HOPE US PROJECT

ENHANCED PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION OF SOCIALLY EXCLUDED

AND UNDERSERVED YOUNG PEOPLE IN DECISION MAKING

PROCESSES, EASTERN UGANDA

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this project proposal is original and has never been submitted or published to University of Iceland or any other institution of learning and or training for an academic award.

MENYA JULIUS

04/05/2025

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Centre
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of UNESCO

APPROVAL

This project proposal has been submitted for review and examination to the University of Iceland with my approval as the GRO'GEST Student's supervisor.

Bjarney Fridriksdottir (Ph.D.)

International Labour Law &

International Human Rights Law

CB & T- United Nations Agencies

04/05/2025

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION & ACRONYMS

WOCUDA   Women Crusade for Development Africa

MYE   Meaningful Youth Engagement

GTA   Gender Transformative Approach

SNCA   Social Norm Change Approach

HRBA   Human Rights Based Approach

CSOs   Civil Society Organisations

UBO   Uganda Bureau of Statistics

PWDs   People with Disabilities

UNDP   United Nations Development Programs

EAC   East African Community

NYC   National Youth Council

NYP   National Youth Policy

AFDB   Africa Development Bank

VAW/G   Violence Against Women/Girls

IMYE   Inclusive Meaningful youth engagement

UNICEF   United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

GBV   Gender Based Violence

UNCRC   United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hope us Project is designed with a focus of" enhanced participation and inclusion of socially excluded and underserved young people (young women, youth with disabilities and minority groups) aged between 15-30 years in decision making in Kamuli and Luuka district found in Eastern Uganda". The purpose of the project is to promote inclusive civic spaces and forums at local level for diverse youth towards meaningful youth participation and resulting into local duty bearers increasingly designing, adopting, popularizing, reviewing and implementing local by-laws.

This project has Identified underlining factors that limit participation of marginalised young people in decision making ,such factors include: Limited spaces where young people can substantively participate in meaningful discussions, Exclusion of minority youth groups in local policies, multiple stigma and limited access to services, limited knowledge about local youth structures,Limited skills and knowledge on how youth can substantively participate in civic engagements and under representation of socially excluded young people in the district local structures.

The project has also recognised that due to the above problems, socially excluded young people have lost self-esteem and confidence among themselves. Despite government and CSOs efforts to promote youth participation in decision making process in Uganda, their concentration has majorly focused in urban areas leaving the already marginalized semi-rural and difficult to reach areas. The project seeks to apply a holistic approach through GTA, SNC and integrate HRBA, meaningful youth engagement (MYE) and it's Principles as collaborative Mult-sectoral solutions to promote safe spaces and positively change social attitudes among the power over.

The bigger picture of this project is to design and implement community and youth-led initiatives targeted to empower socially excluded young people with leadership skills and opportunities, enhance digital skills to enable them hold meaningful online engagements and hold their leaders accountable, promote communication skills, budget advocacy skills and increase their participation in elective politics by 2027.

Keywords: Enhanced participation, socially excluded, Underserved young people, Kamuli and Luuka districts

CHAPTER ONE

1. **Introduction**

1.1 Overview of the general topic of the project

With in the heart of Eastern Uganda where I grew up, socially excluded and underserved young people cannot freely participate in community meetings, they're often mocked and rediculated when they endeavour to stand or assume any elected office or when they stand to participate in community work, they face multiple discrimination starting from home, community and schools where they go to. The society only recognizes young people without disability as "Normal", teenage mothers, those with disabilities and other marginalised groups are often referred to us "Ebikolimo" ("cursed"), the disabled are branded as "Abalina obulemo"("incapacitated").

As a Gender and inclusion officer and a son of the soil, on a daily basis, I receive 2 to 3 cases/reports where young people in Kamuli and Luuka districts have been either denied services, isolated or stigmatized. The worst-case scenario is the community assuming that "young women with disabilities are not sexually active", so they cannot be engaged in any meaningful conversations about their health or provided with family planning services. When it comes to taking part in decision making processes, their voices are not anchored or captured anywhere. In other words, they're not listened too.

Herein, I attempt to unpack various questions asked by the socially excluded young people that I work with during the day-to-day activities in most of the community interactions in Kamuli and Luuka through Women Crusade for Development Africa*: "Where and to whom can we freely share our experiences without being judged?", "Did we do anything wrong to this community?" ," where is our leaders?", "To whom can we run to, at home it's trouble, school is worse and in community is unbearable?" - pretty, a primary five student at Luuka Primary school asked"*

It's upon this brief background therefore that Hope us project is designed with a focus on enhanced participation and inclusion of socially excluded and underserved young people (young women, youth with disabilities and other minority groups) aged between 15-30 years in decision making in Kamuli and Luuka district found in Eastern Uganda.

Additionally, this program has been carefully designed in consultations with the youth representatives, the under-represented and victim networks to demonstrate identification with and ownership for the project. The program seeks further to empower socially excluded young people/youth to demand for and fulfil their rights in a participatory and inclusive manner that engages with youth CSOs, communities and government institutions.

The program will directly target and work with and through the youth/young people/teenagers and their networks while also strengthening local civil society and duty bearers to influence inclusive local spaces for youth/young people's operations and advocacy for young people's rights and policies, governance and participation in decision making processes.

1.2 Definition of key Terms

According to Judith Bessant (2004)," Youth participation involves young people's engagement in a wide range of activities from local based community efforts to political, where they can contribute to societal decision making". In her work, Bessant argues that youth participation should not just be seen as young people being just included in decision making but rather as a more complex social and political process that involves power, agency and structures that either enable or constrain their involvement.

Figure.1: Substantive Youth participation in decision making

(Source: Hope 4 Life Uganda, our space project,2023)-used with permission

Figure 2: An illustration that shows how

social exclusion occurs. (Source, Oxfam exclusion model report 2019)

On the other hand, World bank report (2013) defines socially excluded young people as in a situation that occurs when young people are denied opportunities for participation typically in areas such as education, employment, health and political engagement etc, based on gender, ethnicity, disability, geographical location and other social factors, which perpetuates multiple marginalization among young people, (World Bank report, 2013. *Youth and Social Inclusion: A Challenge for Development*.).

In Uganda, the definition of youth varies by context. National Youth Council defines youths as individuals aged 18 to 30 years aligning it, with National Youth policy (2015) and the National youth council Act (2015).

In contrast, the East African community defines youth as those between 15 and 35 years, while United Nations considers individuals aged 15 to 24 as youth, Hope us Project will therefore seek to empower marginalized youth between 15-30 years in Eastern Uganda.

Though there is limited empirical data available to clearly detail the situation at hand, this project presents available literature at a national level to draw a clear picture of the extent in which the socially excluded young people are going through, this is probably because the

academia, researchers and government have decided to ignore it, furthermore, the limited interest to research about it due to cultural barriers coupled with, "*The Anti-homo-sexuality law,2023*" that was passed in Uganda that further derail efforts of researchers who were interesting themselves in understanding this matter. In the context of the project sites, data and literature will be based on district reports, newspapers and more largely an explanation of the scenario of what's happening in Luuka and Kamuli under the project topic.

1.3 Available literature about the topic in Uganda's context

In Uganda, empirical data available over several years reveal that restrictive state laws coupled with discriminative religious and cultural norms impede young people from taking part in decision making processes. Despite government and CSOs efforts to engage marginalised young people, their concentration has focused in urban areas leaving the already marginalized rural and difficult to reach areas of Busoga and other parts of the country.

Youth exclusion from decision-making process is a significant issue in Uganda, where young people face various barriers that prevent them from actively participating decision-making processes. Despite Uganda's young population with approximately 78% of its population under the age of 30 according to Uganda Bureau of Statistic,2021 estimates, youth representation in decision making processes remains limited, exclusion of youth in governance and policy making not only underlines their potential but also perpetuates inequality and limits the country's socio-economic development.

In Uganda, youth are contextual category that is frequently misrepresented on the discourse of peace and conflict through governance, they are potentially seen as dangerous subject and policy approaches often see youth as a problem calling them "Noisy", and in most cases" Immature". Youth in the age group between 16-30 years have been observed as the main protagonist for criminal and political violence and in many cases, being hunted by the state and coded to being violent extremism.

Available research has consistently highlighted the low levels of youth participation in Uganda's decision-making processes, a study conducted by Africa Development Bank (AFDB) revealed that only 7% of youth aged between 18-35 years were engaged in active civic engagements, indicating a significant gap in youth participation in their civic life. Uganda's National Youth Policy report,2016 points out that despite efforts to promote youth involvement in governance, barriers like poverty, poor access to education, social barriers and limited political opportunities continue to hinder their full participation. In 2018, UNDP report findings indicated that over 60% of rural youth in Uganda felt that they had little to or no influence over public policy or political decisions affecting their lives, and highlighting a widespread sense of exclusion from formal decision-making processes.

Youth exclusion in decision making in Uganda is as a result of both structural and institutional barriers, Mugisha (2018), emphasizes the lack of meaningful youth participation in decision making bodies and the need for reforms that would ensure youth inclusion at all level of governance. while Karega (2019) suggests that, enhancing civic education and promoting youth-led organizations can help overcome these barriers, he argues that giving youth an opportunity to engage in decision making not only empowers them but also leads to more inclusive governance and sustainable development. Musinguzi and Okello (2020) in their work argues that while Uganda's legal framework supports youth inclusion (such as through the National youth council and Youth Member of Parliament positions), the actual implementation of these policies remains on paper due to institutional inertial and political resistance to youth empowerment.

1.4 Relevant policies and multilateral agreements

In 2016,Uganda adopted the national youth policy as a key national framework to promoting inclusion of youth in decision making processes, though the policy emphasises the need for increased youth involvement in governance, leadership and policy making at all levels, only 30% of youth are actively engaged in local government structures frustrating key provisions in the policy relating to ensuring youth participation in

national decision making, promoting youth-friendly programs that provide opportunities for youth skill development and supporting inclusion of youth in national policy formulation through youth councils and youth representation.

