

What the SS CoS project is about!

With EUR 4.3 million to spend, the SS CoS Project is one of the biggest interventions in Kampala Slums. But what is it really about? This summary attempt to put the project in the slum context.

1. THE CONTEXT/ PROBLEM

- Uganda is the most rapidly urbanizing country in Africa, but with unplanned urbanization, most of its urban population ends up in slums – about 64 percent in Uganda and 85 percent of Kampala’s low-income earners live in slums.
- Slums are characterized by: poor, temporary housing especially single-room units called mizingo or bed-sitters; poor water and sanitation facilities; overcrowding; poverty; unemployment; drug abuse; prostitution; demographic diversity; unreliable power; high crime rates – all in a rundown area. In Kampala, many slums are in wetlands or reclaimed areas.
- These are the conditions in Bwaise, Kisenyi (Little Mogadishu), Katwe and Kabalagala.
- Poor conditions, weak law and order, grievances, and marginalization can fuel conflict and despair – all a fertile ground for recruitment into radical groups.
- Uganda has had its history with extremist groups such as LRA, ADF and even al-Shabaab, which recruited young people for the July 2010 World Cup bombings.
- Unplanned urbanization, limited opportunities and resultant marginalization is a possible driver of radicalization because people in such a state are easy target for recruitment.
- Also Uganda has one of the youngest populations – 78 percent below 30 – and the economy can’t create jobs for them; this means they are young, almost idle, poor, potentially frustrated and therefore vulnerable to recruitment.
- The Muslim community is generally disenchanting because they feel excluded, eg Madrasas closed and generally misunderstood and almost demonized. That makes them susceptible to recruitment by violent extremists.
- Uganda’s military involvement abroad makes the country a target as extremists seek retaliation. Eg al-Shabaab.
- Corruption and weakness in democratic process: systematic denial of opportunities in socio-political and economic spheres can breed frustration and vulnerability to recruitment.
- Govt has tried to take steps against extremism but mostly they have looked at it as a criminal matter – eg the Anti-Terrorism Act and hosting the 2015 Global Counter-

Terrorism Forum meeting for Horn of Africa Working Group. Muslim leaders also trying to generate messages against extremism.

- But radicalism is not just a security matter....
- Need to tackle the social disruption of urbanization and the frustration of marginalization, strengthen social cohesion.
- Overall, the project will address the root causes of conflict in slums; specifically it will provide employment opportunities and basic local services and prevent conflicts in marginalized communities in slums.
- BWAISE – AFFCAD says that 65 percent are 15-25; 40 per cent Muslims; 400 commercial sex workers; 300 children living with HIV.
- KATWE & KABALAGALA – very poor and high crime rate.

2. THE MAJOR INTERVENTIONS

A) Increased knowledge of conflict drivers

- Project will conduct a baseline survey to establish a body of evidence that can inform GOU and other stakeholder action. Info will come from primary and secondary sources.
- Such knowledge will help concretize programmatic activities tailored to local needs.
- It will also help create robust monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Dissemination workshop was held to share the findings

B) Increased AFFCAD capacity against drivers of conflict and radicalization and for providing opportunities for youths

- One of the main purposes is to build the institutional capacity of AFFCAD to combat drivers and provide youth with opportunities
- AFFCAD was established in 2009 by four ‘Slum Ambassadors’ and has shown deep commitment to improving life in the slums. Co-founder and CEO Muhammed Kisirisa was recognized by EU and American dignitaries.
- Located right in the Bwaise slum, AFFCAD runs a vocational training programme and 70 per cent of its graduates manage to get employment

Actions to be supported under this point:

- Institutional capacity building and training for AFFCAD staff
- Software and equipment for AFFCAD and staff
- Support for AFFCAD satellite office in Makindye division
- Development and expansion of training institute.
- Support for starting AFFCAD-supported cooperatives.
- SF demand-side accountability measures.

C) Better community capacity to resist radicalization and combat extremism.

Empowering communities and building links with law enforcers

- Messages against disruptive rhetoric of groups against social cohesion.
- Messages to be followed by an aggressive information campaign using different platforms and avenues and approaches

Community outreach activities will be conducted because the more aware a community is, the better placed they are to resist and prevent RVE.

- School engagement for both boys and girls, including inviting peace ambassadors.
- Drive around – AFFCAD using rented vehicles and peace ambassadors to deliver key messages and culminating in a community dialogue to discuss
- IOM will monitor the community's reaction to the drive around and the lessons/observations will feed into the programming for future.

D) Better security capacity to combat RVE and address h/rights abuses soundly.

Increased capacity of security agencies, especially counterterrorism police to combat RVE.

- Training of trainers for officers to train others in handling community policing
- Town hall meetings with the community followed by meals and interactions.
- IOM to prepare annual reports which will also capture views from the community BUT not giving away personal details.
- IOM to follow up and ensure equal participation for women and minorities.

E) Govt agencies conflict-sensitive services without discrimination

- The project will aim to ensure that govt authorities in education, health, etc, provide conflict-sensitive, non-discriminatory services.
- This is important because governance failures can create a void that extremists exploit to build support for themselves and recruit.
- Strengthen demand and supply-side accountability measures for services to the community.
- Too much demand for good governance in Uganda but little impact.
- Clear roadmap to be developed on this point during the inception phase, with clear goals and time frames.
- On supply side: sensitization for govt officials on link between exclusion and radicalization.
- On demand side: AFFCAD will be better placed to benchmark govt performance.

F) Employment opportunities and financial services for vulnerable youths

- Evidence shows militants mostly recruit from among unemployed or underemployed youths. Project will deliver vocational training and job placements.
- Yearly intake will be reduced from 400 to 200.
- Period extended and internship support to be extended.

- AFFCAD to expand vocational training to satellite office, graduating 100 each year in the satellite office.
- IOM to help develop a soft skills training manual for students against poor attitude and preference for a soft and easy life of candidates.
- IOM will also compile a referral directory for other services that the organization cannot provide – so that AFFCAD can send students there for placements.
- IOM will work with AFFCAD on job placement strategy to help improve chances of placements.
- 600 AFFCAD graduates will get support to start businesses, the support coming in cash or in kind.
- IOM will support AFFCAD to support communities to create cooperatives: One in the first year in Bwaise, then others to follow elsewhere.
- IOM will build the capacity of the KCCA Employment Services Bureau to help youths find jobs. IOM had already worked with the bureau to build its capacity and will continue.

METHODOLOGY

The Action will be premised on the following principles.

1. A combination of upstream national engagements with policy and decision makers in government on the one hand, and downstream community engagements, including service provision.
2. Whole-of-Society-Approach (WOSA), bringing together civil society, media, private sector but especially bringing slum dwellers into conversation with government officials.
3. WOGA – Not just security people but a whole range of government departments eg UHRC, KCCA employment bureau.... To address the issues.
4. Broad-based and fully inclusive – Not targeting any particular ethnic group, religion, culture, nationality.
5. Youth-focused: Mostly young slum dwellers as these are vulnerable to the drivers of RVE.
6. Capacity building for AFFCAD to be able to combat drivers of RVE and provide socio-economic opportunities and to monitor service delivery.