1. Objective and relevance (the world around us)

* What is the main purpose with the intervention, including challenges that need to be addressed?

Our project’s overall aim is to pilot and develop a grassroots based structure for mobilization, capacitating, mentoring and long-term motivation of youth leaders and youth policy makers at the lower local government level (parish & sub county) in Uganda, in understanding how; Local Governments operate, what their roles as leaders in this system are, understanding processes around budget allocations, decision making, and how one gets youth issues into the decision/policy agenda, as well as advocacy for & influence of policy. We call this the SLOGBAA model (Strengthening structures for Local Government, Budgeting, Advocacy & Accountability).

This will be articulated in three specific objectives, namely:

1. To mobilizing and capacitate (with skills, methods, mentoring, motivation) at least 60 youth and CSOs leaders to be better fitted to carry out their roles in local governance representation and policymaking, how the local government system functions, budget advocacy, accountability tracking, productive dialogues, programs monitoring, evaluation & consequently make meaningfully influential policy.
2. To facilitate more regular popular interfaces between the youth leaders and youths they represent in their local government jurisdictions in form of quarterly round tables and meetings, as a way of systematizing the need for this, increasing their accountability to their constituencies, and providing platforms for policy inputs.
3. Facilitate the development of strong grassroots-based policy inputs, analysis, discussion, commentary, information development, and evidence-based engagements, through initiating a Community Journalists Volunteers (CJV) program.

These are described further on section 3.

Our project seeks to address several underlying factors that limit effective youth leader representation at these and other levels of governance in Uganda. These include but not limited to:

* Youth’s limited understanding of how the local government architecture functions, their role in this, and entry points to participate in and influence policy, planning and budgeting.
* Many political leaders at the local government levels are unable to effectively debate and influence planning and budgeting as both processes are highly technical and debated in English. This undermines the principle of representative democracy as political leaders are unable to eloquently present and defend the interests and ideas of the community. We want to bring things like these to discussion/dialogue.
* Local Government documents such as the budget framework paper, district development plan and annual budget are highly technical, and so are the financial and narrative reports. Many political leaders who are meant to supervise the technical staffs cannot ably do so as their level of comprehension of the technical aspects of governance is exceptionally low. Thus, need a system of mentoring and capacitating on this.
* Youth leaders’ limited evidence-based engagements in local government planning, budgeting, and accountability, simply because there is no systematized feed in processes. This leaves them taking decisions on issues they do not have enough knowledge on.
* Limited opportunities for interaction between young people and youth policy decision-makers and influencers at the local government levels contra to what these structures are enshrined to offer.
* Proper representation and policy making has over the past many years been overshadowed by partisan politics and rampant corruption, thus the need to return to issues-based policy making & representation.
* The young leaders have as dictated by culture also been overshadowed by the power dynamics of seniority and low regard for young people’s views. This reduces their space for articulation of their ideas and those they represent, which we have ambitions to gradually change through equipping young leaders with tools and methods to navigate the policy making atmosphere at local councils.

These factors persist despite the youth demographic advantage of Uganda (at least 78% under 30 years), and available spaces (a devolved government system and a supportive National Youth Council Act) for political participation and representation in local governments.

* Describe the context of the intervention:

Against the backdrop of the challenges listed in the section above, our project will be implemented in a context favoured by three main aspects presented and discussed below.

**Uganda’s youth – a population in need of being at the center of policy:**

Updated in 2018, Uganda’s youth (18 – 30 years) population was estimated at about 8 million (28%), together with children (all people under 30 years) this adds up to 78%, making Uganda the third youngest country in the world with a median age of 15.9 years. An estimated 90% of the country’s population along with its bulge of youths lives in rural areas, making these people primarily served by decentralized local governments and service infrastructure here. But with challenges facing these local governments including; low financing, high levels of corruption, qualified labour out-flight, lack in basic infrastructure like roads, weak public health systems, ill equipped schools etc., this rural population and the decentralization system are not promising much towards the much needed national progress.

We aspire in this project with the argument that if Uganda is to meet its national development aspirations, then the country’s significant youth population must be empowered to engage with in the local governments in delivering informed and effective policies and programmes on the ground. This will also be in tandem with the UN World Youth Report (2018), that the ‘realization of the SDGs will largely be contingent upon how well youth development efforts are integrated into the policies, plans and actions adopted’.