A study conducted by Uganda National Youth council (2019) indicated that over 60% of youth in the rural areas feel their voices are not adequately heard in local government despite the existence of NYC, indicating that more efforts are needed for effective inclusion. Therefore, the implementation of this policy still remains a question because of the many factors that arise ranging from limited funds to lack of government will to push the policy realise it's vision. In addition, the EAC Youth Policy 2016 clearly presents a clear framework on how member states should create a conducive environment for youth in East African region to substantively participate in the political, social and economic development recognising the challenges faced by young people, though some progress was noted in regard to increase in youth participation by the East Africa Community Secretariat in 2017,the challenges remains in fully implementing youth related policies by member states where Uganda is a signatory.

The African Youth Charter (2006) under which Uganda is a signatory grounded a framework that promotes well-being of young people in Africa and seeks to address youth exclusion from decision making under *Article 11* of the charter that emphasizes "the need for youth participation in governance, decision making and formulation of policies that affect their lives". African Union report,2020 indicated that over 30 African countries have adopted the charter, however implementation of it's provisions remains inconsistent across member states including Uganda. In the same regard, Africa Agenda 2060 emphasizes the importance of marginalised youth recognising them as a crucial demographic that must be empowered and included in decision making processes if Africa is to achieve its vision by 2060,under aspiration 6 of the Agenda that explicitly highlights "the importance of involving Africa's youth in the continental development process", the charter further presents the need to harness the potential of youth to drive innovation, social change and economic growth by creating opportunities for youth to participate in decision making processes. The idea presented is too contextual to Uganda, as more youth have been sidelined in political processes, the more

it has led to disillusionment, social unrests and even violence especially during and after elections in a view that countries with active youth participation in governance are more likely to experience sustainable peace according to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP),2018.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1989), a legally international agreement where Uganda is a signatory recognizes the rights of children and young people to participate in decision making processes that affect them. Although UNICEF report (2017) presents the importance of ensuring young people's voices in decision making are amplified, many member states party to this agreement where Uganda is a party still face challenges in translating and localizing these rights into tangible political influence and actions.

Youth, peace and security Agenda grounded in the UN security council resolution 2250 of 2015 on youth, peace and security recognized" the intersection of the youth agenda as it is promised on inclusion and participation of the marginalized youth", the resolution addresses significant gaps in international community efforts to address the increasing complex challenges of preventing conflict and sustaining peace and building inclusive societies through a more comprehensive approach.

The recent UN security youth Agenda grounded on 2250 resolution calls for highly inclusive youth planning, program design, policy development and decision-making processes for conflict resolution and recovery. Therefore, policies that are formulated without considering the perspectives of young people often fail to address the specific challenges faced by youth in the entire global context. By actively engaging youth in decision-making, policies can be more effective and tailored to the realities of youth experiences especially those leaving in rural and hard to reach areas of Uganda.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 Project justification

2.1 Problem analysis and Gaps

In Luuka and Kamuli district, socially excluded young people experience discrimination on the basis of their Age, gender, social status and sex. It's worse with young women who face double discrimination by the fact that they're young by age but also their gender that is opposed by cultural social norms.2021 official district report from Kamuli , indicated that 8 out of 10 young people with disabilities reported being not involved in any decision-making processes with in the district.

According to New vision report-Oct,25th 2022,3 out of 5 young women with disabilities aged 15-25 are stigmatized and face difficulties whenever they go to local government health facilities to access services, they're judged and denied such services. UBOS,2019 Estimates show that 33.7% of female living with disability in Busoga sub-region had dropped out of school majorly due to stigma, discrimination and absence of legal policies that can support the existence of PWDs and other minority groups in the community. Teenage mothers are often referred to as "community curses" and they are barred from socializing with others in the community, they're not allowed to take part in community meetings.

Unfortunately,the Anti Homosexuality bill that was passed and signed in 2023 has infringed and suffocated voices of the diverse youth in the two districts, many being denied social services, some being persecuted, others illegally detained and continued shrinking civic space for youth-led organizations working for and with the marginalized groups. It has been further worsened following court's order to uphold the law during the court hearing on 2nd/04/2024 where the marginalized young people continue to hide and hence making it a sensitive and fragile condition for them to live and freely join spaces for meaningful participation in key decision-making processes.

Additionally,2021 report from National union of disabled persons Uganda shows that 95% of female with disabilities in Luuka district were not involved in any local decision making, the fact that special seats of under-represented young people were created in the local districts

of Kamuli and Luuka, such positions are not active and people with disabilities have nowhere to hold their leaders accountable and their voices being not anchored or captured. Limited awareness of youth on the existing opportunities to participate in decision making processes, lack of exposure due to limited information, discrimination and lack of role models to inspire young people, commercialization of local politics, lack of levelled political ground and low civic knowledge among young people have been noted as key barriers to youth participation in decision making processes.

The gaps in the existing youth policy environment, blind gender budgeting at the district, social, religious and cultural barriers that hinder youth participation, un-coordination among local youth groups, limited knowledge and spaces are further noted as the major gaps that this project seeks to address. Through employing HRBA and Gender Transformative Approach as key strategies to reach and empower the most vulnerable in Kamuli and Luuka district.

2.2 Project framework

A project framework outlines the essential structure and guidelines for managing and executing a project, among others including project goal, project purpose, specific objectives, Project Outcomes and outputs

2.3 Project goal

The overall goal of the project is "enhanced participation and inclusion of socially excluded and underserved young people in decision making processes and inclusive policy making in Kamuli and Luuka districts, Eastern Uganda", through promoting and creating civic spaces and forums at local level for inclusive youth participation especially young women in discussions related to political inclusion, unpaid care and democratic participation.

2.4 Project purpose

Hope us Project is purposely intended to increase youth participation, inclusion and representation especially the socially excluded in decision making processes in public affairs via local accountability mechanisms across Kamuli and Luuka districts. The project will develop capacities of young citizens in advocacy, develop capacities of CSOs working with and for youth in their diversities in budgetary advocacy, enhance digital skills among youth and further mobilize and organize young people/youth in their diversities into a local movement/a collective to amplify their voices in decision making processes through employing HRBA methodology, Gender Transformative and Responsive approaches and Social Norm Change strategies to

2.5 Specific objectives

- ❖ To promoted inclusive local, safe and youth friendly spaces and platforms where young people can substantively participate and engage with duty bearers.
- ❖ To advocate for equal representation for young women living with disabilities in the district leadership through empowering them with leadership skills.
- ❖ To advocate for increased budgetary allocation towards local youth councils and structures through engaging policy makers to increase funding.
- ❖ Enhance ability of organizations working with and for young people with digital skills to enable them use digital platforms in holding local leaders accountable through holding safe and inclusive safe spaces for meaningful dialogues.
- ❖ To enhance cooperation between local youth groups, Activists, civil society organizations working for and with youth and local policy makers towards promotion of inclusive and meaningful youth civic participation.

2.6 Project Outcomes and outputs

Output 3.4.1: Creation and establishment of youth friendly platforms and initiatives designed to promote inclusive youth participation.

Outcome 3.3.1: Increased meaningful and inclusive youth participation in local decision-making processes and development of policies and programs that reflects the needs and aspiration of marginalized young people.

Output 3.4.2: One local policy brief designed to inform development of local policy and legislation on the need to increase budget funding for youth structures.

Outcome 3.3.2: Increased budgetary allocation, and awareness of youth local councils and structures, strengthening support for youth development programs.

Output 3.4.3: Launch of Online social media campaigns to promote youth engagements with local leaders focussing on key issues that affect the marginalized youth.

Outcome 3.3.3: Increased capacity of youths to effectively leverage digital platforms for youth-led advocacy and accountability resulting in strengthened youth engagements with local leaders and improved transparency in decision making.

Output 3.4.4: Develop and design joint advocacy campaigns and initiatives that brings together youth groups, activists, policy makers and organisations in promoting inclusive youth policies and actions that support youth engagements.

Outcome 3.3.4: Strengthened cooperation between activists, youth groups, activists and local policy makers resulting in the creation of inclusive youth-centred policies and increased youth participation.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 Project approach/strategies/Principles and methodologies

3.1 Participatory processes

The principle of participatory process is grounded in international human rights treaties, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). These instruments stipulate that, by virtue of their self-determination, young people should be able to freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development, as well as participate in public affairs.

Women Crusade for Development Africa through this approach ensures that every young person has a voice in decision making, their participation is welcomed and respected, and the process is not dominated by any individual or group, or by a single point of view. This process aims at challenging tokenistic approaches where socially-excluded young people are not involved from all processes in seeking accountability on civic participation from duty bearers.

The organisation ensures meaningful engagement of girls and women in all the efforts of pursuing accountability from local accountability mechanisms. Through this approach, the project ensures that young people have agenda setting power in articulating the states violations against their rights

3.2 Project Youth Led Organizing

Through this process, WOCUDA ensures a process where under-served young people -sometimes with their allies- draw their mandate from other youth, communities and their own lived experiences. From this knowledge and experience, groups in the district develop and implement interventions, strategies and initiatives that work to improve and transform communities, institutions and social systems.

Youth led organizing is therefore, mobilization by and for the young people to achieve a certain objective, mainly to effect change. The allies they work with to draw their mandate are either youth groups and adult stakeholders. The drawing of their mandate and youth organizing in general, results in implementing initiatives and projects that results in change. WOCUDA acknowledges that socially excluded young people with lived experiences are experts in the issues that shape their lives including their needs on the key accountability issues that they are advocating for.

Through youth-led organizing, young people are the ones who know their capacity, their challenges to engage, the barriers that prevent them from taking up active roles. Self-mobilization, where young people mobilize themselves for social change. WOCUDA will strengthen the efforts of other youth networks and youth movements in Luuka and Kamuli districts. Therefore, adult partners create youth structures or platforms to ensure MYE, WOCUDA will initiate structures or platforms for which young people become part of all their intervention stages.

