

## USDC ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

### Introduction

During the year 2014-15 USDC undertook a number of activities to contribute to the fulfilment of its second year of implementing the current strategic plan which runs 2013-2019. USDC maintained its work in 14 districts but also true to its partnership objective found it useful to expand its work by signing MOUs with 2 new partners namely ActionAid Uganda(AAU) and Save the Children in Uganda (SCIU).

**Mission:** *USDC exists to promote equal rights and equitable opportunities for CWDs through; advocacy, capacity building and rehabilitation.* **Vision:** *A society in which CWDs can grow and develop to their full potential.*

### **EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL CONTEXT**

#### **a) EXTERNAL CONTEXT**

Externally, USDC was engaged together with others in the post 2015 agenda which affects Civil Society future work and also by the renewed process of the disability amendment Bill in Uganda. This bill is yet to be passed into law and all efforts have so far not yielded much. Government policy on the empowerment of PWDs has remained positive despite new developments in the NGO Bill 2015, which do not favour NGOs.

USDC as part of the Uganda Child Rights NGO Network, UCRNN, joined the rest of the World to celebrate 25 years of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child UNCRC and this gave renewed challenge to amending the Children's Act which had stalled for 10 years. Through a private members Bill, Civil Society organisations drafted the Children's Act Ammendment Bill 2014 which is yet to be passed by parliament. USDC consulted other disabled people's organisations to get the issues of CWDs better reflected in the amendment Bill 2014.

#### **b) INTERNAL CONTEXT**

USDC made renewed commitment to get the Parents Support Groups (PSGs) take implementing more seriously. In the projects, PSG offices were given office equipment in terms of computers and printers, scanners. All the existing Focal Persons working with the PSGs were part of the 5 day staff training on child protection, which was a key capacity building venture.

USDC also took a step to have the staff structure properly filled in order to implement better. We now have a programme Manager, Policy Lobbying and Advocacy Officer, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and a Partnership Manager. This was undertaken in the last quarter and has enabled the organisation prepare better to refocus the strategic plan. This process is ongoing and USDC is poised for putting more emphasis on the objective of "right to inclusive education" while all the other objectives will come to support this through referral and partnership.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Goal 1: Responsive programmes and services: "USDC has programmes and services that are responsive to the growth, development and wellbeing of CWDs in the period 2014-2019".**

**Specific Objectives for period under review (2014-15):**

- At least a 1% improvement in the health for CWDs in USDC operational areas by March 2015.
- At least a 1.5% increase in opportunity for inclusive education for CWDs in USDC operational areas by March 2015.
- At least a 1% improvement in capacity and effectiveness of existing support mechanisms for CWDs in USDC areas of operation by March 2015.

- At least a 1% increase in upholding the Rights of CWDs at all levels in society in USDC operational areas by March 2015.
- USDC embraces an approach as an enabler and facilitator in furthering realization of the specific objectives in her operational areas by 10% in the period 2014-15.
- At least a 0.1% improvement in the socio-economic conditions of CWDs in USDC operational areas by March 2014-15.

**Goal 2:** *At least a 5 % improvement in USDC partnership management in the period 2014-2015.*

**Goal 3:** *USDC is functioning optimally as an organization in the period 2014-2015 – 25%.*

**Goal 4:** *At least a 8% increase in financing capacity for USDC undertakings in the period 2014-2015.*

### **ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2014-15**

#### **1. AT LEAST A 1% IMPROVEMENT IN THE HEALTH FOR CWDs IN USDC OPERATIONAL AREAS BY MARCH 2019.**

In Hoima specifically with funding from Bread for the World, a team of professionals including physiotherapists, orthopaedic officers, Orthopaedic technologists, occupational therapists and mental health officers supported our work. They carried out home visits to provide home based care and conducted post-operative care and follow up. Referrals to Mulago hospital, CORSU in Entebbe, Katalemwa Cheshire home and CURE hospital in Mbale were done. The programme enabled them to manage the treatment of various disabilities within their clinics at hospital including provision of assistive devices. The project also brought in specialists from Kampala to carry out corrective surgery. The Hoima rehabilitation centre received and treated 5-8 CWD every day and the same number of adults were seen. 8 outreach clinics were carried out and 35-40 CWDs were treated in every clinic; 2 surgical camps were carried out benefitting 73(32M:41F); 31 children accessed assistive devices. In addition 72(31F:41M) children were assisted through home visits.

