



RURAL ACTION  
COMMUNITY  
BASED  
ORGANISATION  
(RACOB AO)

# STRENGTHENING CHILD RIGHTS PROTECTION PROJECT IN LYANTONDE DISTRICT

**News letter**

**March 2017**



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## DIRECTOR'S WORD



Rural Action Community Based Organisation (RACOBABO) has been implementing a project titled **Strengthening Community based Child Rights protection project in Lyantonde district since 2013** with support from the Independent Development Fund (IDF)

The project is aimed at revitalizing weak community child rights protection systems and structures so that they can effectively take actions on child rights abuses especially for Orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC).

This project focused on the most prevalent child rights abuses specifically under-age marriages, forced marriages, and property grabbing.

The project has been implemented in 3 phases covering 2 sub counties each. The first phase covered Kinuuka and Kasagama and Kaliiro ,the second covering Lyantonde Rural and Mpumudde .

The project has contributed to significant changes in the community including reduction occurrence of child rights abuses through increased community awareness on the available child protection policies, laws, and guidelines .

Similarly, the project, led to active community participation in reporting and following up on identified cases of child rights abuse. This is attributed to the fact that community and Sub County level structures including the vice chairpersons of the local councils, religious leaders, cultural and opinion leaders , the sub county development officers and the family and child protection unit of the police, are now taking actions on child rights abuses,.

There is reduced under-age marriages and property grabbing for OVC in the

communities that were covered during the first 2 phases.

In order to scale up and consolidate impact and learning , IDF has granted RACOBABO an additional 150 million in order to scale up project activities in the entire Lyantonde district by also covering the remaining

Lyakajura sub county and Lyantonde Town council in order to replicate the best practices and lessons learned and will help consolidate the results achieved in other sub counties.

We look forward to the participation of stakeholders in planning and implementation of this project since RACOBABO values working closely with the duty bearers for effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of interventions.

Lastly ,We would like to thank IDF for the contribution to these efforts.

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a black rectangular background.

**Haq Makumbi Bugembe**

# ABOUT RACOBABO

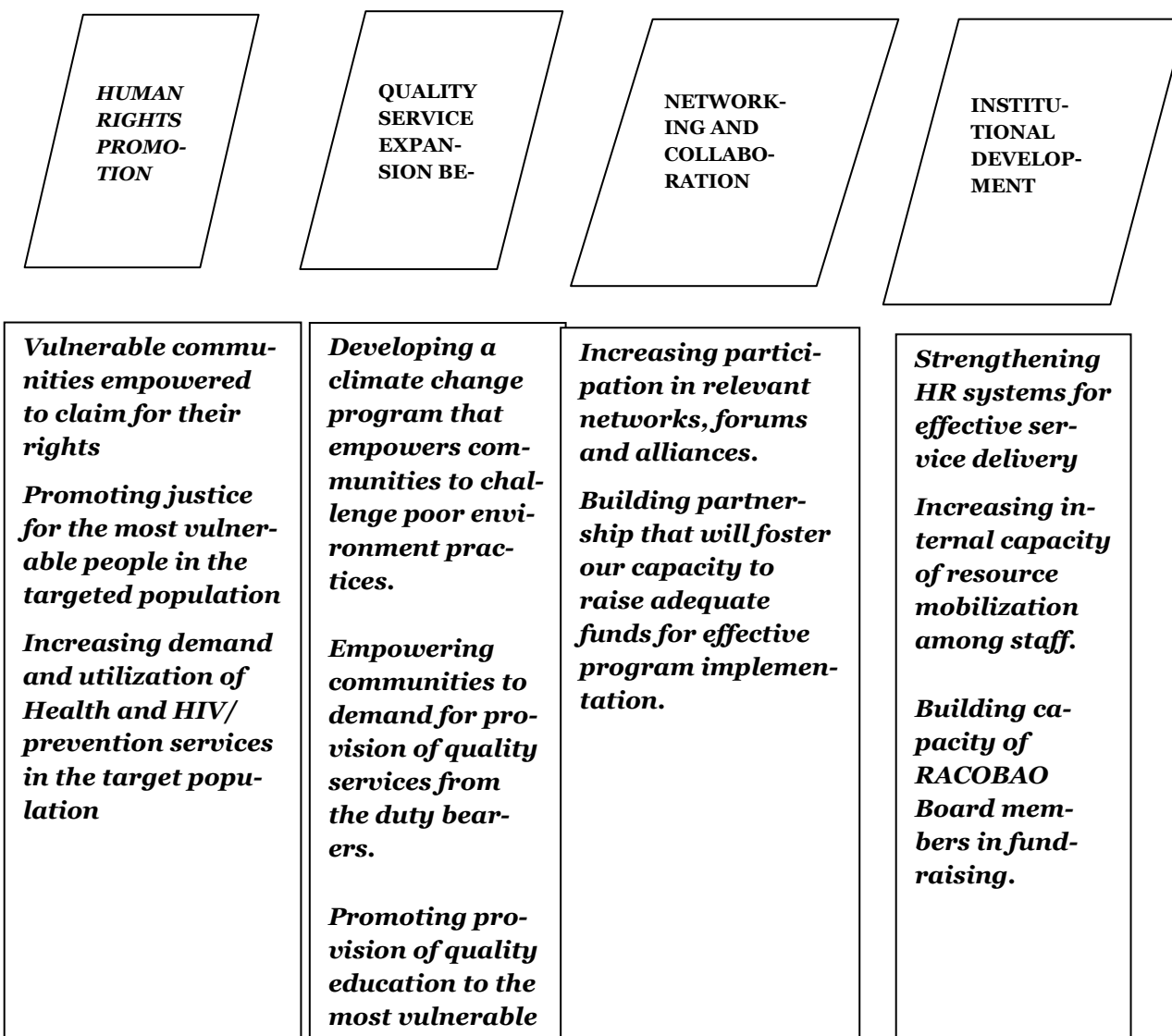
## Vision.

