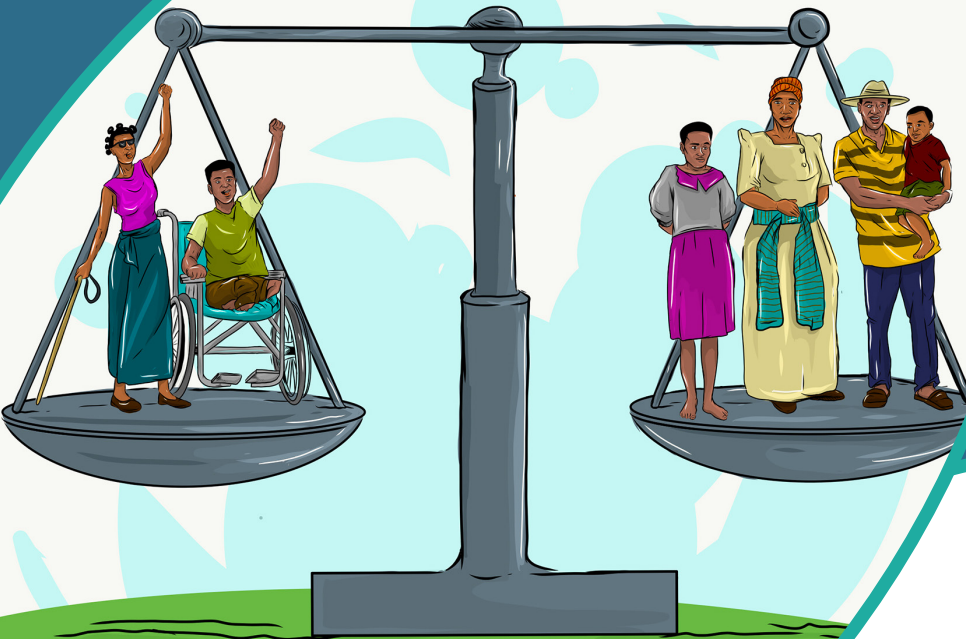


The Civil Society in Uganda Support Programme (CUSP)

Newsletter, Issue II.

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A Note From The Head Of The Civil Society In Uganda Support Programme (CUSP)



Dear readers,

The second issue of the CUSP Newsletter is here!

As we will wrap up the first phase of CUSP in October 2022, let us finalise the pending activities and prepare for the programme's second phase on a high note by creating a favourable environment for the civil society in Uganda, fostering participation in sub-national and national development processes and strengthening the capacities of the civil society sector. We should also continue contributing to the programmes' priority sectors that include water, energy efficiency, rural development and governance to create positive change in the communities

we serve.

With that, in this CUSP Newsletter you will find articles describing the programme's and its partners' dedication towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, strengthening the participation of civil society organisations in the energy and environment sector coordination processes, and providing mentorship to university students, as well as improving the internal capacities of partner organisations and digitalizing the Strengthening Governance and Civil Society programme.

In other respects, please remember that COVID - 19 cases are escalating, and the pandemic continues to upend lives of people globally. Continue adhering to the COVID - 19 standard operating procedures which can protect you and your loved ones from catching the virus.

We welcome feedback. Enjoy the reading & keep safe!

Sincerely,
Konstanze Ricken,
Head of Programme and the entire CUSP team.

Contents

3-4

Leave no one behind - Enhancing inclusive implementation of Sustainable Development Goals for persons with disabilities.

5-6

Reactions from beneficiaries of the Birooto Internship Programme.

7-8

A revised organizational structure for the Farmers' Association of Wakiso District.

9-10

Strengthening effective participation of civil society organisations (CSOs) in the energy and environment sector coordination processes.

11-12

Embracing digitalization to serve partner organisations faster and better.

Leave No One Behind - Enhancing Inclusive Implementation Of Sustainable Development Goals For Persons With Disabilities



Photo (GIZ): Participants join for a group photo after the dialogue meeting on the inclusion of people with disabilities in the implementation of SDGs.

