STRENGTHENING SOCIAL COHESION AND STABILITY IN SLUM POPULATIONS PROJECT OF IOM UGANDA.

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The SSCoS project is implemented through implementing partners led by the Action for Fundamental Change and Development (AFFCAD), Uganda Police Force, Kibo Foundation, ACTogether Uganda and Young African Refugees for Integral Development (YARID).

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ABOUT EUTF & IOM UGANDA

As the United Nations Migration Agency, IOM seeks to uphold the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM acts with its partners in the international community to:

• Assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management.
• Advance understanding of migration issues.
• Encourage social and economic development through migration.
• Uphold the dignity and well-being of migrants.

The IOM Mission in Uganda was established in 1988, following a cooperation agreement between the organization and the Government of Uganda. This agreement was renewed on 26 March 2012. Besides the national offices in Kampala, the IOM Uganda mission has field sub-offices in Moroto as well as in Nakivale, Kyangwali, Kyaka II and Palorinya refugee settlements.

In Uganda, IOM’s work revolves around the following broad objectives:

• Enhance capacity, knowledge and dialogue on migration, migration management, and migration policy making among relevant stakeholders.
• Contribute to and promote safe and regular migration, in full respect of the human rights of all migrants, with a view of improving development outcomes of migration for migrants and communities.
• Build and enhance capacity for responses to migration dimensions of humanitarian crises, with a focus both on vulnerable mobile populations and affected communities.

THE SSCOS PROJECT

Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations (SSCoS) is a project that 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.

An epitome of IOM Uganda’s dynamic mandate and programming, the project is funded by the European Union to the tune of 4.3 Million EUROS (UGX 16.4 billion) for 42 months (from August 2016 to February 2020). It falls under IOM’s Migration Governance Objective 1, which seeks to promote socio-economic wellbeing of migrants and society in general.

Among other interventions, SSCoS works to enhance and stimulate employment opportunities especially for youths and women in Kampala city’s slums of Bwaise, Kisenyi, Kabalagala and Katwe to prevent radicalization.

SSCoS is implemented through implementing partners led by the Action for Fundamental Change and Development (AFFCAD), ACTogether, Kibo Foundation and YARID.
MAP OF KAMPALA SHOWING THE PROJECT AREAS
NOTE FROM THE HEAD OF THE 
EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO 
UGANDA ON THE SSCoS PROJECT

The European Union created the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) as a vehicle for addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displacement in Africa. It is benefiting several countries across Africa, with a budget of EUR 1.8 billion (UGX 6.8 trillion). Uganda was the first country to qualify for benefitting from the EUTF, and the SSCoS project was the very first EUTF project launched in all of Africa. We allocated EUR 4.3 million (UGX 16.4 billion) from EUTF to improve the situation of the youth in four slums of Kampala, namely Bwaise, Kisenyi, Kabalagala and Katwe.

This great project, which aims at addressing the root causes of radicalization, reflects the strong relationship between IOM, the European Union and the Government of Uganda, and units such Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and Uganda Police Force in particular.

In recent months, the SSCoS project has run the “Beera clear” campaign, themed Stand against Violence, the campaign encourages youths to shun violence and embrace positive activities like entrepreneurship, vocational training and constructive community engagement with security agencies.

Uganda has one of the youngest populations in the world. Three out of four Ugandans are below the age of 30. In the slums of Kampala, coupled with social and political marginalization, they run the risk of becoming radicalized and fall into violent extremism that can lead to terrorist activities.

That is why this project, with European Union funding, supports hundreds of youths to get vocational education, capital to start up and run
their small businesses, training of police officers in community policing with human rights-sensitive approaches, and support of communities to be able to dialogue with the police and state and local government institutions.

We appreciate the efforts of Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and the Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Internal Affairs, who are working hand in hand with the slum communities to build trust, listen to their needs through participatory planning, and deliver the services they are entitled to as Ugandan citizens. We also appreciate the efforts of IOM and its implementing partners such as AFFCAD, ACTogether, KiBO Foundation and YARID.

We are confident that by enabling constructive, continuous dialogue between local communities, law enforcement and state institutions, violent extremism will not take root in Bwaise, Kisenyi, Kabalagala and Katwe. By engaging with a wide array of stakeholders and community leaders, such as religious leaders to convey their messages of tolerance, conciliation and peace, religious extremism can be curbed and social cohesion can prevail.

To the youth in Bwaise, Kabalagala, Katwe and Kisenyi, you are the future of Uganda, and the European Union is pleased to be by your side, supporting you, walking through this path with you.