**The Legal and Policy Environment for Youth Participation**

Luckily, the National Youth Council Act (NYC, 1993) in Section 3 (1) provides for the establishment of the National Youth Council as a body corporate to organize and engage youth in activities that are of benefit to them and the nation – including for example championing development at the grassroots and nationally, as well as to protect the youth against any form of manipulation.

Despite its legal mandate and bottom-up structure, the NYC is faced with several challenges including.

* Limited resources to mobilize and mainstream youths’ active participation in both local & national government activities. For example, in financial year 2019/2020, NYC was allocated ‘UGX: 2.1 billion to cater for both wage and development funding’[[1]](#footnote-1). This money barely caters for the national secretariat administrative activities along with subventions to over 138 districts across the country, as budget review commentators would later reveal (GOU, 2020).
* The NYC has no structured leadership training and mentorship programme for Local Youth Councils (even though such exists at the national level), to enable them do their roles, missing an important foundation for the possibility and national character to influence planning and budgeting in favor of youth representatives.
* While all local governments are obliged to make allocations from locally generated revenues towards Youth Council activities at the local government levels, for this to happen, youth leaders at the local government level must have the knowledge, skills, and space to engage local government technocrats and political leaders to heed to calls for youth development programming and budgeting, which is not given space by the current social-cultural dispensation as noted earlier.

Nevertheless, there exists a legal framework for our project only needing stronger emphasis on its efficiency.

**The local government structure – a potentially supportive system:**

Uganda’s *decentralization* policy and Local Government Act (1997) also devolves, political, *administrative,* and financial decision-making powers to Local Governments and administrative units. This was aimed at improving local democracy, accountability, efficiency, effectiveness, *equity,* and sustainability in the provision of devolved social services country-wide. This happens through a five-tier system comprising of Local Councils I, II, III, IV and V. All these have the mandate to participate in policy formation and have representations from all segments of the population.

Indeed, for almost three decades, decentralization in Uganda has made it possible for non-state actors including ordinary citizens to participate in, and influence planning, decision making, and implementation of development initiatives at the local levels. According to Makara (2018), decentralization now encompasses the principle of ‘partnerships between government agencies, organizations and actors in society as well as individual citizens. These structures were and are still meant for that previously marginalized groups and organizations gained the platform and are expected to be actively engaged in the realm of public governance’[[2]](#footnote-2). This including or in fact paving space for youths and the NYC to take active role here.

**Supportive and similar initiatives:**

Over the past ten years (2010 – 2020), there have been several structured programmes designed to empower young people through training to participate in, and influence development and local governance in the country. Some of these initiatives include the Youth4Policy[[3]](#footnote-3) by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung; the Young Leaders’ Forum[[4]](#footnote-4) by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; and the National Leadership Academy[[5]](#footnote-5) by the Uganda Youth Network. However, despite these programmes, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) indicates that Ugandan youth and civil society actors ‘still hugely struggle’ to structurally influence public policy designs, effectively monitor and report inadequacies in public service delivery as well as to mobilize strong and collective evidence-based voices during public policy processes and evaluations[[6]](#footnote-6).

One can of course argue that these are structural challenges, but report after report also reveals, and as we have alluded to the failures on the grassroots, that there remain capacity gaps on the side of youth representatives/leaders. These undermine their ability to register a commanding engagement and influential positions in local government planning, budgeting, and accountability processes. Our project is about contributing to closing these gaps and be part of fostering a well-functioning local public sector in Uganda that delivers quality services with citizens’ preferences, here mainly focused on youths.

**Project timing:** Our project also comes at an opportune timing. Uganda goes to elections on 14th January 2021, from this day and over the weeks that will follow, all popular representative offices will be elected, but most important is that a new term of popular political and policy representation with start. Government will most likely make a new five-year plan or recommit to the current. Local governments will follow suit, many new as well as old leaders will reconstitute themselves at this level for a term of office that will run between January 2021 & 2026. During this term new policy agendas and related budgets will be deliberated at the local level, and therefore the urgent need for effective representation. It is thus the perfect timing to come in with our project, enlist the newly elected youth leaders into our supportive structure, equip them with the skills intended, and work towards capacitating them.

