



Hand
washing
facilities

**MOVEMENT FOR COMMUNITY LED
DEVELOPMENT (MCLD) IMPLEMENTING
THE RIGHT2GROW NUTRITION AND
WASH ADVOCACY PROJECT**

SEPTEMBER 2021

www.mclد.org

Location: The Hunger Project Uganda
Plot8A Nakasero Lane
Kisozi Complex

MOVEMENT FOR COMMUNITY LED DEVELOPMENT UGANDA – MCLDU

The Movement for Community Led Development is a global movement with several chapters in different countries including Uganda. Chapters constitute thriving interconnected civil society at all levels, unifying non-profits to achieve sustainably while putting communities at the forefront.

The MCLD Uganda Chapter has 53 members, mainly community-based organisations spread in various districts. Currently, MCLD-U is part of a consortium of international, national and local civil society organisations all together implementing the Right to Grow –R2G project that aims to effectively influence decisions on policy implementation and legislation. MCLDU’s role is to mobilise and engage households and communities to adopt good nutrition and WASH practices through community led approaches. The Chapter is conducting activities through 6 member CBOs including:

1. Wilmat Development Foundation (WDF)
2. Support Agency for Intellectual Disabilities and Elderly
3. Mengo Youth Development Link
4. Amani Initiatives
5. Family Harvest Foundation
6. Uganda National Farmers Federation

During August, the above MCLD member organisations and the secretariat selected 2-3 activities from a set of 14 activities to implement during the remaining period of the year 2021 under the R2G project. Activities from which they selected include:

MCLD/R2G PROJECT ACTIVITIES - 2021	
1	Carry out program entry meetings with MCLD member CSOs and CBOs
2	Identify MCLD members promoting advocacy for better food, nutrition and WASH services.
3	Organise a nutrition and member consultative meeting on key WASH and nutrition integrated messages.
4	Carryout community consultations to identify capacity needs of communities, especially women, adolescent girls and people with disabilities, to address barriers to practicing good food, nutrition and WASH practices. <i>(Make documentation of statistics, evidence, facts, and amplifying impact through portraying voices of communities)</i>
5	Generate training packages and approaches suitable for the communities, ensuring equitable participation. <i>(Providing information concerning people’s rights, entitlements, and responsibilities)</i>
6	Facilitate formative studies and capacitate member CBOs and CSOs operating in underserved communities to advocate for effective behaviour change amongst their communities e.g., using positive role models in campaigns, community support groups and mother care groups, Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and Hygiene Promotion Campaigns Social Behaviour Change Communication, media campaigns.
7	Orient religious and cultural leaders on issues of stunting
8	Develop and package gender sensitive radio messages in the key local languages.
9	Organise annual essay competitions for boys and girls in P.6 and P.7
10	Publish and disseminate the best essays.
11	Identify and map model homes with good nutrition and WASH practices for referral.
12	Contribute to a critical mass of supporters for profiling the communities’ food, nutrition and WASH issues, to attract the attention of decision makers. <i>(Collection of evidence from the communities)</i>
13	Support implementation to ensure effectiveness through participation, regular information collection for reporting and occasional visits to MCLD implementing CSOs
Other related activities to be conducted by the Secretariat to strengthen MCLD Chapter	
14	Training in nutritional adv odvocacy for all MCLD members
	CLD, VCA trainings for members
	UNAP - DPIII Session - strengthening the chapter
	Linking and learning sessions highlighting member experiences and outcomes - November

Consequently, during August and September the following was carried out:

MCLD SECRETARIAT

- On 4th June 2021 the secretariat organised an informative session introducing the R2G project and the CVA model of work, the latter was facilitated by Mr. Kadobera Moses from World Vision. The physical session involved several members of MCLD Uganda Chapter.
- The secretariat announced the opportunity of R2G project to all MCLD members through the meeting, email, and social media. Members were requested to express their interest to participate in the implementation. The secretariat received responses and conducted selections.
- The Secretariat organised a meeting for the MCLD Uganda Chapter steering committee on 30th June 2021. The committee resolved that 6 MCLD member organisations would participate in the implementation of R2G project and agreed on the amount of funds that the members would use to implement the selected activities.
- On 9th August, the secretariat invited the 6member organisation for orientation which involved looking into the financial, programmatic, reporting procedures, expectations and policies to adhere to during R2G project implementation.
- September 22nd -23rd the secretariat organised a virtual capacity building workshop for MCLD members. The topics included: 'Unpacking THP's Vision, Commitment and Action model of work' and 'Integration of CLD practices in programming'
- The secretariat continuously gives technical and financial support to the 6members.

WILMAT DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION – WDF

- WDF led the development of a household survey tool that they and other MCLD members used to conduct household mapping to identify WASH/Sanitation capacity needs among communities. WDF involved 120 households, covering 5 villages found in Mayuge district. WDF also conducted a community fellowship to bring communities together to a discourse of sharing knowledge and suggesting recommendations for the improvement of food, nutrition and WASH services. WDF worked with local government structures and two community based organisations.