3.3 Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)

Through Hope us project, a human rights-based approach and its principles will be employed. Diane F. Frey (2012) argues that HRBA entails empowering right holders especially the minority groups to know and claim their rights and increasing the ability and accountability of individuals and institutions who are responsible for respecting, protecting and fulfilling rights.

Through this approach, the project will be giving rights holders greater opportunities to participate in shaping the decisions that impact on their human rights to participate in decision making processes. It also means increasing the ability of duty bearers to fulfill, protect and respect those rights, as they are held to account.

When applying it to inclusive civic participation, HRBA ensures that strategies are focused on not only addressing the primary issue e.g. Promoting civic spaces, but also address the structural and systemic causes and related human rights violations as barriers to young women & youth participation in decision making. This project will observe Human rights-based approach and its principles at all stages through

Participation: where Everyone is entitled to active participation in decision-making processes which affect the enjoyment of their rights.

Accountability: where duty-bearers are held accountable for failing to fulfill their obligations towards rights-holders.

Through this principle, WOCUDA will equip young people with skills, knowledge to better understand how to navigate their political and social context, undertake power analysis leaving them to advocate for their own rights from decision makers at the local level.

WOCUDA will therefore apply an intersectional approach while guiding young people and adolescents to seek youth-led accountability as it is critical since socially excluded young people have varying social needs and priorities, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP 2003 report). *Discrimination and Equality* according to Sen, A. 1999 under this approach urges that all individuals are entitled to their rights without discrimination of any kind. All types of discrimination should be prohibited, prevented and eliminated during project implementation.

UNICEF (2007) report proposes that Empowerment should be made where everyone is entitled to claim and exercise their rights. This is true because Individuals and communities need to understand their rights and participate in the development of policies which affect their lives.

The approach further suggests that, there is the need for youth led organizations and women led organizations to empower young people in understanding and claiming their rights. *Legality:* a principle that is adopted by WOCUDA should be in line with the legal rights set out in domestic and international laws. Participation as a principle is likely inevitable and more legitimate if there is representation.

Anne Phillips (2000) argues that when it comes to decision making, marginalized groups need to be represented so that their perspectives are taken into consideration in the political decision making.

Contextually this is very true because Minorities young people in Uganda, are usually the most vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and disasters and so should be protected more because the HRBA focuses on those who are the most marginalized, excluded or discriminated against, it is therefore, very relevant to minorities under Hope us project that all plans, policies and processes of development of this project will be

anchored in a system of rights and corresponding obligations established by international law. Therefore, under this approach, rights of minorities will be respected.

3.4 Inclusive Meaningful youth engagement (IMYE)

WOCUDA through this project recognizes the approach of Meaningful youth engagement as a participatory process in which young people's ideas, expertise, experiences, and perspectives are integrated throughout programmatic, policy, and institutional decision-making structures so as to best inform outcomes.

This process requires young people to be involved in all levels and stages of projects, policy formulation including all stages of design, implementation, and evaluation; in programs that directly affect their lives. The project will make sure that meaningful youth engagement is supported by access to accurate and youth-friendly information, meaningful decision-making mechanisms, and fully integrated accountability mechanisms from stakeholders.

Through this approach, the project will map out intersectional groups of young people to support meaningful engagement in accountability. These include young persons with disability, those living with HIV, adolescent headed households, orphans, literate , illiterate group and LGBT+++.

3.5 Principle of Flexibility

As a best practice, the project will respect the principle of flexibility in engaging young people to seek accountability and hold duty bearers accountable in adoption, implementation of laws and policies that target to promote civic participation.

The principle of flexibility is crucial to address the needs of youth organizing. Prioritize cost effective accountability mechanisms which young people can engage with to make their submissions at minimum cost possible. Leverage on virtual and physical avenues e.g. through

engaging in virtual youth forums and consultations; Young people have unique constraints such as limited resources for physical travel to these sessions; therefore,we should recognize the differences between groups of young people and be flexible while engaging them. Youth organizing is usually volunteer led and young people have other commitments hence the need to work on flexible timelines to enable their engagement meaningful.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 Theory of change

4.1 Progress Makers Development tool

The project seeks to employ project makers development as an Outcome harvesting methodology that is used for planning, monitoring and evaluating development initiatives in order to bring about sustainable social change. This methodology is useful in identifying individuals, groups, organisations or stakeholders with whom Hope Us project will be working with directly so as to track and monitor behavioural change and the strategies to support those changes.

Progress Makers Development tool will identify, formulate, analyse and interpret outcomes to answer monitoring and evaluation questions.

Pushing stakeholders for Change

Figure.3: Showing a model of change

The project contributes to the change, but ultimate responsibility and power for change rests with the Stakeholders themselves. The desired change in stakeholders describes how the behaviour, relationships, activities, or actions of an individual, a group, or an institution will change if the program is extremely successful.

Hope us project will develop Progress markers for advocacy, campaigns and areas of influence which are a set of statements describing a gradual progression or milestone changes in a boundary partner leading to the outcome challenge. Progress markers will be key and very useful to measure progression through a qualitative approach towards the outcome. Progress markers can be seen as qualitative indicators as they can be used to monitor the progress of the project towards achieving its overall goal in a systematic manner. Progress Markers break down the desired changes for each of the Stakeholders into three major categories.

Progress markers express the desired visible, behavioural changes ranging from the minimum one would expect to see the stakeholder doing as an early response to the programme, to what it would like to see, and finally to what it would love to see them doing if the programme was having a profound influence. Progress markers are not necessarily a reflection of change over time; more so they are a reflection of the complexity in the changes that the Stakeholders are expected to undergo.

However, there is also a time factor involved. The *"expect to see"* progress markers represent initial changes in the behaviour, actions, activities, or relationships of the Stakeholders changes that indicate a recognition of, or commitment to, the program's goal. These are the behaviors that require reactive participation by the Stakeholder and that should occur right after the interaction and if the programme itself is operating well.

The *"like to see"* category describes more active learning and engagement by the Stakeholders. The Stakeholder takes initiatives without the programme pushing for it or organizing for it. The Stakeholder show in their action that they have understood what the desired end situation is. For example, the Stakeholder takes initiatives without support from the programme, the Stakeholder articulates in public and repeatedly the programme's desired end situation, the Stakeholder is requesting for more and specific training and support from the programme

(it is not sufficient just to ask for "more training, it must be specified which training and for which purpose),the Stakeholder is also inviting the programme to participate in meetings (not the programme taking initiative to be invited to the meetings),the Stakeholder is requesting the programme for concrete inputs (not the programme providing inputs on its own initiative). And Stakeholders are organizing trainings among their own staff or group members.

The *"love to see"* category describes changes in the Stakeholder that are truly transformative. Generally, it will describe Stakeholders as taking a lead role in making changes in the direction of the desired end situation of the project. Stakeholders will engage other stakeholders who the programme does not engage with. Stakeholders "push" for changes. In order to be challenging and to encourage the deepest transformation possible, the "love to see" progress markers may extend beyond what this program can achieve within its time frame. For example, the Stakeholder promotes a new policy, which reflects the desired end situation of the programme, the Stakeholder allocates a budget increase for youth structures , the Stakeholder develops concrete proposals for necessary changes in a community and engage in relevant for a, the Stakeholder develops specific guidelines or rules, which are reflecting the desired end situation of the programme and push for the implementation and the Stakeholder is organizing community meetings to advocate for changes in line with the desired end situation of the programme. How change through the category is expected;

I have been engaged and I can explain everything I leant, now I Can organise a group
EXPECT TO SEE

I will invite the programme for a meeting to get their inputs; I will organise a training of my staff
LIKE TO SEE

I will write a proposal to the community leaders & engage in community meetings
LOVE TO SEE

Desired change at the end of Hope us project stakeholders
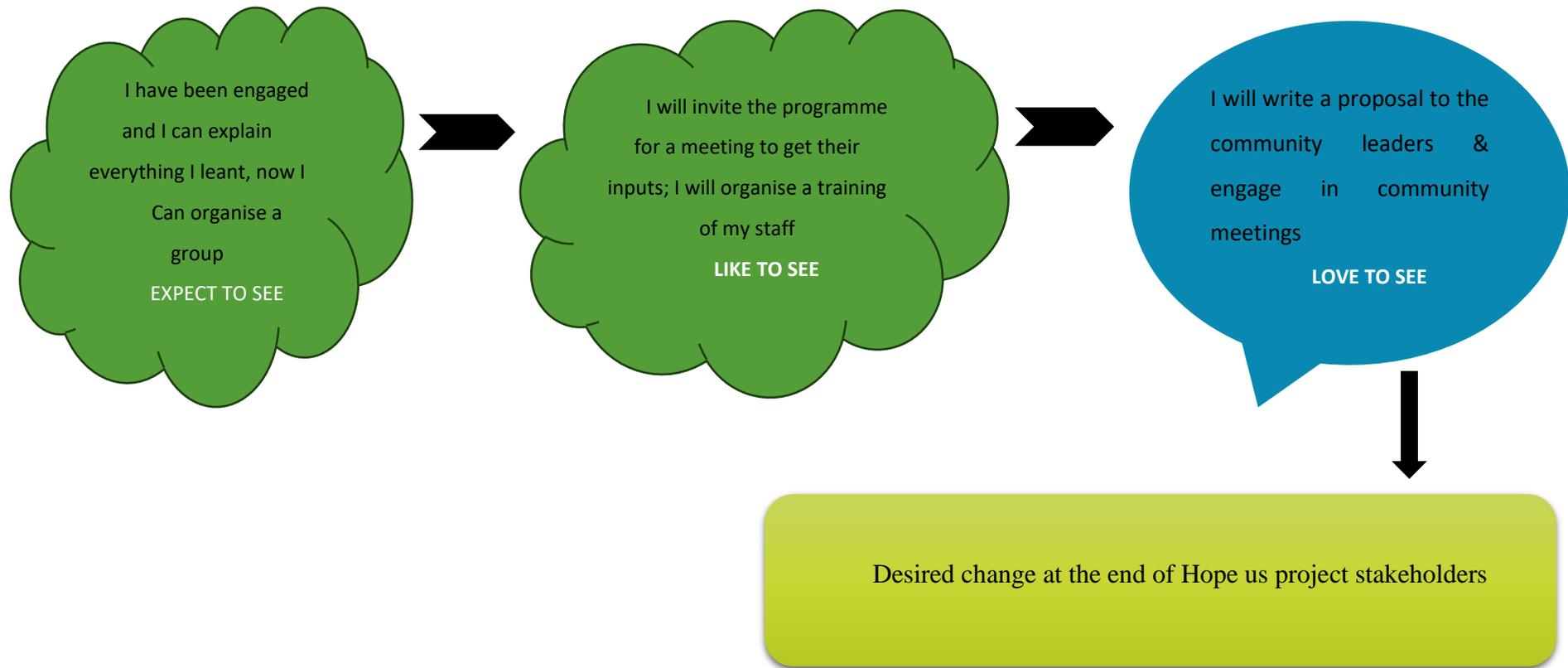
Figure.4: Showing how change will occur, designed and adopted by women crusade for Development Africa,2020