The intervention takes place in a stable context.

* Describe how this intervention will strengthen civil society organizing – including active citizenship, volunteering, and public engagement – that contribute to social justice.

Aiming at facilitating local youth leaders to do their policy and leadership work more effectively, our project will contribute with the following in regard to civil society organizing, active citizenship & engagement:

* The capacitated leaders will increase their knowledge tools and motivation to organize their communities, lobby, and advocate for them, mobilize them towards what builds their communities
* The youth leaders with these skills and mentoring will gain more access to the power resources involved in policy processes, and thereby increase their engagement and those of the local communities
* Spaces for leaders meeting local communities/youths will increase active citizenship and engagement
* Spaces for meetings with other actors will create a more coordinated system for active citizenship, voluntarism and freewill to engage in community life and dialogue
* The three CSOs per district (6) will be recruited on voluntary basis and motivated to join CCCF and NAC to keep this program growing, as well as to mobilize their members and community to the quarterly parliaments and other activities. In this way igniting more active citizenship and engagement.
* The Community Development Officers (CDOs) of each district we will work with will be fundamental in mobilizing their offices to support more active community engagement in development, and here specifically working closely with the issue of both capacitating and listening to the youth leaders.
* The community journalism program being itself voluntary based will bring commonly unheard-of young people at the centerstage of blogging, analyzing, reporting, and telling stories from these local communities.
* The project generally aims at opening space and opportunities for young people, especially in contexts that are marginalized to voluntarily take on a more active citizenship approach towards more effective performance of their local governments and leaders.
* What climate- and environmental conditions do the partnership and/or the intervention need to respond to? And how have the partners responded to it?

By tackling policy and related plans and budgets at the local level, our project directly concerns with issues regarding to sustainability of such policies both socially and environmentally. Development as defined under the SDGs also stresses that “we leave no one behind” and that “we do no harm”. These two principles will follow ensuring that all our engagements and discussions are also environmentally sustainable in places where this focus has been low or unintentional. NAC is already working in this way under their “Green Spaces” project in partnership with Dream Town of Denmark, that is under implementation in Kampala city slums.

Additionally, as a part of our monitoring activities we will need to travel to Uganda to at some point to interface with both the partners and youth leaders, but we will limit this to only two rounds, and with the conscious understanding that our future projects will entail lesser of these. And where we have the chance to do this virtually, we will always choose the latter.

The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)

* Describe the experiences, capacities, and resources of participant partners

**Civil Connections Community Foundation – CCCF,** aims to increase value and achievement in international development initiatives with local grassroots communities, by building bridges for commonly unreached local grassroots development actors (especially rural), through outfitting these with exposure, capacity, motivation, and mentorship for long-term sustainability. **Our mission** is to facilitate grassroots development actors to achieve their aims for a fair and sustainable world. This is reached through four areas:

1. Identifying and make known/visible local community initiatives from the different locations we work in, that would otherwise find it difficult to gain such visibility for a great job they are doing
2. Facilitating the strengthening of capacities of the identified local actors to be able to sustain as well as multiply their good achievements in their local communities as well as to the global level.
3. Supporting identified local grassroots development partners and activists in resource mobilization and joint fundraising as a way of closing resource needs that commonly hinder longer-term survival
4. And, implementing a knowledge development hub - including an online journal of knowledge, working tools, methodologies, and other resources, aimed at building further knowledge and awareness

Read more about CCCF on “Vores CISU” platform or here: [www.civilconnections.org](http://www.civilconnections.org)

**Network for Active Citizens (NAC) has** vast experience, capacity, and human resource of involving youth in Governance, Accountability, and local government performance. Since inception in 2017, NAC has evolved as a community driven development and advocacy organization currently working with citizens and community-based organizations to amplify their voices to influence pro-development programmes, policies, empower citizens to peacefully co-exist and work towards sustainable development of their communities. NAC envision a world where citizens are empowered to engage peacefully and effectively for the sustainable development of their communities. NAC’s mission is to work with partners and communities to promote meaningful young peoples’ participation in the socio-economic and civic wellbeing for community transformation.

