



Youth Alive Development Foundation

Organisational Profile of the

**YOUTH A LIVE DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION**

(Y A D F)

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- **Organisational Information**

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VISION

To empowering impoverished members of the communities to fight poverty, literacy, poor social Economic development and poor health,

Mission

"The Mission is to empowering the youth through integrated development projects with children education and development, primary Health care-HIV/AIDS, Vocational life skill training, water, sanitation, Advocacy and social economic development to uplift the standard of living for self reliance sustainable initiatives. Through the integrated community-based sustainable development programs.

Since political independence in 1962, Uganda has experienced significant political and economic instability that has created considerable human suffering. Many families have lost their patriarch or main source of revenue earning / labour. This has left behind countless widows and orphans with little or no financial support and no means to improve their situation. The advent of the HIV/AIDS epidemic has adversely affected households and the general economy of the country further leaving yet more widows and orphans. The lack of care for these vulnerable people, due to the disruption of social support systems, necessitated the birth of the **YOUTH A LIVE DEVELOPMENT** to design intervention strategies in order to provide this support mechanism through self-help and sustainable community-based development programmes.

The activities of this organisation were initiated as far back as 2008, although the organisation was formally registered under the Non-Governmental organizations registration statute (1989) as a Non-governmental organisation. Since its inception, **YADF** has mobilised

communities around the country into forming local groups, which could take ownership of community issues and address the needs of the people at a grassroots level. Once groups have been organised, **YADF'S** role has been to provide both professional advice and where possible to provide financial assistance on a range of project orientated work.

To date, **YADF** has established nearly 9 community based development Projects across 7 districts throughout Uganda.

At **YADF** we very much believe that greater community participation and improved ability to assess and analyze their situation, and take informed decisions and actions for a better environment, especially for women and children is central to the success of development work. By strengthening the capacity of community members to plan, manage and coordinate the mobilization, allocation and use of their own resources, we believe that our programs have real sustainability.

Partnerships for Change

The key advantage of **YADF'S** approach to community based development lies in the partnerships, which we have established with local communities through the formal established local authorities. The Initiative has mobilized communities to form Community Based Organizations, Associations and groups. These small groups come together to form a development care centre, which can support members of the community in a number of ways.

Each member contributes to the running of the centre and together with other members they decide what activities should be prioritized within the centre. Activities can vary from health workshops to educate

community members in HIV /AIDS issues, or the setting up of a small community school to cater for the needy and orphans especially who have no means to afford school fees, to micro-financing projects to provide income for the community. In this way, members act democratically to decide how best to develop their own communities. These community based development care centres are supported and managed by **YADF** and the beneficiaries run the day-to-day administration of the project.

We are now looking to support these already existing activities and structures by securing donor funding for the community development centre to implement or build on current projects.

YADF'S overall objective is to contribute to any efforts to improve the quality of life of Ugandan people throughout these districts. In so doing, YADF works with a host of other development agencies, international and local, as well as the government of Uganda to help the most impoverished and underprivileged members of society, especially low-income families, and other groups who are most susceptible to poverty such as women, widows, orphans, street and neglected children, widows and widowers with children and the disabled.

YADF has also established collaborative relationships with various organizations, which include the Wolicami Initiative, To love Children, Every Child ministry, Taso Jinja, Global Voice, Pioneer volunteers, Organization of Africa first Ladies against HIV / AIDS and Cottonwood,

YADF'S main aims and objectives are: >

- ❖ To develop and improve the social economic conditions of Youth in the communities To raise environmental awareness among the communities
- ❖ To improve on the nutritional and health standards of communities
- ❖ To improve the household incomes of the most impoverished homesteads
- ❖ Empowering children and young people to make positive conditions in their communities
- ❖
- ❖ Addressing Equality and diversity Issues
- ❖ To advocate moral and social responsibility within communities
- ❖ To support the orphans, abandoned and needy children in education
- ❖ To promote sustainability, cost-effectiveness and accountability of supported activities

YADF'S activities generally fall within the following program areas:

- ❖ Education, ICT, Child development and Social support projects
- ❖ Health projects (This includes HIV / AIDS projects)
- ❖ Economic Development & Micro enterprise development projects
- ❖ Safe water and Sanitation, Small Cottage Industry and Craft and Art