“**W**hen we talk about the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), we can only achieve them together.” With this opening statement, Hon. Justine Lumumba, the Minister of General Duties and the Focal Point Minister for SDGs, welcomed participants to the dialogue meeting on the Inclusion of people with disabilities (PwD) in

the SDG implementation.

12.4% of Ugandans live with a disability. They are often stigmatized and confronted with different barriers to enjoying their rights on equal basis with others. PwD are more likely to face multidimensional poverty due to limited access to health care, education and

employment and restricted opportunities to participate in decision-making. In addition, there is almost no disaggregated data on PwD to promote evidence-based policy-making.

To tackle this problem, the SDG Secretariat at the [Office of the Prime Minister \(OPM\)](#) in close collaboration with the [National Council for Persons with Disabilities \(NCDP\)](#) organized a dialogue meeting bringing together a wide range of state and civil society actors. The event took place in April 28, 2022 at Onomo Hotel in Kampala and was supported by CUSP to enhance participation of PwD in the implementation, monitoring and reporting on SDGs. The discussion focused on raising awareness on

Continued on page 4.

concerns of PwD and deepening the understanding of existing policies that foster inclusion. Furthermore, the meeting participants deliberated on how to facilitate the sharing of relevant information between different stakeholders to take everyone on board and work jointly towards achieving the SDGs. The multi-stakeholder event was, among others, attended by the Minister of General Duties at OPM, the Minister of State for Disability Affairs and a Member of Parliament representing PwD. The agenda was guided by the principle of “Nothing about us without us” that brought together a diverse set of representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) from all over Uganda who took on the main role as speakers, moderators and facilitators.

Hon. Lumumba noted that some of the important aspects for

accelerated SDG implementation are stronger partnerships and coordination, deeper localization of the 2030 Agenda and the promotion of SDG-focused innovation by all citizens. Hon. Mpindi Bumali, the Member of Parliament representing PwD, emphasized the importance of data collection and evidence to support legislative debates and oversight responsibilities. Hon. Hellen Asamo, the State Minister for Disability Affairs, encouraged PwD to speak out about their needs, so that they are better understood, especially by the implementers of development plans. Ms. Emily Ajiambo, the Commissioner for Disability at the [Ministry for Gender, Labour and Social Development](#), provided information on specific grants by the Ministry and on the Parish Development Model which will specifically aim at improving the livelihoods of PwD. While closing the event, Dr. Albert K. Byamugisha, the

Head of the SDG Secretariat, stressed that there is urgent need for inclusion of PwD through dialogues, effective participation and observance of equal rights for all so as to realize the notion “leave no one behind.”

This dialogue meeting is part of broader support of CUSP to the OPM SDG Secretariat that promotes the strengthening of state and civil society relations for the smooth implementation of SDGs. Mutual activities focus on the inclusion of marginalized groups. In 2021, the first dialogue meeting was organized on the integration of ethnic minorities in the SDG implementation, the next one that is planned for June 2022 will address youth participation.

Compiled by:
Jackline Arineitwe, Administrative Manager at the SDG Secretariat - OPM, and Carolin Bernecker, Technical Advisor at CUSP - Conducive Environment Component.

Reactions From Beneficiaries Of The Birooto Internship Programme

The Birooto Internship is a programme implemented by the [Uganda Christian University, Mbale College](#) with support from CUSP. The project's purpose is to provide mutual benefit to students and civil society organisations (CSOs). The project is offering students practical insights into a non-governmental work environment which will broaden their horizon for the labour market. The CSOs on the other hand will be institutionally strengthened and gain added knowledge in selected thematic areas based on the identified needs in their Capacity Development Plans through the scientific input, assistance

and on-the-job support of the students. The university is supporting the CSO's with digital literacy trainings to equip them with sufficient knowledge on the use of the digital platforms in their organisations. 20 students have benefited from the internship project so far and below are testimonies from some.