NAC have over the past many years implemented several community projects in the target districts, has a huge network locally, has been nominated as a “good practice” by among other British Council, and has experience with CISU funded projects. You can read more about NAC here: <https://nacuganda.org/>

* Describe any previous acquaintance or cooperation between the partners, and how these experiences have fed into the development of the proposed intervention.

CCCF and NAC have known each other for almost two years now. In 2019 the two partners held a meeting in Kampala, Uganda to share more on each other’s vision, mission, and strategic objectives. As a result of the first meeting, in 2020 June the two partners wrote a small pilot project in response to COVID 19. This project title “Piloting a telephone-based ICT infrastructure for long distance learning in rural, low resourced contexts was successfully funded by CISU of Denmark, and the two partners have for the past months had a great cooperation around this. As well as joint learning.

CCCF has also been mentor to NAC on their project around budget participation with youth leaders from Northern Uganda since August 2020. This among others has included CCCF holding motivation talks about the role of young people in this, the feedback to which was the recommendation of more of such engagement and this further informed the design of the SLOGBAA program with grass root interventions coming into the strategy. For example, Isaac Ojok the Gulu district youth chairperson for district Youth Council quoted *“Thank You NAC for giving us an opportunity to hear from international speakers like Andrew Bende. His message has been a big inspiration to me personally and I recommend that we design programs that can keep us more engaged with our local leaders at the grass root”*. And, Drate Yassin from West Nile Youth Empowerment Centre – Arua district was quoted *“We are motivated now, however NAC please don’t leave us alone, walk with us until we are able to utilize this knowledge to create the change we want to see at the grass root”.*

Such manifests are the inspiration for the development of the SLOGBAA program suggested here.

* Describe the contributions, roles, and responsibilities of the partners and other actors.

On a general level CCCF will be the lead coordinating partner, facilitating the overall framework for the success of the project, and keeping in contact with the funder CISU for reporting and guidance. Specifically, CCCF will be lead on the following activities:

* CCCF will be charged with overall project contract and coordination roles. Entailing facilitating that implementation frameworks and plans for ensuring success are in place & adhered to or adjusted if needed
* CCCF has the responsibility to follow-up and remotely/virtually monitor the project in Uganda. This will be through online meetings, two-time monitoring visits, quarterly reports, communication.
* CCCF has the overall responsibility the project budgets and accountability & reporting to the funder CISU
* CCCF will in collaboration with NAC be part of the training program in Uganda, giving motivation talks online and comprehensively discussing and drawing the implementation plan together with NAC.
* CCCF will also be part of the mentoring program involving in online motivation sessions, discussion etc.

NAC at the local level will be in charge of all implementations in the two districts in Uganda, dialoging with and updating CCCF at all times to ensure that the project keeps to its promises.

* NAC will physically implement all the project activities across the two districts. This will entail ensuring that logistics, participants, partners, trainers, experts, mentors, etc. are always in place on desired time.
* NAC have the responsibility for local monthly monitoring of the project and updating CCCF on this
* NAC will be part of the joint monitoring with CCCF including quarterly reporting and follow up virtual meetings
* NAC will be in charge of the local financial management and identifying an auditor that fits formal guidelines.
* NAC will locally administer the project and fit it into their annual strategy/plan for smooth running.
* Describe how the intervention will contribute to developing the relationship and collaboration between the partners.

The project will contribute to further development of our relationship and collaboration as follows:

* This will be our second intervention by CISU, and its development is based on our experience working together on the first project, and the merger of our interests to bring development interventions like these to the benefit of commonly not reached contexts – here rural districts. We have taken two districts that are commonly alienated from such projects and combined our experiences to design a joint program that we will run for 15 months and gather learning together underway.
* We have for example planned several joint reflection points including the kickoff meeting to the project, monthly Zoom reflections, quarterly reports and engagement on these, and a mid-term monitoring visit that will facilitate continuous dialogue and joint learning through the entire project period.

Target groups, objectives, and expected results (our intervention)

* Describe the composition of the target groups: specify approximate number of people in primary target.