4.2 Methods and means of improvement for the project

Issues related to decision making cut across multiple sectors, such as governance, health, education, empowerment, gender equality, environment and human rights. Creating an enabling environment for the socially excluded young people to attain fully their rights and wellbeing requires collaborative efforts among multisectoral stakeholders and partners including state actors, CSOs, educators, youth groups, policy makers, local leaders and international and local funders and organisations.

Table 1. shows all the stakeholders involved in Hope us programme along with their interests and roles.

STAKEHOLDERS	ANALYSIS		
Stakeholders	**Interests**	**Influence**	**Engagement/Roles**
Local authorities (Kamuli and Luuka)	Ability to fulfil the rights of young people by committing to support the initiatives. Create a conducive environment for young people to civically and meaningfully engage	Policy support through reviews and recommendations Budget support through increased fund allocation towards youth structures Resource lobbying and support	Corroborate with WOCUDA through providing youth friendly spaces at district youth corners. Coordinate mobilisation and planning of policy actions

Women Crusade for Development Africa	Increased capacity of organisation volunteers and staff will help expand the work and goals of organisation in achieving the long-term impact of Hope us project	Capitalize on its experience, networks and local alliances to deliver project activities to the communities	Implement Hope us project
Local CSOs	Strengthen joint advocacy plans and initiatives	Access and outreach to local communities	Facilitate planning and mobilisation of stakeholders
Local communities/Youths	Youth targeted will work along with the project	Influence positive outcomes of the project	Participate in the project
Donors	Ability to meet specific funding goals and objectives	Funding and organisational resources to implement the project	Provide financial and organisational support to WOCUDA to run Hope us project

4.3 Partners and Funders

Kamuli district local government as a key local authority actor has been already engaged with assured support of funding to 30% of the total budget, in addition, to that spaces have been provided through a partnership that was established in 2023 through signing of MoU. Local partners like Hope 4 Life Uganda, Echoes of inspiration have already committed support in terms of complimenting this project with other activities being run in their organisation. As partners to Digital Defender Partnership, a little contribution of $ 4500 has been received inform of a grant to help the organisation run digital spaces.

4.4.0 Capacity to implement the project

4.4.1 Organization capacity

Hope us Project will be implemented under the auspices of Women crusade for development Africa. Women Crusade for Development Africa is a volunteer based; grassroots community-based female-led organization (90%WOMEN LED) that developed its roots in 2018 and capacitated its operations during the era of Covid-19 pandemic when women, PWDs and other minority groups were socially, politically and economically excluded in government policies.

As many challenges emerged during this period, the voices of these marginalized youth groups were stifled down on the basis of power, gender and cultural inter-plays. A group of young women decided to beat all these ODDs and started a local campaign to address the local challenges and the gaps that the power over has used to stifle and suffocate the voices of the socially excluded population especially women, girls, People with disabilities and other minority groups with a special focus on remote areas of Uganda.

Women Crusade for Development Africa's mission Is to champion and advocate for the rights of women, PWDs and young people's access to universal and Comprehensive SRHR & Services, promote women and youth empowerment, and advocate for climate justice through knocking communities with local-innovative and inclusive solutions to build inclusive communities for ALL, the project aligns directly with the organization mission.

WOCUDA focuses Guidance and Mentorship, Youth and women Empowerment, Community / Social engagements, Child protection, Livelihoods Support, Advocacy, Environmental Protection and Education as the key thematic areas. The organization applies design thinking approach, an innovative people-centered approach to solving local challenges and uses a bottom to up model where we inclusively empower and equip youth and young women in local communities to take lead and be part of solutions to the local challenges affecting them by focusing on changing social norms and values that limit access to services and information on issues that influence the health outcomes of young people and marginalized communities.

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The organization target population is youth, girls and all minority groups between 10-30 years with a target on rural and hard to reach communities of Uganda.Hope us project follows under the youth and civic engagement department in WOCUDA, the department has 10 professional staff members ,15 volunteers and 9 support staff. This gives an upper hand for the success of the project as all these personals are fully facilitated and equipped by the organization to run all the youth and civic engagement programs in the organization.

4.4.2 Individual capacity

I am a Gender and inclusion officer with over 6 years of experience managing gender related projects and as one of the co-founders of Women Crusade for Development Africa**.** My mandate is strategic planning, decision making, team building, programme management and outreach for the organization where I directly work and liase with the project manager to design community interventions that promote inclusion among young people in the rural areas.

I am currently the regional Manager of OUR SPACE Project ,a two year project that started in 2022, being implemented in the slum areas of Uganda ,Kenya and Zambia which is working to promote youth participation, inclusion and representation in decision making processes under the auspices of European Association for Local Democracy(Alda),Elbarlment Cultures of Democracy, People in Need and being funded by European Union, the project has build my capacity in developing and understanding cross-cutting issues across various contexts and cultures .In 2023,with support from Digital defenders Partnership through Hivos People unlimited funding, I led a digital incidence emergence project called Mino-Tech space project aimed at equipping minority young people with online digital security skills for advocacy ,the project was implemented in slums of Kampala with a specific focus on the socially-excluded.Therefore, with such experiences gained on implementing youth led projects in fragile contexts, I am able to design and fully implement Hope us project targeting the most vulnerable young people in the rural areas of Uganda.

Over my years in advocacy ,I have been able to champion youth-led advocacy initiatives including in 2019 where I and other colleagues drafted a position paper that was presented during the Makerere university inter-sexuality dialogue with a proposal to amend the National youth council act 2016 to align it with the UN security council resolution 2250 of 2015 on youth, peace and security that recognizes the intersection of the youth agenda, as a youth activist and grassroot advocate who has attended several leadership and advocacy programs such as Young Africa Leaders Initiative YALI supported by USAID, Fredrick Ebert Stiftung program and a certified coach under WYSE Global Change Makers Programme 2022/23,I believe that I am fit to lead this project.

4.5 Previous projects implemented

Between 2020-2023, WOCUDA implemented "Talk to me Project" that aimed at Enhancing awareness of reproductive health rights and services to women in the reproductive health age group especially Family Planning, Sexually Transmitted Infections, ante natal and post-natal services for 700 women and 1600 in and out of school youth especially girls in Luuka Sub County", Luuka district, Uganda. The project will leverage the structures and youth friendly spaces that were initiated by this project to achieve it's goals and objectives.

In 2021, WOCUDA implemented a project titled "Digital space' that aimed at empowering 10,000 young people in Kamuli district with digital skills for advocacy", through the two years project, the organization developed an online strategy which is less effective especially when working with young people. Through the online audience and partnerships that this project reached, Hope Us project will leverage on the same online structures and audience with the same online strategy that registered success for the digital space project.

Between 2022-2024, WOCUDA together with Hope 4 life Uganda implemented 'Our Space Project "that promoted Youth Civic Empowerment and enhanced Participation in decision making processes in public affairs via regional accountability mechanisms across Uganda, Kenya and Zambia. Towards this goal, the project developed the capacities of 150 youth civil

society organizations and 8,000 young citizens through youth tier-peer approach in advocacy and promoted effective cooperation through national and regional networks.

4.6 Collaboration with other players / Stakeholders and actors in the field

Women Crusade for Development Africa signed a 3-year Memorandum of understanding with Kamuli district local government in 2024, among the provisions in this partnership include: providing subsidized youth corner/spaces where we can hold youth engagements, providing 40% of Hope Us project total budget and committing to working together through mobilizing project intended stakeholders.

WOCUDA believes in the power of grassroot movement and as part of this solidarity efforts, the organization has already established collaborations with Hope 4 Life Uganda under its consortium where Echoes of Inspiration Uganda and Peace Builders coalition Uganda are part, the proposal was designed in consultation with this consortium because of their vast experience in implementing youth projects in this fragile context.

WOCUDA in partnership with Hope 4 Life and partners and in consultations with youth representatives, disability representatives, Gender Based Violence (GBV) survivors/victims networks, religious leaders, traditional/cultural/opinion leaders, district and local community authorities, civil society with minority groups and other CSO collaborators have designed eighteen months participatory youth-led social empowerment program with the aim to ddemonstrate identification with and ownership for the program.

The project will directly target and work with and through the socially excluded youth/young people and their networks while also strengthening the local civil society and duty bearers to influence the spaces for youth/young people operations and advocacy for youth/young people rights and policies, governance and participation in decision making processes.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 Gender approaches and theoretical perspectives in the project

Critically, the project will work with the biggest minority group in Uganda which is the People with Disabilities, therefore it's better to draw on key theories and perspectives in order to understand the lived experiences of the minority groups, and to understand how power over and other social systems shape their lives. Therefore, by applying these perspectives, the project will underscore the complex, over lapping forms of oppression that minority groups face in Uganda and promote more inclusive, equitable policies and practices.