“By engaging with a wide array of stakeholders and community leaders, such as religious leaders to convey their messages of tolerance, conciliation and peace, religious extremism can be curbed and social cohesion can prevail.”

Ambassador Attilio Pacifici
Head of EU Delegation to Uganda.
Welcome to the third edition of the SSCoS newsletter, covering recent events and success stories of this project, Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations in Kampala (SSCoS). IOM has implemented this project for two and a half years, during which the action has impacted on the lives of vulnerable youths and women in slum communities.

First, I would like to thank the European Union, which is fully financing this project. SSCoS is indeed a huge statement of commitment to the people of Kampala and Uganda by the European Union.

The project is primarily designed to prevent radicalization, which is always a risk in societies and communities marred by unemployment, poverty, political and religious extremism, injustice, drug abuse and other problems. These were some of the social issues that the project baseline found to be common in Kampala slums.

SSCoS focuses on job creation for the youth and small business start-ups to reduce vulnerability to radicalization and violent extremism. IOM and its implementing partners have supported youth and women to benefit from vocational trainings, entrepreneurship support and internship placement. All the project activities aim to support youth and women actively participate in the development of Uganda.

Besides the employment related interventions, SSCoS has been conducting mass messaging campaigns against violence and extremism tagged “Beera clear”, and working with the Police to promote community policing using human rights-based approaches.

Over 546 youth have benefited from vocational training skills development at AFFCAD Business vocational training institute; 419 young people have received start-up kits to start their own businesses and get out of the “unemployed” category.

The project has trained 175 senior police officers from Kampala Metropolitan, Greater Busoga and Greater Masaka - Riwizi regions to combat radicalization & crime through using human rights best practices & approaches.

I would like to recognize the substantial role played by our key implementing partners: AFFCAD, Uganda Police Force, KCCA Employment services Bureau, YARID, KiBO Foundation, ACTogether Uganda, and the youth and women in Bwaise, Kisenyi, Katwe and Kabalagala slums of Kampala for the tireless work that they put to make a difference in the lives of slum communities.

Sincere appreciation goes to the Government of
Uganda for its support, through the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Uganda Police Force), Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and KCCA.

This action contributes to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 8.6), by working to substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training by 2020.

As IOM, we reiterate our commitment to use the European Union funding to implement this project to its logical conclusion, to positively change the lives of young people in Bwaise, Kisenyi, Katwe, Kabalagala and other slums of Kampala.

Ali Abdi
IOM Chief of Mission

546 Youth have benefited from vocational training skills

455 Young people have received start-up kits to start their own businesses

175 Senior police officers trained.

“Over 546 youth have benefited from vocational training or skills development at AFFCAD Business vocational training institute; 419 young people have received start-up kits to start their own businesses and get out of the “unemployed Category,”

Ali Abdi
(IOM Chief of Mission)
One of the biggest challenges faced in slum communities is unemployment, an issue that has made youth vulnerable and easy targets of violent extremism. Exposed youth to vices like violence extremism and criminal gangs in their quest for a better life. For example, in Bwaise, rebel recruitment for ADF-Allied Democratic Front, was once done. In their search for better life and survival, many youths have been lured in to extremism with promises of material wealth and better standard of living.

We are glad that European Union has been at the forefront of economic development in Uganda, uplifting marginalised youth and communities through economic empowerment projects like vocational skills training, entrepreneurship training and business start-up.

Since 2016, AFFCAD together with IOM have implemented the European Union funded SSCoS-Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum populations project aimed at addressing root causes of inter-communal conflict in slum populations by addressing sources of grievances and by strengthening community cohesion around shared development assets. The project targets 1,000 vulnerable and at-risk youth living in Bwaise, Kisenyi, Katwe, and Kabalagala by enhancing their skills for self-reliance, financial stability and personal development.

Vocational training has provided employable skills, incentives, mentorship and connections that is enabling disadvantaged youth in Kampala's slums to transit from lives of crime and poverty to lives of productive occupation. This intervention has so far trained 546 of 1000 young people in Tailoring and Fashion designing, Catering and hotel management, beauty therapy, electrical installation and repairs, decoration and events management, videography,
graphic designing, welding and metal fabrication, leather designing and automotive electrical. This year, over 500 young people are enrolled for the various courses offered at the two training institutes.

