

NDNGOF arranged with the area Coordinating Center Tutor to offer a 1 week intensive training for the teachers with the aim of increasing the quality of teaching and learning at Acamukech community school for better performance. Specifically, the training aimed to equip teachers of Acamukech with knowledge and skills necessary in teaching and learning and to empower teachers of Acamukech so as to create a child-friendly learning environment that motivates learners to stay in school. The training offered opportunity for thee untrained teachers of Ajere Primary Army school to receive the training as well. That was because the Army school attracted over 300 pupils who find it difficult to move to other school located over three kilometers away.

NDNGOF also procured Textbooks from Primary 1-7 in all subjects and supplied the school in bid to equip them with the relevant tools for planning class lessons and teaching of the pupils.

A success story

Rev. Sr. Bishalla Jeovita - Head teacher Nyapea Girls Primary School.

Person		Family	
First name	Rev. Sr. Bishalla	Home village	Zale Village
Second name	Jeovita	Community/District/ Province	Zeul Sub county, Zombo district
Gender	Female	Ethnicity	Alur
Age	46	Religion	Catholic
Occupation	Head teacher	Number of persons in the family	8
Qualification	Graduate Teachers	Family source of income	Farming and teaching
School	Nyapea Girls P/Sch		

Rev. Sr. Bishalla Jeovita is a Head teacher of Nyapea Girls Primary school, one of the project schools of the year 2023.

Ever since Rev. Sr. Bishalla Jeovita (right) became head teacher before intervention of AKS project for almost fifteen (15) years there has been a problem in engaging community through community dialogues to discuss the role of parents/community in supporting school. The main challenges faced by Rev. Sr. have been the management skills in bringing all the stakeholders on board to actively support the school, which led to mistrust between the SMCs members even with head teachers and teachers hence demotivation of both SMC, PTA and teachers which has negatively impact on the teacher's performance and consequently affected the pupil's performance for long time. The AKS intervention has greatly help Rev.Sr. Bishalla as stated bellow;



Figure 7: Rev Sr Bishalla seeking clarification from Executive Director NDNGOF during SMC/PTA Training of Trainers in Zeu



Figure 8 Rev Sr. Bishalla mobilizing parents to make contribution toward construction of Teachers' house to increase hours of teacher attendance to pupils

Benefits from Project Intervention. Under Alochi Ku Somo project, Sr. Bishalla as stated was supported by NDNGOF with support from COOPERAID through Directors, PLC trainings and attended learning visit in Arua which aided her in management skills. The knowledge acquired helped her to relate well with the teachers, SMC/PTA and the community at large which has been a problem before the intervention of the Nebbi NGO Forum through ALOCHI KU SOMU project with the support from COOPERAID. Most importantly the impact of the Directors and SMC/PTA trainings which helped her to organized the first community dialogues in Nyapea sub-county and the first ever in the whole district to discuss the issue related to the school performance and the roles of different stakeholders in supporting the school, this was as a result of AKS intervention hence increased motivation among teachers and even among community in support of school. Rev. Sr. Bishalla Jeovita strongly believes that with all this knowledge the school will do much batter in future.

Financial Overview

Summary: Income, expenses, and funding sources.

IEBBI DISTRICT NGO FORUM FINANCIAL POSITION 2024				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURES AS AT 31/12/2023				
COOPERAID				
	INCOME	NOTE	BUDGET	ACTUAL
	Funds recieved from cooperaid		525,765,174	525,765,174
	Local income contribution		35,000,000	32,735,167
	TOTAL		560,765,174	558,500,341
EXPENDITURES				
			AMOUNT	ACTUAL
	Cooperaid Expenses		525,765,174	444,287,475
	Local expenses		35,000,000	26,084,782
	TOTAL		560765174	470,372,257

Key Financials: Simple charts or figures for transparency.

