

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

NEBBI DISTRICT NGO FORUM

Produced by;

The secretariat.

Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGOF)

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List of accroynms

GCE-Global Campaign for Education.

ERM- Education Resource Monitoring.

BUMC-Beach Unit Managemnt Committee.

AGM- Annual General Meeting.

NDLG-Nebbi District Local Government

CSOs –Civil Society Organisations

MOs- Member Organisations

SMC-School Management Committee.

PTA-Parents Teachers Association

ZDLG-Zombo District Local Government

Acknowledgement

In a special way, Nebbi District NGO forum would like to thank Action Aid- Uganda for the continued financial and technical support since its establishment in 2001. The forum is also grateful to all our developemnt partners, Nebbi District local governement and Zombo district Local government.

We also thank all our member organisations that have participated in our work with enthusiasm in serving the people of Nebbi and Zombo districts.

Finally ,thanks goes to the communities and leaders who trusted us enough to share their stories with the hope that we can find a solution to their problem through improving their lives.

Chairman's Message

To dear member Organisations, Partners and Stakeholders. I warmly welcome you to the ordinary general meeting of Nebbi District NGO Forum. We take pleasure in hosting you and ensuring your stay here is as comfortable as possible.

To our esteemed stakeholders and partners, local government and donors, the Annual Report presents Nebbi District NGO Forum achievements and drawbacks in 2012 compared against our planned targets for the reporting periods, it shows that Nebbi District NGO Forum made a tremendous gain in the attainment of almost all targets.

Yet viewed from the success of 2011, the performance demonstrates a gradual but steady increase in Education Resource Monitoring (ERM), Quality Assurance Mechanism (QUAM), Actions for Children's Rights in Education (ACRE) as well as in good governance. This marked achievement no doubt stems from exemplary leadership commitment, professionalism and accountability exhibited by Board members and the secretarial staff.

Further as it is evident from the report, adequate efforts were put in place to innovatively and efficiently reach out to the Member Organisation and positively impact on the life of the marginalised and improve on the quality of life of the people and improve in educational performance.

On behalf of the Board, I therefore thank all the stakeholders for the well intentioned supports. This report demonstrates values for your varied financial, material and moral support. It also echoes further calls for additional support for Nebbi District NGO Forum to continue bringing hope to those who had resigned life and to inspire many more member organisations to join the forum.

Finally, I pledge our continued prudent exemplary stewardship, professional motivation, accountability and learning as we deepen our impacts for providing a platform for CSOs and other member organisations in Nebbi and Zombo District.

Message from the Coordinator

It is my pleasure and joy that I extend this gratitude to all the stakeholders in this noble task.

My thanks go to Action Aid and other development partners for their unending support they continue to shower upon the Organisation.

To my dear MOs I appreciate the partnership you are exhibiting in seeing the forum be what it is today. I pray that the support should continue to see us forge ahead.

I feel I should acknowledge the efforts of the District Local Governments in the two Districts of Nebbi and Zombo. Together we can Change and make our Districts a better place to work and stay in.

For all the stakeholders I say May the good Lord inspire us all and give us the Wisdom to work for the Development of our society and the Districts.

I say this for God and My Country.

About Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGOF)

Nebbi District NGO forum (NDNGOF) is a platform for civil society organizations (CSOs) in Nebbi/Zombo District with a purpose of strengthening and guiding the operations of CSOs for better and qualitative service delivery to the community through networking, accessing, sharing resources and advocating for equitable development.

The Forum was formed in 2001 as an affiliate of the Uganda National NGO Forum and it is registered with Nebbi District Local Government (NDLG). At present, NDNGOF has a membership of 84 Organizations spread through out the district.

The Forum stands for Transparency, Collective action and responsibilities, Mutual respect, Fair dealings, Equity and gender parity, Active participation, Voluntarism and service above self.

VISION, GOAL & OBJECTIVES

ORGANISATIONAL VISION

The Vision for the forum is a well coordinated and strong civil society organization in Nebbi district

ORGANISATIONAL GOAL

The goal of NDNNGOF is to develop civil society organisations into institutions able to participate as effective partners in the conception, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, legislation and any other aspects of development practices and processes in the district.

ORGANISATIONAL MISSION

To provide a Platform for CSOs operating in Nebbi District to increasingly participate in development processes and contribute to policy dialogue through advocacy, networking and information sharing.

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

1. To increase mobilization of, and networking among member organizations (MOs).
2. To promote policy dialogue and advocacy with government, donors and other development stakeholders in formulating pro-poor policies and poverty reduction programmes.
3. To share information and good practices in order to contribute more effectively to the development process in the district.
4. To build capacity of MOs to engage in policy processes more effectively at all levels.
5. To promote good governance and human rights.
6. To carry out other activities that are legal to further the objectives of the forum.

Over view of our work in 2012.

This annual report provides details of Nebbi District NGO forum work in the implementation of education resource monitoring programme, ACRE and SPAN in 2012. It highlights key learning based on our achievements and failures in meeting our programme outputs, it also includes stakeholders' voices, collective testimonies and snap clips.

Methodologies

This report has been compiled from information adopted from periodic monitoring and quarterly progress reports.

