

International House Berkeley
Molly Nantongo
Ntongo Skills4Peace: The light in the lives of youth in Ntawo
Mukono (Uganda) Ntawo village

Project Statement

In Mukono District of Uganda, the crime rate and unwanted pregnancy rates are high among youth living in Ntawo village. This issue has been aggravated by the Covid-19 lockdown when youth were out of school – with Uganda having registered the most extended disruption of schooling worldwide (over 80 weeks by November 2021), according to the U.N cultural agency.

The Education Ministry says pregnancies among schoolgirls have risen by 30% since the outbreak of Covid-19. Over 36% of school-going children in the Ntawo area have lost interest in education, according to Twaweza Uganda (a countrywide education supporting agency), leaving a perplexing question of what is in stock for our tomorrow, as a country?

The municipality harboring Ntawo village is sick and derailed by the skyrocketing urban youth (18-30 years) unemployment which stands at 13.3% compared to the 9.2% at the national level. Youth gangs playing "matatu" (cards), ludo (board game) for money are a common sight in most of Mukono's trading centers. And so is the sight of skimpily dressed young girls (sex workers) strategically parading themselves in resting centers night and day, waiting for truck drivers who comprise a majority of their clientele. A high percentage of unengaged, idle youth is prone to criminal activities and early sex. According to Uganda Police's crime annual report of 2020, Mukono ranked among the top five regions with the highest crime cases: theft, burglary, drug trafficking, and child sacrifice. Most of these crimes were committed by young people.

Proposed activities and timeline: Pre-program phase

Week One

Activity one: Project planning:

Molly Nantongo, who will act as project manager and three Maendeleo Foundation staff will have a one-day planning workshop to set roles and draw a plan for the project. The three Maendeleo Foundation will act as Operations Manager, Admin and Finance Officer, and Community Mobilization and Engagement Officer.

Activity two: Half-day stakeholder and project sensitization meeting: The meeting of; community, religious and critical municipality leaders will be held at Maendeleo Foundation's office and led by Asia Kamukama. All participants will receive the project's informational and marketing materials.

The meeting will be followed by paid-for adverts via community radios, including Voice of Kame and Bugujju, to mobilize interested youths.

Week Two: Confirm trainers, onboarding, and purchase training equipment and materials.

- **Activity one:** The project team will select two trainers from the Maendeleo Foundation's already registered vocational skills trainers pool. One will be for hairdressing and another for metal fabrication and welding.
- **Activity two:** A two-day workshop to onboard the selected trainers and educate them about the project goals, aims, and values to integrate them into the training sessions.
- **Activity three:** The project manager, assisted by the designated project finance personnel, will purchase the welding, metal fabrication, and hairdressing equipment and supplies.

Week Three: Confirmation of Registered Project Beneficiaries and launching the project.

- **Activity one:** The Admin and Finance officer will collect registration lists from the community registration points and make phone calls to confirm beneficiaries.

- **Activity two:** The project manager will spearhead a project launch at Maendeleo Foundation headquarters for local government officials, community leaders, youths, project beneficiaries, and other stakeholders. In addition, participants will receive T. shirts with project branding.

Proposed activities: program phase: Week 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15: Skills training, Mini Exhibition and Mentorship Sessions.

- **Activity one:** In a three-day workshop, Molly Nantongo will train the project team, trainers, and students on a transformative leadership module adopted from MasterCard Foundation.
- **Activity two:** The three months' vocational skills training in hairdressing and metal fabrication will kick off at Maendeleo Foundation's Skills Centre. The trainers will conduct training three times a week for four hours a day. Trainees will be awarded a certificate from Directorate of Industrial Training.
- **Activity three:** Beneficiaries will receive two hours of digital skills and two hours of entrepreneurship skills training per week.
- **Activity four:** After week five, mentorship sessions will begin to support beneficiaries knowing their value, avoid destructive behaviors, achieve success, build great networks and peace within the community. These sessions will be held twice a month with support from the already existing Maendeleo Foundation's network of mentors.
- **Activity five:** A parenting and sexual reproductive talk will be held once a month. There will be HIV testing and counseling too.
- **Activity six:** Students will showcase their skills and knowledge to the community during a mini-exhibition event at Maendeleo Foundation's Skills Centre.

Sustainability of the project: The organization's equipment acquisition will support a continuous process of recruiting unemployed youths and continue providing training, testing, and exhibition room to other recruits and trainees at their spacious non-rented organization premises.

Secondly, a select number of trainees will be moved to Maendeleo Foundation's Business Incubation program and retained to start a business unit whose proceeds will help the organization facilitate trainers and other training needs like welding rods, electricity, water, repairs, and hairdressing products. Inclusion of community leaders and community interest groups to continue mobilizing un-employed youth to benefit from the acquired equipment. The project will involve printing T-Shirts as promotional materials to be worn by the project team and some of the beneficiaries. These will have the words' *Ntongo Skills4Peace*' with a Grant from **'Davis Projects**

Name: Molly Nantongo
Project Name: Ntongo Skills4Peace Project
School: International House Berkeley

Note: all funds in US dollars.

Projects for Peace grant: \$ 10,000.00
 Additional Funding, if any:
Total funding available: \$ 10,000.00

TOTAL FUNDS REMAINING:
 \$ -

TOTAL EXPENDITURES:
 \$ 10,000.00

Student Expenses					Project Expenses				
Travel (Including Airfare)	Lodging	Communications	Food (Biweekly)	Miscellaneous	Non-Student Travel and Lodging	Direct Equipment and Supplies	Marketing and Event Support	Staffing Costs	Miscellaneous
2,255		36	250			2600	14	720	30
						1700	40	720	75
							350	800	60
									350
Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total
\$ 2,255.00	\$ -	\$ 36.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 404.00	\$ 2,240.00	\$ 515.00

Total Student Expenses: \$ 2,541.00

Total Project Expenses: \$ 7,459.00