



CPAR Uganda Ltd

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Advocating Healthy Dignified Lives



**Concept Paper
for
Innovator Mentoring Programme**

1. THE INTERVENTION

CPAR Uganda holds a vision that Ugandans, most especially rural men, women and children, who are members of smallholder farming households, should lead healthy and dignified lives during which their basic needs are met and their rights are respected. CPAR Uganda's mission, therefore, through training and mentoring, is to work towards smallholder farming households in rural Uganda ably meeting the basic and genuine needs of their members through enhanced livelihoods; access to health care, clean water, sufficient and nutritious food.

The role that CPAR Uganda has thus chosen is to contribute to human development through training and mentoring of young adults into innovators who are highly skilled and who have experienced a positive life-changing awakening process. Young adults who have had tertiary level formal education are the primary target group that CPAR Uganda strategically desires to train and to mentor – they could be students and they could as well be those who have recently completed their formal tertiary education.

It is the intention of CPAR Uganda to bequeath knowledge and skills to young adults while utilising a process that will lead the young adults to a rational analysis of their own attitudes and actions, as well as the existing social, cultural, economic and political relationships in their communities; an analysis that should motivate them to want to take action to contribute to the greater good.

CPAR Uganda thus proposes its Innovator Mentoring Programme to consist of four independent modules as follows:

- Module 1: Understanding Poverty in Rural Uganda
- Module 2: Applying Development Methodologies and Theories to Rural Uganda
- Module 3: The Dynamics of Uganda's Rural Economy
- Module 4: Initiating and Sustaining Innovations for Positive Change in Rural Uganda

Each module will be conducted in a period of one month and each module will consist of 11-days of non-residential training sessions and 12 days of fieldwork. The training sessions will be conducted utilising the best practice of self-reliant participatory methodologies in which the role of the trainers is primarily to facilitate discussions as opposed to top-down lecturing.

The format of the training sessions will be dominated with the use of tools that encourage and inspire those being mentored to actively participate in discussions in plenary sessions and in group discussions. The norm during the training sessions shall be utilisation of such tools as: question and answer sessions; role plays; exercises; case studies; and others. The fieldwork periods are designed to allow individual reflection as well as to lead to an appreciation of group or team work.

Its Innovator Mentoring Programme will be domiciled at CPAR Uganda's Lira Learning Centre that is located at Plot 5 Makerere Road in Lira Municipality in Lira District in Northern Uganda. This means that the young adults who will be mentored under the programme will have to travel and live in Lira Municipality for the duration of each module that they participate in. This is so that they are able to easily access the Learning Centre everyday during the period when a module is in session.

CPAR Uganda's Lira Learning Centre is located on substantial grounds on which it has established demonstrations for urban yard gardening for nutrition and income generation. The Learning Centre hosts: Offices, CPAR's Kitchen – canteen and restaurant, CPAR's Business Centre, CPAR's Professor Fred Opio Ekong Research Resource Centre; and a Training Hall. These units at the learning centre are each operated under the social enterprise model and will be a crucial element of CPAR Uganda's Innovator Mentoring Programme.

Indeed, CPAR Uganda intends that the young adults it trains and mentors and who participate in all the four modules of its programme will gain hands-on practical experience and skills for:

- Conducting community discussions and training to promote and sustain innovations on health; and on climate sensitive agriculture for food security, nutrition security and income generation at household level.
- Doing research, policy analysis and advocacy for better public service delivery, particularly healthcare services.
- Doing administration, financial management and fundraising for not-for-profit innovations that are for the benefit of less advantaged communities.

2. THE FINANCING

The unit cost for training and mentoring one young adult for one module with a cohort of 25 participants is budgeted at UGX 800,000 (eight hundred Uganda shillings), which is about US\$ 215 (two hundred and fifteen United States dollars). This means that the budgeted cost for training one young adult is UGX 35,000 (thirty five shillings) per day, less than US\$ 10 (ten US dollars) per day. This cost includes the acquisition of and the provision to participants in-kind of the following: training equipment and materials; housekeeping materials; accommodation; meals (three per day); use of training hall; use of research resource centre; and the training team. The total cost for delivering one module with a cohort of 25 is therefore budgeted at UGX 20,000,000 (twenty million shillings), about US\$ 5,300 (five thousand three hundred US dollars).

In partnership with the GlobalGiving Foundation and through GlobalGiving's on-line crowd fundraising platform, CPAR Uganda has so far raised from individual donors funds that enable it to sponsor five young adults, disadvantaged students that are affiliated to universities in Greater Northern Uganda, to attend all the four modules of its Innovator Mentoring Programme. The budgeted sponsorship amount for each participant for all the four modules is UGX 3,200,000 (three million two hundred thousand shillings), about US\$ 860 (eight hundred and sixty dollars).

There is a need therefore for CPAR Uganda to find sponsors for 20 young adults in order to attain the first cohort of 25 and therefore enable the start of the programme. CPAR Uganda intends to reach out to its fellow civil society organisations, academic institutions, individuals and others to sponsor young adults to participate in its Innovator Mentoring Programme.

3. THE JUSTIFICATION

CPAR Uganda's operational programme area, its geographic region of operation, is Greater Northern Uganda – West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso and Karamoja sub-regions; hence it is the primary geographic focus for its Innovator Mentoring Programme. In spite of thousands of targeted development initiatives for and in the region by the Government of Uganda and other actors, poverty, however, is well and thriving in the region; the region is in fact the poorest in the country.

The region hosts at least nine million people, about a quarter of Uganda's population. This is according to the most recent Uganda Population Census that was conducted in 2014 by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). It is indeed of concern that a significant number of households in the region are living below the poverty line – typically, they live in poor quality housing; are less likely to have at least three meals a day; have low levels of human capital; have insufficient assets; and have limited access to vital public services.