Background to Education resource monitoring programme

In April 2005 during the GCE Week, Nebbi District NGO Forum carried out a school mapping exercise that involved children mapping their own friends who were not attending school and explaining the reasons they were not in school. Among other reasons given by children were, long distance between homes and school, inadequate text books, chalk and exercise books, too much rumours in schools such as headmaster eating UPE funds, no/inadequate/inappropriate desks for the children especially girls who sometimes get fed up and stop coming to school. In all the reasons they were not in school was very revealing of the actual situation concerning drop out and non attendance of school. Nebbi District NGO Forum regarded the above emergent issues as being largely linked to inadequate resources

be it financial, physical, human resources, their quality, quantity, management and utilization.

It should be noted allocation of funds do not necessarily mean that the funds will be disbursed to implement the intended project. It is also no guarantee that such funds will reach the said project and will be used for the planned purpose, It's also no guarantee that the resources will be used efficiently to bring about maximum results.

It's against these pertinent findings that Nebbi District NGO Forum conceived the idea of Education Resource Monitoring (ERM) to monitor education resources in pilot sub counties. Since then, Nebbi District NGO forum has been implementing the programme to date in the pilot sub counties of Kango, Nyapea Atyak, Panyimur and Erussi since not all the sub counties in the district could be taken at once for the piloting of the programme with financial support from Action Aid uganda.

Objective of the programme

- To enhance public resource monitoring and tracking in the 25 Primary schools in Nebbi and Zombo district.
- To strengthen capacities of communities and community based organisation in promoting education in Nebbi and Zombo district.
- To create awareness on children rights.
- Strengthen the capacity of the forum and its secretariat.

METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION

- Use of existing CSOs in pilot sub counties.
- Information gathering.
- Routine monitoring of schools
- Meeting conducted from parish, sub county and district.

Our Work

Nebbi district NGO forum undertakings in 2012

Table 1: ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

Objective	Activities	Target /out put
To enhance public resource monitoring and tracking in the 25 primary schools in nebbi and zombo district	Routine school visit by the education resource monitors and the secretariat in the 25 ERM school	25 primary schools in 5 pilot sub county off atyak, kango, nyapea, panyimur and erussi
	Conduct global campaign on education(ERM)	District stakeholders, parent, pupils and civil society organisations

	Held ERM refresher/review meeting the resource monitors	All the 20 resource monitors
	Participated in major events	Women day Independence day Anti corruption day Action aid @30
	Held parish meetig to genrate issues affectinf education in the pilot sub counties	5 parish meeting each from the pilot sub counties
	Conducted sub county advocacy meetings to influence increased allocatio o resourcve in schools	5 advocacy meeting each per sub county
	Held education forum to provide feed back on the monitoring processes and mobilise support form district anfd other stakeholder to schools	1 eduvation forum was conducted.
To strengthen capacities of communities and community based organisation in promoting education in nebbi and zombo district	Conducted Oriention meeting for SMCs and PTAs of 25 primary scholls on their roles and responsibilities	5 orientation meetings one in each sub county
	Developing of a new monitoring tool	ERM Tools developed
	Continuous monitring of SMCs and PTAs	Trained SMCs and PTAs on thier roles and responsiblites
	Conducted board meetings	4 meeting
	Genral assembly	All members civil society organisation in nebbi and zombo
	Radio talk shows and radio spot to create awareness of communities on education in the two districts	Held 4 radio talk shows 30 radio spot
To create awareness on rights respecting school charter	Disseminate right respecting school roll out of the charter and citizems education charter	25 primary schools in neeb and zombo districts
	Production of posters on education	3000 copies of posters on education
Strengthening capacity of the forum and its member organisations	Support to the secretarioat	Salaries to the P.O, coordinator amd the accountant Rent,internet, and bank charges

	Conduct Audit on books of accountants	Books of accountants of the organisation
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MILESTONES RECORDED AS A RESULT OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

- **Infrastructure development**

Following the engagement of parents in the schools during AGM and PTA meetings for the construction of teachers quarter, parents of Aringu primary school have constructed four semi permanent houses for teachers .This resulted into a total of 10 teachers residing within the school with effect from term two 2012. In Alube primary school parents commitment enabled them complete two more grass thatched houses for the teachers. These plus the other two constructed earlier has housed four teachers within the school compound. In Luga Erussi sub county parents constructed 3 temporary houses for the teachers to accommodate the newly posted three female teachers. While in Adeyra P/S parents constructed a two temporary classrooms which has helped decongest the classes.

Following the continued engagement of the sub county leadership Panyimur in the community and sub county level dialogue meetings and constant follow-up over the sorry status of the latrine in Boro p/s, the school closed the latrine and new five stances of latrine is under construction. This will help provide pupils an hygienic facility in the school and shall also stop them from looking for places of inconvenience in peoples homes.



Plate 1: From left to right staff houses being built by parents in Aringu and staff house in Nyakagei Ps

Following the sensitization of parents in Panyimur sub county about government programmes that are geared towards improving education, the community picked NUSAF 2 interest form and Nyakagei primary school has received a two unit teacher's house which is now under construction. Upon completion 2 more teachers will join the 4 to stay in the

teacher's quarter. This is hoped to improve on syllabus coverage in school and hence improved performance.

The global campaign for education that was held in Avodu primary school brought the school to light to the district leadership with its enormous problems like lack of water, latrines, classrooms, access and staff houses, the district has included it in their plan to receive a five stanches VIP latrine in the financial year 2012/2013. The school has also been marked as a hard to reach therefore it is entitled to benefits of the hard allowances that is instrumental in attracting and retaining teachers.