Our target groups are best defined according to objectives as below:

* The at least 17 NAC staff and volunteers that will be involved in the project
* 53 youth leaders under objective 1 (training & mentoring) distributed as follows
  + 31 NYC structure representatives at the parish and sub-country level (6 male & 4 female)
  + 18 females from the sub county and parish district women councils (100% female)
  + 4 Subcounty representatives for people with disability (PWDs) – 50% female to male
* 480 youths (+ the 82 leaders above) through community parliaments with equal representation if genders.
* 160 other institutional actor representatives reached through interfacing with institutional actor dialogues
* 40 local government committees’ representatives reached through leaders & sector committee meetings
* At least 10 (5 per district) staff members of the offices of the Sub county Community Development officer
* The 10 community journalists (5 from each participating sub county) with a 50:50 gender distribution.
* The offices of the Community Development Officers (CDOs) in the two districts
* And 6 (2 per CSO) representatives of the 3 local CSOs/NGOs that we will identify to voluntarily work closely with and mentor them to localize the program into their activity structures.

Our secondary target group will be:

* When our model is tested and systematized in other districts, it will have the potential to change to terrain of onboarding for youth leaders across 2100 sub counties in the 138 districts of the country
* All the youths, schools, CSOs, and policy making structures who benefit directly from aspects of public budget distribution in the districts.
* Describe how the target groups will participate in - and benefit from the intervention.
* Describe the objectives and expected results.

We have chosen to merge the answer to the above two questions because it will be more logical for us to relate the different stakeholders to the specific objectives and related outputs presented here below.

**Project’s specific objectives and descriptions of choice:**

1. To mobilizing and capacitate (with skills, methods, mentoring, motivation) at least 60 youth and CSOs leaders to be better fitted to carry out their roles in local governance representation and policymaking, how the local government system functions, budget advocacy, accountability tracking, productive dialogues with all for common gains, programs monitoring and evaluation and consequently be meaningfully influential during their term in office.

The National Youth Council structures that we will target – at both sub-county and parish level have 9 representative positions including (i). a Chairperson, (ii). Vice-Chairperson, (iii). General Secretary, (iv). Secretary for Finance, (v). Secretary for Female Youth Affairs, (vi). Secretary for Student Affairs, (vii). Secretary for Labour affairs, (viii). Secretary of Sports and Culture, and (ix). Secretary for Publicity.

This objective will target/select 53 youth leaders across the two districts sampled as follows:

* Thirty-five (35) parish youth leaders, comprising of, three (3) from the youth parish council ((i). Chairperson, (ii). Secretary for female affairs, (iii). Secretary of finance), and two (2) parish women council representatives – per parish across all the 7 parishes we are covering in Yumbe and Mayuge.
* And eighteen (18) sub county youth leaders comprising of, five (5) from the youth subcounty council ((i). Chairperson, (ii). Vice chairperson, (iii). Secretary for female affairs, (iv). General secretary, and (v). secretary for finance). Two (2) sub county women council representatives, and two (2) subcounty representatives for people with disability (PWDs), across the 2 target sub counties. I.e. The PWDs representatives also represent the Parish and the villages levels below them.

**Why these districts?** Yumbe from West Nile, and Mayuge from the Eastern region of Uganda are both rural districts giving us a selection of a context commonly prone to having leaders that struggle with these decision systems. The district represents the two most left-back regions in Uganda (UBOS, 2018). Yumbe is boundary district and home to some of the most marginalized youth populations – refugees. While Mayuge although about 10 years old as a district still remains one of the most unreached of the districts in Eastern Uganda and shares the place of the poorest populations with its neighbor Bugiri.

The main interventions/outputs under objective 1 will include:

* 1. Implement 8, (4 per district) quarterly training workshops, each lasting 5 days for 25 participants per district. The trainings that will be implemented (the four modules of the SLOGBAA framework) include, (i). Foundations of active citizenship, (ii). understanding the Local Governance and my role in it, (iii). understanding the Local Government budgeting process, (iv). Advocacy and accountability.

As the topics suggest these will give the participants tools to navigate both the local government systems, as well as core knowledge and tools on some of the most technical aspects in this participation – namely, budgets, accountability, and advocacy for more youth responsive budget allocations. Read more: <https://civilconnections.org/slogbaa/>.

* 1. Implement two (2) inter-district exchange meetings/discussions among the two participating districts where the youth leaders visit each district and convene for 3 days in a mix of exchange of best practices and questions and answer/clarifying sessions with the trainers.