A Uganda where all people's rights are respected.

## Mission.

To promote human rights of the most vulnerable people through community empowerment by engaging duty bearers;+- advocacy for accountability and quality services in the targeted districts.

## Thematic focus



RACOBABO has a mandate to work nationally. However; currently RACOBABO programs are concentrated in the districts of Lyantonde, Rakai, Sembabule, Mityana and Kamwenge.



## **RACOBABO popularizes the existing policies and laws and policies**

RACOBABO translated and reproduced versions of children Act and extracts of the Ugandan constitution on children rights in effort to popularize them. 100 copies were disseminated and distributed during a meeting which was held at Kyabbuuza primary school in March 2017.



*Meeting at Kyabbuuza Primary school in March 2017*

The meeting was attended by 102 community members including religious and cultural leaders, teachers and parents.

Participants were extremely happy about getting the User friendly reference materials and promised to use them regularly to create more awareness and give advice on legal processes to persons whose rights are violated.

In a related development, pupils of Lyakajura primary school Lyakajura Sub County Lyantonde district were sensitized on their rights in partnership with the community development officer to enable children to claim for their rights. The meeting followed the observation that people take advantage of children's limited awareness of their rights to exploit them.

stakeholders that participated in this campaign include the Lyantonde district OVC focal person,

CDO Kinuuka Sub County and RACOBABO's counsellor.

The stakeholders promised to take the campaign to other schools and communities to ensure that Lyakajura Sub County could become a safer place for children.

RACOBABO is optimistic that the increased community awareness will lead to more community vigilance in monitoring child abuse and reporting cases to the relevant Authorities.



*OVC Focal Person Lyantonde District during the meeting*



*Ms Nakabanda Prisca (Community child Rights educator) sensitizing pupils of Lyakajura P/S.*

## A FLASH -LIGHT OF OUTCOMES OF EDUTAINMENT IN KYABBUU- ZA P/S.

On the other hand, 5 schools were supported with sets of drums so that child rights messages could be disseminated through music and drama. The primary schools that benefitted include St Martin ,Kyabbuuza, Namutamba,Kyemmamba and Lyakajura.



**LUTAAYA SAL-  
I M , H E A D -  
TEACHER**

Schools have been conducting drama sessions through which children have been empowered to defend their rights.



**Pupils of Kyabbuuza Primary school staging an MDD show on children rights**

After sensitizing parents and children on children rights and responsibilities in partnership with RACOBABO and Mr. Musuuza (CDO Lyantonde) Pupils have learnt that learning is their right and this is manifested in the fact that they:

- Invite teachers to teach them in case of delay.
- Ask for scholastic materials
- challenge corporal punishments
- Parents have made commitments to provide lunch to learners and to send them to school daily
- Provide scholastic materials to their children
- Pay visits to schools to monitor performance of their children.