- **Programme Areas**

1. **Education, Child Development and Social Support**

As a result of poverty, previous civil strife, child abuse, domestic violence and the HIV/AIDS epidemic, family care in Uganda has been placed under severe strain. The results have been catastrophic, with falling standards in the care of and education of children and young

adults. Thousands of orphans and other vulnerable children are left with no means to attain a basic education, which in time will lead to further poverty and thus the cycle continues. UPE is credited with pushing primary enrolment figures up from 2.3 million in 1991 to 8.8 million in 2000, but it is not enough to combat all the obstacles to education.

The stress of poverty in both rural and urban areas often means that education is not a family's top priority. Children are forced to choose work over school, or money that once went to education is used to meet basic needs. In a study on child poverty in Uganda, Save the Children U.K. reports that one-third of children between the ages of 6 and 9 are not in school. Secondary education remains cost prohibitive for many families, and for those who can attend secondary school, only 8% are female. Meanwhile the Uganda AIDS Commission reports that Uganda, with more than 1.7 million children who have lost one or both parents, has one of the highest populations of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS in the World. This often leaves a child as the head of his or her own household, responsible for answering basic needs and caring for young siblings.

For all of these reasons, YOUTH ALIVE DEVELOPMENT is deepening its commitment to education. This is visible in components of many projects, but it is perhaps most manifest through YADF'S Child sponsorship and Social support programme.

The students in this programme receive educational support in the form of school fees, uniform and scholastic materials. In some cases they also receive un traditional support, such as food assistance for child-headed family. While majority of YADF'S sponsored children attend primary or secondary school, the programme is adopted to fit the needs of each individual. Youth who have missed a large part of their primary education often see more of a future in vocational

training, which allows them to begin earning an income and contributing to a family.

Sustainable community development helps improve children's quality of life hence providing training tools may be all it takes to help community break out of poverty and become self sufficient. That's why YADF partners with organised members of the community, faith-based organisations, community-based organisations, clubs and associations to support community-based projects in agriculture, vocational training and primary education, health care, sanitation and micro-enterprise development among poor and underprivileged members of society. Together, we extend the gift of hope to the street, orphaned and other vulnerable children.

The objective of this programme is to promote child development within a supportive family and community. Through this, it is hoped that universal education, improved health and HIV / AIDS education, increased child rights, and better childcare services can become realistic objectives for Uganda.

YADF has implemented the following programmes in this area:

- ❖ Advocated for children rights.
- ❖ Sponsored orphans and other vulnerable children in the main stream education, offered literacy classes, vocational training and basic skill classes for the youth.
- ❖ Re-united children with their families, where this has not been possible, linked them to foster homes and keep following up resettled children until they can manage on their own.
- ❖ Linked needy children and youth, foster families and the communities as whole to beneficial programs and services offered by other organisations.

- ❖ Offered counseling to children, youth and families to curb child abuse, neglect and abandonment, child rebellion, alcohol, drug abuse, domestic violence, rape, unwanted pregnancies, HIV/AIDS, and unemployment.
- ❖ Sensitised communities on vital issues like Water, sanitation, HIV/AIDS, nutrition, immunization and health care.
- ❖ Liaised with local CBOs, NGO, churches for spiritual care and pastoral counseling

2. Health & HIV / AIDS

The goal of the YOUTH ALIVE DEVELOPMENT health programme is to achieve sustainable improvements in health status among vulnerable groups, especially the geographically remote, women of childbearing age, youth and children under five. The Initiative promotes improvements in basic health services while enabling communities to adopt effective health practices.

At YADF we believe that, health is more than health care. While the organisation works to strengthen community health systems and services, it also very much promotes initiatives that offer people the knowledge and skills to avoid illness. These measures include educating women and girls and enabling families to adopt appropriate hygiene practices. In addition the organisation supports testing and implementation of income-generating strategies that allow households and communities to acquire better nutrition and health status. Increased incomes enable communities to improve nutritional status, particularly that of women and children, and to build and maintain water and sanitation systems.