• Findings:

- 🌿 Many household heads have not heard about Food, Nutrition and WASH practices
- 🌿 lack of knowledge of available FN/WASH services

I was surprised to witness some households without toilets and no source of income as people are still immersed in poverty with one or no meal during day. Some of the households we interacted with have never heard about anything concerning nutrition and WASH practices or services. We need to establish more awareness forums that will inform the grassroots person on what basic rights are.

• Recommendations

- 🌿 Increase community engagement
- 🌿 Engage local and district leaders to ensure service provision and accountability
- 🌿 Provide capacity building in nutrition and WASH issues to amplify change
- 🌿 Include organisation administrative costs to limit incurrence of unplanned expenses

FAMILY HARVEST FOUNDATION:

- Family Harvest Foundation started with strengthening collaboration with Nwoya district authorities in Northern Uganda by conducting community entry meetings that resulted in signing a memorandum of understanding between FHF and Nwoya district Local Government to enable smooth implementation of activities within Koch Goma Sub-county. The Sub county Chief and other key local leaders including the local councils decided on Lakalac and Kalang villages as the project sites; recommending the VHT to technically support in the implementation.
- FHF has so far identified 12 community advocates to propagate the CLD manifesto. They include 2males and 10 females, all from lakalac and Kalang villages.

• Findings:

- 🌿 There are very limited advocacy campaigns on nutrition and WASH actions in the project location
- 🌿 Engagement with the leaders and the community showed that the need for Nutrition and WASH investment is highly wanting in the villages considering that much of the community was previously dependant on refugee food rations from the camps.
- 🌿 Food production is still low due to poverty, lack of relevant information, limited access to land and inputs for food crop production.
- 🌿 Women are very interested but hesitant to participate in the project activities due to the patriarchal nature of rural people. They have to get consent from their husbands before taking action.
- 🌿 Communities are negligent of COVID 19, its existence and health effects

The LCIII of Koch Goma Sub county, Woman Councillor III, LCIs and our team met on the 11-08-2021 and drew strategies to engage the communities to ensure food, nutrition and WASH information is provided appropriately.

• Recommendations

- 🌿 Provide identification material for MCLD advocates such as, name tags, or branded pinafore for identification purposes during community engagement work.
- 🌿 Concerted effort by local leaders and communities is necessary to accelerate nutrition advocacy.
- 🌿 There is need to build the MCLD constituency in the district to amplify community voices in addition to FHF efforts.
- 🌿 There is need to build capacity of CBOs and MCLD advocates to achieve the best out of their efforts in promoting community change
- 🌿 MCLD advocates should be humbly facilitated because their movements from home to home raising awareness and sensitising village mates necessitates financial resources.
- 🌿 Provide MEAL processes to check and narrow the existing nutrition and WASH gaps with clarity
- 🌿 Continuous community sensitisation on issues of WASH, Nutrition and COVID-19

MENGO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LINK:

- MYDL developed and disseminated nutrition posters with intent to demystify myths and negative attitude surrounding breast feeding. MYDL also procured and supplied hand-washing facilities in

focal slum areas of Kampala district to promote good hygiene of hand-washing among the low-income urban dwellers.

- In the spirit of transparency among communities and advocacy initiation, MYDL extensively engaged the Mayor of Rubaga division, His Worship Mbereraze and his council to attend community engagement and give moral support thereby emphasising the need for mind-set change for better nutrition and WASH practices.
- MYDL organised and conducted clean ups in grocery markets around Kampala city as a way of encouraging communities to adopt self-help mechanisms of upholding sanitation and hygiene practices for better health.
- As a basis to mitigate stunted growth MYDEL has conducted nutrition sensitisation sessions with teenage mothers and commercial sex workers in Rubaga division and Kampala central using active citizens (a volunteer arm of MYDEL). Approximately 1,000 people have been reached so far.

• Findings:

- 🌿 There is lack of knowledge concerning good nutrition and WASH practices among slum communities.
- 🌿 The levels of poverty among slum communities are appalling in that people care more concerned about having any food other than the nutrient value in the food.
- 🌿 Different CBOs have been willing to raise the voice of the communities in partnership with MYDEL and this was evident during the project launch event held in Kasubi.
- 🌿 Numbers of teenage mothers and commercial sex workers are overwhelmingly high in the slums

Ainembabazi is a teenage school girl aged 15 who got pregnant during the first wave of Covid 19 lockdown. She fell prey to one of the street uncles residing near her home. However, Ainembabazi continued dreaming of becoming a school teacher in future. For that matter she became hesitant to breastfeed her baby, fearing that her breasts will grow bigger and floppy and that she would be teased on return to school. Little did she know that refusal to breastfeed the child will stunt the child's growth.

