



## RUBAGA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (RYDA)



### Introduction

Rubaga Youth Development Association (RYDA) was established way back in 1992 as a Community Based Organisation (CBO). As it went through various stages of growth, the demand for its services grew with time and there was need to spread to other areas. This prompted its promoters to transform it into a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) in order to take advantage of the donors who dictated terms for financial and material support. In 1996 it was duly registered with the NGO registration Board as an NGO number **S5914/1741** as well as a company limited by guarantee without shares. No. **40130** to enable it acquire property.

### Aims and Objectives

Uganda has gone through economic, social and political turmoil especially during the period of 1978 – 1990 and since 1996 to date the civil strife in the northern part of Uganda, resulting in loss of human lives and property thus rendering children, youth and their families vulnerable to various calamities. Some were orphaned by HIV/AIDS scourge, others gang raped; others lost parents in government services thus falling as political victims. In view of the above, RYDA's major aim was to make an impact on these vulnerable children and out of school youths in respective circumstances by:

- ☞ Here in Uganda, we realize the rights to education of those marginalized groups of children who are excluded from formal education system whether due to conflict and domestic violence and abuse.
- ☞ We protect and rehabilitate those whose lives have been shattered by sexual abuse and neglect. We now have a whole generation of children who have not known peace in their lives.
- ☞ We train community and children/youth into vocational skills training through various trade skills for the sustainable development.
- ☞ We help children to understand how they can avoid contracting HIV/AIDS and seek to support those whose lives have already been shattered.
- ☞ We don't do this alone, we are of course in partnership with many community structures and donors who share our objectives and youth's rights also requires that:

- We hold duty bearers to account
- We seek to empower children/young people to promote and protect their rights.

☞ With specific interventions targeting children and young people RYDA sought to deliver rights for all, other than charity for a few.

**Vision:** To improve the quality of life of vulnerable children and out-of-school youths.

**Mission:** To enhance the opportunities of these vulnerable children and out of school youths so as to realize their full potential, capabilities and self sustainable development.

**Activities:** After transformation, a number of activities were identifies accordingly I respective program areas. These include but not limited to:

### *Child Advocacy and community out reach*

This is attained by physically visiting the communities and sensitizing them on children/youths rights, the roles and responsibilities of parents/guardian, child-parent relationships, killer diseases, role of community leaders and their resources



contribution visa vis identifying the vulnerable children out of school youths in need.

### *Formal and non-formal education*

By offering sponsorship to needy children/youth who wish to continue with formal education of age limit to 15 years, meanwhile non-formal education is offered to out-of-school youths aged 15 – 18 years who want to pursue vocational skills training. At the same time, there is also functional adult learning to benefit the elderly.

### *Vocational skills training initiatives program*

This program has grown up and is progressing. It is intended for vulnerable out-of-school youths in view of building a sustainable community with improved standard of living. This is conducted at its integrated vocational



skills training center located at Buloba offering students skills in electrical and electronic engineering, catering, hotel management, brick laying and carpentry and joinery, tailoring, metal works, motor vehicle, secretarial training/computer and sustainable agriculture and animal husbandry.

**Sustainable farming and natural resource management**

This is aimed at sensitizing and creating awareness to the community regarding:



- ☞ Identification of natural resources within their local areas
- ☞ Sustainable use of natural resources

- ☞ to benefit every member of the community.
- ☞ The use of available land in a modern and improved agricultural methods (e.g. organic farming) in order to increase productivity (quality and quantity)
- ☞ Environment conservation and protection
- ☞ Improved animal husbandry for better income generation
- ☞ New farm tools and nutritional training for families particularly mothers and young people.

**Girl child enhancement program**

This program is mainly aimed at sensitizing the community on the importance of the girl child and her rights, e.g. denying them equal education, marrying them at an early age, giving them away as domestic servants and other hazardous jobs etc.

**HIV/AIDS and community health**

This is aimed at sensitizing the community on the deadly dangers of HIV/AIDS including prevention and care given to HIV/AIDS victims. Much emphasis is given to out-of-school youths, child participation p, parents, teachers, schools in general and local leaders.

**Development Training and Research**

This is aimed at putting into place a data bank for experiences attained by RYDA and purposely to help in improving its services and research. It ranges from activities to experience attained during training, care taking, counseling and advocacy, networking, advocacy and lobbying. Program administration, monitoring and evaluation and from meetings, workshops/seminars and conferences, child participation in decision making process.

The above offers new challenges thus the new ways of doing things.

**Membership-** There is no membership by subscription. All community in any given program area is a member by default.

**Management-** This includes ownership, governance and leadership. Its registered memorandum and Articles of Association guide the policy framework of RYDA. It has administrative organs as follows: -

- a) Executive Board: IT consists of ten members headed by the chairman of the Board. It formulates policy and supervises the implementation of programs.
- b) Secretariat: Headed by the Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day business of the Organisation, assisted by the corresponding program coordinators.

RYDA ORGAN-GRAM

