



CONCEPT NOTE

for

SPEED PROJECT

(Supporting Community's Participation to Demand for Effective Service Delivery)

Submitted to

Governance Accountability, Participation, Performance (GAPP)
Program

by

African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET)

Project Location: Alebtong District

Estimated total project budget requested (Ugandan Shillings); 150,000,000/=

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Signature

b. Technical Instructions (maximum 4 pages)

1. Situational analysis: a brief background on the specific development challenge/ opportunity and needs to be addressed by the proposal (include description of the target population in terms of gender and vulnerability status);

The greater northern Uganda, largely, suffered physical distraction and damage in both life and properties, resulting from the war; between governments and the Lord's Resistance Army rebellion and from the Karimojong cattle rustlers. Worst of all is the over 20 years LRA war, which impacts continue to reverberate among the resident citizens in over 30 districts of northern Uganda. With an estimated population of: 7,230,661 people (source 2014 population census results¹). In the recent past, tranquillity returned to the sub region, as a result of contribution of auxiliary forces (Amuka Militias and Arrow boys) fought alongside the UPDF and flushed out LRA from Northern Uganda. In the same way, the disarmament program implemented in Karamoja sub region.

As the over 20 years of LRA war displaced over three (3) million people with close to two million and eight hundred (2,800,000) living in IDP camps, it's important to realize that under such circumstances the people's basic human rights were grossly violated. Like in any war, the vulnerable groups often especially women, children, the youth and persons with disabilities and the elderly are often more affected. The majority of children missed out formal education, lost their guardian and bread earners, communities suffered disrupted social infra-structures, drug abuse especially the alcohol consumption increased due to trauma, domestic violence (SGBV) coupled with family break-down, early and forced marriage especially girl child, increased in HIV/AIDS prevalence among the IDPs, school dropout, erosion of cultural values and norms. Displaced families lost their land boundaries and there is current heaviest land wrangle. The greater north remains the poorest compared to the rest of the country, population feel marginalised by the central government leading to anger and bitterness from citizens, as evidenced by the recent calls by the legislature for the north to secede (break-away) from Uganda. The continued corruption by the state authorities and politicisation of development and recovery worries the population and this has led to resentment and population currently questions the state legitimacy.

Active war between the LAR and GoU ended in 2007, and the population from the northern, especially the IDPs from Lango voluntarily returned to resettle in their land and started rebuilding their lives and livelihood. The government of Uganda as well came up with recovery programmes such as NUSAF (I, II), PRDP (I, II, III) and NAADs, Operation Wealth Creation, Youth Livelihood Programs, and many other generous aid from development partners such as USAID, United Nations, DFID, DANIDA among others. All these were programs aimed at enhancing recovery of the population and to a greater extent it has been successful. However, challenges still remains especially on community ownership and participation in programs, which is pivotal in strengthening mechanisms of accountability. In every development, active citizen participation in decision-making and service delivery is a constitutional right. It is of paramount importance that local communities are sensitized about the existing development framework and other instruments, constituting such rights as a take-off point. It's important to create an enabling envired for dialogue between citizens and their leaders, in order to strengthen the sustainable development programs.

It is against this backdrop that AYINET, came with the *Supporting Community's Participation to Demand for Effective Service Delivery (SPEED Project)* in the district of Alebtong (Abia, Apala, Akura, Aloi, Abako, Awei, Omoro, Town Council and Amugu sub counties). The SPEED Project will have a specific focus on enhancing awareness of the existing development programs at the lower local government levels and seek to help facilitate the active participation of citizens (women, young, persons with disabilities and the elderly).

The SPEED Project, targets to reach an estimated number of 120,000 (directly and indirectly). We hope to empower citizens and strengthen local initiatives and other agents to effectively draw on local residents, resources, abilities, and insights to solve their problems in the project scope. We believe; assets such as time, energy, skill and vision are held in the communities and as they grow in strength, so will be the social fabric of the community to demand for the highest standards of services delivered to them by the state.

2. Statement of the goals and objectives and how objectives relate to specific challenges/ opportunities in the district and GAPP objectives.

The ultimate goal for SPEED Project is: To enhancing a participatory grass-roots approach to sustainable development.

The overall objective of SPEED Project is: empower society to carry out effective citizens-driven campaigns and to transform them from reactors to actors.

Both the ultimate goal and overall objective is geared towards building an open-society where people will demand for their constitutional rights; to remind citizens that power does not *belong* to those in power, but to the people; inspire communities to demand better services; to demand feedback/accountability; support locally inspired and locally developed practices and give it regional and national visibility for the purpose of replication.

1 **Source:** Uganda Bureau of Statistics (Web).

By achieving the above mentioned, AYINET's SPEED Project will have addressed the local governance challenges, especially the leadership will be informed by the drive and the need of local community. Through this, AYINET will amplify the voices of local citizens to hold their leaders accountable, foster local enterprise and achieve broadly shared prosperity and cultivate resources for democracy and development. SPEED Project will operate from the conviction of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) where citizens must set agenda for development and take lead in implementing it. In every sub-county, AYINET will establish **Sustainable Community Platform (SCP)** to act as positive pressure group. Through this, it will help AYINET realise the overall GAPP goal of; Improved capacity of citizens and communities to participate in local governance.