5.1 Critical race theory: Power, Agency, ableism and Stigma

The theory presents a critical perspective of how people with disabilities may absorb and accept negative beliefs about themselves from the society (Kumari Campbell,2008). She uses this theory to focus on how race and racism are built into legal and social systems showing how discrimination against PWDs works in similar ways.

Campbell urges that like racism, stigma /ableism is baked into society and over time, PWDs may begin to believe that they're "less than" because of how they are treated. This theory offers a compelling framework for understanding complex social dynamics as it aligns with research finding conducted by Abimanyi,(2014) on "Uganda's disability journey" that highlights how PWDs in Uganda faces multiple forms of stigma, isolation and lose their self-esteem.

The theory leverages on the principle of intersectionality between race and disability by exploring unique experiences of oppression, this approach is too critical because it generates an understanding of how individuals multiple marginalized identities, a common social issue that young people with disabilities are going through in Uganda. As a critique to traditional disability theories on disablism that

focuses on "societal structures, without adequately addressing how disabled people internalise these societal attitudes, Campbell further emphasis the need to examine internalised ableism to fully understand the dynamics of societal oppression.

However much the theory presents a conceptual innovation through the introduction of "internalised ableism", it seemingly and primarily focuses on the western context which may not resonate with the experiences of disabled people in developing countries limiting it's applicability where cultural differences can influence the manifestation and internalization of stigma/discrimination requiring tailored approaches Pyke, (2003). The project draws on Gender Transformative and Responsive Approach (GTRA) and Social Norm Change (SNC) theory as is discussed in the next section.

5.2 GTR Approach and SNC Change: Social attitude, Culture, power and Men engage.

These approaches suggested by Casey et al ,2016 presents a comprehensive framework for understanding and enhancing men's involvement in not only preventing GBV but also shifting social attitudes of leaders in the society. In this case, Hope us project will employ Gender Transformative and Responsiveness Approaches (GTRA) and Social Norm Change (SNC) to prioritize advocacy, prevention of Stigma and promotion of human rights among young people in Kamuli and Luuka districts.

GTRA and SNC are effective approaches to address issues related to Advocacy, VAWG and stigma in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. These approaches recognize that gender inequality is at the root of many of these issues and seek to transform harmful gender norms, attitudes through a process of reflection and empowerment, and create a more gender-equitable society by addressing the underlying causes of Violence against young people and promotion of human rights. This will be achieved through activities such as engaging men and boys in the conversation about gender equality, promoting women's leadership and empowerment, and advocating for gender- sensitive policies, district plans and Gender responsive budgets.

The approach recognizes that budget main streaming is key, it will help center and streamline the local budget in making sure that socially excluded young people are empowered to know their role in budget draft and cycle, design, review and implementation, so that the input of the budget allocation is tailored to their needs.
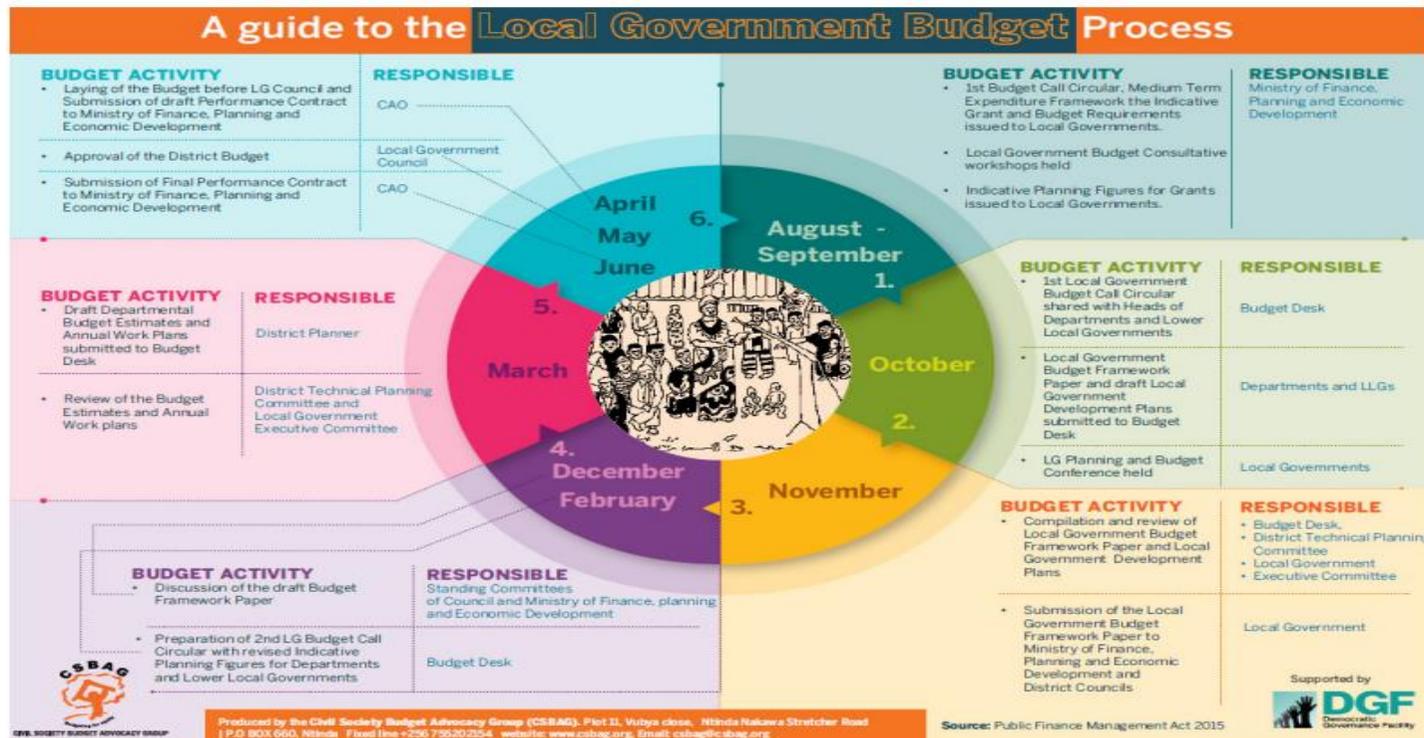
35 Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development. The Budget Calendar 2021. https://www.csbag.org/download/a-guide-to-the-national-budget-process/

Figure.5. A guide to the local government budget process (Source: Ministry of finance planning and economic development, the budget calendar 2021. https://www.csbag.org/downloads-guide-to-the-national-budget-process/

In the prevention of VAWG and promotion of GTRA,it will challenge harmful gender norms and attitudes that contribute to elimination of stigma, such as beliefs about masculinity and femininity. This will be done through activities such as community accountability forums, facilitating of community activities, and targeted interventions with men and boys, inter-generational mentoring sessions including; young people interfacing with influential elderly persons in the community, feminists/activists, selected members of the district councils, development partners/donors, to promote accountability, learning, more equitable and respectful relationships between men and women.

In the promotion of inclusive civic participation, GTRA and SNC empower young people/youth to make informed decisions about their lives. The project draws Transformative leadership Approach as is discussed in the next section

5.2 Transformative leadership Approach (TLA)

WOCUDA recognizes Leadership for sustainable change that addresses the root causes of inequalities. It is deeply intertwined with feminist leadership and intersectionality, with a combined aim to challenge and shift power to dismantle systems of inequality and oppression holistically. A transformative approach to design ensures that young people have agenda setting power in the project as well as co-designing with them from the policy formulation, policy review and implementation.

A transformative leadership principle recognizes the expertise of young people while still recognizing the need to capacity build the young people through ongoing mentorship for them to lead accountability processes. WOCUDA ought to recognize the value of young people especially in terms of using social media innovation, campaigns e.g. twitter spaces, twitter storms, zoom meetings e.t.c to hold duty bearers accountable on their own commitment stipulated in legal human rights frameworks.

The project will support young people with effective training on how to deliver their accountability messages/ asks to decision makers while claiming for their rights. Partners to think about dynamic approaches of ensuring voices of grassroot young people are represented

especially where they do not have capacities to engage in virtual engagements or lack access to internet and devices. The project draws Feminist leadership Approach as is discussed in the next section.

5.3 Young Feminist leadership

WOCUDA values this as a collaborative, relational, transformative, consensus-building, open, intersectional, inclusive, participatory and aims to challenge patriarchal dynamics that have always been subjected to the vulnerable persons such as the youth and women. Young feminist leadership seeks to redistribute power, foster intergenerational solidarity for collective partnerships with adults to strengthen advocacy accountability strategies. Putting this into context; WOCUDA will support young women to develop youth friendly accountability tools such as the co-creation of the budget review policy document to be presented during the Kamuli district youth council meeting in the 1st quarter of 2026.

CHAPTER SIX

6.0 Target group

6.1 Direct beneficiaries

The project is set to directly benefit 1000 youth, through both online and physical activities,100 young women living with disabilities and 30 youth-led organizations, 100 young people from the minority groups 10 disability led organisation,30 minority led organization, from the selected rural and slum areas of Eastern Uganda,600 young citizens and 100 aspiring youth leaders 50 in each district.

The target beneficiaries will be organizations, youth and groups working with diverse youths from 15-30 years in the proposed project areas. These direct beneficiaries will be trained and sensitized on local budget cycle, Human rights, good governance, diversity (DEI), local charters, Youth structures and be equipped with relevant skills in youth led mobilizing, digital skills, meaningful dialogues, transformative leadership and joint network advocacy building so that they undertake actions to promote civic spaces to hold policy makers accountable and promote community and meaningful youth engagements.

6.2 Indirect beneficiaries

Another set of direct beneficiaries will be key change agents including 40 traditional leaders,30 religious leaders,50 local policy makers at local level and these will have their capacity built and strengthened on value setting to shift gender norms as barriers to women participation in governance, capacity strengthening on existing local policy gaps, popularization of local charters so that an enabling environment is created for youth and women activists working in organizations.