All these issues are complicated by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which has touched millions of people in Uganda, leaving death and desperation in

its wake. Entire villages have been laid to waste as the devastating effects of the epidemic have been aided through the traditional rural lifestyle of subsistence farming. As Household members fall ill, families lose their means to not only provide themselves with food but also to make any form of income. This leads to poverty, and with it malnutrition and ill health. Very many children have been forced to go to the streets, abused or remained as orphans, and although many are taken into other homes as part of an extended family, this places a huge strain on such households. There are school fees, medical expenses, clothes, as well as food, and for many people who are still living off the land this provides an insurmountable burden.

The combination of HIV/AIDS-related deaths and climbing infant mortality rates has meant a drop in life expectancy from 50 to 47 years since 1990, according to the World Bank.

The statistics are disheartening to say the least. Meanwhile, the health systems meant to address these myriads challenges are deteriorating. This is a critical moment for all that view equitable health care in Uganda as an achievable goal.

Because health touches every aspect of a person's life, colouring the ability to work and study, to participate in family and community, and to contribute to society, YADF'S programmes in the health sector are designed around three core objectives:

- Health education and sensitisation for families and communities.
- Support and development of community health centres/clinics.
- Improvement and strengthening of basic health services.

YADF believes that this global view of health care is essential if any project is to give rise to lasting change.

In recent years, Uganda has been hailed as the success story of human intervention against HIV/AIDS. However, AIDS is still the leading killer of adults in Uganda, and an estimated 1.5 million people are living with HIV/AIDS. The struggle is far from over. YADF works in four main areas related to HIV/AIDS: awareness campaigns, prevention and education, involving voluntary counselling and testing, prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), home best care, support to families infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, and educational support to the orphans left behind. In reality, all these areas are inter-linked, working together to increase awareness and to strengthen the society's ability to care for its most vulnerable members. YADF hopes to meet the increasing demand by strengthening voluntary counselling and testing services at its HIV/AIDS clinic at the YADF head offices and by encouraging greater community participation in referral and care.

YADF has implemented the following programmes in this area:

- Supported orphans and needy children by providing them with school fees, books, and other school equipment
- Helped communities to run sex education workshops to encourage people, especially teenagers and young adults to take precautions
- Drama and dancing for HIV/AIDS awareness posters
- Sanitation, safe water, other health and personal hygiene.
- Environmental illiteracy and Global warming
- Feeding program for OVCs
- Provided nurses, and counsellors to assist those suffering directly from HIV / AIDS related health problems
- Assisted communities to initiate health program and pharmacies to provide for healthcare needs.

- Introduced the mobile outreach and central volunteer programmes for voluntary counselling and testing.

3. Economic Development

A high proportion of the people we work with are subsistence farmers with very low incomes. The range of needs that these communities have varies considerably but generally involves some need to generate income to be able to afford the “luxuries” in life such as clothes, or an education for their children.

YADF mobilises local communities to form centre groups, which are best, placed to assist those within the community who are really struggling. The centre members pool their money in form of membership fees and this is loaned to members of the community to invest in small income generation projects. This method has helped many communities implement hundreds of micro finance projects.

Local people own and implement the projects. YADF simply provides funding through proposal applications, expertise, monitoring and evaluation. Our role is to empower local communities in the fight against poverty. We support only projects that lead people to reorganise their strength, take control of their resources and work together to meet their needs.

To minimise the risk of dependency, we fund projects with low capital costs and high volunteer involvement. Project participants set the goals they want to reach to make the most of the help they receive. Particular attention is given to the needs of women and children; we find that women always share what they learn with their families thus spreading up the pace of change in their community.

The ultimate goal of this programme is to develop a person’s capacity to take responsibility for his or her own life, while strengthening the

social networks people relies on for support. YADF emphasises a method of working with people rather than doing for. This approach fosters the growth of community and promotes partnership at all levels.

YADF has implemented the following programmes in this area:

- Sponsored centre members to attend seminars and workshops in business and project management
- Provided financial support for the establishment of hundreds of micro finance projects, including piggeries, poultry and fish farming, coal and brick making, small convenience stores, sugar cane, maize planting and dairy farming Crafts and Art etc .
- Provided professional advice for key aspects of micro finance projects requiring them.
- Assisted communities to find additional funding for their programmes through donor proposals
- Provided economic security to orphans and vulnerable children via micro loans.

