

SOCIAL COHESION NEWSLETTER

KAMPALA
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PUBLISHED BY THE STRENGTHENING SOCIAL COHESION AND STABILITY IN SLUM POPULATIONS PROJECT OF IOM UGANDA, FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

Small Slum Businesses Ready to Fly



About the SSCoS Project in Kampala

The Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations (SSCoS) project is fully funded by the European Union, with 4.3 Million Euro (UGX 16.4 billion) for 42 months (from August 2016 to February 2020).

SSCoS is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), together with partners led by the Action for Fundamental Change

and Development (AFFCAD), ACTogether, and YARID. It is implemented in the city slums of Bwaise, Kisenyi, Kabalagala and Katwe.

The project aims to tackle the root causes of inter-communal conflict in Kampala's slum areas, and address possible political, social and economic drivers of radicalization and violent extremism.

Project Name	Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations (SSCoS), Kampala, Uganda
Period	August 2016 – February 2020
Donor	European Union Trust Fund
Funding	EUR 4.3 Million
Beneficiaries	10,000
Implementing Agency	IOM (the United Nations Migration Agency)
Key Objective	To tackle the root causes of radicalization and violent extremism, especially by addressing the sources of grievances among slum youths, such as poverty-related marginalization.

SSCoS Result Areas

1. Increased knowledge of conflict drivers in slum communities of Kampala.
2. Strengthened capacity of Action for Fundamental Change and Development (AFFCAD) to combat political, social and economic drivers of conflict and radicalization, provide socio-economic opportunities for youth in slum communities and to monitor the delivery of social services.
3. Increased capacity and resilience of most at-risk communities to resist radicalization and combat violent extremism;
4. Increased capacity among relevant security agencies in Kampala to combat radicalization and violent extremism and to respond to human rights abuses in line with international best practices;
5. Relevant Government authorities in the education, health; urban infrastructure and JLOS sectors have the capacity to provide conflict sensitive and non-discriminatory public services; and
6. Vulnerable youth in target communities access employment opportunities and financial services.

Key Implementing Partners



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SSCoS Project Manager Sahra Farah (2nd R), here with AFFCAD's Muhammed Kisirisa (R)

SSCoS Springs out of Gear One

BY SAHRA FARAH

SSCoS PROJECT MANAGER

Welcome to this edition of the Social Cohesion Newsletter.

I would want to start by thanking our donors, the European Union, for the continued support to the people of Kampala, but also to the project staff at IOM and our implementing partner organizations.

Coming into the Second year of the Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations project (SSCoS), we set out to build on the strong foundation erected in year one, while tackling any challenges identified. And I must say without any hesitation that we are well and truly out of gear 1.

All the result areas are now operational, with various degrees of impressive performance, but I would like to

mention just two that appear to have struck a particular chord with the slum populations we serve. First is the Small Business Start-ups (SBS), where at least 132 beneficiaries have come on board. Some are thriving, others are struggling, but it has been gratifying to experience the joy and hopes of the SBS beneficiaries as they throw all their energies into their businesses. IOM still supports them, with regular monitoring visits.

The collaboration with security agencies, which started towards the end of year one, has also grown, and become particularly popular. It has been dramatic to see slum dwellers sit shoulder to shoulder with police officers during the town hall meetings and discuss security in a mature and sensitive manner. At one of the meetings, a middle-aged man could be seen admiring the uniform of the officer next to him, while the officer passionately explained the symbiotic

relationship between the people and the Police.

An interesting aspect of this collaboration has been the significant representation of women. While women make up about 12 per cent of the Police, the first Training of Trainers had 27 per cent women. This is a welcome sign that the Force recognizes the active role women can play in promoting social cohesion.

Besides the areas that came on board in year one, the Supply-Side Accountability also deserves special mention, as it is now up and running.

As I end, the forecast looks good for the project, as all result areas spring out of gear 1. I can't help but feel that SSSCoS is on course to make a significant contribution to social cohesion in slum populations.