## Drama empowered me to fulfill my responsibilities



My name is Mugabo Stuart from Kyabbuuza primary school and I am 12 years old. At my school Kyabbuuza we play games about children's rights by the support of RACOBABO.

At first I did not know my rights at all and I was always associating with bad groups, did not want to study and disobeyed my parents.

The drama shows at my school enabled me to understand my rights and responsibilities including a right to education and being provided to by my parents and protection from all forms of abuse and exploitation. It was during the drama shows that I learnt that It is my responsibility to report child abuse cases to the relevant authorities such as the police especially using toll free line 116.

Thanks to my teachers and RACOBABO.

**Mugabe Stuart**



## COMMUNITY MEMBERS AVAILED A PLATFORM TO INTER-FACE THE DUTY BEARERS IN LYAKAJURA SUB COUNTY

RACOB AO conducted a community interface meeting in Lyakajjula Sub-county in March 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to let the community members express their concerns on welfare of children in their communities to the duty bearers present i.e L.C III chairperson, CDO, parish chief, LC I chairperson and police to respond to the raised concerns. The meeting was attended by 83 (46f and 38m) rights holders from Kabundabuda, Kitongoole and Kicwamba villages.

The issues raised include:

- ◆ Early marriages
- ◆ Locking children outside at night
- ◆ Denying children food
- ◆ Hard labour
- ◆ Defilement
- ◆ Sending children during night

Some of the commitments made by the CDO

and chairperson L.C III was to lobby the council to make a bye-law on child protection for sustainable impact.

*“Empowering citizens to hold their leaders accountable is more effective than speaking for them in order to get the services”*

*Vincent Mayega-Head of programmes .*



**Sensitisation meeting at Kabundabunda village Lyakajura Sub County in March 2017**

## CULTURAL LEADERS DIALOGUE FOR CHILD PROTECTION

The meeting was conducted at Kabundabunda village and was attended by 20 (14F). The aim of the meeting was to build the capacity of government and cultural leaders to sensitize their communities on children rights / child rights abuses. The meeting was also intended to emphasize the role of leaders in protection of child rights in their communities



*Cultural leaders dialoging on status of child welfare during one of the meetings at Lyakajura.*

## STAKE HOLDERS IN LYANTONDE DISTRICT DEVELOP ACTION PLANS TO ADDRESS CHILD RIGHTS ABUSE

In an effort to fight against child rights abuses, RACOB AO involved stakeholders in identification of issues affecting children and thereafter developed action plans. This was in order to strengthen community based child rights protection structures. The meetings involved duty bearers I.E Sub county leaders, parish chiefs, police, religious and cultural leaders parents and other opinion leaders.

Joint Action planning has proved to be a good practice in that it is an aspect of transparency and has created community ownership of the project, led to efficient and effective implementation and promoted vigilance in monitoring child abuse in the area.

Dialogue meetings at Lyakajura and Lyantonde Town Council





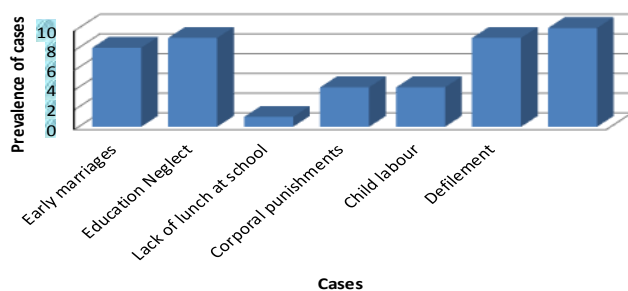
## IDF FUNDED PROJECT SUPPORTS THE CHILD PROTECTION BYE-LAW MAKING PROCESS IN LYANTONDE DISTRICT



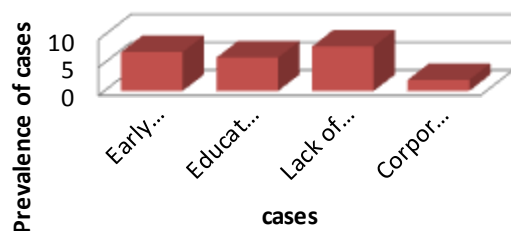
RACOBABO through the IDF funded project facilitated the exercise to isolate the common forms of child abuse and use the evidence dossier to push for formation of Bye-laws in Lyakajura and Lyantonde Town Council. Meetings were conducted at village level and common forms of abuse were identified and ranked. The CDO's are ready to ask the councils through the child protection committees to ensure that the child protection Bye-laws are made.