The status quo of the region includes the following chilling facts:

Millions of people living below the poverty line					
West Nile	Acholi	Lango	Teso	Karamoja	Region
724,000	525,000	364,000	737,000	601,000	2,951,000
Proportion of population living below poverty line					
27%	55%	18%	41%	61%	36%

At least 36 percent of the region's population, over 2.9 million people, live below Uganda's poverty line. This is assuming that the findings hold true of the most recent Uganda National Household Survey that UBOS conducted in 2016/2017 (the household survey). Living below the poverty line means that millions in the region are living in households that are not able to meet the basic needs of their members. Such households, according to UBOS, are unable to access goods and services that are considered essential; effectively meaning that they do not have sufficient money that they require in order for them to meet their basic needs.

As it can be noted from the table immediately above, those living in poverty in the region are not evenly distributed throughout the region. The household survey found that Karamoja has the largest proportion of its population, 61 percent, that is living below the poverty line; followed by Teso with 41 percent; Acholi with 35 percent; West Nile with 27 percent; and Lango with 18 percent. It is likely, moreover, that the majority of those living below the poverty line are members of smallholder farming households. This is likely because, according to the household survey, the majority, 56 percent, of the region's population earn their livelihoods from 'subsistence farming'.

The likelihood that a significant proportion of those living below the poverty line are members of smallholder farming households is supported by the finding of the household survey that a countrywide trend shows that over a period of four years the proportion of those living in poverty increased 18 percentage points among 'subsistence farmers' - from 20 percent in 2012/2013 to 38 percent in 2016/2017. The two major reasons for the increase in those living in poverty among 'subsistence farmers', according to the household survey, are: diseases and pests for crops and livestock, and droughts; which phenomena have significantly affected agricultural production throughout Uganda.

Significant proportion of children deprived of having three meals per day					
West Nile	Acholi	Lango	Teso	Karamoja	Region
48%	70%	59%	60%	86%	64%

The majority of the region's children, 64 percent of them, according to the household survey, are deprived of having at least three meals per day, because their families are unable to provide them with those meals. According to the household survey, in fact, it is the case that the majority of children in four sub-regions within the region are not consuming three meals per day, as it should be. Karamoja has the highest proportion, 86 percent, of its children deprived of having three meals per day; followed by Acholi with 70 percent; Teso with 60 percent; Lango with 59 percent; and West Nile with 48 percent.

Significant proportion of children deprived of access to healthcare services					
West Nile	Acholi	Lango	Teso	Karamoja	Region
77%	28%	20%	34%	34%	39%

It is reasonable to deduce that with insufficient diets, the majority of the region's children are likely often to be afflicted with preventable diseases that are related to malnutrition. Moreover, as can be deduced from the table immediately above, when children in the region are taken ill they have insufficient access to healthcare services. The household survey found that 39 percent of children in the region are deprived of a visit to health facilities when they are ill, because their families cannot afford the costs involved. West Nile has the largest proportion, 77 percent, of its children deprived of a visit to a health facility when they are ill and when they need such a service. West Nile is followed by Teso and Karamoja each with a proportion of 34 percent; then Acholi with 28 percent; and Lango with 20 percent.

Significant proportion of children deprived of school fees					
West Nile	Acholi	Lango	Teso	Karamoja	Region
90%	58%	32%	67%	78%	65%

In addition to the majority of the region's children being deprived of enjoying sufficient food and having insufficient access to healthcare services, the household survey also found that the majority of the region's children of school going age, 65 percent of them, are deprived of a genuine need that is crucial for their personal development and education - school fees, because their families cannot afford the fees. West Nile has the largest proportion, 90 percent, of its children of school going age that are deprived of school fees; followed by Karamoja with 78 percent; Teso with 67 percent; Acholi with 57 percent; and Lango with 32 percent.

Large proportion of people aged above 15 years unable to read and write					
West Nile	Acholi	Lango	Teso	Karamoja	Region
34%	41%	22%	33%	73%	41%

The household survey found that 41 percent of the region's population aged above 15 years is illiterate – they are unable to read and write in any language. The rate of illiteracy in the region is 17 percentage points higher than the national illiteracy rate, which, according to the household survey, is 26 percent. Karamoja has the largest proportion, 73 percent, of its population aged above 15 years that is illiterate; followed by Acholi with 41 percent; West Nile with 34 percent; Teso with 33 percent and Lango with 22 percent.

4. THE CONCLUSION

The reality is that poverty in Greater Northern Uganda is caused by deprivation and at the same time it is the cause of deprivation. Due to poverty and the insufficient provision of public services, many in the region are unable to afford and to enjoy vital basic and genuine human needs. This reality is likely similar to the realities in other parts of Uganda as well, except for depth. This chilling reality is what CPAR Uganda's Innovator Mentoring Programme intends to break the cycle and to change for the greater good. The CPAR Uganda trained and mentored innovators are expected to proactively innovate, initiate, and facilitate processes that will lead to improving standards of living of smallholder farming households and that will ameliorate deprivation in their communities.

This concept paper was authored by Ms. Norah Owaraga, Managing Director of CPAR Uganda Ltd; and, on behalf of the CPAR Uganda Board of Directors, it was reviewed and approved by Prof. Christopher Garimoi Orach, the Board Chair of CPAR Uganda. Ms. Owaraga is the Team Leader for the CPAR Uganda Innovator Mentoring Programme. Please do not hesitate to contact her, for whatever reason in relation to this concept paper, through: Plot 5 Makere Road, Lira Municipality; or P.O. Box 820, Lira; or P.O. Box 313, Entebbe; or email info@cparuganda.com.