Boro primary school children have a smile on their face as the five stanch latrines has been commissioned and in full use. *"Pupils no longer go home for calls of nature and this has improved on lesson attendance in the school"* remarked the head teacher Mr. Opio Ruba Moses. This was as a result of continued engagement of the sub county leadership of Panyimur in the community and sub county level dialogue meetings and constant follow-up over the sorry status of the latrine in Boro p/s, the school closed the latrine and the sub county had to budget for



2: *The two unit staff house in Nyakagei P/S*

Schools that have benefited from NUSAF 2 project like Nyakagei that received a two unit staff house is in near completion phase. This according to the chairman SMC Mr. Kumakech Collins will house 2 additional teachers within the school and increase the number to 8 from 6.

Due to increased advocacy through the community and sub county level meetings, a number of schools have received desk that have relieve the pupils over the scramble for seats in schools. Schools like Luga, Nyipir and Pacaka in Erussi and Ndhew sub counties. This has brought in relief to pupils and the teachers whose classrooms has been organised for effective teaching.

The monitoring report shared with the sub county leaders of Erussi showed appalling status of sanitation in schools that faced closure, Italia p/s with only girls latrine and that of boys getting filled up, In Owilo p/s the one constructed by parents is also in a sorry state. Due to the engagements with the leaders, Italia and Owilo will each receive 2 stanches VIP latrines in the financial year 2012/2013 likewise Pasai primary school in Kango sub county received a 5 VIP latrine constructed by Zombo district in the financial year 2011/12 awaiting commissioning.

Erussi Sub County as pilot has earmark money for the constructing girl's sanitary facility (girls wash room) that it intends to use to compare with other schools that don't have in terms of retention and performance of the girl child. This is a great achievement in as far as our advocacy for respecting children's health right is concerned

- **SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

A number of ERM schools registered first grades while most schools got second grades. This is due to performance tracking by the monitors on pupils and teachers attendance. Panyimur Sub County registered 2 first grades which was not the case since 2005 Nyapea Sub County got 3 from 1 in 2010 Erussi got 2 from 1 in 2010 and many ERM schools got second grades. There was an increase in number of PLE candidates for example number of candidates in Panyimur to 169 from all the five P7 schools from 146 in 2010. This increment is attributed to continuous sensitisation that has been done by NGO forum and the community monitors in the respective ERM sub counties through school meetings, Radio talk shows and the sub county dialogue meetings.

With the introduction of the new school monitoring tool that emphasise on teaching, a number of schools have introduced remedial teaching, continuous assessment and daily exercise for upper classes that we believe if maintained will further improve on children's performance at the end of primary education seeing many children in first grade.

Following the selection of 25 schools for ERM programme by the secretariat and monitors intensive monitoring has been done in all the schools and specific focus has been put on performance where interest has been put on actual teaching, continuous assessment, assignments, remedial other than teacher's presence in schools. It has been noted that teachers actually attend schools almost daily but are not in class as a result learners don't cover their syllabus to the expectation. The new monitoring tool designed currently covers the number of lessons planned, assignments, and continuous assessments planned by each teacher per class per subject. This has an ultimate objective of improving on performance in PLE.

The new school monitoring tool that emphasise teachers, parents and pupils commitment to education it has worked well as all ERM schools have introduced remedial teaching,

continuous assessment and daily exercise for upper classes that we believe to maintain through constant school visits by the community monitors will improve on children's performance at the end of primary education seeing many children in first grade. It has been noted that P6 and 7 pupils spend more time studying than before this is a good impression on performance.

- **Community participation in school activities**

Increased community participation has increased and ownership of schools seen taking shape. A number of schools in our target sub counties have been supported by parents in construction of latrines, teachers' houses and classrooms. Although the structures are temporary. Some schools have contributed financially in form of development funds, school gardens are being seen like in Pasai p/s where P7 candidates eat lunch from school and parents have laid and burnt bricks for the construction of teachers' houses to increase on the number of teachers residing within the school to enhance syllabus coverage.

In Erussi Sub County, parents of Erussi primary school raised 1,000,000 to help roof the three classroom block. Following this commitment, Nebbi district local government as well supplied the school with iron sheet and the sub county initially pledged 900,000/= to the same project. This pledge has now been integrated in the Sub County plan and budget for the financial year 2012/2013 for major repair.

Positive attempts have been made by parents to provide food for children in school this will eliminate hunger and ensure smooth learning in the schools. In Erussi primary school, parents have contributed maize which the school grinded and provide porridge for the pupils during break time this has ensured improved pupils attendance of lessons.



Plate 3: Beans plantation in Pasai P/S

Unlike in the past were parents attendance to school activities was minimal, monitoring report shows that all the 25 schools have called in parents to discuss their children's performance in schools. With the introduction of remedial teaching parental support in provision of scholastic materials have improved, 80% of pupils in upper classes (P5-7) have school uniforms books pens and contribution to remedial teaching has improved.

Community ownership of schools is slowly taking shape this is evident in communities picking NUSAF 2 forms and asking for sub counties to support schools establish school gardens using NAADS funds which is intended to provide basic food for children in schools.

In Pasai primary school parent's ownership is seen in the cooperation they have in laying brick that they intend to construct two staff quarters for teachers and they have completed a four stanch latrine that is being used by the boys in the school.