With extension of vocational training to Kisenyi through AFFCAD Business and Vocational Institute, youth from slum communities of Katwe, Kisenyi and Kabalagala have benefited from vocational training and small business start-ups. In addition, this center has incorporated both refugees and the host community into the SSCoS project.

In 2017, with funding from European Union, Bwaise Development SACCO was registered and set up in Bwaise. This SACCO is aimed at instilling a saving culture and in turn create a revolving fund that will provide financial access to youth and women striving to boost their businesses at a minimal interest rate.

It has enabled people, especially women overcome their liquidity constraints and undertake some investments leading to increased income, self-employment and poverty reduction in slum communities.

Just like Ambassador Kristian Shmidt said, "Bwaise's got talent, as so does Kisenyi, Katwe and Kabalagala. They will not become hotbeds of unemployment, radicalization, and crime. They will become hotbeds of innovation, business opportunities and creativity!" We believe that step by step, with continued support from European Union and involvement of all stake holders, this dream will turn into reality soon.

Kisirisa Muhammed
Chief Executive Officer

AFFCAD- Action for Fundamental Change And Development.
Uganda’s high urbanization rate makes it the most rapidly urbanizing country in the African continent. According to the World Bank, Ugandan cities host six million residents but this is expected to increase to more than 30 million in the next two decades.

Urban centers, particularly Kampala, offer residents better access to labour markets, products and services. According to the latest household income and expenditure survey, urban residents have lower rates of poverty and higher average consumption levels than Ugandans living in rural areas.

However, not everything is “bright lights in the big city.” Approximately 60 per cent of urban residents in Uganda and 85 per cent of Kampala’s low-income residents live in slums, the highest rate in any East African capital.

The poor living conditions and weak law and order in these slum communities are of concern not only because of the poor socio-economic status of its residents but also because these communities could become a breeding ground for instability and violence. Increasingly, development and security experts are concerned that the grievances suffered by slum dwellers could fuel conflict and extremism. Countries with a history of violence and extremism, such as Uganda, are particularly concerned.

The project “Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations” is a three and half year’s initiative being implemented by International organization for Migration (IOM) with Action for Fundamental Change and Development (AFFCAD) and other agencies as implementing partners working with the youth. The project is funded by the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF) for 42 months, started in August 2016, and it is expected to end in February 2020. Its implementation focuses on four slums in Kampala namely; Bwaise, Kisenyi, Katwe and Kabalagala.

The overall objective of the project is to address the root causes of inter-communal conflict in slum populations by addressing sources of grievances and by strengthening community cohesion around shared assets. The specific objective is to provide employment opportunities and basic local services, as well as preventing conflict in marginalized communities in the urban slums of Uganda.

The project’s Baseline study carried out in 2016 found that the most vulnerable residents of the slums were youth aged between 15 and 35 years. The sources of grievances for this group included poverty (52%) followed by unemployment (32%), family disputes (27%), political extremism (23%) and religious extremism (10%). Other grievances mentioned by the communities included drug abuse, tribalism and injustice.
Furthermore, SSCoS is increasing capacity among relevant security agencies to combat radicalization and violent extremism and to respond to human rights abuses in line with the international best practices. During the Baseline survey, most respondents expressed concern that the conduct of the police and other security agencies fuels discontent and resentment that may result into violence. Capacity gaps amongst the police force in such areas as logistics, human rights, public relation were identified.

Basing on community recommendations that for a socially cohesive community to emerge, Police officers’ ought to exhibit elevated levels of professionalism when conducting their duties. The SSCoS project has over the years since inception been organizing town hall meetings between community members and the Police to strengthen cohesion between the two.

The Baseline study also identified job creation for youth and small enterprise setups as some of the strategies that would reduce vulnerability to radicalization and violent extremism. To implement this, the SSCoS project supports vocational institutions in Kisenyi and Bwaise to train youths and women in different skills. After graduation, the beneficiaries are supported with small business start-ups. A number also benefit from the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA)-run Employment Services Bureau, which gets them jobs through the I-serve platform.

The SSCoS project continues to support Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOs), which it helped start with financial boost, in the areas of Bwaise, and Kisenyi. These savings cooperatives offer easily-repayable loans to members to boost their businesses thus reducing their vulnerability to radicalization.

