

THE YOUTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING

This meeting was organized by CIDI under the theme: *Enhancing youth capacity to engage duty bearers for better service delivery in Uganda.*

The meeting was held on Friday at at Hotel J-Frigh - makerere kikoni on 7th July 2017.

A total number of 115 Participants attended the youth consultative meeting and of them 95 were youth from the various districts, 5 were District Community Development Officers and 15 were CIDI staff. The youth came from all the four regions of Uganda and specifically the districts of Gulu, Lira, Nebbi, Arua, Soroti, Kumi, Mbale, Manafa, Tororo, Iganga, Buikwe, Mukono, Wakiso, Kampala, Mpigi, Masaka, Rakai, Bukomansimbi, Mbarara, Kasese, Kabarole, Ntoroko, Bulisa, Masindi. The self-introductions were done through a networking market style. Participants were required to write their names and interests on a piece of paper and to move around the hall as they interacted with the members.

Opening remarks by the Executive Director Dr. Fulgensio Jjuuko



CIDI's Executive Director

Dr. Jjuuko Fulgensio making a key note address to the youth during the youth consultative meeting at Hotel J- Frigh

The E.D noted that he was delighted that the youths had turned up in large numbers at such a short notice. He added that he was there to answer the question of why should the youths engage with CIDI and who is CIDI. He then made a presentation about CIDI's evolution, the thematic areas, CIDI administration, her donors/partners and the reasons for the youth

program. He noted that the youths made (60%) of the Ugandan population. He also noted that the youths have very special needs and they can't easily mingle with other populations in the different programs so they need exclusive programs. ***"A number of organizations are working with the youths but when asked what the programs have benefited the youths they have nothing to show."*** It's against this background that CIDI suggests an in depth understanding of the youth needs to design specific programs for the youths. CIDI conducted a national youth mapping exercise and a report was developed which will be disseminated and the youth contribution to the report will be picked from their feedback during the meeting. He encouraged the youth to steer their own development. He gave the youth a question to reflect on throughout the consultative meeting. Can or how can youths steer their own development?

The ED's address was followed by a presentation by David Katende about CIDI's engagement with the youth.



***David Katende
CIDI's Programs
Coordinator
making a
presentation on
CIDI's
engagement with
the youth since
her evolution***

Katende stated that CIDI has a 16 year experience working with

the youths (12-35). CIDI has youths in all regions of the country worked with at least 7000. CIDI ensures that youths are empowered to be able to take part in their own development. CIDI has a road map of engaging with youths. She has worked with all categories of youths i.e. illiterates, elites, youths in both urban and rural areas. Those in conflict situations, IDP camps, those in the post conflict situation (Napak, Amuria, Lira, Katakwi). Youths with psycho social problems.

He went on and mentioned the different programs CIDI has implemented with the youths which included:

- Agriculture (on farm and FAAB) and off farm (agriculture business)
- Conflict resolution and building
- Health promotion mothers and children (HIV/AIDS)

- Advocacy
- WASH (O & M)
- Youth skilling (vocational and informal)
- Livelihood improvement project Amuria
- YAC

Therefore, the overall message of the presentation was that CIDI has been working with youths since its inception. It understands the challenges of the youth across the entire country; the urban and rural youth, the literate and illiterate youth. The Youth Agenda is a core area of focus for CIDI and CIDI is committed to working with all Youths across Uganda to make a difference in their lives.

In the same spirit, CIDI School of gardening and Landscaping also made a presentation by one Bruno Sserunkuma.



He presented about the CIDI training centre for gardening and landscaping. He told the youth that this school is youth focused and has been offering a 2 years vocational training in gardening and landscaping. He added that the school also offers short courses such as herbs production, vegetable production, decorative and ornamental plants, mushroom production, entrepreneurship, nursery establishment and soil science (soil fertility management).

All these offer great potential to the youth who wish to earn an income so as to improve their livelihood. He referred to other services offered such as consultancy services in the field of gardening, garden design and landscaping, provision of professional gardeners, train students from institutions and schools in various hands- on skills and venue services for meetings, workshops, gardens for small parties and wedding photo shoots.