In Erussi sub county parents of Erussi primary school raised 1,000,000 to help roof the three classroom block. Following this commitment the district as well supplied them with iron sheet and the sub county pledge 900,000 to the same project. This will help increase on the number of classrooms and decongest the classes in the school.

- **Bye-laws on Education**

Ndhew Sub county formally part of Erussi Sub County has proved that it is possible to have a bylaw on education. The council has passed the second draft of the bi-law. Erussi Sub County itself has budgeted for the same in the financial year 2012/2013. If all are accomplished it will be compulsory for every parent to send their children and support them in school. Already Erussi sub county with the support of LC I chairpersons conducting arrest of children loitering in the trading centre during school hours who are then counselled and sent back to school. A follow up meeting made with sub county leaders has resulted in drawing an action point with a timeline of December to have the document passed for implementation. Come first term 2013 all school going age children in the sub county will be compelled to enrol in schools and parents fully supporting their children.

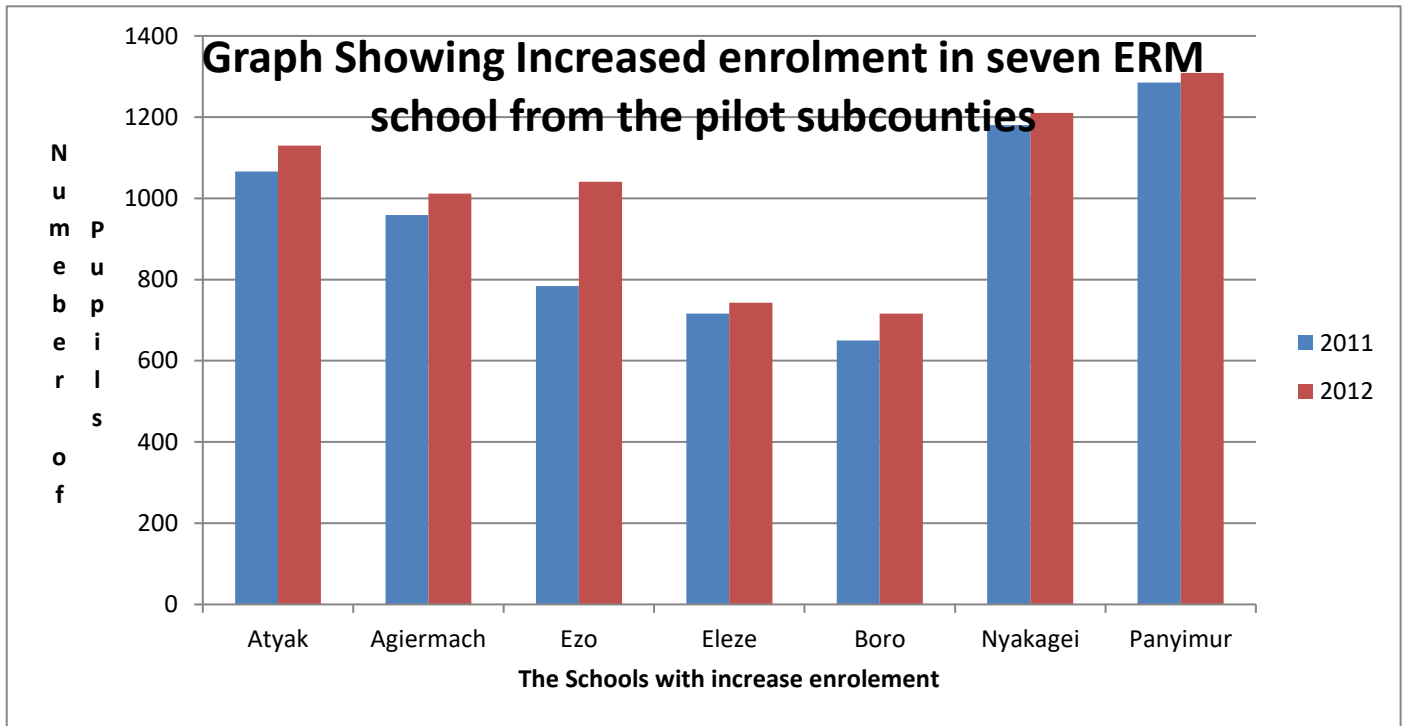
CASE STUDY

Head teacher-Italia:- Acan Lucy "a good school needs the presence and cooperation of the teachers, parents and the pupils. Italia's good result is applauded to pupils discipline; Gifts to the best pupils and girls, and teacher motivation out of UPE grant'

- **SCHOOL ENROLMENT.**

Following continued sensitisation of parents through dialogue meetings at parish, Sub County and the district level enrolment has tremendously increased in ERM schools. This is because of the continuous sensitisation being undertaken by other stakeholders due to the intensive advocacy undertaken by NGO Forum.

Figure 1: Increased enrolment in seven ERM school



Much as this enrolment increase especially at the beginning of the year dropout is still a factor that NGO forum together with other stakeholders are fighting to curb, an example these two primary schools of Italia and Avubu in Erussi indicates that much as more pupils enrol in P1 completion rate is still very low hence focus needs to increased on retention.