**Project Overview**

The overall objective of the action is to address the root causes of inter-communal conflict in slum populations by addressing sources of grievance and by strengthening community cohesion around shared development assets. The specific objective of the action is to provide employment opportunities and basic local services, as well as preventing conflict in marginalized communities in urban slums of Uganda.
Six core Result Areas of the SSCoS project:

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.
EUROPEAN UNION AMBASSADOR VISITS KAMPALA SLUMS PROJECT, REITERATES SUPPORT FOR YOUTH.
The Head of the European Union Delegation to Uganda, Ambassador Attilio Pacifici, has reiterated the EU’s commitment to support Uganda get the most out of its youthful population. Speaking in Bwaise, a slum area of Kampala, the ambassador said Uganda’s combination of the youngest population in the world and a high unemployment rate raised the risk of challenges such as radicalization and violent extremism.

He was speaking at the AFFCAD Business and Vocational Institute, which is supported by the project Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations (SSCoS), funded by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa. The SSCoS project aims to tackle the root causes of radicalization and violent extremism in informal settlements. It is implemented in four city slums by IOM, the UN Migration Agency, working with partners such as the non-governmental organization AFFCAD (Action for Fundamental Change and Development), YARID, KCCA, KiBO Foundation and Uganda Police Force.

The ambassador’s maiden visit to SSCoS also featured a representative of the deputy premier of Buganda traditional kingdom; IOM Uganda Chief of Mission Ali Abdi; Deputy Director of Counter Terrorism Police David Wasswa; the local division mayor and town clerk, as well as AFFCAD officials and project beneficiaries. The visitors inspected an exhibition of products produced by beneficiaries of tailoring, cookery, leather design, electrical installations and cosmetology training. Later, they took a walk through the slums to appreciate the realities of slum life.

About the project attracting the interest of the influential Buganda kingdom, Ambassador Pacifici said: “Social marginalization and violent extremism are our common enemies. They steal youths’ minds and bodies, damage families, communities and entire societies, depriving all of us of resources crucial to our advancement.”

Figure 4 Ambassador Pacifici interacts with one of the beneficiaries at the AFFCAD Business and Vocational institution during his visit there in February. Looking on (in Grey Suit) is IOM Chief of Mission Ali Abdi. Photo: IOM Uganda ©2019.
About the project attracting the interest of the influential Buganda kingdom, Ambassador Pacifici said:

“Social marginalization and violent extremism are our common enemies. They steal youths’ minds and bodies, damage families, communities and entire societies, depriving all of us of resources crucial to our advancement.”

For his part, the representative of Buganda kingdom, Anthony Wamala, said the kingdom was ready to partner with the European Union to advance the cause preventing radicalization.

The ambassador listed various initiatives specifically on youth skilling and employment that the EU has supported in Uganda since 2012, amounting to more than 17.3 million euros. According to Counter Terrorism Police Director David Wasswa, by integrating socio-economic support for business start-ups, the SSCoS project model has boosted the Force’s own efforts to get communities to reject radicalization. Not only does the project encourage people to “get off the streets”, it gives them a viable alternative, for example small business start-up capital.

IOM Uganda Chief of Mission thanked the European Union for supporting the project and challenged those present to support the project beneficiaries, for instance by employing them and buying their products. One of the project beneficiaries of graphic design now produces business cards for IOM.
UN UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL VISITS EU-FUNDED SLUMS PROJECT IN KAMPALA

Figure 6 United Nations Under-Secretary-General (Prevention) Ana Maria Menendez and UN Resident Coordinator Rosa Malango touring some of the beneficiaries’ stalls with SSCO project manager Sahra Farah. Photo: IOM Uganda ©2019
United Nations Under-Secretary General (Prevention) Ana Maria Menendez on 28 January hailed IOM Uganda’s “grassroots approach” to build stable slum communities in the capital Kampala. Menendez spoke in the Kampala slum area of Bwaise, as she visited the Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations (SSCoS) project, which is funded by the European Union. This was part of her visit to Uganda and Ethiopia to better understand how the UN can support prevention of crises.

The SSCoS project is implemented by IOM Uganda and partners led by the Action for Fundamental Change and Development (AFFCAD). It aims at preventing radicalization and violent extremism through a mix of socioeconomic support to vulnerable youths, mass messaging campaigns, as well as engaging government departments to improve service provision, including the Police on human rights-sensitive approaches.

Under-Secretary-General Menendez was accompanied by the UN Resident Coordinator in Uganda, Rosa Malango. They inspected works of cookery, tailoring, electronics and beauty therapy produced by project-supported youths. They also heard testimonies from some of the project beneficiaries that included a police officer; youths who got vocational skills and business start-up kits; as well as a vocational institute trainer.