AFFCAD Spreads to Kisenyi

BY MUHAMMED KISIRISA
(AFFCAD CEO)

If you mention AFFCAD [Action for Fundamental Change and Development] anywhere in Bwaise slum in Kampala, chances are high that people will tell you about this organization's work with underprivileged youth in the area.

Thanks to the European Union-funded SSCoS project, AFFCAD is expanding to Kisenyi slum, by opening a vocational training site there, to serve people in Kisenyi, Katwe and Kabalagala.

Just like the Bwaise Business and Vocational Training Institute at AFFCAD's head office, Project site II is intended to equip young women and men with vocational skills to make them employable and to become able to start up self-sustaining business in order to overcome

poverty, drug abuse and unemployment.

We kicked off with a mapping exercise to identify potential stakeholders like the organizations that have been operating in target areas, police, local leaders, youth leaders, religious leaders and opinion leaders.

This was followed by an inception meeting for stakeholders in Kisenyi. It enabled AFFCAD to introduce the idea of opening

up of a satellite center in the area. The community also came up with vocational courses that they think are beneficial to them. During a weeklong mobilization 265 prospective beneficiaries (100F, 165M), both Ugandans and refugees, registered for the courses they would undertake.

We look forward to working with this community to mitigate recipes to conflict through economic empowerment.



AFFCAD CEO Muhammed Kisirisa with some of the project beneficiaries in Bwaise. AFFCAD is expanding

ACTogether Spurs Sumayiya



Sumayiya at work

BY CATHERINE NIMUSIIMA
(ACTOGETHER)

One of the exciting developments at ACTogether in recent months has been the extending of support to youths to start or grow their own businesses. It is up-

lifting to see young people who once had little hope in life all looking positive and upbeat.

Take the example of Sumayiya Babirye, 22. A senior six drop-out, Sumayiya ended up in relationship that left her with a

broken heart and a now three-year old son.

Because her mother was a member of the National Slum Dwellers Federation of Uganda/ACTogether Uganda, Sumayiya got interested in joining the saving groups. ACTogether is an implementing partner for the EU-funded SSCoS project. As luck would have it, Sumayiya was selected to receive small business start-up capital of a fridge and a supply of soft drinks.

Her life, she says, has never been the same.

"I used my package to start my own business. I am now able to take care of and pay school fees for my child," says Sumayiya, whose mother runs her own shop.

Sumayiya now dreams of expanding her business from retail to a wholesale, and one day, opening up other branches in Kampala.



SBS items being offloaded for the handover ceremony in Bwaise

BY RICHARD M. KAVUMA (IOM)

It was all smiles, music and dance on 19 September 2017, as the SSCoS project handed goods and equipment to 41 beneficiaries to start or boost their business in four slums in Kampala.

The colourful handover ceremony was held in Bwaise, at the premises of the Action for Fundamental Change and Development (AFFCAD), IOM's major implementing partner. The SSCoS project is also being implemented in Kisenyi, Katwe and Kabalagala slums, together with partners such as ACTogether and YARID, who were also represented in Bwaise. The beneficiaries were the first batch to receive their Small Business Start-up support, with more beneficiaries getting support in the months that followed.

By the turn of the year, at least 127 young men and women had benefitted under this result area, while items for another 73 beneficiaries were being processed.

The beneficiaries fell in several categories, including Crafts and jewelry, Hair dressing; Food production; ICT; Plumbing and carpentry; Poultry; Retail trade; and tailoring. The items procured included sewing machines for shoes and cloth, desktop computers, fridges, freezers, cameras, equipment for carpentry, jewelry and different fabrics.

The IOM Uganda Resource Manage-

SSCoS Boosts Slum Business Owners



IOM Resource Management Officer Elisa Crowe (L) during the handover ceremony

ment Officer, then acting as Chief of Mission, Ms Elisa Crowe, hailed the thriving relationship between IOM, the people of Kampala and Uganda, and the European Union, the project funder.

At the height of the excitement, AFFCAD Chief Executive Officer Muhammed Kisirisa led a group of beneficiaries in song and dance to celebrate the milestone.