SIDCU project with the main aim to Increase the survival of disabled children (particularly those with cerebral palsy) in Kampala, trained 24 facilitators. Of 24 facilitators trained, 21 have trained 192 parents / carers (Male: 05, Female: 187) on how to take care of children with CP covering the modules of Introduction to Cerebral Palsy; evaluating your child and Positioning & Carrying, Game of Life, Everyday Activities, Feeding and Play.

In Kampala 58 CWDs were referred to Mulago orthopaedic workshop for wheelchairs. So far 38 CWDs received wheelchairs (Male: 25, Female: 13) and 29 of these were followed up; they are very happy and five children after receiving wheelchairs can now access education.

**The DFID funded inclusive education** project “promoting inclusive education for children with disabilities in Uganda using a child-to-child approach” in Nebbi, Lira and Adjumani districts held assessment of CWDs by health professionals during the year. The overall cumulative total (391 CWDs) of children assessed by health professionals are currently comprising of 58 (31 girls, 27 boys) at Jukia primary school, 68 (31 girls, 37 boys) at Koch and 78 (29 girls, 49 boys) at Agwok primary schools respectively in Nebbi district and 57 (19 girls, 38 boys) in Amac Sub County, 50 (30 girls, 20 boys) in Lira Sub county and 81 (44 girls, 37 boys) at Ngetta girls primary school and 1 out of school boy in the catchment area of Kureka primary school in Adjumani district. Consequently, over 25% of the assessed children were enrolled for treatment/rehabilitation.

Under the European Union (EU) funded **Empowering Children and their Communities to address harmful traditional practices and Violence Against Children (EVAC) in Eastern Uganda** in partnership with ActionAid Uganda (AAU), In Kapchruwa, Kween and Bukwo, amudat, A total of twenty five (25) community outreach clinics were carried out. (534) children with different forms of disabilities were assessed although the parents appreciated the

service because it was brought nearer to them a lot of demand for the activity was noted because not all the children were assessed. A total of 38 Health Workers were trained in managing disabilities (clinical officers in ENT, Mental Health and identification and management of early childhood disabilities). They were equipped with knowledge and skills to strengthen their ability to identify and manage early childhood disabilities in the Health Centres in the Districts of Kapchorwa, Bukwo, Amudat and Kween.

## **2. AT LEAST A 1.5% INCREASE IN OPPORTUNITY FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR CWDS IN USDC OPERATIONAL AREAS BY MARCH 2015.**

### ***Support to special needs and inclusive education***

Through the project in Hoima 6 teachers underwent teacher training and were sponsored for the Diploma in SNE course at UNISE in Kyambogo University Kampala. This 3 year training was completed for 5 of them while 1 was just beginning they were all in service teachers who took the training during holidays. The project also helped to improve the learning environment in schools where there were children by building ramps to facilitate mobility of CWD. But the project has mostly contributed to SNE through the work of CRCs that educate communities, particularly parents about the importance of educating children with disabilities.

**CRCs have also helped to change attitudes within schools by sensitizing teachers** and the other pupils in the schools. CRC members offer help to children with disabilities when they require some both in terms of integration in the school environment but also academically. But most importantly the CRCs have helped to keep disabled children in school and give them confidence and self-esteem to participate in learning activities.

***Increased number of disabled boys and girls accessing education;*** With the help of two trained trainers, the SIDCU project carried-out inclusion / inclusion in education awareness workshops / trainings in Kisaasi primary school, St. Kizito primary school, Katwe primary school, St. Ponsiano Kyamula primary school and Shimon demonstration school. They used tools such as inclusive communication, rights, language and labelling, interaction, participation, game of life, accessibility policy, action plan and toolkit for teachers where 74 participants (Male: 35, Female: 39) were trained. With increased knowledge levels about inclusive education teachers have been able to discover different types of disabilities in their schools (11 CwDs were discovered by teachers). Schools increased enrolment (14 CwDs), to improve on retention and include disabled children in school activities; Katwe primary school was modified for physical accessibility and attracted 10 children with disabilities.