Menendez told the dozens of slum youths present that they were essential to building better communities with peace, equality, justice and which are necessary for the effective pursuit of Agenda 2030. She encouraged them to recognize that they are assets for themselves, their families, communities and society.

Representing the IOM Uganda Chief of Mission, SSCoS project manager Sahra Farah explained the core logic supporting the Police to protect Human Rights and promote cooperation and reduce confrontation with slum communities, we can help prevent radicalization.”

The European Union, was represented by Aloys Lorkeers, Head of the Refugee Section in Kampala, who of the intervention, saying: “As Countries like Uganda urbanize at a fast rate, many of the young people migrating to cities like Kampala end up in informal settlements such as Bwaise where we are. Without proper education, without employable skills, and without systematic livelihoods support, youth in slums become marginalized, excluded, and extremely vulnerable to agents of radicalization and violent extremism that can lead to terrorism.”

“You will often hear that the youth is the future and indeed you are the future; but I also think you are the present,” she said.

“And the fact that we are here talking to you, looking at your projects and hopefully listening to your voices and looking at how you are preparing for better communities… this is something that speaks to the present.”
Farah added: “By ensuring that young people have skills and support to start businesses or find work; by supporting savings and cooperatives in slums; by underscored of the importance of stable, peaceful communities; skills linked with the needs of the market, as well as support to relevant government agencies to improve services. “We are very satisfied with the way the programme is going so far, and we hope it will be able to deliver the expected results at the end,” Lorkeers said.

The young people then got a rousing motivational talk from UN Resident Coordinator Rosa Malango. She urged them to dream, plan and take action, but also to take pride in the skills acquired. The latter is particularly important in a country with a craving for white collar education despite acute shortage of white collar jobs.

“Every job is a source of dignity; so please be dignified in who you are,” Malango said.

“You are a carpenter, congratulations; you are a beauty therapist, thank you very much. You are a designer, I am looking forward to where you are going from here.”
“Without proper education, without employable skills, and without systematic livelihoods support, youth in slums become marginalized, excluded, and extremely vulnerable to agents of radicalization and violent extremism that can lead to terrorism,”

Sahra Farah,
SSCoS Project Manager.
EU-IOM PROJECT LAUNCHES ‘Beera Clear’ CAMPAIGN AGAINST VIOLENCE

Figure 9 Youths from the four slums of Bwaise, Katwe, Kisenyi, and Kabalagala entertain guests at the Beera Clear launch. Photo: IOM Uganda©2019
Thomas Tiedemann, the European Union Delegation’s Head of Governance and Human Rights, said that besides providing young men and women with skills and support to start their businesses, the project was empowering them to take charge of their futures. He added that radicalization and extremism happen in our midst, but we cannot recognize or detect them; hence, the campaign.

“Through our messaging we call upon [young people] to make the right choices and to stand against all types of violence,” Tiedemann said. “We wish to contribute to raising awareness about diverse types of violence, how they happen and how we can detect them, to empower the community at large, to prevent violence and to intervene to counter violence.”

Funded at EUR 4.3 million over three and a half years, the SSCoS project started in August 2016 and aims to address the root causes of radicalization. It is implemented by IOM and its partners in the Kampala areas of Bwaise, Kisenyi, Kabalagala and Katwe. It combines socio-economic support to slum youth with logistical facilitation and capacity building of key state agencies such as the Police.

The “Beera Clear” (loosely translated to mean ‘Be Clear’ or ‘Be law-abiding’) campaign urges slum dwellers to “Stand against violence.” This messaging is backed by baseline findings that marginalized, poor young people were more vulnerable to being radicalized.

Assistant Inspector General of Police Asan Kasingye, who represented the state minister for internal affairs, also urged young people to refrain from violence. But he pledged that the Police would strive to observe human rights of young people, while sensitizing them to stay away from violence.

“I want to [ask], on behalf of the Uganda Police, […] can we be clear about protection of young people, especially their Human Rights?” Kasingye said, attracting applause from the crowd during the launch event.

As part of the messaging campaign, the SSCoS project is running infomercials on radio and television, and has organized a youth theatre festival, as well as various outreach events in the project areas, promoting both peaceful ambition and ambitious peace.
Mr. Thomas Tiedemann, the European Union Delegation’s Head of Governance and Human Rights, interacts with one of the beneficiaries. Left is SSCOSS project manager and Ali Abdi, IOM Chief of Mission (Right). Photo: IOM Uganda©2018.