These we believe will give the young leaders a peer-to-peer learning experience and demystifying the belief that cultural believe that a leader who is not a “know it all” is weak. It will train the leaders that one can always share their challenges with others and gain perspectives on how one can best change their communities. And, although Uganda is diverse, most districts share similar challenges which makes these exchanges central in giving an alternative way of developing national policy.

* 1. Run 8, (4 per district) quarterly one-day youth leaders mentoring and motivating sessions, where each quarter two policy and leadership experts meet with the youth leaders in each district and run a combination of inspiration and clarification session on policy and leadership.

Again, in combination with the peer-to-peer sessions and trainings above, we believe that this will give the youths a continuous learning, motivation, and clarification loop across the first year of their office. This builds not only their knowledge but also their confidence to do their job. This is extremely central in changing the power structuring within the local governments. The mentors will come from a combination of the National Youth Council’s national leadership academy and the Uganda Youth Network leader’s academy – both recognized and certified to this this.

1. To facilitate more regular popular interfaces between the youth leaders and youths they represent in their local government jurisdictions in form of quarterly round tables and meetings, as a way of systematizing the need for this, increasing their accountability to their constituencies, and providing platforms for policy inputs from the youths.

The main interventions/outputs under objective 2 will include:

* 1. Implement 8, (4 per district) quarterly community Youth Parliaments (locally called Ebimeza/ “table talks”) in each district, where youths are invited to interface with their leaders for a day. We will target to reach at least 60 youths per session/district.

These are extremely popular in urban places in Uganda. Common people find them as a non-formal space for holding their leaders accountable as well as publicly talking about what their communities are battling with – almost in agreement. This holds the leaders accountable to their people. On the other side, leaders like these because it makes their work easy to reach out to their constituencies and collecting inputs for their engagement this way. If we systematize these in the rural settings, we would have added an important aspect to the policy creation process here.

* 1. Facilitate 8, (4 per district) quarterly meetings between the youth leaders and other youth related institutional actors in each district here including but not limited to; Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), schools, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) etc., as a way of creating opportunities for the leaders to hear/gather inputs from these actors, as well as provide updates to such actors regarding policy stipulations that matter to them. We will aim to reach at least 20 actors per district per session.

These play the same role as the ones above in 2.1, but rather targeted the formal structures.

* 1. Hold 4 (2 per district) bi-annual follow up advocacy meetings with local government sector committees on policies made, and how these answer to issues generated from the quarterly meetings in 2.1. and 2.2. above. We will aim to reach at least 10 key officials per district per session.

Each subcounty and district has several technical committees that work with different aspects e.g. budgeting, development work, gender aspects etc. These parallel to the political leadership structure. The technical units should in principle gain their roles from what the political leaders decide on, however, is common to find that the two organs do not interact at all, especially here in the rural places where political leaders have low knowledge on their mandate and power to demand for this. This initiative is aimed at building structured spaces to facilitate such meetings and processes.

* 1. Identify and hold monthly update and planning meetings with three (3) respected voluntary CSOs per district, that we will closely follow the project with, involve in jointly organizing the different activities, and mentoring them along with the youth leaders, with the aim if facilitating the grounding and sustainability of the project after completion. Each organization will select 2 representatives.

These organizations are relevant to have because they will function as hubs for the youth leaders’ reference, mentoring, support in community mobilization and outreach, and holding other units accountable. But this also ensures that the local civil society also gains knowledge and tools to facilitate and domesticate aspects of the SLOGBAA program. CCCF and NAC will also follow-up on the program through these CSOs on the longer term, creating a sustainable reference structure.

* 1. Hold 12 (6 per district) bi-monthly update meetings with and working closely with the office of the district Community Development Officer (CDOs) from each district and facilitate them to understand our project ideas and spirations, gain their ownership of the project, and work with suggestions on how they can systematize the project components as part of their programming for long-term sustainability and uptake. This is the office in charge of youths and development.