Under the **DFID funded inclusive education** project “promoting inclusive education for children with disabilities in Uganda using a child-to-child approach” in Nebbi, Lira and Adjumani districts a total of 18 master trainers (9 males, 9 females) were trained. These comprised of 10.2% of all teachers in the nine schools who were provided with one to one follow up support mentoring visit to their respective schools.

Inclusive Education Teacher Refresher Training for 171 (82 females and 89 males) including 9 new teachers across 9 schools was held facilitated by the 18 master trainers aimed at concretizing the participants’ understanding of inclusion, the application of the child-to-child methodologies, familiarizing teachers with active learning strategies including story telling in the context of child-to-child learning methodologies and to familiarize the teachers with facts/materials on disability. The teachers are now exhibiting improved knowledge and skills regarding different impairments and the ability to include children with various learning needs into their teaching practice. So far, 85% of the trained teachers are able to use the participatory child to child methodologies (on the score of from fair to excellent) in their day to day teaching.

*“The training provided to my teachers by USDC has enabled our teachers to identify more children with learning challenges and other hidden disabilities..... I question myself why children with hearing impairments are many, why is the number high; I even asked my teachers but got no clear reasons so the health professionals have to help here”* observes Mr. Masson, the head teacher of Kureku primary school in Adjumani district. The districts are continuing to

embrace and support the trained teachers especially the master trainers; ...“hearing from my inspector of schools that the master trainers are doing well is a success story already. We take the credit for that.” remarks the District Education Officer of Nebbi district.

Each of the 9 project schools were facilitated with learning/instructional materials worth Uganda Shillings five hundred thousand shillings to facilitate the child led participatory nature of the teaching methodologies being practiced by the 171 trained teachers in in-class and out of class learning activities. As a result, learners are now able to display their work within the class rooms and the teachers are able to create ‘talking classrooms’ for children to more inclusively learn using observation, peer teaching, demonstration. In Northern Uganda, a total of 4 disability friendly drainable Ventilated Improved Pit latrines (VIP) latrines have been constructed and 3 out of the four are already handed over to the respective schools. A total of 77 children with disabilities (Male: 32, Female: 45) were supported in terms of fees for health rehabilitation and for them to access education with support from **Lillian Foundation**. They are from Masaka, Kampala, Arua and Luwero districts.

In Masaka with funding from Terre des Hommes, the numbers of children served during 2014 for education was - [female 73 & 98 male primary: female 11 & 13 male Secondary: female 5 & 15 male Vocational: female 9 & 11 Male Apprenticeship. In addition 03 pit latrines in three schools – Misanvu demonstration school, St. Bruno Ndegeya Primary school and Emmanuel Kitambuza Primary school are complete and certificates of function issued.

### **3. AT LEAST A 1% IMPROVEMENT IN CAPACITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR CWDS IN USDC AREAS OF OPERATION BY MARCH 2015.**

Kampala, Parents organized trainings in income generating activities to enable them raise funds to sustain their families as well as their groups. USDC has been able to *facilitate parents / carers of disabled children to access Income Generating Activities (IGAs)*.

2 groups were retrained on how to make liquid soap and shampoo that is 40 Parents (Male: 4, Female: 36); 14 in Kawempe and 26 in Namuwongo as a source of income for the parents’ groups; so the groups are actively making liquid soap and individual parents are now train follow parents.

Kampala Parents of Children with Disabilities Association Makindye received Ush.5,000,000/= from Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) as CDD grant which was used to start up a small tailoring centre as an income generating activity where group members are trained freely and other members from the communities pay fees’.

In Masaka the PSG planned were 15 with an envisaged membership of at least 20 members hence 200 members. However, by reporting date, 14 PSG were mobilized with 287 members. Kingo PSG is doing well and has an IGA.

Under the European Union (EU) funded (**EVAC**) in Eastern Uganda in partnership with ActionAid Uganda (AAU), In Kapchruwa, Kween and Bukwo, Amudat, Eleven (11) Parents Support Groups (PSGs) were formed and registered at sub-county level and Four (4) District Parents Support Associations at district level to develop family and community peer support mechanisms for promoting and protecting rights and needs of Children with Disabilities. PSGs were trained in group dynamics, home based care, resource mobilization, lobbying and advocacy which empowered parents and their families to provide support to disabled children and enable them realize their lifetime potential.