Chart representing the financial position of Nebbi District NGO Forum for 2023

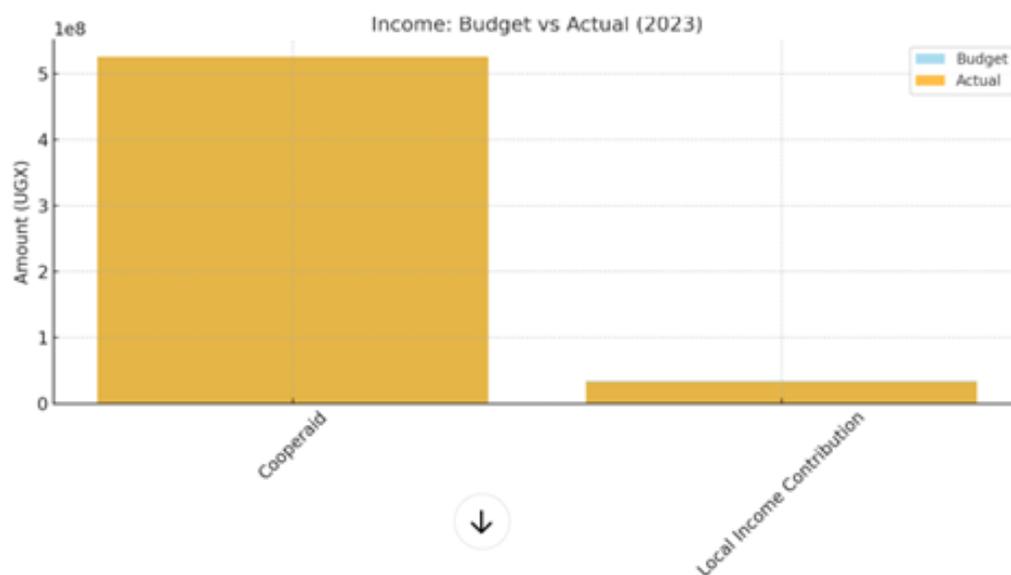


Figure 9: Income Chart: Compares the budgeted and actual income from Cooperaid and local income contributions.

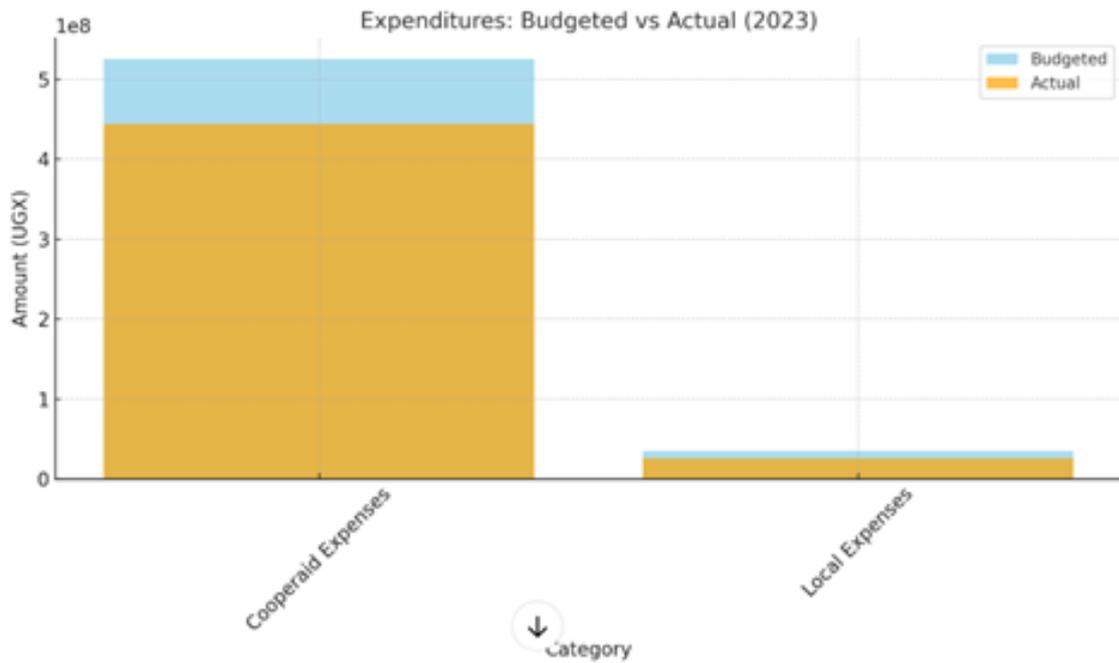


Figure 10 Expenditure Chart: Highlights the budgeted versus actual expenditures for Cooperaid expenses and local expenses.