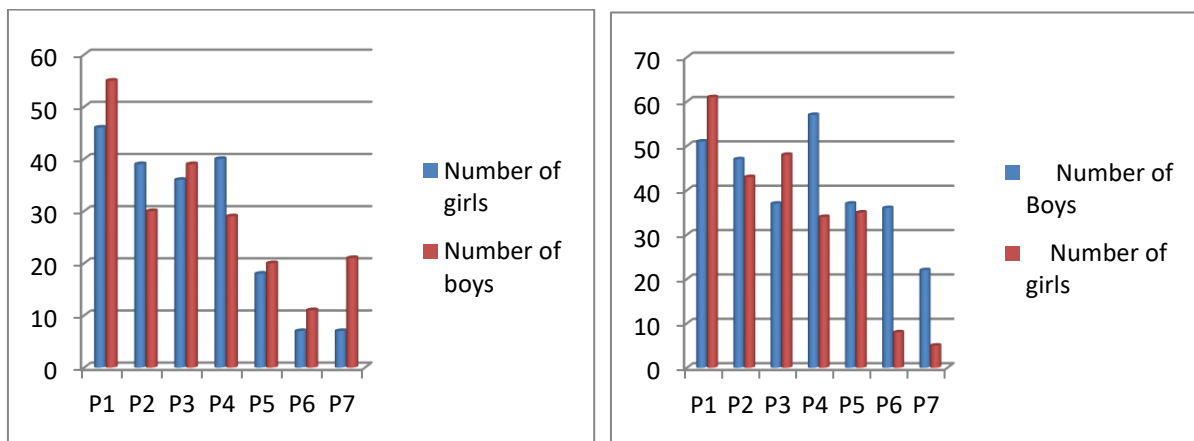


Figure 2: Left to right is enrolment in Italia and Avubu primary schools in Erussi sub county for 2012

SCHOOL FARM

All ERM schools have promised to start up school farms to incite parents to support school feeding programme in their schools. This has come as a result of continued reminder by community monitors of the importance of provision of meals to learners during school hours in school parents meeting. In Ukemu pupils planted maize and beans while Angar pupils planted sweet Cassava, sweet potatoes beans and peas that will be used for picnic and children consumption.



Plate 4: Left Pupils with their teachers in their garden in Ukemu P/S and right are the cassava and potatoes fields in Angar P/S

The trial that pupils made in establishing school gardens in Ukemu produced results and the harvest was two basins of beans which the pupils ate for one day and planted again for this season. It is a show that it can work if all the stakeholders complement the efforts of each other to provide food to children through school gardens. In Angar primary school their potato plantation is set to be harvested and utilised by pupils in November. It is at this critical time of examination that the pupils will be encouraged through the midday meals to have more time concentrating in class and hoped to improve their performance.

STAFFING

The two districts of Nebbi recruited 119 teachers awaiting posting and Zombo recruited 92 and as well awaiting posting, this is hoped that will reduce the staffing gap in ERM schools as they have been earmarked for staff increment by the DEOs during SMC and PTA trainings organised by NGO Forum and facilitated by the respective DEOs in the pilot sub counties

CASE STORY

“Goats in this community eat all the trees we plant in this school especially during holidays because the owners don’t tie them, I have decided to plant these trees so that if they grow will be our school fence that will protect everything in the school compound from these goats and cattle, even people coming to the school will have to use the gate. I also know that when it becomes fence in future people will remember me for planting it.”

Thank you NGO Forum for bringing the district leaders here i wish even the chairman and CAO also got stuck in this mud we the people of Avodu have been crying that we need a road to the school but nobody bothers about our plight. LC I chairman.



Plate 5: *Left to right Mr. Nyolonga James, Mr Angala Patrick making their speech during GCE while at the extreme left are the pupils from the various schools who attended the GCE.*

*“It is good that even the DEO is here. In 2008 the district sent some people to drill a borehole here in the school they came and drilled air but they were paid and yet our children still suffer from lack of water, the nearest safe drilling water is in Paila, 6 km away from here”. said the Chairman SMC Avodu primary school **Mr. Nyolonga James.***

CHALLENGES

- Some commitments made by the district and sub county leaders in 2011 have not been fulfilled and during follow-up leaders look at NGO forum staff as following them personally other than the commitment made previously.
- The creation of Zombo district has stressed the budget of NGO forum in organizing district dialogue meeting that would have helped to get leaders commitments to education issues.
- Community apathy still remains a big challenge as they still think in the hardware component and yet NGO forum works on advocacy which is software.
- Problem of power blackout due to break down of the main generate , the forum had to adopt to the use of an office generate which was quite challenging because of the fuel prices

LESSON LEARNT

1. The change in our approach in the monitoring tool has been received and supported by schools vividly unlike in the past were head teachers look at our monitors as people looking for only accountability of UPE funds.
2. Community takes a long time to understand that actually we are working for their own benefits that is why they have realized that supporting their children very well in school.

3. Child empowerment and participation is instrumental in improving education standards in the schools and homes, they will demand from their teachers and parents to provide what they require for their education

School management committees who are the owners and managers of the schools had left school management in the hands of the head teachers and were not closely supervising them in their work. This resulted into reluctance on teacher's supervision by the head teachers and hence poor performance. From the PTA and SMC training conducted in all the pilot sub counties the SMC and PTA have taken their roles fully and are in control of the schools.