### **4. AT LEAST A 1% INCREASE IN UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF CWDS AT ALL LEVELS IN SOCIETY IN USDC OPERATIONAL AREAS BY MARCH 2019.**

The AJWS project in West Nile and Soroti districts introduced a new approach of addressing violence against children in and around schools and attempting to use the law for child protection. This led to better group organisation at schools aimed at improving the learning environment in and around schools.

Under the European Union (EU) funded (**EVAC**) in Eastern Uganda in partnership with ActionAid Uganda (AAU), Advocacy issue engagement meetings with stakeholders were held to support the rights of children with disabilities at National level, thirty (30) participants attended the meeting. Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and Ministry of Sports and Education (MoSE) all Ministries were represented by commissioners the Ministries pledged their total support towards Children with Disabilities. Uganda Child Rights NGO

Network (UCRNN) and Save the Children, four (4) District Local Governments of project districts and District Chairpersons Parents Support Associations from the respective Districts also attended.

USDC also held several meetings with the Ministry of education and Kyambogo University to support the inclusive education objective of changing the teacher training curriculum.

**5. USDC EMBRACES AN APPROACH AS AN ENABLER AND FACILITATOR IN FURTHERING REALIZATION OF THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES IN HER OPERATIONAL AREAS BY 10% IN THE PERIOD 2014-2015.**

USDC built capacity of all 14 District Parents Support Groups (PSGs) to become better organised to implement and do advocacy work. Over all the district parents support groups report over 5 sub groups per Sub County and this is encouraging. Many of the groups have taken on income generation activities and are busy saving and borrowing money. 12 of our groups at various levels; school, village have accessed between 1.5- 5M Uganda shillings from the community drive fund and from the disability grant.

***Expansion of CRCs in schools***

As a result of work of Hoima Network of Child Rights Clubs, HONECRIC, 60 child rights clubs have been strengthened in the district, four are community based and 56 school based in 56 schools out of 137 primary schools in the district. The role of the CRCs is to promote the rights of children, especially those with disabilities, through participation – advocating for children’s rights. They were also intended to empower children and give them confidence and self-esteem and ensure that CWDs and OVCs remain in school.

**6. AT LEAST A 0.1% IMPROVEMENT IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF CWDS IN USDC OPERATIONAL AREAS BY MARCH 2019.**

In Kampala district three groups were trained in savings and credit/loans and out of these, two groups are actively saving so far in Kawempe and Namuwongo as a result of this project. Kawempe savings group realized UGX 314,500 (14.9%) as profits in their first year of savings at the time of sharing out in December 2014 and now the group is in its second year of saving while Namuwongo savings group is still in their first year of savings.

With Stanbic Bank USDC implemented the *Empowering youth with disabilities in Kampala through entrepreneurial skills development* project for a period of four months to help youth with disabilities to be independent. The youth were trained in liquid soap making, bead making, crafts and tailoring. Six of the youth have already started making some money.

***Goal 2: At least a 5 % improvement in USDC partnership management in the period 2014-2015.***

Parents Support Groups, Local Governments and Child Rights Groups, USDC has signed MOUs with ActionAid Uganda, Save the Children in Uganda, STIR Foundation and Joy for Children over the past one year. These partnerships bring on different aspects of collaboration and working together in order to reach more children in a concerted effort.

***Goal 3: USDC is functioning optimally as an organization in the period 2014-2015 – 25%.***

USDC revised the Personnel Manual, Finance Manual and also updated its Child Protection Policy; these were signed off in September, 2014. The engagement with the CoM and management staff is ongoing to get USDC to the level where systems and procedures are fully in place and functional. All USDC staff and PSG Focal Persons trained in child protection in September 2014 and also staff trained in lobbying and advocacy in March 2015.

***Goal 4: At least 8% increase in financing capacity for USDC undertakings in the period 2014-2015.***

With support from the Council of Management, several corporate sponsors including Bank of Uganda, the Ruparelia group of companies have given financial support to USDC to hold a dinner in September, 2105, where 70M UGX be raised. 2 new grants were realised i.e the European Union with ActionAid Uganda and NORAD with Save the Children Uganda; both are multiyear grants of over 1500,000,000 UGX per year. Thanks go to those existing donors who have renewed their funding to USDC. This gives hope of attaining the planned strategic plan budget.