Figure 12 Ugandan singer Ykee Benda joined by youths on stage during the Beera Clear launch. Photo IOM Uganda©2018
Figure 13 AIGP Asan Kasingye arriving at the Beera Clear campaign launch held at Makerere University Rugby Grounds. Photo: IOM Uganda©2019

Figure 14 Thomas Tiedemann, the European Union Delegation’s Head of Governance and Human Rights, interacts with one of the beneficiaries who now runs a graphics business after. The beneficiary was trained by AFFCAD. Photo: IOM Uganda©2019

Figure 15 Officials from the Uganda Police Force at the “Beera Clear” messaging campaign launch. Photo: IOM Uganda©2019

Figure 16 IOM Chief Ali Abdi, EU’s Thomas Tiedemann join AIGP Asan Kasingye to officially launch Beera Clear. Photo: IOM Uganda©2019
Choose Business, Not Violence

STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE

In case of any suspicious activity, call our Toll-free number: 0800279650

This message is brought to you by: In partnership with: Funded by:
YOUTHS FROM KISENYI CELEBRATE THEIR GRADUATION AT AFFCAD BUSINESS VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE.

Over 152 youths from the slums of Kisenyi, Katwe and Kabalagala graduated from various vocational skills courses including automotive electrical, welding and metal fabrication, catering & hotel management and leather designing. After the eight months vocational training and internship placement, the students were handed over certificates from the Guest of honor H.E Amb. Hugo Verbist, Ambassador to Embassy of Belgium in Uganda. As the Ambassador said, this is just a beginning for the graduates, over 100 of them will receive small business start-up support to establish their businesses.

My name is Namatovu Lillian Sylvia and I live in Katwe. I have been single handedly raised by my elder sister right from childhood. My parents did not have enough money to take care of me and my sister carried me with her to Kampala in search of a better life. She took care of my education with the little she earned.

However, with time, she could no longer sustain me in school and I had to drop out. I failed to get a sustaining job and I was forced to stay home idle. One day, I met a student from AFFCAD Business and Vocational Institute-Kisenyi who told me how his life has changed and how he is studying for free. I was very inspired and decided to join and be part of this once in a life time opportunity.

I enrolled for a course in Automotive Electrical. Many people were skeptical about my decision for such a course and said it was a man’s world. With encouragement from my trainer and administrator, I proved them wrong, pursued this course and excelled!!

I got an opportunity to intern at Auto fix garage in Kibuli and have since gained additional skills in motor vehicle repair and wiring, repairing spare-parts and also customer care skills.

LOOKING BEYOND GENDER
I’m grateful to AFFCAD and IOM for teaching and molding me into what I am today. I can’t thank European Union enough for supporting us youth because not everyone can do this. I now believe my future is brighter. My long-term goal is to start-up my own business and employ fellow youth because many youths out there are unemployed.

With funding from European Union and support from IOM, AFFCAD set up a second satellite training institute in Kisenyi. This center offers vocational training in Catering, Leather designing, Automotive Electrical and Welding and Metal fabrication. It targets youth from both the refugee and host communities in Kabalagala, Katwe and Kisenyi. Over 300 young people will get the opportunity to gain hands on skills.

The SSCoS project is changing lives in Uganda and an economically empowered youth at the forefront of sustainable development and peace is possible. We thank European Union for funding youth livelihoods and being at the centre of economic development in disadvantaged communities and in Uganda over all.
"I can’t believe that I have graduated. It hit me today that I’m graduating and I’m going to wear a gown! A year ago, I had no plan for my life AFFCAD got me in this small house we called forest using drugs and gave me this opportunity. I see light at the end of the tunnel because this institute has changed my life and made me what I am today!!" Exclaimed an excited Tony!
They imagined it, dreamt it, worked towards achieving it and finally became it! On March 13th, 2019, excitement, joy and accomplishment stunned Kisenyi as 152 youth graduated from AFFCAD Business and Vocational Institute Kisenyi branch. They have graduated after an intense eight months training in various hands on courses.

This is the third cohort to graduate under the European Union funded SSSCoS project. Kisenyi branch has skilled youth in the courses of Automotive Electrical, Welding and metal fabrication, Catering and Hotel management and Leather designing. In addition, this is a satellite center that trains young people from Kisenyi, Kabalagala and Katwe and it has incorporated youth from both the refugee and host community.

Beneficiaries of this project are further supported with business toolkits upon completion of their training to help kick-start their own trades. 600 young people will be able to start their own businesses and in turn support fellow youth through employment opportunities availed through these businesses.