CDO Lyakajura facilitating the community consultative meeting for development of child protection Bye-law

**Common cases of child rights violation mentioned during community consultative meetings in Lyakajura Sub County**



**Common cases of child rights violation mentioned during Community consultative...**



### Byelaws by lower councils (Article 39)

(1) An urban, sub county, division or village council may, in relation

to its powers and functions make byelaws not inconsistent with the Constitution, or any law enacted by Parliament, or an ordinance of the district

**Local Governments Act**



## **ACDO'S CALL TO PARTNERS IN LYAKAJURA SUB-COUNTY FOR COORDINATED OVC SERVICE DELIVERLY**



**Nalusiba  
scovia**

**A C D O  
LYAKAJJULA  
SUB-COUNTY**

Lyakajura Sub  
County is still

faced with a number of challenges in addressing child abuse and neglect. child labour, Early marriages, education neglect are the most common cases. Child labour is attributed to high demand for labour on farms and the fact that children are engaged in petty trade in markets such as Kyemmamba following the high school drop out rate . Early marriages is then related to high school drop out and cultural beliefs and practices that less value girl child education and cherish bride wealth. Children from Households with low income are most at risk of dropping out of school due to lack of scholastic materials / requirements and sometimes they fend for the “caregivers” such as the elderly and PWDs.

Despite the fact that the Sub county is guided by the Lyantonde district OVC strategic plan to implement activities aimed at reducing vulnerability, it is a challenge to attend to the acute and diverse needs of OVC in the sub county mainly due to budgetary constraints. My department is

grateful for the support of the development partners including RACOBABO and FOWODE for reaching out to the communities with dire need.

I observe the need for development partners to work closely with the Sub County authorities so as to avoid duplication of services and promote referrals so that OVC can access a more comprehensive package of services.

It is also my humble appeal to all Civil Society organization's to share their plans and reports so that we can harmonise their operations in the Sub County. This is why the CDO's office plans to have quarterly planning and review meetings with development partners effective May 2017.

Always remember the children Act provisions s. 7 and s. 8:

- ♦ Children must not be subjected to social or customary practices which are harmful to their health.
- ♦ Children should not be employed or engaged in activities which
- ♦ may endanger their health, education, mental, physical or moral development.

**it is a challenge to attend to the acute and diverse needs of OVC in the sub county mainly due to budgetary constraints.**

## STRENGTHENING PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP, A KEY TOWARDS EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES



**By Kamugasa Andrew Timothy, District Probation and Social Welfare Officer, Lyantonde District**

Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) has a mandate in

Child Care and Protection in Uganda. In 2004, the Ministry (MGLSD) came up with a National Orphans and other vulnerable children Policy (NOP) and the National Strategic Programme Plan of Intervention (NSPPI), frameworks for programming and service delivery to Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC);

It should be noted that the child's needs are holistic in nature and no single service provider can attend to all these needs which fall under the six Core Program Areas i.e Economic Strengthening, Food and Nutrition security, Education, Health and Basic Care, Psycho Social Support and Child Protection and legal support.

Both Government Institutions and Civil Society organizations provide services to OVC in Lyantonde District. Government institutions include schools, courts, local councils, health facilities, police, and the Community the DCDO, Community Development Officers and the Senior Probation and Welfare Officer, Resident District Commissioner (RDC)'s Office and Internal Security Office (ISO).

Others include community level structures such as Para social workers (community based child protection workers), child protection committees, village health teams (VHT), religious and opinion leaders.

On the other hand, the Civil Society Organisations in Lyantonde District include; Rural Action Community Based Organization (RACOBABO), Child Aid Uganda, Salama Shield Foundation, Building Tomorrow Uganda. Others are Action for Integrated Community Development (AICOD), TALOF-Uganda Ministries, The Remnant Generation, Lyantonde Muslim Health Centre III and Organization for Community Empowerment (OCE). Mildmay Uganda too continues to play a fundamental role in OVC programming as the district Implementing Partner (IP)

Despite the collaborative effort between Government and Civil Society Organisations, Lyantonde District is still facing the OVC burden thus a need to strengthen public private partnership and to adopt the multi-sectoral model that can ensure that services reach Orphans and other Vulnerable Children (OVC) and their Households.