3. How achieving the objectives of the proposed activities will support accomplishment of GAPP program objectives and results;

Through the above objectives, we are able to: create awareness on existing local governance, means of channelling matters, to help the community realise their rights to basic services at local levels, to create gender equity amongst women and men, as well as generational needs and priorities. Practical activities would involve; mobilising and sensitising communities, establishing sustainable community platforms, as well as identification of opportunities to support local initiatives, capacity trainings, meetings and community dialogues. The task for AYINET_SPEED Project initiative is to address the lack of broad-based active citizen participation in decision-making, at the lower local government. This can be done, for example, by encouraging local leaders to see the benefits of active citizens' participation. This initiative will surely support accomplishment of GAPP program objectives and results.

4. Method(s) of approach, highlighting any innovations to be employed (include how the applicant will target women, youth or any other vulnerability focus);

SPEED Project will adopt the human rights based approach to development, and align it with the newly adopted Global Agenda for development (Sustainable Development Goals). The project seeks to engage the participation of influential stakeholders at the grass roots levels through open-dialogues that will seek to build mutual collaboration and articulate on roles and responsibilities of both duty bearers and rights holders.

From the design, special priorities will be given to women, children, elderly, youth, OVCs and persons with disability, where their interest and priorities will be reflected at all decision making levels. In addition, an advocacy platform will be established at a sub-county levels; **Sustainable Community Platform (SCP)**. This is the AYINET's innovative initiative to help the community to look into the future with positivity, by raising the young generating and instilling in them the fundamental values for development such as spirit of tolerance, shared leadership, respect, transparency and raising the young generation with anti-corruption attitude. This investment in young generation is a specially designed campaign towards breaking the circle of bad governance.

5. Anticipated results and indicative measures to monitor and evaluate results;

Below is a summary table showing the SPEED Project problems, expected inputs, outcomes, impact and the end goal plus indicators to monitor and evaluate results.

Theme	Inputs	Outputs	Indicators	Outcomes	Impact
Ultimate goal for SPEED Project is: To enhancing a participatory grass-roots approach to sustainable development.	Funding Personnel	Advocacy Dialogues Partnership SCP Sensitization	50 % increase of community participation	Increased participation at the grass root level	Enhanced sustainable development
Overall objective of SPEED Project is: empower society to carry out effective citizens-driven campaigns and to transform them from reactors to actors	Project officer Advocacy officer Sub-county focal point persons, AYINET support staffs	Radio shows IEC materials Focus group discussion Stakeholder meeting	Number of leaders coming back to feedback Number of SCP formed Number of advocacy activities	Increased awareness of local governance Increased participation of stakeholders	An empowered society that can carry out campaign to transformation from reactors to actors

6. Role and niche of proposed partners (NGOs and/or alliances with private sector Associations)

AYINET works with a sizeable number of partners including; Uganda victims Foundations, Northern Uganda Coalition for

Health Advocacy (NUCHA), Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER), Health Promotion and Social Development (HEPS), Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA), among others.

This project will complement our existing partnership with USAID SAFE, USAID GREAT, Trust Africa transitional Justice, the Medial and psychosocial rehabilitation supported by DGF, and International Criminal Justice supported by UNDP and UNOHCHR. Through this we shall mobilise partners locally and expertise available as well as knowledge to contribute in the planning process of the activities. Again, these are the relevant institutions that work closely with the private, government, religious, and traditional institutions involved, in democratic local governance accountability, quality and equity in as far as public service provision is concerned.

7. Brief statement as to why the proposed activities are technically and financially feasible;

The idea of rights-based, people-centred governance based on the rule of law and principled on democratic values of participation, equity, justice and fairness is very strategic in improving service delivery for the poor and achieving a fairer distribution of resources to finance public policies aimed at reducing poverty. Focusing on the local level; SPEED Project believes that; with the recently concluded national elections, new governments are coming in and it provides the opportunity to better strategize on service delivery. The reasons for services failing the poor range from the failure of officials to ensure the delivery of services, at times inadequate staffing with under qualifications and unaccountable politicians, who see no political advantage in promoting service delivery to the poor. We believe that women, men, youth and children living in poverty can only claim and protect their rights when they organise themselves and mobilise as a constituency. They need the tools, knowledge and capacities to advance their case. Hence the SPED project concept and eventual proposal is technically and financially feasible.

8. Experience of the applicants (and partners) in implementing similar activities in the proposed project area

AYINET has been in existence for the last eleven years, implementing more or less similar projects in Uganda as a national registered Human Rights NGO based in Lira district. It's registered with Lira NGO Forum, with a vision; "Communities with credible leadership that represents the culture of human rights." And a mission; "to mobilize and empower the youth and communities in promoting a healthy, peaceful and just society," details of AYINET work experience can be obtained on the website: www.africanyouthinitiative.org and attached is the registration certificate.

9. How the proposed activities will be sustained after the grant period

Civil society action has demonstrated that, considerable improvement can be achieved even without extra external resources by simply focusing on improving local accountability relationships and decentralized governance systems. Helping the communities to mobilize and organise in groups such as; Community Based Organisations (CBOs), a forum, a committee, a club, etc. including; building coalitions with likeminded organisations and agencies, will help to pool efforts for greater influence and effectiveness in the implementation of activities. Well, after the project life cycle has ended.