BY IOM STAFFER

At the end of October, the SSCoS project started training officers from the Uganda Police on human rights-sensitive policing, detecting Violent Extremism and Radicalization that can Lead to Terrorism (VERLT).

The Training of Trainers (ToT) had been formally launched weeks earlier, during a rollout event at Protea Hotel. Presiding at Protea, Internal Affairs State Minister Obiga Mario Kania urged the public not only to cooperate with but also to respect the Police so that it can assist them.

The Head of the European Union Delegation to Uganda, Ambassador Attilio Pacifici, was represented by his Head of Cooperation, Mr Cedric Merel. In his speech read by Mr Merel, Ambassador Pacifici reiterated the EU's vision for informal settlements: for them to be centres of innovation as opposed to being bedrocks of radicalization.

For his part, the IOM Uganda Chief of Mission, Mr Ali Abdi, hailed the strong ties between IOM, the European Union and the people of Uganda. He said that once the initial team of police officers had been trained, they would cascade the benefits by training other officers.

The training was led by an international defence and policing consultant, Steven Little, as well as trainers from the Police itself, and from the Uganda Human Rights Commission.

By the end of February, 22 officers had attended the training with Mr Little, while another 18 officers attended a refresher training. Another set of trainers started their training in March.

Police Officers Trained on Detecting Extremism



L-R: European Union Delegation Head of Cooperation Cedric Merel; Internal Affairs State Minister Obiga Mario Kania; IOM Uganda chief of Mission Ali Abdi; and the EU Delegation Governance Adviser Sabrina Bazzanella at Protea.



Consultant Steve Little conducts the ToT in Bugolobi, Kampala



Some of the officers during the ToT



ABOVE AND BELOW, RIGHT: Police officers and civilians during a town hall meeting in Bwaise

When the Police had a Chat with the People

BY RICHARD M. KAVUMA (IOM)

The relationship between the people in slums such as Bwaise and security agencies has never been very easy. It is an unwritten reality that both groups view each other with mutual suspicion. Yet security agencies such as the Police still have to keep law and order even in slums.

Hence under Result Area 4, the SSCoS project organized town hall meetings aimed at promoting genuine conversations between the Police and the People.

The first town hall took place in Bwaise, a well-attended event that had slum dwellers ask officers pointed questions and police officers provide well-measured answers.

IOM worked with AFFCAD to gather more than 160 residents who appeared keen to learn about the work of the Police. The people had several questions, such as: Why does the police not respond



promptly when given information? Why does the police arrest well-known criminals and then simply release them?

For their part, Police officers went to great lengths to explain their work to the public, but also to enlighten them on radicalization and how to detect it. Community members were urged to cooperate with the Police and share information so that the officers can better keep the peace.

The Bwaise town hall was the first following IOM's training of the Count-

er-Terrorism division of Uganda Police that had started in late October. The meeting therefore gave the officers a chance to test out some of the lessons they picked up during the training by Mr Steven Little.

At the end of February, the second town hall was held in Katwe, and was even livelier. It was attended by nearly 170 people, and was remarkable for the significantly active participation of women.

More town halls are planned in the coming six months.



Some of the participants during the event on messaging for supply-side accountability

IOM Hosts Discussion on Service Provision and Accountability in Slums

BY IOM WRITER

In December, the SSCoS project released the findings of a survey about service provision in informal settlements, and launched a messaging campaign for 'Supply-Side accountability'.

This was under Result Area 5 – supporting relevant Government authorities to provide conflict-sensitive and non-discriminatory public services.

The study was conducted by Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU) in Bwaise and Kabalagala, two of the four slums in which the European Union-funded SSCoS project is being implemented.

Among the key findings was that the population is largely dissatisfied with the

services they are getting. Respondents, for instance, asked for a health centre II in Bwaise and Kabalagala to ease access to health services. More than 80 percent of the respondents rated the public health services as either "partly free" or "Not free", with cost a key obstacle between the community and services.