While attending the community dialogue session with MYDEL Active Citizens, Ainembabazi turned up with an evidently malnourished child that attracted the attention of the facilitators. Reality hit Ainembabazi hard when she learnt that her child's poor health was a result of not breastfeeding. And she exclaimed, "what if my child died"

• Recommendations:

- 🌿 For greater positive impact there is need for integrated effort involving other development agencies, government and private sectors promoting good nutrition and WASH practices.
- 🌿 Peer to peer messaging approach requires strengthening in the densely populated slums in order to reach a wider coverage

SUPPORT AGENCY FOR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AND ELDERLY:

- SAID in collaboration with the Disability Councillor, Nakawa Division conducted household visits among 20 parents of children with disabilities in Nakawa and Kawempe Divisions in Kampala

district to identify community knowledge and practices on nutrition and WASH issues. SAID used a household survey tool that MCLD/R2G implementing CSOs collectively created.

- A sensitisation workshop focusing on the ‘importance of good nutrition in mitigating extreme disability effects among children’ was conducted involving 23 parents of children with disabilities. The workshop was officiated by the Mayor of Nakawa Division who urged participants to spend their little earnings on nutritious foods rather than spending it on medication for diseases resulting from poor nutrition.

• Findings:

- 🌿 Parents are welcoming of R2G project intentions; they are excited to learn from SAID about the R2G deliverables, and to meet and share with fellow parents of children with disabilities
- 🌿 11 out of the 20 families do not have their own toilets. Sometimes they use public toilets which cost UGX500 per use but with little or no money they share with neighbours in the community.
- 🌿 Some families are extremely poor in that prioritising good food and nutrition is a challenge.
- 🌿 14 out of the 20 families engaged with in the consultations were single mothers of children with disabilities. Their partners had abandoned or left them because of birthing disabled children.

"My husband left us when I produced my son who has cerebral palsy. After sometime the landlord chased us out of the house. I used to get food from the rubbish bins and leftovers from the local restaurants to feed my children. Whatever food I got was good enough. We needed to survive" Jackie Nkwasiwa a single mother of 3 children.

• Recommendations:

- 🌿 We need to involve men; sensitise them about their roles in raising healthy children.
- 🌿 Community engagement to understand and appreciate relevance of good nutrition and WASH practise should be up scaled.
- 🌿 Build capacity for parents of children with disabilities and community stakeholders in areas of food, malnutrition and WASH practices, early intervention, covid19, negative attitude and discrimination
- 🌿 Create accessibility of information through media for awareness on food, nutrition and WASH.
- 🌿 There is need to gather age, gender and disability disaggregated data on access to nutrition and WASH programming.

AMANI INITIATIVES:

- Amani Initiatives identified and mapped out model homes with good nutrition and WASH practices in 6 villages found in Maracha and Arua districts. The team worked with local leaders to randomly sample 20 households from each of the 6 villages. Altogether 120 households were sampled. Out of the 120 respondents, (51%) were from Maracha district and (49%) from Arua; 62% were male and 38% female;
- Entry meetings were conducted with the local chairpersons of the selected villages to guide in the sampling of the 20 households per village and introduction

- Consultative meetings to identify capacity needs of the communities especially women, adolescent girls and people with disabilities to address barriers to practicing good food, nutrition and WASH practices were conducted.
- During the Youth Day celebrations Amani presented some of the key findings to key district stakeholders in attendance.

• Findings:

- 🌸 The community and local leaders are positively receptive of the project
- 🌸 Decision making is mainly done by men thereby limiting women's possibility to influence issue of nutrition and WASH
- 🌸 Negative cultural beliefs still deeply engrained among communities
- 🌸 From the survey it was found that 19% of the respondents had ever attended a community training in food nutrition.

“The biggest challenge affecting our community is alcoholism and drug abuse. The responsibility of the family lies entirely on women, they have to dig, cater for children's needs, feed the family and yet they earn little income. Men should be encouraged to support women” said Mr. Elubo Paskal one of the model household in Ambidro village Aroi parish in Maracha district.

• Recommendations:

- 🌸 More community engagement is required to raise awareness of nutrition and WASH services
- 🌸 Gender rights awareness is required
- 🌸 Community sensitization that is inclusive of people with disabilities and the elderly on nutrition and WASH services is needed.
- 🌸 Focus on tackling issues that increase poor nutrition and WASH practices such as: ending teenage marriage, gender-based violence, lack of appropriate information, provide safe water

General Challenges and Risks encountered:

- ❖ Over flow of community members during activity implementation in urban areas. This contravene the standard SOPs during these times of COVID-19
- ❖ Over expectations from the communities. Many have been financially impaired due to COVID 19 effects and the lockdown measures so they are overly expectant
- ❖ Closure of schools has hindered working with school communities directly
- ❖ There has been a high risk of contracting COVID 19 since most community members are in disregard of the SOPs.

NOTES: Activity implementation is still ongoing. The report from the household mapping exercise is yet to be finalised.

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