Through second tier peer youth-influencing - where one youth is envisaged to influence 10 other local youth and women in the community through meaningful community, the project will indirectly reach to 10,000 youth in the respective rural communities through knowledge sharing by the direct beneficiaries.

6.3 Description of project sites

The project will be implemented in the two districts (Kamuli and Luuka) found in Busoga sub-region situated in Eastern part of Uganda 111.11 km a way from Kampala the capital city of Uganda, Busoga sub-region has 11 political districts and at each district is comprised of local administrative units like Local council 5-Local council 3-Local council II(Parish)-Local council I(Village),3 municipalities with a population of close to 3.8Million according to Uganda Demographic Health Survey,2018. Luuka District is bordered by Buyende District in the north, Kaliro District to the northeast, Iganga District to the southeast, Mayuge District to the south, Jinja District to the southwest and Kamuli District to the northwest with a population of 298,639 Population according to Uganda's population census 2024 with about 80% of the biggest population below the age of 35 years.

While Kamuli district has a population of 540,252 Population according to Uganda population census ,2024, with 78% being young people below 30 years. It is located in south-eastern Uganda a distance of about 140km from Kampala. It lies at an average altitude of 1,083 m above sea level and extends from 00 - 56' North / 330 - 05' East up to 010 - 20' North / 330 - 15' East. The district is bordered by River Nile and Kayunga District in the west, Jinja district in the South,Luuka district in the Southeast, Buyende District in the North and Northeast. It has a total land area of 1,622.00 km2 and 62.64 km2 (3.9%) of water. (*Kamuli District Local Government Development Plan for Financial Year 2020/21 – 2024/25*)

Uganda Bureau of statistics report,2019 ranked Busoga sub-region bearing the highest fertility rate of about 7 to 8 children among women per area with Kamuli and Luuka district contributing the highest number. Busoga is surrounded by waters including source of the Nile

and Lake Victoria. Furthermore, Busoga Kamuli and Luuka districts are predominantly rural with a population of 95%, only 5% live in semi-urban districts known as trading centers. Data from Uganda Bureau of statistics,2019 indicates that both Kamuli and Luuka district are filled with poor populations where about 68% are not able to acquire $1 a day through their work and 78% not able to afford 2 meals a day. In the two districts, school dropout is high due to a number of reasons including stigma. Teenage pregnancy, child labor due to the influence of sugarcane plantations as one of the key human activities in the two districts.

Figure 6: A map showing location of Kamuli and Luuka district

7.0 Project implementation

7.1 Project administration, management and decision - making

The decision-making process for Hope us Project implementation is characterized by a structured and collaborative approach where all the 3 organizations agreed to appoint Menya Julius as a coordinator/ chair who will be taking up specific roles of coordinating the project and other partner organizations, developing partnerships plans for all implementing organizations. Specifically with Hope us project, coordination chair will facilitate Coordination calls which serve as the primary forum for discussing and reaching consensus on various aspects of the project and consortium.

These calls are facilitated by the project manager from Women Crusade for Development Africa who plays a pivotal role in steering discussions and ensuring that all relevant issues are addressed. During these coordination calls, the project manager shares the agenda and issues are presented from all implementing organization members for discussion, providing a platform for all project partners to express their perspectives, share insights, and contribute to the decision-making process. This participatory approach ensures that decisions are made collectively, drawing upon the diverse expertise and experiences of the organization members.

In addition to coordination calls, the 3 organizations have embraced digital communication through a dedicated WhatsApp digital forum. This forum serves as an efficient and real-time channel for ongoing communication among the project partners. One noteworthy element in the project structure is the assignment of the overall monitoring responsibility to "Women Crusade for Development Africa." The organization is entrusted with the critical tasks of overseeing and tracking all activities related to Hope us project but also responsible for overall reporting of all activities related to Hope Us project.

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The organization role goes beyond mere oversight, It is responsible for ensuring that the project stays on course, milestones are met, and any deviations or challenges are promptly addressed. By incorporating coordination calls through a digital forum, and a lead organization for monitoring, the implementing organizations demonstrate a commitment to transparency, inclusivity, and effective communication. This multifaceted approach not only facilitates decision-making but also ensures that the entire consortium is well-informed, engaged, and collectively responsible for the successful implementation of Hope Us project.

7.2.0 Activities

7.2.1 Activity 1

Conduct a Project inception meeting in Luuka district. An inception meeting will be initiated to introduce to stakeholders about the details of the project, stakeholders will be, youth from disability community, aspiring youth leaders, minority community and young women and youths working with CSOs, activists, local policy makers and key social agents like religious and cultural leaders.

The inception meeting will engage 50 stakeholders 25 from Kamuli and 25 from Luuka district. The project will employ a substantive participation approach where it will engage stakeholders in consultation, and bring young people as equal partners when developing activity models. A needs assessment plan will be detailed to understand and assess reasonable accommodations for young people with disabilities and those from the minority community.

7.2.2 Activity 2

Facilitate a Transformative and inclusive youth leadership capacity building workshops in Kamuli and one value settings workshop in Luuka. Capacity building for youth on participatory democracy. Through use of Community Participation approach, WOCUDA will enlist community participation through working with local leadership as well as school and village youth structures.

We will ensure strong community involvement and commitment by engaging district and sub county leaders, Youth Peer Educators (YPEs), Sub County health resource persons in joint planning, mobilization for sharing of information on values clarification and knowledge on good practices regarding democratic participation through both formal and Informal Learning Techniques and use of youth table talks.

7.2.3 Activity 3

Facilitate district youth Annual planning meetings/Technical planning meetings and quarterly meetings to identify gaps in district budgeting. Facilitate district local council coordination, planning and emergency meetings. Through this we will support these meetings through Providing the committee with the technical expertise, and facilitate these trainings and other January/2024 Namayingo local district headquarters.

7.2.4 Activity 4

Facilitation and launch of hybrid #16 Days of Activism campaign on violence against young people. Facilitation of Online 16 Days of Activism campaign that calls for action against one of the world's most persistent violations of human rights for violence against women and girls including denial of political participation Will be conducted to engage stakeholders. Through this campaign, we will engage with local community youth and women organizations, policy makers and diverse youths to dialogue on issues of inclusive civic participation. Deliverables

7.2.5 Activity 5

Conduct budget cycle trainings in the two districts, one policy dialogue and a public hearing in Budget planning. The training will be designed to help CSOs and youth leaders to understand how district public budgets are planned, approved monitored and evaluated. The trainings will enhance youth's understanding to influence public policy, gender responsive budgeting and allocation of budget to priority issues affecting young people.

The activities will engage participants in phases of the budget including roles of different government institutions, timing and calender of budget activities and youth budget analysis. The activities will provide a platform for young citizens, especially youth, to present concerns and proposals on budget allocations directly to decision-makers in a public, accountable setting

7.2.6 Activity 6

Facilitate feedback review meetings in Kamuli district. Hold project review meeting with key stakeholders to share experience, lessons and best practices to track the progress of the project. The meeting will discuss project updates, including dissemination of Hope us project, the meeting will gather feedback from the stakeholders on ways of moving together.

7.2.7 Activity 7

Conduct 2 Inter-generational community dialogues to engage youth and policy makers in Kamuli and Luuka. The dialogue will bring together 50 stakeholders including 5 female county representatives,5 youth county leaders,7 social agents,2 policy makers,5 CSO working with young people between 18-25 years and 33 young citizens between 18-30 years. The dialogues will be one day event in each district

7.2.8 Activity 8

Conduct end of project inception meeting in Luuka district. Conduct reflection and end of project meetings with key stakeholders to reflect on project milestones, share lessons and evaluate the project overall achievements, impact and derive sustainability plans for this program.

7.2 Risk analysis and Mitigation strategies

No	Risks	Likelihood (High, Medium, Low)	Impact (High, Medium, Low)	Mitigation measures
1	Young people with disabilities might find it hard to reach in places where project activities will be conducted and some may face challenges with online project activities	Medium	Medium	❖ Conduct a pre-needs assessment to ascertain what reasonable accommodations can we set in place to enable them meaningfully attend the project activities. ❖ Change location for the project activities or set up facilities to support people with disabilities
2	Youths from minorities Community might not attend the trainings because of law limitations, and for Uganda's case where the Anti-	Medium	High	

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	homosexuality law was passed in 2023 that limits operation and gathering of people from the Community in fear of being persecuted			❖ Customise the trainings for them, make sure to select methods and locations that are safe and agreed with them
3	Unexpected changes in prices of the costed budget items due to inflation	Low	Low	❖ This will be mitigated by a formal communication to funders in case of increased prices so that project targets and activities might be reduced or securing other means of funding and private donations and seeking local partnerships that will be mobilized through to complement our space project
4	Social or Cultural Barriers to Youth Participation in decision making	Medium	Low	❖ Provide cultural competency training to staff, volunteers, and youth to ensure respectful and inclusive engagement ❖ Create non-threatening spaces for youth to engage, such as informal discussion groups or digital platforms.

				❖ Highlight and empower youth leaders and role models who can inspire others to participate.
5	Higher expectations from the Stakeholders	Low	Low	❖ The objective and focus of the project will be made clear during all activities to reduce such high community expectations but also stakeholders will be initially engaged on what will the project offer in terms of time compensation
6	In Uganda, the space for civil society narrows and limits CSOs' ability to operate	Medium	High	❖ Constant monitoring and adhering to legal frameworks relating to civil society space like NGO Act 2016 and continuous engagement with government institutions. ❖ Adhering to CSO set operation standards such as signing MOUs with the county

				/district local governments and partner organisations.

Table 2. Framework for Risk Assessment & Mitigation

7.3 Project Communication, dissemination and visibility

Arrive to the fact that Hope us project is being implemented by WOCUDA and its partners, a joint communication, dissemination and visibility plan was discussed and here is a breakdown of how communication and visibility will be managed.