4. Policy changes takes time and requires sustained effort from all stakeholders for policy to have impact on the local community.
5. Community participation, involvement and empowerment are vital for the creation of a critical mass of reformers in promotion of quality education.
6. Strategic linkages and networking with other stakeholders and media is critical for the promotion and advocating for quality education in the district.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is need to rethink the approach and empower learners so that they are able to demand for services from the core duty bearer in their situation in schools and homes.
- Continued follow up and making appropriate communication to the stakeholders will deliver the promise they have made thus need for adjustment and continued follow up of the commitments made
- There is need to increase the budget or scale down the number of meetings to be conducted by NGO forum to accommodate two district dialogue meetings to cover the two districts
- The forum should produce brochures that detail all its activities and interventions to enable stakeholders understand its mandate and functions.

CONCLUSION

The scaling down of the number of ERM schools has made it very effective in covering all the aspect in the schools. Monitoring has increased focus to what actually happen in class between learners and teachers

ROAD MAP FOR SPAN (Support Programme for Advocacy Network) PROGRAMME

About SPAN

Support programme for advocacy network aims at strengthening the capacity of CSOs at sub national with the aim of developing an eco-system of civil society actors whom are able to link, learn and work together in the bid to hold their leaders accountable, it has four inter linked components namely: 1) District level CSOs leadership capacity enhancement. 2) Developing local advocacy hubs. 3) Learning ,networking and accountability for results and developing evidence networks to produce advocacy contents. The activities under each of the components have been categorized and are delivered through the district networks, regional advocacy networks and the Span secretariat.

SPAN Objectives.

- To build a sub national citizen- led advocacy eco system for greater transparency, accountability and quality service delivery in Uganda.

SPAN Structure.

SPAN operational structure was anchored on the 3 basis organs of;

1. District Networks(DNs)
2. Regional Advocacy networks(RANs)
3. SPAN secretariat wich is the administrative and coordinating Unit at the national NGO Forum.

About Nebbi District NGO Forum(NDNGOF)

The Forum is one of the 25 District Networks (DNs) that has successfully taken in the implementation of the National District Network SUPPORT Programme.(SPAN)

The phase out of NDNSP programme in 2010 led to the conception of the SPAN Programme

In September 2011, all the Participating DN's signed the contracts for the implementation of the programme. It clearly elaborated that the participating organization should commence the implementation.

In September 2006, NGOs working In Uganda launched a self-regulating instrument, The NGO quality assurance mechanism. This was designed to promote adherence by civil society organizations to generally acceptable ethical standards and operational norms. It also sets principles and standards of behavior for responsible practice, to protect the credibility and integrity of certified NGOs and their networks in Uganda.

Therefore, this report presents that status of the implementation of the programme, It clearly spells out the key achievements, challenges and lessons leant recorded during the period.

Table 2: Activities implemented during the period

Planned Activities	Output
QUaM Assessment exercise	5 NGOs picked assesment forms and assesed by the district Quam Committee, the forms have been submitted to DENIVA (Quam Secretariat)
CSO fair, Uganda @50	4 representatives from Nebbi and Zombo participated in the fair.
Conducted Board Meeting	4 Board Meetings held for directors.
Household sampling and volunteers selection for NDP Assesment	30 Sub-counties both in Nebbi and Zombo sampled.
Training of DCP and RAs on NDP Assesment	1 DCP abd 2 RAs trained on NDP Assesment.
Training of SCOs on the NDP Assessment (Data Collection) in Nebbi and Zombo Districts.	40 CSOs both in Zombo and Nebbi trained in Data Collection.
NDP Assessment exercise	400 households assessed.
Payment of volunteers (CSOs) for NDP Assessment	40 Volunteers paid their allowances for the NDP Assessment exercise.
Conducted Annual General Meeting (AGM)	80 member organisations attended the AGM.
CSOs Coordination Meeting.	30 CSOs shared achievements and challenges encountered in their work.

NDNGOF- LANDMARK TO DATE**LEADRESHIP ENHANCEMENT,**

Under the SPAN programme, Nebbi District NGO Forum with four other Member Organizations were able to embrace QUAMing and now awaits approval from the NGO board and has countinues to encourage and popularise QUAMing to other member organizations, board meetings have also been regularly conducted to show directions to the organization, and during the year the annual general meeting is conducted, a new female boaed member was elected to replace the out going treasurer. These initiative have helped the forum to significantly enhanced organizational legitmacy.

IMPROVED NETWORKIG BETWEEN DISTRICT NETWORKS;

Through the hubs established under the Span Project, there has been improved linkages and networkings between district networks, information sharing has been enhanced from national to regional, district to meber organizations especially sharing of the case studies arising from advocacy,proposals; this has increased resources in the organizaion,where the

organization over the period of 6 months ,recieved 187M Shillings in the projects that enabled the organization to implement programmes.

JOINT ADVOCAY ENHANCED

During the implementation of the SPAN programme,Nebbi District NGO forum was one of the 51 Districts that under took the joint advocacy on the assessment of the National Development Plan(NDP),which covered 15 Sub counties. This joint advocacy link on the national level work through the hubs was a milestone for networks and nebbi district NGO forum. We, therefore, believe this will form a basis for engagement on issues identified across the region.

SUPPORT FROM VOLOUNTEERS(STUDENTS)

During te period ,the forum recieved a Volunteer fro Makerere University, The Volunteer came in at time when Nebbi District NGO forum was facing shortage of staffs to implement the different undertakings, working with the student helped reduce on the work load interms of documentation(report writing) and field work, this propelled the board to recommend support from students.