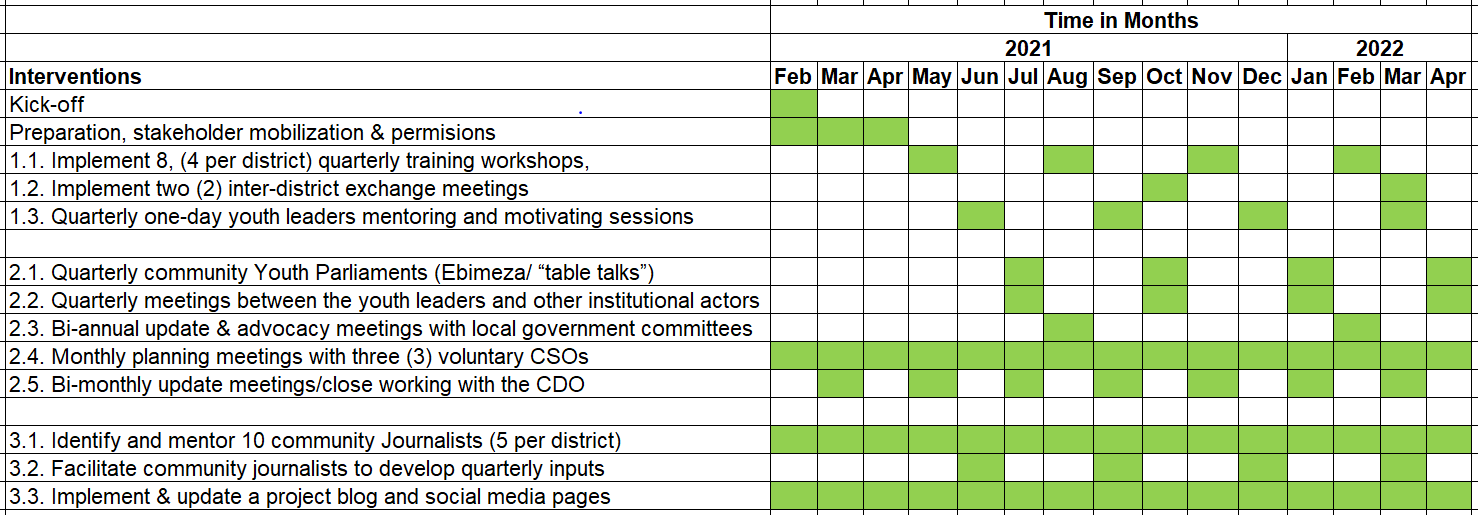
1. Facilitate the development of strong grassroots-based policy inputs, analysis, discussion, commentary, information development, and evidence-based engagements, through initiating a Community Journalists Volunteers (CJV) program of 10 volunteers (5 per district) that will be trained and will support the project and leaders with information gathering, analysis, engagement for the project’s 15 months. These voluntary community journalist will be a team of well-coordinated community grounded youths who are skilled (mobilized, capacitated and facilitated) to generate citizen led policy inputs and discussions in form of digital stories, written articles, and youth voices from community that will be feature at the community parliaments, sent as report to leaders and technical teams, and published in a quarterly blog our webpage.

The main interventions/outputs under objective 3 will include:

* 1. Identify and mentor 10 community Journalists (5 per district) based on the national and regional specific communication for Development tool kit.
  2. Facilitate community journalists to develop quarterly policy analysis or commentary inputs to inform the agenda for Community Youth parliaments in 2.1 above.
  3. Implement and regularly update a project blog and social media pages that will be populated with information and products generated from the community journalists, including mini video clips, articles, commentaries, quotes etc. to amplify the existing social policy and development context.

Detailed activities for the above outputs are embedded in the budget template, along with budget notes.

**The intervention timetable is as follows:**



* What is the strategy of the intervention? Describe the planned activities and how these will lead to the desired outputs and achievement of the objectives.

To reach our objectives, our project combines three inter-related and mutually supportive components.