Communication/Dissemination tool or channel	Description (when,which frequency,how many copies….)	Target group to whom the tool is addressed
Organization Websites for women crusade 4 Development Africa -www.wocuda.org and it's implementing partners: Hope 4 Life Uganda website- www.hope4life.org ,Echoes of Inspiration Uganda - https://echoesofinspiration-ug.org/ ,Kamuli District Local government - https://www.kamuli.go.ug	Implementing partners will be using their websites to update and post activities of the project, Project updates on the websites will be done monthly.	The target audience for these channels are the funders, and other organizations working with young people who may check on the websites for partnerships, stakeholders who may wish to know more about the details and work of the project/organizations

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Organization Twitter pages-(X) – Women crusade @Crusade4DevAf with 1.8k followers, Hope 4 life Uganda -@hope4lifeuganda-300 followers, Echoes of Inspiration Uganda @EchoesUganda–175 Followers	Twitter Posts will be made, and also running of twitter spaces as part of the project activities.	The channel will target Youth in the cities of Kamuli and Luuka districts, but also engage other youth in other cities as part of the organization audiences
WhatsApp groups/Channel	The WhatsApp groups will be for coordination and mobilizing purposes but also use WhatsApp statuses every day to communicate the impact, update and activities of the project by members involved in the project	This communication channel is best for youth living in the cities of Kamuli and Luuka
Local Radios in Busoga, BABA FM, Busoga one radio	Radio talk shows will be Conducted 3 times throughout the project implementation.	Radio channel is a best communication channel for youth living in rural areas of Busoga

Youth clubs and community youth volunteers for each organization (Women crusade has 5 district youth clubs and 10 peer educators, Hope 4 life Uganda has 30 community volunteers, Echoes of inspiration has 20 youth community ambassadors)	Women Crusade 4 Development Africa will be engaging all these volunteers through the partnership strategy monthly to equip them with information about this project so that they are able to use peer to peer approach in dissemination of the project information, this is among the less costly and the best dissemination channel.	These will effectively communicate and disseminate information to fellow peers mostly living in slum and rural areas Kamuli and Luuka

Table 3: A holistic framework for project Communication, dissemination & visibility

7.4 Budget

7   Budget

Description	Unit	No of Units	Cost per Unit $	Funding Available from WOCUDA $	Funding from other sources $	Total Cost $
Personnel (Salaries, visiting expert, support personnel, trainer, consultants, etc.)						
Project Manager	Salary per month	18	100.00	1000.00	800.00	1800.00
Programs Officer	Salary per month	18	50.00	500.00	400.00	900.00
Finance officer	Salary per month	18	50.00	500.00	400.00	900.00
Sub-total				**2,000.00**	**1,600.00**	**3,600.00**
Overhead costs / Indirect costs (Rent, Electricity, Internet services, Office communication, Office Supplies and stationery, etc.)						
Rental contribution	Rent per month	12	55	400.00	260.00	660.00
Electricity	Rent per month	12	40	-	480.00	480.00
Internet services	Per-month	12	80	600.00	360.00	960.00
Office communication	Per month	12	60	500.00	220.00	720.00
Office supplies & stationery	Perm-month	18	20	360.00	-	360.00

Sub-total		-	-	1,860	1,320.00	3,180.00
PROJECT ACTIVITIES						
A1. Project inception meeting in Luuka district for 50 participants						
Venue hire	Day	1	70.00	-	70.00	70.00
Refreshments	Day	50	25.00	650.00	600.00	1,250.00
Transport refund for participants	Day	50	10.00	250.00	250.00	500.00
Pull up banner	1	1	100	100.00	-	100.00
Transport refund to volunteers	Day	5	9	45.000	-	45.00
Per-diem facilitation to participants	Day	50	9	-	450.00	450.00
Sub-total				1,045	920.00	1,965.00
A.2.Facilitate a Transformative and inclusive youth leadership capacity building workshops in Kamuli and one value settings workshop in Luuka						
Venue hire	Day	1	70.00	70.00	-	70.00
Facilitation for facilitators	Day	3	20.00	30.00	30.00	60.00

Transport refund	Day	50	9.00	250.00	200.00	450.00
Refreshments	Day	50	5.00	250.00	-	250.00
T-shirts	1	20	6.00	120.00	120.00	240.00
Transport refund to volunteers	Day	5	9.00	45.00	-	45.00
Sub-total				**765.00**	**350.00**	**1,115.00**
A3. Facilitate district youth Annual planning meetings/Technical planning meetings and quarterly meetings to identify gaps in district budgeting						
Transport refund to youth district leaders	Month	3	100.00	**150.00**	**150.00**	**300.00**
Mobilisation fee for youth leaders	month	3	96.00	**188.00**	**100.00**	**288.00**
Refreshments	month	3	100.00	**300.00**	-	**300.00**
Transport refund to volunteers	month	5	9.00	**45.00**	-	**45.00**
Sub-Total				**683.00**	**250.00**	**933.00**
A.4.Launch of Hybrid #16Days of Activism campaign on violence against young people						

Data refund for panellists	**People**	**15**	**15.00**	**225.00**	-	**150.00**
Data refund for moderators	**people**	**10**	**15.00**	**100.00**	**50.00**	**150.00**
Zoom subscription for Women crusade for development Africa	**zoom**	**1**	**290.00**	**290.00**	-	**290.00**
Transport refund to Volunteers	**people**	**5**	**8.00**	-	**40.00**	**40.00**
Banners	**IEC**	**1**	**100**	**100.00**	-	**100.00**
Flers	**IEC**	**100**	**2**	-	**200.00**	**200.00**
Placards	**IEC**	**50**	**2**	**100.00**	-	**100.00**
Transport facilitation to volunteers	**people**	**5**	**9.00**	**45.00**	-	**45.00**
Sub-Total				**860.00**	**290.00**	**1,150.00**
A5. Conduct 2 budget cycle trainings in the two districts, one policy dialogue and a public hearing in Budget planning						
Transport refund for participants	People	30	8.00	-	**240.00**	**240.00**
Venue Hire	Day	2	30.00	-	**60.00**	**60.00**
Refreshments	people	30	10.00	-	**300.00**	**300.00**

Transport refund to volunteers	people	5	10.00	-	**50.00**	**50.00**
Communication fee for mobilisation	Day	2	50.00	-	**100.00**	**100.00**
Facilitation to trainers	People	3	100.00	-	**300.00**	**300.00**
Teaching models	Day	2	40.00	-	**80.00**	**80.00**
Sub-Total				**0**	**1,130.00**	**1,130.00**
A6. Facilitate feedback review meetings in Kamuli district						
Venue Hire	Day	1	30.00	30.00	-	30.00
Transport refund to participants	People	50	8.00	400.00	-	400.00
Transport refund to volunteers	People	5	10.00	50.00	-	50.00
Refreshments	People	50	10.00	500.00	-	500.00
Mobilisation costs	Day	1	50	500.00	-	500.00
Perdiem to participants	People	50	9	450.00	-	450.00
Sub-Total				**1,930.00**	**0**	**1,930.00**
A7. Conduct 2 Inter-generational community dialogues to engage youth and policy makers in Kamuli and Luuka						
Venue Hire	Day	1	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
Transport refund to participants	People	30	9.00	70.00	200.00	270.00
Transport refund to volunteers	People	5	10.00	-	50.00	50.00

Refreshments	People	30	10.00	-	30.00	30.00
Facilitation to moderators	People	2	15.00	-	30.00	30.00
Facilitation to panellists	People	6	15.00	90	-	90.00
Music system hire	Music	1	40.00	40	-	40.00
Sub-Total				**230.00**	**340.00**	**570.00**
A8. Conduct 3 Online social media campaigns aimed at promoting inclusive meaningful youth engagements						
Data refund for 12 panellists @ at 15	People	3	180.00	140.00	400.00	540.00
Data refund for 5 Moderators @ at 15	people	3	75.00	225.00	-	225.00
Mobilization fee for 4 implementing organizations @ at 45	Data	3	180.00	140.00	400.00	540.00
Zoom subscription fee	Subscription	1	310.00	310.00	-	310.00
Sub-Total				**815.00**	**800.00**	**1,615.00**
A9. Conduct end of project inception meeting in Luuka district						

Venue Hire	Day	30	30.00	600.00	300.00	900.00
Transport refund to participants	People	50	8.00	200.00	200.00	400.00
Transport refund to volunteers	People	5	10.00	50.00	-	50.00
Refreshments	People	50	10.00	50.00	-	50.00
Mobilisation costs	Day	1	50	50.00	-	50.00
Sub-total				**1000.00**	**500.00**	**1,500.00**
TOTAL				**11,188.00**	**7,500**	**18,688.00**

Table 4: Budget framework

8.0 Participatory monitoring and evaluation.

The performance of the project will be monitored through participatory monitoring and evaluation, using the monitoring tools developed based on the information that was collected through the baseline survey. While this proposal was informed by the baseline information obtained, a project specific baseline survey will be commissioned to collect specific information relevant to this project, which was not been captured by the original situation analysis.

The project indicators will be used to track the progress of the project. There will also be review meetings to assess the performance of the project and an evaluation conducted at the end of the project. Project beneficiaries will be involved in all these activities not only as beneficiaries but also as active participants. Best practices on the project will be documented and shared within and outside WOCUDA based on the lessons learnt, the project will be scaled up to other areas.

During the life of the project, the learning from this project will be shared with stakeholders during review meetings and through the media, including Media, radio station that disseminates information on young people. Best practices, lessons learnt and publications produced from this project will be shared at various forums that include various stakeholders, partners and government officials.

The primary purpose of monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) will be to facilitate shared learnings about how change happens and to improve performance towards elimination of stigma Promotion of young people's rights and advocacy. The MEL approach will help us understand our contribution towards transforming communities and institutions. Data collection and information management on the status of civic participation, will be captured by WOCUDA and Partners and feed into the National Database a source of national data management that informs national level engagement and policy advocacy.