MENTORSHIP

As a result of SPAN programme, Nebbi District NGO Forum was blessed with a mentor who served both as a guide and reflector especialyy during the assesment of the National Development Plan(NDP) not only for the secretariat but also the member organizations. This initiative helped to build the capacity of the secretariat in facilitation and interactions, all these added value to the organization and its mermbers.

COORDINATION;

Working relationshi[p with Local Government is quiet cordial. With SPAN programme, Policy dialogues and coordination meetings were held. The main endavours were to explore avenues for partnership between CSOs and Nebbi District Local Government for increased effectivevness of development efforts to the utmost benefits of the poor. As a result of improved relationship,NDNGOF and other CSOs are highly recorganized by the local Government. As such the forum is a member of the District OVC Committee,the District Disaster Management Committee, District HIV/AIDS Committee and District Water and Sanitation Committee. Overall the NDNGOF credibility has improved Drastically.

CHALLENGES

- Unreliable Power Supply(Disconnection) delayed the production of reports. The Forum resorted into using a petrol generator to run the office which is very expensive due to increased fuel price.
- Adjustment of the agreed Work plan and budgets for the centre impacted on the implementation of activities.

- Communication gap between the SPAN secretariat with the District net works, especially about the assesment conducted.

LESSON LEARNT

Proper documentation and sharing field findings with the stakeholderds creates awareness on the existing problems affecting the programme implementation.

SNAP CLIPS



Plate 6: *Members of the NGOs attending the QuAM orientation meeting in Nebbi.*

ABOUT THE PROJECT ACTION FOR CHILDREN’S RIGHT IN EDUCATION.

Action for Children’s Rights in Education is one year project being implemented by Nebbi District NGO forum in 20 schools across the two districts of Nebbi and Zombo. This project aims at Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS) framework which is a uniting framework articulating a common understanding of quality education worldwide. This rights-based approach aims to secure free, compulsory, quality public education for all and focuses on strengthening the public education system. It seeks to empower citizens to hold the core duty bearer, the State, responsible for respecting, protecting and fulfilling education rights and to explore what role each stakeholder can play in ensuring that schools offer good quality education.

GOAL OF THE PROJECT.

To ensure that girls gain access to free, quality public education

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT.

The project will apply the PRS framework to work with children, teachers, parents, community leaders, local education groups and teachers’ unions to:

1. Increase awareness of rights to and in education by collecting data using the PRS framework with multi-stakeholder groups of children, parents, teachers, community leaders, local education groups, researchers, and teachers' unions
2. Promote safe and non-violent schools by advocating for adequate and appropriate learning environments including implementation of a Teachers' Code of Conduct and policy provisions
3. Increase transparency and accountability of school management processes by enhancing community and children's participation in decision-making and monitoring education resources
4. Increase the confidence levels, learning abilities and outcomes of girls in Nebbi and Zombo districts.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents progress of action for children's right to education project implementation in 20 schools in Nebbi and Zombo for the period from April to August 2012. The projects since its inception on the 8th of February has registered progress are recorded here in.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

Over the period series of activities have been implemented that has enabled the project meet its objectives and made known to the stakeholders and the beneficiaries in the district.

- ✓ 20 schools identified for the project to be implemented in drawing 10 from Nebbi and Zombo each
- ✓ An inception meeting was conducted to introduce the programme to the beneficiaries and the district stakeholders of Nebbi and Zombo. All the schools selected were represented in the meeting and welcomed the initiative.
- ✓ Data collection training for SMCs and one community per school which attracted 40 participants was conducted
- ✓ Conducted data validation meeting with the consultant and the data collectors
- ✓ Held education advocacy meeting
- ✓ Trained teachers on teacher's code of conduct, alternative to corporal punishment and violence against children.
- ✓ Trained senior women teachers on the use and how to make sanitary materials using local materials.
- ✓ Procured sanitary materials and local materials for making sanitary pads for the target schools.
- ✓ Validated the baseline report with a cross section of stakeholders.
- ✓ Held a refresher meeting with the REFLECT facilitators on REFLECT methodology in identifying community problem and priority on identifying projects for school feeding initiative.

ACHIEVEMENTS RECORDED.

With the support from the data collectors and the consultant the baseline data collected has been analysed and validated for the district on the promotion of rights in schools. The report provides up to date information on the situation on ground which will provide the basis upon which advocacy interventions will be conducted from the community to district level.

Following the education advocacy meeting conducted attended by the district leadership (CAO, Speaker, DIO, DEO District planner, DCDO) and CSO (CEFORD, CARITAS, UNATU, AFARD, APEF, Rainbow radio, New Vision) challenged themselves on education matters. A number of actions were agreed upon that included inclusion of Avodu primary school in the development plan to receive a five stanch VIP latrine in the financial year 2012/13, commitment from the district leadership to redistributing female teachers to rural schools and Atego Sub County has included a girl's washroom in Paminya primary school in the budget for the financial year 2012/2013

Trained 15 deputy head teachers from ACRE schools and 14 teachers from Nebbi town council schools were supported with the help of UNATU and received the same training. The training has increased teachers awareness and knowledge about their code conduct sharing by the trained teacher to their counterparts in the different schools. This has been made possible by the further extension of knowledges by the teachers. It is also manifested in Increased knowledge and administering positive discipline in the schools. In Uru primary school teachers subject pupils to writing apology letters and the story of that led to breaking school rules and regulations as a form of punishment.