Pie chart showing the sources of income for Nebbi District NGO Forum in 2023. Each segment represents the proportion of total income contributed by Cooperaid and local income contributions based on actual figures

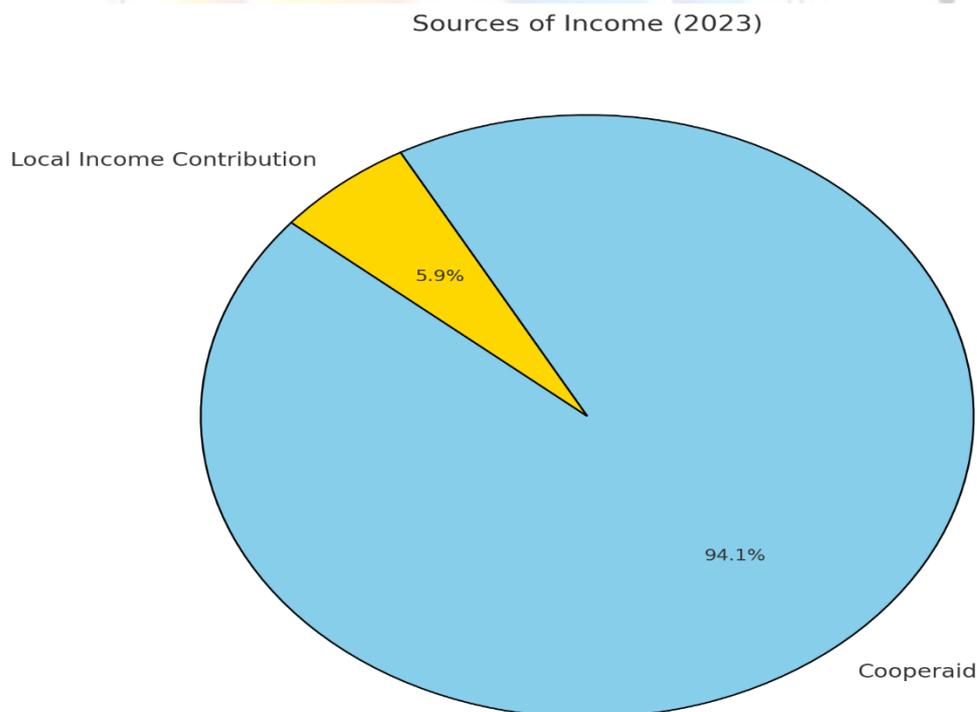


Figure 11 Pie chart showing the sources of income for Nebbi District NGO Forum in 2023. Each segment represents the proportion of total income contributed by Cooperaid and local income contributions based on actual figures

Acknowledgments:

The Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGOF) expresses its heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed donors and partners for their unwavering support and commitment throughout the year 2023. Your generosity and partnership have been instrumental in driving impactful programs and achieving remarkable milestones in our mission to improve education, governance, and service delivery in the Greater Nebbi districts.

We extend our special thanks to Cooperaid, whose significant contribution of UGX 525,765,174 has been pivotal in enabling us to implement transformative initiatives. Your support has empowered us to strengthen school governance, enhance teacher capacity, and engage communities in meaningful advocacy for better education outcomes.

We also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our local partners, who provided local income to support various aspects of the projects. Your collaboration and resourcefulness have added immense value to our programs and amplified our collective impact.

The dedication and trust of our donors have not only supported our financial stability but also inspired us to achieve more. We pledge to remain accountable and committed to the cause, ensuring that your investments lead to lasting and sustainable change.

Together, we are making a difference, and we look forward to your continued support in the years ahead.

Thank you for believing in our vision and standing with us in our journey toward a brighter future for all.

Sincerely,

NDNGOF Management



"A platform for Coordination of Civil Society Organizations in the Greater Nebbi"

Plans for 2024

As we look ahead to 2024, the Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGOF) remains committed to advancing our mission of fostering equitable development, transparency, and improved service delivery in the Greater Nebbi region. Building on the successes and lessons learned from 2023, our strategic goals and key initiatives for the coming year include:

1. Strengthening Education Systems in Zombo

- **Expand Teacher Capacity Building Programs:** Continue organizing workshops and training sessions for teachers, focusing on innovative pedagogies and classroom management.
- **Enhance School Governance:** Support School Management Committees (SMCs) and Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) through training and performance reviews.
- **Promote School-Based Income-Generating Activities:** Empower schools to establish sustainable income projects to improve educational outcomes and infrastructure.
- **Advocate for the District Education Ordinance:** Fast track the submission for approval of the District education ordinance, ensuring its implementation for improved education policies and practices.

2. Advancing Governance and Accountability

- **Strengthen Anti-Corruption Advocacy:** Increase public awareness campaigns through forums, theatre, and community engagements to combat corruption and promote transparency.
- **Policy Advocacy and Influence:** Work closely with local governments to ensure civil society priorities are incorporated into policy and budgetary processes.