The project will be documented through photography, video coverage, case story collection and regular report writing. WOCUDA and partners will produce an annual report on progress

undertaken for the period. this will be done through;

a). Institution Capacity Assessment, Formative Studies and Asset mapping will be conducted by external persons, program staff and M & E officers at the beginning of project implementation to inform effective project implementation.

b). Community Activity and institution monitoring tool: This tool will be used by staff to monitor activities that are facilitated by Community youth Activists and institutions respectively. This report will document attendance disaggregated by gender, track the process, relevance, and quality of activities and those facilitating them so gaps can be identified and programmatic adjustments can be made.

c). Outcome Tracking Tool: This tool will be used to assess shifts in knowledge, attitudes, skills and behaviours of community members participating in community activities. To apply this tool, an evaluator, programme staff, staff attends an activity, observes and listens carefully to the discussions raised, and assesses the resistance to or acceptance of Hope us project ideas across a simple spectrum.

d). Project outcomes: Progress and change will be tracked using outcome harvesting which is a participatory methodology for planning, monitoring and evaluating development initiatives to bring about sustainable social change. All relevant tools will be developed to ensure effective monitoring of the project as elaborated in the results framework. This will focus on changes in the behaviour, relationships, activities, actions of the people and groups whom the project will work with directly.

Outcome harvesting ensures that individuals, groups, and organizations with whom the program interacts directly and with whom the program anticipates opportunities for influence control change and that, as external agents, development programs only facilitate the process by providing access to new resources, ideas, or opportunities for a certain period. Monthly field monitoring and follow-up of survivors will be conducted to document the changes in their lives in terms of norms and exposure to stigmatisation. Documentation of survivor's stories of

change and commitment from key stakeholders will be undertaken for learning about what works and what does not work towards substantive participation of socially excluded young people in decision making processes

8.1 Project sustainability analysis

The sustainability of the project is guaranteed as the project will use already existing structures in the communities. The project will build the capacity of the community to sustain the services provided by this project. The project beneficiaries will own the project as they will be involved in all stages of the project and this sense of ownership will ensure that the project is sustained beyond the life of the project.

Project implementing partners will jointly develop sustainability strategies in partnership with district stakeholders with clearly agreed upon roles for the different institutions. This will contribute to ensuring mutual accountability and support from the different stakeholders. The program will apply the following mechanisms to ensure sustainability of program initiatives and results beyond the life of the project:

(a) Institutional sustainability: The program will build on/leverage and work with and through existing structures at within the organization, leverage on the existing local youth structures and shall not create new structures parallel to those in existence. These include the public social service delivery systems both at district, sub-county and community levels; and the already established CSO structures. The program, will therefore, work with key stakeholders in such structures to carry out participatory capacity assessments, and capacity development planning which will inform the capacity development process that will enable local structures to own and champion the development processes beyond the life of the project. The project will also be supported by over 30 organization volunteers whose capacity will be developed, this will enable and sustain project activities even beyond its life time.

(b) Financial sustainability: This project will be sustained by the allocated funds that the organization has channeled to it, continuous partnership and further in-kind requests will be initiated in the course of project implementation, grants to complement this project where the

grants department will align and consider this project as a key program for funding. In terms, of further resources, this program activities will be integrated in organization's other actions and activities in order to sustain its contributions.

c) Technological Sustainability: The project adopted an online strategy with about 30% of its activities being conducted online, this is an innovative and applicable way for the sustainability of this project because empirical evidence from Research World International on internet usage convenient way to mobilize and demand accountability since the outbreak of covid-19. The online approach is a low effective and the activities are easily adopted and carried on even beyond project life time.

d) Partnership strategy: The organisation through this project has signed a 3-year partnership MoU, including 40% of local district funding, plus providing spaces and offering to mobilise young people to attend project activities, Additionally, so far, the organisation has signed CSOs partners that are going to implement this project including grassroot organizations working in civic participation space to enable us build synergies, re-design community approaches and enable joint advocacy campaigns, but also being assured of the sustainability of the project.

8.2 Reporting

Hope us project will fully be reported by WOCUDA, Activity reports will be compiled, there will be narrative reports produced , three phases and shared to partners, final report will be share to all stakeholders including the funder, media beneficiaries and government actors. The results of this project will be compiled in the organisation annual report which is shared online. In First narrative reporting, reporting will be due 12/12/2025 as the first project updates to project partners including funders. The mid-term financial and narrative reports will be submitted before 15/05/2026.The expected submission on of final financial and narrative report will be due 16/11/2026.

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Annexes

Annex 1: Logical framework

	INTERVENTION LOGIC	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
OVERALL GOAL	Enhanced participation and inclusion of socially excluded & underserved young people (young women, youth living with disabilities and minority groups) in decision making process	Increased participation of marginalized youth in decision making processes by 20%	Evaluation reports Project surveys M & E reports	There is an enabling environment For CSOs to operate Stakeholders collaborate as planned
OUTCOME 1	Increased capacity of 300 youths to effectively leverage digital platforms for youth-led advocacy and accountability	300 youth empowered on use of social media in holding leaders accountable	Activity report, screen shot/views/likes Activity recordings	There is no conflict
OUTPUT 1	Launch of Online social media campaigns to promote online meaningful engagement engagements among 200 marginalised youths	200 marginalized youth engaged and trained on using social media for online engagements	Registration forms Activity recordings Comments and likes	Network is stable There are no major restrictions or censorship that hinder online civic engagement.
ACTIVITY 1	1.Innitiate 2 Inter-generational community dialogue to engage 50 youth and 10 policy makers on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Luuka and Kamuli.	50 youths and 10 policy makers attended the dialogues At least 40 youth are able mention one or two things about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Interview with youths Activity photos	There is an enabling environment For CSOs to operate Stakeholders collaborate as planned
	1.2. Facilitate a Transformative and inclusive youth leadership capacity building workshops for 30 marginalised youth in Kamuli	30 youths empowered through transformative and inclusive youth leadership and are able to mention At least 20 youth registered as candidates to run in the coming 2026 elections	Activity photos /videos Activity surveys	There are no conflicts/social unrest
	1.3: Conduct one value settings workshop to enable 30 aspiring leaders reflect on their personal values, beliefs and agreeing on societal common values that break stero types and address unpaid care work.	30 Youths empowered and trained on personal values and beliefs. 30 youth have increased understanding of Unpaid care domestic work. Positive shift and attitudes among 30 youth towards gender roles and unpaid care work	Activity photos/testimonials Activity reports	There are no conflicts/social unrests.

OUTCOME 2	Strengthened cooperation between youth groups, activists, and local policy makers	New and stronger formal partnerships or coalitions formed. Number of new relationships created with unlikely partners	Activity photos/videos and testimonials	Youths are willing to participate in the activity
OUTPUT 2	Develop and design joint advocacy campaigns and initiatives that brings together youth groups, activists, policy makers and organizations	Initiatives XXY Created between youth groups, women-led organizations, and policymakers.	Activity reports Activity survey	Youths are easily mobilized
ACTIVITY 2	2.1: Initiate and run the #16Days of activism with a focus on Violence Against Women and young people with disabilities during election	A position paper/alternative policy paper drafted, presented and submitted during the district youth council meeting	Evaluation forms Activity reports	Youths are willing to participate in the activity CSOs Partnerships are easily coordinated
OUTCOME 3	Increased budgetary allocation, and awareness for 50 youth on youth local councils and structures towards strengthening support for youth development programs.	At least 40 youths are able to mention three things in local budget	Activity reports District records/Data	Youths are willing to participate in the activity
OUTPUT 3	Design an inclusive budget cycle capacity building and awareness.	30 diverse youths trained on the local district budget processes 30 youths are able mention four things about the budget cycle.	Registration forms District records/Data Activity reports	District leadership provides spaces for the activity
ACTIVITY 3	3.1: Conduct one policy dialogue and a public hearing in Budget planning where marginalized youth, local council members, and policymakers can engage in open dialogue to increase budget allocation for youth	A position paper developed. Policy makers are willing to consider the increase budget	Activity reports Activity survey Activity photos	District leadership provides spaces for the activity
	3.2: Facilitate a district youth Annual planning meetings/Technical planning meetings and quarterly meetings to 20 district youth leaders in identifying gaps in district budgeting	20 youths supported in budget training, review and draft. Number of district meetings supported	Activity photos District budget records	District leaders are willing to be facilitated during these meetings

				Issues/gaps identified in the district budget			

Figure:5-A logical frame work showing indicators of the project

Annex 2: Project Indicative Timeline/Work Plan (June-2025 to Oct-2026)

Activity	M1-June-2025	M2-M3 J-A-2025	M3-M5 A-O2025	M6-M7,N-D-2025	M8-M9 J-F-2026	M10-M11 M-A-2026	M12-M14 M-J-2026	M15-M16-J-A 2026	M17-Sept-2026	M18-2026 Oct
A1. Project inception meeting in Luuka district	▓									
A2. Facilitate a Transformative and inclusive youth leadership capacity building workshops in Kamuli and one value settings workshop in Luuka		▓								
A3. Facilitate district youth Annual planning meetings/Technical planning meetings and quarterly meetings to identify gaps in district budgeting			▓							
A.4. Facilitation and launch of hybrid #16 Days of Activism campaign on violence against young people			▓	▓						
A5. Conduct 2 budget cycle trainings in the two districts, one policy dialogue and a public hearing in Budget planning					▓					
A6. Facilitate feedback review meetings in Kamuli district						▓				
A7. Conduct 2 Inter-generational community dialogues to engage youth and policy makers in Kamuli and Luuka							▓			
A8. Conduct 3 Online social media campaigns aimed at promoting inclusive meaningful youth engagements								▓		
A9. Conduct end of project inception meeting in Luuka district									▓	
A10.Project reporting										▓

Table 6: A table showing project activities and timeline/work plan