ACCU supported a consultative session between AFFCAD, community representatives from Bwaise and Kabalagala, KCCA and the MGLSD. A total of 124 (71 male, 53 female). ACCU presented findings from a rapid assessment conducted to evaluate availability and accessibility of services. With skills already received through trainings on demand side accountability, community representatives could engage with representatives from KCCA and the MGLSD on issues related

to service provision in education, health and access to financial services.

Communities will now be supported to use scorecards to assess the quality of services and lobby government agencies to plug any existing gaps.

During a lively discussion at the roll-out of supply-side accountability messaging, the public, including slum dwellers, posed questions to panelists from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development; Kampala Capital City Authority, Uganda Debt Network, and AFFCAD, the Action for Fundamental Change and Development.

The messaging campaign was launched by Assistant Commissioner Kyateka Mondo, from the ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

Graduation Day in Bwaise

BY MICHEAL KISITU (IOM)

December 8 was Graduation day at a European Union- and IOM-supported business school in Bwaise in Kampala city!

The main guest was Mr Thomas Tiedemann, the Head of Governance and Human Rights at the European Union Delegation in Uganda. The European Union is the sole donor of the SSCoS project.

Bwaise Business and Vocational Institute, run by AFFCAD, saw off some 151 students who excelled in various disciplines. In very important linkage, all the students were assisted to secure internships in the disciplines they majored in.

The students did courses such as catering, cosmetology, decoration, electronics, graphic design, photography and tailoring.

Some 87 of the graduands were female, representing 57%, while the males were 43%.

Out of 152 students who sat the final exams, 94 (62%) scored B or Better, while 92% scored Grade C or better.

The gender distribution of the courses suggested that certain careers still carry certain gender tags in the project area. For instance in the electronics class, there were 26 males and zero female. But cosmetology and decoration had 14 and 16 girls respectively, and zero boys. Catering had 15 females and 4 males, just like tailoring: 21 females and 6 males.

It was in photography that the gender divide appeared to diminish, with 19 males sharing the class with 14 girls. And that is not a bad picture.



*BIG DAY:
Some of the
graduands*



Thomas Tiedemann (EU), AFFCAD's Muhammed Kisirisa, and IOM's Sahra Farah talk to a lady (Left) at the graduation



*Some of the AFF-
CAD graduands
on their big day*

With EU Support, Godwins Thrives

BY RICHARD M KAVUMA (IOM)

On a sultry afternoon in the Bwaise slum of Kampala, we jump over waste water trenches, squeeze through another narrow, dim alley, and negotiate a sharp corner, before approaching a corrugated-iron shelter that is Godwins Ssebalijja's carpentry workshop.

Save for a Bosch toolbox, basic carpentry equipment and unfinished furniture pieces, the place looks markedly modest, squeezed among temporary bedsitters. The atmosphere is only lifted by four young men sanding, planing and cutting wood – all while throwing jokes. A few metres away, my attention is immediately grabbed by a smooth-edged, shiny, ruby-red six-sitter dinner set, which Godwins and his team have just completed.

"Everything on this dinner set was done here and by ourselves, using our equipment," says Godwins, a primary school dropout who tried to become a mechanic before settling for carpentry. "Before I got the equipment, I had to take every item to other workshops and queue up and then pay for them to be worked on."

Godwins has been boosted by the SSCoS project, which is fully funded by the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF) with 4.3 Million euro.

The 42-month project is implemented by the United Nations Migration Agency (IOM) and several partners. It has broad strategies to improve social cohesion by addressing sources of marginalization and potential radicalization, such as unemployment and poverty.

In September 2017, Godwins was among the first recipients of the project's support for Small Business Start-ups (SBS). Under the SBS component, youths with business plans are trained by specialized

organizations such as Enterprise Uganda, and helped to prepare business plans. Those whose business plans are approved get in-kind support, helping their businesses to take off.

"At first I was a member of a saving and credit group supported by Slum Dwellers [NSDFU], and then we were taken for training on how to run small businesses," says Godwins, a 27-year-old father of two boys. "I was very happy when I was told that I had been selected to receive support for my business idea, because although the workshop existed, we were struggling. We did not have equipment."