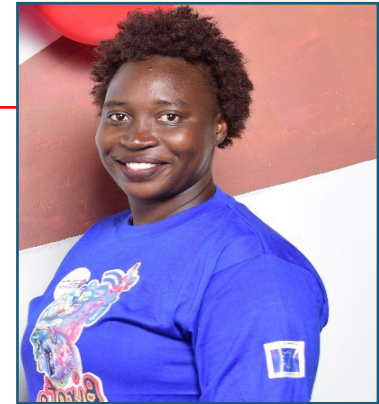
"I was privileged to actively interact with children and women with disabilities to assess the support and trainings they receive from the organisation. It is quite amazing to hear testimonies from these people. This activity has helped me learn how to relate with them in all aspects of life. I have understood that they aren't any different from us and once offered opportunity, they strive for their livelihood. After my internship I am looking forward to learning sign language so that I can communicate efficiently," says Bashir Lubayo, a social sciences' student at the Uganda Christian University who benefited from the Birooto Internship by working with the [Integrated Disabled Women Activities Uganda \(IDIWA\)](#).

Continued on page 6.



“A great appreciation for the opportunity given to me to work with PACODEF because am enthralled and challenged to learn and participate in the community activities, have a broad perspective about the outside world, account for every activity undertaken, observe and respect human rights, participate maximumly to achieve my designed goals and objectives,” says Gloria Asianut Atigo, a social sciences’ student at the Uganda Christian University who benefited from the Birooto Internship by working with the Poverty Alleviation and Community Development Foundation (PACODEF).

“Under the ‘She Leads’ Project, I have learnt a lot about the magnitude of gender issues within our communities and the need to promote equality, to promote child protection and to empower women economically. I am looking forward to fighting for women’s rights and space by the end of my internship,” says Lydia Epenyu, a social sciences’ student at the Uganda Christian University who benefited from the Birooto Internship by working with the [Karamoja Women Umbrella Organisation \(KAWUO\)](#).



**Compiled by Nina Musmann,
Advisor for Political Participation at CUSP -
Eastern Hub.**

A Revised Organizational Structure For The Farmers' Association Of Wakiso District

The [Farmers' Association of Wakiso District's \(WADFA\)](#) team conducted a training workshop to reflect on the organisation's structure and how to conduct effective meetings. The two-days' workshop facilitated by CUSP was held in May 2022 at Floral Hotel in Wakiso district.

The workshop was aimed at drafting a suitable and ideal coordination structure for WADFA, creating clarity for the roles and responsibilities among staff and board members, and to improve members' capacity in conducting organisational meetings.

During the workshop, WADFA's members identified the roles of

each organisational structure and areas of conflict especially roles that were assumed by both staff at the secretariat and the board members. After this process, the team decided on the most suitable organisational structure as illustrated in the pictures below.

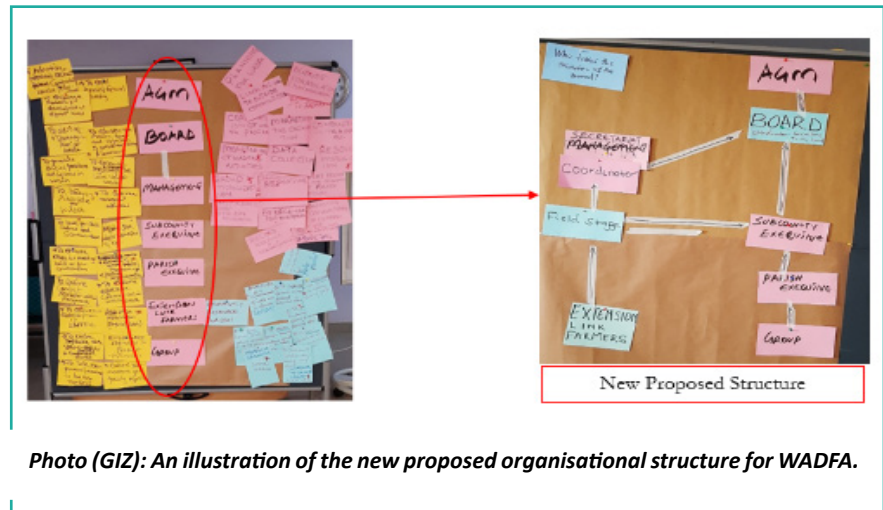


Photo (GIZ): An illustration of the new proposed organisational structure for WADFA.