Through funding and support from European Union, people like Tony have been able to change the path of their lives, from that of crime to a life of economic empowerment and responsible living.

“One after graduation, I hope to teach and create more shoe makers, I believe this will open more opportunities for collaboration and growth to create a bigger task force of making made in Uganda shoes therefore tapping into the huge Ugandan shoe market.”

One of the graduands Tonny making shoes at his shop in Bwaise. Photo: AFFCAD
Slum Residents, Authorities Discuss Service Delivery

Figure 1 Rubaga division mayor, Owek. Joyce Sebugwawo, at the meeting. Photo: IOM Uganda®2019.

Under its European Union-funded Slums project, IOM in March organized a meeting at which slum residents and leaders at various levels exchanged views on public services in informal settlements in the Ugandan capital Kampala.

The meeting was part of a series of public dialogues on supply-side and demand-side accountability, which will culminate into a roadmap towards improved services for slum communities in Kampala.

The Supply and Demand Side Accountability components are part of the Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations (SSCoS) project, funded by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa. Under its European Union-funded Slums project, IOM in March organized a meeting at which slum residents and leaders at various levels exchanged views on public services in informal settlements in the Ugandan capital Kampala.

The meeting was part of a series of public dialogues on supply-side and demand-side accountability, which will culminate into a roadmap towards improved services for slum communities in Kampala.
The Supply and Demand Side Accountability components are part of the Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations (SSCoS) project, funded by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa.

This community stabilization action aims to tackle the root causes of radicalization in slum populations by addressing the sources of grievances and strengthening community cohesion around shared assets. Interventions support both the vulnerable populations and key institutions serving them.

The project is implemented in four slums by IOM Uganda, along with partners led by the nongovernmental organization AFFCAD (Action for Fundamental Change and Development).

It is hoped that the supply and demand-side accountability component of the project will help strengthen community’s capacity to demand improved services in Kampala’s informal settlements, and to support with dialogue between Government and residents.

Present at last week’s public dialogue included residents and Political leaders and technical officials from the Kampala Capital City Authority. They listened and answered questions as residents registered their complaints and compliments.

The dialogue, which featured exchanges of some candid views, was informed by a scoping survey of Katwe and Kisenyi slums, which was itself informed by an earlier rapid assessment in two other slums.

Katwe and Kisenyi are densely populated and host significant numbers of refugees and migrants from Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Burundi.

The scoping study participants included health, education and community development officials of the city authority; the Uganda Human Rights Commission, Uganda Police Force; civil society; cultural and community leaders, and the public in the project sites.

In both surveys, residents...
said the quality of services such as health, education, water and sanitation, and human rights protection in slum areas was poor. But the same residents were not keen to demand better from their leaders.

The household survey findings indicate that 72 per cent are aware of their rights but 67 per cent, even when aware of such rights, have not taken a step to demand for them. Many of the people are resigned, feeling that there is nothing that can be done and neither can their voices and views be considered,” the scoping survey report says.

Some 67 per cent of the surveyed people said corruption was common in their community, while 85 per cent said corruption had significantly affected the quality of services. They said among the services affected by corruption include health and Justice, law and order.

“Every Police report in this community has a poster indicating that [police bond] is free and no one should pay for [bond]. But the practice is different; when our children are arrested, to get them out you must pay not less than UGX 100,000,” the scoping report quotes a religious leader as saying.

During the public dialogue, residents most of them youths repeated similar complaints, while leaders offered explanations.

“There are people who know that for certain cases you cannot get a police bond, unless you go court and you formally apply for bail. But these people are able and willing to pay in the desperate hope of getting bond; those are the people meandering around police stations with money,” said a senior police officer.

Two mayors of city divisions, who attended the meeting, appeared to pass the buck to the central government, urging it to tackle such problems as drug abuse and dropping out of school among slum youths.

The Central Government was represented by Emmanuel Muhanguzi, the Principal Labour Officer from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. Just like the SCS project manager Sahra Farah, Muhanguzi urged youths to beware of dodgy firms promising attractive jobs abroad; instead they should use licensed recruiting agencies and use formal Labour migration channels.
Above a representative of the Uganda Police Force and below SSCO project manager Sahra Farah give their remarks Photo: IOM Uganda ©2019
Choose Engagement, Not Violence

STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE

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Using drama to fight crime

Figure 4 Caltec Academy students entertaining the audience with a cultural dance. Photo: IOMUganda ©2019.
Ivan Ssegawa did not get a chance to study. His parents could not afford to support him in school owing to joblessness. At 14, he left his home village, Kikyuusa in Luweero for Kampala to fend for himself.