With EUTF funding, IOM and its implementing partners worked with Godwins to identify the exact equipment he wanted, bought it and handed it over to him.

Among other things, Godwins got a drill, compressor, jigsaw, crosscutter, rotor and clamp, all valued at about UGX3.5 million (EUR 828). He says the EUTF intervention has made his work easier and more profitable. From living hand-to-mouth, God-

wins can now save up to UGX200,000 after all business and personal expenses.

He shares the equipment with three indirect beneficiaries – colleagues with whom he runs the workshop.

"First of all, I now save a lot of time that I used to lose while waiting at other workshops. Now if a piece of furniture is finished and is ready for varnishing, I just get out the compressor and do it myself," he says.

In addition, Godwins has also had to learn new skills required to use the machines.

Godwins spent his early childhood with his peasant mother in Kayunga district, about 40 kilometres east of Kampala. He believes the support from the project will help youths in the crime-prone slum area where he now lives.

"For example, I have now got this support and I am earning well from my business; I cannot abandon it and get involved in crimes such as theft."



C/ASP Juliet Atai Loves to Work with the Community

BY RICHARD M KAVUMA (IOM)

During a training session on community policing in Kampala, funded by the European Union, one of the noticeable participants is Juliet, a lively, chubby-cheeked officer with a daring, searching gaze.

The training has been organized by the SSCoS project, implemented by IOM Uganda and her partners, and fully funded by the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF). With 22 attentive Uganda Police Force officers, the session is led by Steve Little, a towering consultant from the United Kingdom.

The topics on the menu range from counterterrorism, community policing, community meetings, conducting media interviews – all spiced with engaging interactive sessions and examples from across the globe.

Three months later, I am seated on a bare bank on the small verandah at Jomayi-Kyanja police post in eastern Kampala. Cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police Juliet Atai is the officer in charge here.

“The training was so good because Steve trained on very different aspects,” says Atai, who graduated from the police training school in September 2016. “It was a full package and it was really good....Things like community meetings, I was doing them in my own way, but his way that he taught us was much better.”

“What I liked most was after the training when we went to Bwaise; what Steve taught us, when we tried it out with the community, it was real; you could see that it was real and everyone needs it. And the community knows these things, they just need a little more light on it.”

TALKING TO PEOPLE

A daughter of a retired revenue officer and a housewife-mother, Atai grew up in Ngora district in eastern Uganda, tilling the land and walking eight kilometres daily to and from school. She and her 14 siblings had a “fair” childhood, and Atai majored in Economics at Makerere University, before joining



the Police.

“I can’t say that I was quiet,” Atai laughs, asked about her childhood. “I talked and talked, and I still talk.”

The Uganda Police could certainly benefit from officers that can easily talk their way into the embrace of communities that have historically been, at best, apprehensive about men and women in uniform. Moreover, officers themselves were ever too aware that slums were not the most law-abiding areas.

The SSCoS project has hence been working to transform this mutual suspicion into cooperation. One key thing stressed during training was policing while still observing human rights best practices.

Working with communities is what Atai was already doing. When she was posted at Kyanja, she started by visiting homes gate-to-gate, creating a community WhatsApp group, then organizing community meetings. Soon everyone in the community knew the new OC (Officer in Charge).

Having undergone the Training of Trainers course on community policing and counterterrorism, Atai says she is more than ready to go out and train other officers.

Look out for the full versions of these stories on IOM Uganda’s website: <http://uganda.iom.int/>

Final Shot



Disabled graduate teacher Charles Mutebi is one of the project beneficiaries in Katwe. He is seen here making sandals at his workshop in Kampala. Mutebi and his colleagues got Small business Start-up support, and he says the impact has been great.



Emily Kemirembe, from Bwaise in Kawempe Division is pictured in her secretarial services bureau which she opened with support from the SSCoS project. Emily says she has great expectations for her business



Residents of Kisenyi in Kampala during a training on cooperatives organized by the SSCoS project. The project is supporting cooperatives to boost savings and credit in slum areas in the city.