* First, to ensure that the youth leaders policy work is more effective we want to facilitate skills and tools development, as well as knowledge about the local government processes to the targeted leaders. The trainings will base on four modules that are tested elsewhere and we know stimulate both knowledge, reflection and debate among youth leaders and their self-awareness in these capacities. These, span (i). Foundations of active citizenship, (ii). understanding the Local Governance and my role in it, (iii). understanding the Local Government budgeting process, and (iv). Aspects of advocacy and accountability.
* We will combine the trainings with experience exchanges, and long term mentoring from expert policy and leader figures because we know that this non-formal interaction and reflection among the youth leaders which they often do not give time, and mentoring hugely compliments both the knowledge and tools, but also the courage to hold fast in the reasons why one choses to be a leader. These will further cultivate the ground for ongoing motivation, issue-based decision making, and ethical value judgement.
* Another aspect that will facilitate this more effective policy making is increasing the possibilities or opportunities for the youth leaders and their constituents to meet/dialogue and jointly reflect on what policies will make meaning for the development of their local communities. We have both created space for a youth-to-youth (peer-to-peer) forum under the youth parliaments, and another platform for institutional actors concerned with youths. Increasing the scope of engagement and input. But these also give the youth leaders familiarity to developing, coining, and representing policy making.
* We have also taken the concept of facilitating evidence-based policy discussion by facilitating local community journalistic and data gathering around the issues that these communities are working around. It is important that they are local journalists because these understand the context well, know the leaders to approach, know how things are done here, and can therefore give a context aware input.
* We also will mobilize 3 local civil society organization (CSOs) in each sub county. Two representatives from each of these organizations will be mobilized by NAC to follow the project, be part of and learn all the components we will implement, gain acquaintance to the youth leaders, all this for purposes of facilitating them to be able to replicate the methodology in their strategies at the level possible for them as a sustainability plan. CCCF and NAC will then have created several other CSO partners, who we will continue to voluntarily support with mentoring and developing further project concepts around the project.
* We are also aiming at working very closely with the office of the Community Development Officer in each of the participating sub counties. This office being custodians to youth and development issues, we will want then to understand the tenets of the project, take ownership of the process, host it as part of their initiatives, and in this way domesticate/systematize it as a program they will offer youth leaders in office. Working with the CDOs will also ensure that the project is not stigmatized as political and partisan. CCCF and NAC as well as the 3 CSOs recruited in each district will hold in contact with the office of the CDO.
* Several of the specific outputs and activities will be repeated several times across the 15 months period, for example trainings, youth parliament, meetings with actors, etc. This is intended to ensure that these activities because part of the annual routine as opposed to a one-time off occurrence. By repeating, we are hoping to nudge the local youth leaders to build familiarity to these processes and feeling at home in them.
* What are the plans for systematising experiences along the way and at the end of the intervention?

To systematize this project’s experiences along the way we will do/have planned the following:

* We will facilitate our local partner to have a fully engaged project coordinator, project assistant, and support staff, following the project from start to end. CCCF will also have an assigned project coordinator to do the same in Denmark. This should stabilize the project implementation and continuous learning.
* CCCF and NAC will schedule continuous meetings – both physical and virtual, to follow up on the project and the indicators, gather learnings, readjust based on learning, and concretize the project model.
* NAC shall compile reports about the project that will be utilized by the partnership to follow the project. First, NAC will be encouraged to compile short monthly reports on the activities carried out during that month. These will then be compiled into a quarterly report that will be shared with CCCF and followed up by virtual meetings to deliberate, learn, plan further, harvest results.
* Both partners will keep a close contact both on email and voice connection through messenger, Zoom, Teams, or WhatsApp, to ensure that anything arising is taken up in good time.

Intervention-related information work in Denmark

* The purpose of the information work.
* Give Danish public access to what is happening in Uganda & engaging them in our work
* Utilize this information for lobby and advocacy towards policy support for development work.
* The target groups of the information work.
* Our members and followers through online channels and our Annual General Assembly
* To other CSOs present in Uganda & the Danish public through public workshops
* The means of communication to be used (social media, printed matter, theatre, events, or the like).
* Public workshops & events, Social media, World Wide Web (our website), and Printed content.

1. Supplementary financing

NA

1. MoGLSD (2020). Ministerial Policy Statement for FY2019/2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Makara, S. (2018). Decentralisation and good governance in Africa: A critical review. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The Youth4Policy is a one-year fellowship programme designed to empower the next generation of Ugandan policy experts [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The Young Leaders Forum is a modular training programme designed to broaden and deepen the knowledge om policy [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. A structured multi-faceted and generational change leadership training and mentoring programme in Uganda [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. ODI (2016). Promoting good governance through civil society – legislator linkages. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)