Daudi Mukiibi, the Chairperson for WADFA, appreciated CUSP's support to the Association. "As a member organisation, we work

Continued on page 8.

through meetings. So, it is very important for us to know how to conduct result - based meetings.”
“... In the next board meeting, we will resolve to adopt the new proposed organisational structure because it is clear and reflects our current processes.”

The training led to the harmonization of roles among WADFA’s members.

The members further had a reflection on how meetings are conducted at WADFA. This was done through a role play. They agreed that meetings at WADFA should be conducted according to the following structure:

Pre – meeting

Prior to the meeting, they will determine the meeting objective,

develop an agenda that will enable them achieve that objective, set the meeting time, arrange the venue and other logistics, identify the relevant participants, and send them invitations with all the necessary information.

During the meeting

A chairperson must be appointed for each meeting to oversee its preparations and processes so that the objective is achieved in a timely manner. The chairperson must ensure equity in participation for all the meeting participants. Key action points derived from the meeting must be documented by an appointed meeting secretary. Persons responsible for overseeing the realisation of the action points must also be appointed.

Post – Meeting

After the meeting, the minutes must be reorganised, edited and disseminated to all the meeting participants in a timely manner. Action points from the meeting must be followed up to ensure that they are realised.

Compiled by

Rosemary Nakaggwa, Thematic Coordinator for Water at CUSP - Central Hub.

“... In the next board meeting, we will resolve to adopt the new proposed organisational structure because it is clear and reflects our current processes,” says Daudi Mukiibi, the Chairperson for WADFA.

Strengthening Effective Participation of CSOs In The Energy And Environment Sector Coordination Processes

Strengthening effective and inclusive coordination mechanism in the energy and natural resources sector remains fundamental for the [Oyam district local government](#)'s development efforts and CUSP. However, this kind of inclusive coordination did not exist in Oyam district in the past, especially for civil society organizations (CSOs) that never participated in the planning processes at the district local government level.

Yet CSOs play critical roles in creating societal change through advocacy for energy access for lighting and cooking, gendered energy policies for marginalized communities that are off-grid, as well as promoting joint action



Photo (GIZ): Representatives from civil society organisations and the Oyam district local government participate in a workshop on energy mainstreaming.

in lobbying for government and other relevant stakeholders to allocate more funds towards the energy sector so as to improve the sector's service delivery in Oyam district.

The need for lighting and cooking is high in Oyam district. However, access to electricity and other alternative affordable, reliable, and efficient energy solutions is

still low. According to the (2002) Energy Policy that was reviewed in October 2019, during the national stakeholder workshop organized by the [Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development](#), with technical assistance from GIZ CUSP and the [Promotion for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programme, \(PREEEP\)](#), 88% of Uganda's population

Continued on page 10.

depends on biomass energy from charcoal, firewood, and crop residues.

To address the challenges above, CUSP partnered with the Oyam district local government to strengthen the district's natural resources and energy coordination mechanism so as to promote inclusive and effective participation of CSOs in the sector development processes.

The Oyam district local government and CSOs developed Terms of Reference to have a more organized and structured district energy coordination framework. Still, in the first quarter of 2022, CSOs initiated the Natural Resources and Energy Platform to strengthen coordination through sustaining

their roles as advocates and fostering knowledge exchange during the first Technical Planning Committee (Production, Environment and Natural Resources Committee) meeting held at the district's headquarter in April 2022. These efforts have resulted into CSOs applying their mandates in the natural resources and energy sector by using evidence-based advocacy.