Management Structure

YADF General Assembly policy making body, Board of directors management body of decision making organ, that in turn appoints the Board of Directors who specifically are Associate members and bring on board their expertise and technical knowledge to guide in programming and policy issues. The Directors work closely with the with the Programme Implementation Team which consists of the day to day technical manpower in charged with administration and implementation of **YADF'S** programmes and activities.

- **Areas of Work**

In **YADF**, we believe poverty to be both an absolute as well as a relative phenomenon. We also believe poverty to be a moral and ethical issue. We also understand poverty, as denial of peoples basic needs.

Poverty eradication rests on strong pillars of our over 3 year's experience of working with and learning from disadvantaged and marginalized people across the country. We seek to strengthen the already considerable abilities of the poor to cope with and combat vulnerability and deprivation, and empowering them to overcome the barriers that prevent them from reaching their full potential.

The Initiative has launched activities in as many as 7 districts of Uganda with a total of 9 community-based development projects established. These projects have been developed at different community development care centres established in the north, central, eastern and western districts of Uganda. The National Co-ordination head offices are located in Plot 4 London Chambers Johnsons Street, Kampala.

These care centres are the central focus of YADF'S work. The centres effectively form smaller Community based organisations (CBOs),Associations and group, which can request assistance from YADF as and when project needs arise within that community. By setting up these localised community groups YADF is assured that its development efforts are driven by local community needs, and have considerable impact because they are aimed directly at the grassroots level. The community themselves dictate what the project aims should be and how they might be best achieved. YADF is at hand to assist with business skills in project management, fundraising and

professional development expertise, should they be required to help the community meet its aims.

- **Achievements**

To date, **YADF** has achieved the following:

- a) Launched a community project called Children education and development center. The project aim is to construct a school and Health center with HIV/AIDS clinic with commercial pharmacy attached to it to make the project sustainable.
- b) Recently launched a voluntary counseling and testing program for HIV/AIDS at our field program areas. The launch was presided over by the district director for health services officials.
- c) Registered and sponsored 400 Orphans, abandoned and needy children in the districts of Kampala, Wakiso, Jinja Katakwi, and masaka
- d) Managed to get land for some centres to construct schools, clinics, recreation halls and vocational institutions.
- e) Trained 45 community leaders in project planning and management, and 500 beneficiaries in micro-enterprise projects in conjunction with the Business Uganda Development Service.
- f) Established 7 community-based sustainable projects e.g. fish farming, poultry, piggery, animal husbandry, crop farming, partnerships with schools, retail trade Craft and Art.
- g) Identified and employed HIV/AIDS counsellors to implement HIV/AIDS outreach projects in a host of development care

centres. After training local community leaders, information regarding HIV/AIDS Education, Prevention, VCT, Nutrition, Sexual Healthcare, etc, is disseminated from the community centre into the wider community through these leaders.

Organizational Challenges

The organization still lacks seed money to effectively fund-raise and secure adequate funds to enable prompt and effective implementation of the various programs. Due to inadequate and on several instances lack of funds, has resulted to the organisation being under staffed with the few personnel on the Programme Implementation Team not being well facilitated with the necessary logistics facilitate prompt implementation of the programs.

Future Plans

Our future plans are based on the following areas of cooperation and partnerships:

- Access the services of technical persons as volunteers to work with us in institution capacity building at all levels of the organisation.
- Develop a fundraising strategy to address both local and external fundraising opportunities so as to have in place a consistent system to enable prompt raising of funds for the programmes.
- Enter into various networks with both national and international agencies and partner with them to share experience and resources in order to implement various sustainable development programmes in the communities we work with.

- Partner with and implement government funded projects at the district levels for the benefit of the local communities.
- Conduct capacity building training's to our partners at the grassroots to be empowered to effectively manage the various initiated development projects.

YADF therefore, welcomes your support for sustainable development and improvement of the people's welfare. For more details or donations please contact The Executive Director or Country Programme Co-ordinator. Info@youthalivefoundation.org n