3. Enhancing Community Empowerment and Development

- **Support Community-Based Organizations (CBOs):** Train and mentor grassroots organizations in governance, group dynamics, and resource mobilization to strengthen their capacity and impact.
- **Expand Small Grants Program:** Provide financial and technical support to CBOs implementing innovative community development initiatives.

4. Promoting Gender Equity and Social Inclusion

- **Sexual Reproductive Health Rights Advocacy:** Implement awareness and advocacy programs around SRHR issues and safe abortion care, working in collaboration with healthcare providers and policymakers.
- **Gender-Based Violence Prevention:** Launch community education campaigns to combat violence and promote the rights of women and children.

5. Strengthening Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

- **Forge Strategic Alliances:** Deepen relationships with existing donors like Cooperaid and GIZ while identifying and engaging new funding partners, including European Union, RDA etc.
- **Capacity Building for NDNNGOF Members:** Enhance the capabilities of member organizations in fundraising, advocacy, and strategic planning.

6. Ensuring Organizational Effectiveness and Sustainability

- **Implementation of Policies:** Strengthen adherence to NDNNGOF policies, including the Gender Strategy Plan, Anti-Corruption Policy, and Child Safeguarding Policy.
- **Improved Monitoring and Reporting:** Utilize robust Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) frameworks to measure impact and ensure accountability.
- **Infrastructure and Digital Transformation:** Invest in digital tools and platforms to enhance efficiency in communication, program delivery, and reporting.

Key Deliverables for 2024

- Empower 30 schools with enhanced governance and education management practices.
- Strengthen partnerships with at least three new donors or funding agencies.
- Conduct 12 advocacy meetings with local governments and stakeholders on key regional issues.
- Expand school feeding programs and other income-generating projects in 21 schools.
- Finalize and advocate for the implementation of the District Education Ordinance in collaboration with local authorities and other stakeholders.

NDNNGOF envisions 2024 as a year of transformation and growth, propelled by strategic goals, innovative programs, and strong partnerships. Together, we aim to create a more equitable and prosperous future for the communities we serve

Recognition

As we embark on the implementation of our Annual Plan for 2024, the Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGOF) takes this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the unwavering support, dedication, and collaboration of our donors, volunteers, key partners, and supporters. Your contributions continue to serve as the backbone of our initiatives and inspire us to achieve more for the communities we serve.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to **Cooperaid**, whose remarkable financial support has been a driving force in empowering our programs and strengthening our mission to improve education, governance, and service delivery in the Greater Nebbi region.

We also recognize the invaluable contributions of our **local partners and supporters**, whose collective efforts and financial inputs have reinforced the sustainability and impact of our interventions. Your dedication is a testament to the power of community-driven development.

To our **volunteers**, your commitment, passion, and selfless service have brought life to our initiatives. From engaging communities to supporting program implementation, your efforts have been vital in ensuring the success of our activities.

We acknowledge the instrumental role played by our **key partners**, including local government authorities, civil society organizations, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders. Your collaboration has enabled us to implement meaningful projects, influence policies, and advocate for the betterment of our communities.

As we move forward in 2023, we pledge to uphold the trust you have placed in us by delivering impactful and sustainable results. Your support inspires us to continue striving for a brighter and more equitable future for all.

Conclusion

As we close the chapter on 2023, we at the Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGOF) are filled with immense gratitude and renewed determination. This year has been a testament to the power of collaboration, resilience, and shared vision. We extend our deepest thanks to all who made our achievements possible—our donors, including Cooperaid, GIZ, and the National NGO Forum, for their unwavering financial and technical support; our volunteers and staff, whose dedication has been the backbone of our efforts; and our community partners, who have worked tirelessly to drive change at the grassroots level.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are excited to continue our work in advancing education, governance, and community empowerment. However, the challenges we face demand collective action. We invite all stakeholders—donors, partners, volunteers, and community members—to join us in this journey.

You can contribute to our mission in the following ways:

- **Donate:** Your financial support enables us to expand our programs and reach more communities in need.
- **Volunteer:** Share your skills and time to help strengthen our initiatives and amplify our impact.
- **Partner with Us:** Collaborate on projects, share resources, and advocate for the causes that matter to us all.

Together, we can create a more equitable and prosperous future for the Greater Nebbi region and beyond. Let's continue to inspire hope, foster change, and build stronger communities.

Thank you for standing with us. We look forward to working with you in 2024 and beyond.

For inquiries or to get involved, please contact us at:

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Let's make 2024 a year of transformative impact—together!

Year 2023 in pictures