The Executive Director added thus....***“We are engaging the youths in a number of activities, identifying the capacity gaps and we work with them to solve these gaps. We encourage them that you don’t have to go to Kampala to earn a living. We train them in the value chain like transporting the agricultural products. You don’t have to be in Kampala to earn so you***

can earn from your area and we are have supported them in voicing their concern.” Having had these success stories we want to extend the services of youths to other areas. So we have to know what’s there and what needs are in those areas. Every area we work in, we identify resources persons whose capacity is built and also exposure to be able to teach others.

The crux of the matter was on the National youth stakeholder mapping and analysis study in Uganda report. This presentation was done by James Cleto Mumbere

He informed the participants that the Study was conducted in April 2017 study covered Kayunga, Soroti, Lira, Gulu, Hoima, Kiryandongo, Nebbi, Kabalore, and Masaka. The methods used for the study included literature review and key informants. Some of the best practices were from AFARD west Nile. He thus informed the participants that the youths were present to share on youth operating environments, youth networks, youth challenges? Best practices from your organization, youth advocacy opportunities. What should CIDI do differently?

A number of questions and responses were raised and observations made for instance one youth councilor from Mbale had this to say ***“...when it comes to the youth livelihood program the councilors are sided lined; it’s the chair person who signs on the project proposals before u qualify and they have given them a lot of power forgetting that it’s the youth councilors can help them because they sit on a number of committees i.e. labor and gender budgeting and social development.”***

However, Cleto while responding to the questions and concerns raised, he noted that the purpose of the consultative meeting was to share our view of the report findings for validation i.e. Challenges, advocacy, networks, youth operating environment and what CIDI should do differently to work with the youth better.

He added that as CIDI, we realized the gap in the report so the report but the report was conducted at a district level due to time factor and scope. Therefore we want the youths to add their views but also prioritize and validate the most critical issues that need to be addressed by the duty bearers.

The ED added his voice that this is not the final report and it is just a draft to bring out insights on the levels of enlightenment and which youths are going to participate towards its completion before we can have the report disseminated.

Mr. Sam Bwaya who was the key moderator challenged the youth as to whether they were leaving to set something in motion or we should sit back to wait for a call again for a meeting?

He suggested that there is need to choose people to represent youths on the regional levels i.e. two people to represent a region in 5 regions i.e. West Nile, Central, Western, Eastern and Northern regions

Focal persons;

The following people were elected by participants to represent youth in the five regions to discuss and finalize the youth mapping report

Northern Region

Juliet Achora 0789693395, email: achorajuliet89@gmail.com

Ongom Nixon, 0775157579

West Nile Region

Marino Edodi – Arua 0784658092

Eunice Umwonya-Nebbi 0785229311/0756182024

Eastern region

Judith Wemesa

Peter Ojalama

Western region

Caroline Owashaba

Wyclif Ayesiga

Godfrey Kule

Central region

Idi Mbazira 0771690960

Ali Idhuma 0701160125

The elected were tasked to get a lot more information on the missing gaps and would report to CIDI their findings and after consolidation and incorporation into the report, they will be called upon to go through the report before its final dissemination before the end of the month.

As a way forward, questions regarding whether we need to form a body, a national platform and whether it was necessary were posed.

On the way forward, the facilitator asked the youth that how do we move forward as a team?

The ED clarified that CIDI is resolved to facilitate the process with purpose for the youths to run their own programs and affairs. So CIDI intends to facilitate the process as youths champion their issues to ensure that these issues can go to the national level since CIDI is in a number of programs.

CIDI will only act as the voice amplifier at the national level for the youths.

At this point, **Bashir Ibrahim from Nebbi moved a motion to form a national youth platform for youth to keep advocating and engaging their leaders and duty bearers for improved services and the motion was seconded by Mumbere Godison from the National youth organization for development (NAYODE)** based in Kasese. The elected team will mobilize other youths in the regions and were asked to share their contacts.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the meeting achieved the objectives since the gaps identified in the mapping report were attended to by the participants and suggestions made and more information provided to fill up the gaps.

Pictorial:

James Cleto Mumbere presenting the findings of the National Youth Stakeholder Mapping Report





From left to Right Patricia (Youth Southwestern), David Katende CIDI's Program Coordinator, Caroline (Youth from Mbarara) Dr. Jjuuko Fulgensio the ED of CIDI (Centre), a youth from Buliisa, James Cleto Mumbere CIDI's Asst. Policy & Advocacy Manager and Mr. Bwaya Sam the moderator during the Press Briefing



Youth Participants from all walks of life in Uganda during the Youth Consultative meeting