In addition, CSOs continue to share recommendations with the Oyam district local government that include mitigation of risks associated with top-down decision making, and policies that exclude marginalized communities.

CSOs are supporting the Oyam district local government to

develop a natural resource management plan to ensure that the set objectives in the sector are achieved.

[Action for Child Social and Economic Transition \(ACSET\)](#)

in collaboration with other CSOs that work in the energy sector across the region are supporting the Oyam district local government with data collection on damaged solar panels installed in the district's social institutions to support evidence-based advocacy for funds to be allocated to address these issues in the next financial year's budget.

***Compiled by
Ann Grace Apiita, Technical
Advisor, Energy at CUSP -
Northern Hub.***

Embracing Digitalization To Serve Partner Organisations Faster And Better



Photo (GIZ): GIZ staff and representatives from GCSP's partner organisations participate in a virtual meeting using the Microsoft Teams application.

Digitalization has transformed and improved the way we work. It increases our mobility, creativity, productivity, teamwork and saves time. With digitalization, there is less need of a dedicated workspace. Above all, digitalization connects teams even more to achieve joint goals without distance-related barriers.

As described below, the

[Strengthening Governance and Civil Society Programme \(GCSP\)](#) that includes the components Civil Society in Uganda Support Programme (CUSP), Human Rights (HR) and Strengthening Accountability (SAC) as well as their partners have adapted digitalization, especially because of the recent Coronavirus related restrictions to continue project implementation and to meet the demands of people in need.

The GCSP team is now using digital platforms like Microsoft Teams, One Drive and the Document Management System for internet-supported working and data storage. In addition, GCSP has opted for online workshops, meetings and trainings to continue its capacity building measures for partners.

“We recently organised a virtual workshop on the realisation of young people’s rights with a focus on the right to participation, we invited representatives from 26 diverse organisations from all over Uganda and from the GIZ headquarter in Germany. All of them attended and had productive discussions without being deterred by distance, time and overly expensive financial costs. This might have been different if physical attendance was required,”

Continued on page 12.

says Janepher Taka, a Technical Advisor - Gender and Youth at CUSP.

GCSP is also offering standardized online courses under the CUSP component and in partnership with [NIRAS](#). Most of the NIRAS trainings' content is hosted on an online learning platform "Atingi" and can be accessed at any time. Michael M. Kalema, a member of the Board of Directors at the [Federation of Fisheries Organizations Uganda](#), says: "Atingi is a very user-friendly platform for online learning. The delivery of modules in short videos, pictorial demonstrations, question, and answer sections as well as specific symbols that guide you through the module provide a sensational learning experience."

In addition, GCSP has strengthened

the digital capacities of partners like the [National Planning Authority](#), the [Uganda Human Rights Commission](#), selected local governments and civil society organisations through digital hardware. These include, among others, computers, tablets, printers, scanners, internet connectivity hardware, and digital conferencing equipment.

Moreover, the programme under its HR component, is strengthening digital citizen engagement in human rights by supporting the Uganda Human Rights Commission to leverage digital tools such as the Human Rights App and the Human Rights Information Management System. Further, GCSP under its SAC component has supported the [Office of the Auditor General](#) and the [Public Procurement](#)

[and Disposal of Public Assets Authority](#) to develop the Citizens Feedback Platform and the Contract Monitoring System, respectively which are being used to effectively involve citizens in their respective institutional processes and to improve public service delivery.

The programme has also successfully implemented the [Digital Human Rights Lab](#) - a space, both virtual and physical, in which human rights defenders come together to support each other's initiatives in strengthening and promoting human rights in a digitalized world.

Compiled by Mohammad Kimbugwe, Digitalization and Human Rights Technical Advisor at HR and Justine Kasoma, Technical Advisor at SAC.

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