It is high time Central Government, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the Private Sector, Implementing Partners (IPs) and Lyantonde District Local Government looked at each other as a partner since Child protection is a collective responsibility. For public private partnership to be effective, let us;

- a) change our mindset and emphasise stakeholder involvement in planning and implementation of child centered activities;
- b) embrace Coalition building amongst all child focused stakeholders (Central Government, District, CSOs, and private sector) to leverage skills and competences through Cluster Based Learning Networks;

**Story Continued to next page**

c) Support coordination meetings through the extended District Orphans and Vulnerable Children Coordination

Committees (DOVCCC) and Sub County Orphans and Vulnerable Children Coordination Committees (SOVCCC); and

the District Chain linked Committee (DCC);

d) Popularize the II6 Child Helpline in collaboration with all child focused organizations;

e) Report timely; using the enhanced Orphans and Vulnerable Children Management Information System (OVC MIS)

tools to create SYNERGY among the OVC service providers whose quality data can be used for strategic planning,

budgeting and resource mobilization;

f) Strengthen the referral mechanisms among all child focused service providers as regards coherent delivery of

services to Orphans and Vulnerable Children;

In conclusion, I urge all child focused stakeholders to embrace the public-private-partnership model to ensure

comprehensive delivery of services to Orphans and other Vulnerable Children in Lyantonde District, since their needs are holistic in nature.

**HOPE NEVER RUNS DRY!**

***Kamugasa Andrew Timothy***

***DISTRICT PROBATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, LYANTONDE***

### **OVC Vision for Lyantonde District**

**A society where Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) are empowered to grow to their full potential, prosper and**

**become productive citizens.**

### **OVC Mission for Lyantonde District**

**To provide a framework that enables Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and their caregivers to realize their human rights and live to their full potential.**

The child's needs are holistic in nature and no single service provider can attend to all these needs which fall under the six Core Program Areas



## THE UNTOLD STORY OF A NEGLECTED DISABLED CHILD

Amutuheirwe Patricia (5 years) disabled child currently staying with a cousin at Kaliiro A ward Lyantonde town council. Patricia was born with a physical disability (both legs folded) which could be the reason for being neglected by her father who denied responsibility on ground that he was not the rightful father. It was not until the DNA test was carried out that he promised to provide maintenance for this child but all in all he never fulfilled.

The child's mother also decided to drop the child at her paternal grand parent (80 years) in Kabaale district. At 2 years and got married.

The poor girl could not realize proper growth and development due to the factors that restricted her socialization. At age of 5 she could not speak and her behavior patterns were not of her age. In 2016, he was picked by a cousin Kyalisiima Eunice who is currently staying with her. She tried her level best to help this child to have medical assistance through the probation office.

The child was taken to Lyantonde hospital whereby medical examinations were carried out and later formally referred the child to CORSU. and the attendants were issued the cost (above 1 million) for the entire process which they could not manage.

After getting the cost for the entire process i.e about 1 million, they again went back to the PSWO seeking support.

The PSWO approached RACOBABO and other people for their contribution. RACOBABO through the IDF funded project contributed transport for the child and caregiver to CORSU where medical examinations were carried out and the child was given KAFO.

The girl has since then experienced physical and emotional changes ever since she received support from . She is now able to talk a bit, she sits normally and the caregiver tells that she is happy most of the time unlike before when she was so fearful and cried whenever people tried to interact with her. Thanks to the PSWO and CORSU for the support to this vulnerable child.

Strong appeal however goes to low enforcement agencies to apprehend the child's father for neglecting her child since he is believed to be teaching in one of the primary schools in Masaka.



**Amutuheirwe Patricia**

### Children with Disabilities (s. 9)

The parents of children with disabilities and the Government shall

take steps to see that those children are:

- Assessed as early as possible to determine the extent and nature of their disabilities
- Offered appropriate treatment
- Given facilities for their rehabilitation and equal opportunities

s. 4) A child has the right to stay with their parents or guardians, unless this would not be in their best interests

Duty to maintain a child (s. 5)



RACOB AO IS A MEMBER OF ACT ALLIANCE

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Child service providers after the training in child rights protection at Safari Hotel Lyantonde



CDO and Chairperson L.C III Lyantonde Town Council in studios of Kaaro FM



A cultural leader receiving a certificate from the OC Lyantonde police station



Imam from Lyantonde receiving a certificate from the OC Lyantonde police station



Douglas Lubega (Field Officer) facilitating the planning meeting at RACOB AO



Headteacher Kyabbuuzza after receiving a set of drums for child rights Club Activities