The training with senior women teachers on the use of and how to make sanitary materials using local materials, all the 20 ACRE schools have established separate rooms that serve as counselling rooms and offices for the senior women teachers. In these offices sanitary materials are put in them and girls find it easy to access and use. What is interesting is that the girls and their teachers (senior women teachers) have been brought closure than before. The senior women teachers have been empowered to demand for increased budget allocation to the girl child in the schools. There is active participation of the girl child in school affairs and in most cases they have become of help to the Senior Women Teachers in bringing on board shy colleagues to the senior women teachers for counselling. Absenteeism during menstrual periods has reduced to over 80%.



Plate 7: *Offices of the senior women teachers in Paley Yugu and Adhwongo form left to right with the senior women teachers inside.*

10 of the 20 schools have established and operationalized girls wash rooms in their schools, (Paley Yugu, Mitapila, Pumvuga, Adhwongo, Nyandima, Uru, Got Cam, Ramogi Didi, Pubidhi and Ozorise)



Plate 8: *Left is the girls wash room adjacent to their latrine in Adhwongo and right is the wash room in Paley Yugu with the senior woman teacher Ms*

16 of the 20 schools have already established and running school clubs, in Adhwongo for example the pupils have planned to sensitise the community on the importance of girl child education through a drama show. In Pumvuga PS children have had engagement with the community of children's rights and challenged parents of the duty they are to play in regards to children's rights to education.

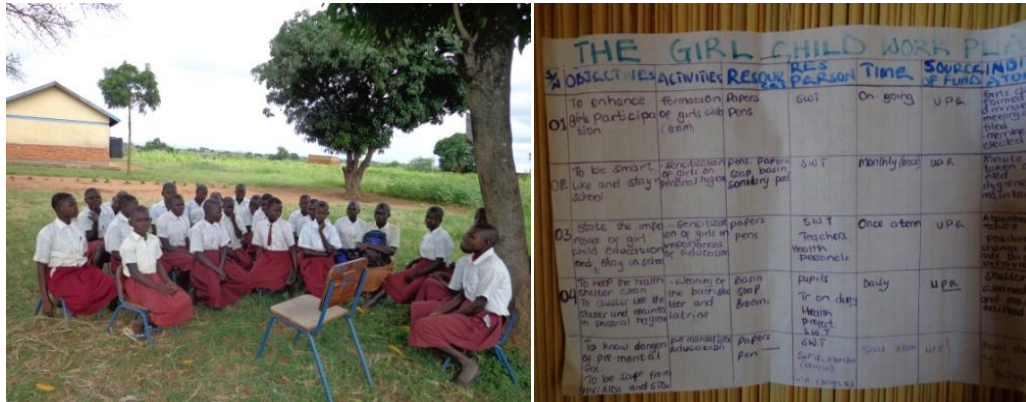


Plate 9: The club members and their work plan in Adhwongo primary school.

School club in Pumvuga PS has taken it upon itself to sensitise fellow children on the dangers of violence and this has greatly reduced incidences of children fighting and bullying each other and hence absenteeism has reduced tremendously in the schools.

CHALLENGES.

Slow fulfilment on commitments by district leaders.

Heavy workload for the senior women teachers as in most of the school there is one female teacher per school.

Inadequate resources at school level for continuity to provide the sanitary materials

RECOMMENDATIONS

Community sensitisation needs to be scaled up to make communities know that it is their roles to provide support to their children to attain basic education.

LESSON LEARNT

Children participation is vital in the promotion of quality and effective learning in schools. The establishment of school clubs has made it possible for teachers to identify absentee children as they are reported to their teachers by the fellow children.

ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

In the reporting period, the following were achieved:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT:

Our Workforce Stood at 5 Staff and 1 Volunteer.

ASSET AQUISITION:

We were able to procure two computers; 1 Printer and 1 Laptop.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

In the year, we:

We were awarded a 3 Year NGO Quality Assurance Mechanisms (QuAM) Certificate.

We retained membership and improved participation in the District and National Networks such as; Uganda National NGO Forum, Uganda Health Consumer Organization.

Participated in the National CSOs Fair Organized by National NGO Forum.

From the various activities carried out, team work was exhibited. Internal implementation of planned activities were on track. Communication and coordinations with different stakeholders were observed.

A LOOK INTO 2013

In order to address the above challenges faced in 2012, NDNGO Forum will in 2013 focus on:

- *Leadership Enhancement; focus more on popularizing Quaming to member organizations in Nebbi and Zombo Districts.*
- *Improved Networking between district Networks and national and regional networks; Ensure information sharing, linkages and networkings .*
- *Joint Advocacy Enhanced; The District NGO Forum will ensure joint Advocacy link at all levels; local base, regional and National.*
- *Promoting Community Education on Bi laws regarding Education especially on Childrens rights to Education in Schools in Nebbi and Zombo Districts.*
- *Continue enhancing Public Resource Monitoring and tracking in the 25 Schools in the Districts of Zombo and Nebbi.*
- *Strengthened capacities of Communities and Community based organizations and NGOs in promoting Quality Education in Nebbi and Zombo Districts.*
- *Strengthening NGO Forums Sustainability building.*
- *Citizenship building for effective engagement in local governance.*
- *Promoting Rights in Schools among the Fishing communities a long the Nile Waters in Nebbi district.*