He has been trading in fish. He buys it from St. Balikuddembe Market, formerly known as Owino Market, and sells it for a profit in Jjuuko zone in Katwe, where he also resides.

Ssegawa is one of 10 youth selected from many to participate in a drama showcase by Theatre Factory, an arts outfit. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) made a call for theatre groups and Theatre Factory won the contract to train youth between the age of 15 and 25, in drama as a way of sensitizing them on key issues of violence and radicalization.

The programme is dubbed ‘Strengthening social cohesion and stability in slum populations’. For two days, on Tuesday and Wednesday, young people entertained audiences at Uganda National Cultural Centre, formerly National Theatre, through music, dance and drama on the issues.

According to Philip Luswata, the director of Theatre Factory, it has been a long journey. By his admission, Ssegawa says when he enrolled for the training, he was still abusing drugs.

“I liked the new beginnings I had started as a singer and actor but owing to abuse of drugs, I could not concentrate under the influence. We were warned that discipline was key for anyone to continue with the project so I decided to quit drugs as I feared it would cost me an opportunity to live a better life,” the 20-year-old Ssegawa explains.

He is happy that for the last two months, he has been clean.

In drama, Elizabeth Lukwago is seeing a saviour from alcoholism, which severally led her to sleeping with different men in a drunken stupor.

The 21-year-old is a resident of Bwaise where she plans to become a music, dance and drama trainer through which she would like to carry on the message of crime prevention.

Owing to unemployment, Lukwago shares that on many occasions, peer pressure has led her into regrettable circumstances.

“We would drink alcohol and it would turn me into a nuisance. We would drink so much that I was used, sexually. I would wake up in strangers’ houses,” the Senior Four drop-out further narrates.
She dropped out of school because her parents could not afford to raise school fees to let her continue her ambition of becoming a graduate performer. One of her uncles is a veteran actor.

She now stays alone and is perplexed at the same time on how to raise rent, which she says could push her into prostitution. Part of the frustration, she says that drove her from home was the domestic violence she witnessed first-hand as his father battered her mother on a nearly daily basis.

To her, joining drama and getting further training and sharper skills, she is hopeful she will sketch a future as an actress.

She gives me an interview in presence of her mother, Agnes Ntabadde Lukwago. “From the messages in the plays and songs, I have also shared with my mother on ways she can avoid being a victim of domestic violence by coming to watch me act on stage and take messages that the play carries,” Lukwago further explains.

“Drama is entertaining but with something to learn from. For me, it is history repeating itself because her [daughter’s] uncle is an actor.

I wish her well in her journey as an actress. I could identify with the play in which she acted,” Lukwago’s mother, observes.

Luswata says the lack of hope is what turns youth in slums into committing crime or being recruited in breaking the law.

“When we went in for audition for actors and actresses, there was interest after we convinced them. Many saw this as a chance to turn away from crime. Drama got them to see possibility for a change,” the veteran actors explains.
Meddie Ssenyonjo, 29, attests to this, explaining that the project has given him a platform to showcase his singing ability. In the past, he has tried his hands at fashion design in Kabalagala, a city suburb, but only been fair at it.

Much of his time has been spent with his idol, artiste Jose Chameleon, who he occasionally escorts to music concerts.

“I needed something that could occupy me. I have been given a chance to sing my first song titled Beera Clear, which communicates to parents about the need to educate their children or benefactors,” he explains.

He is a former drug addict but says he has since quit. “I am now using my experiences as a lesson for young people, who I implore to quit by telling them the ills drugs can lead them to. I have shared with students of Tropical High School in Kabalagala and the response is positive. I would like to concentrate on furthering my singing and acting career with Theatre Factory. My dream is to sing so well like my music star, Jose Chameleon,” Ssenyonjo further explains.

Faridah Nakiyingi is a teacher at Tropical High School, which participated in the music, dance and drama showcase at National Theatre. She commends the initiative for getting community members to exhibit their talents.

“This is important in boosting the confidence of young people because many do not have mentors. When they are allowed to act, sing and dance, they also get to register the messages against child abuse and violence,” she says.

Changing lives

Like larger society, slum dwellers are exposed to moral decay, though for them, it is first hand, for example in places such as Ki Mombasa in Bwaise where prostitutes operate openly.
They sit by their brothel doors, sometimes holding out condoms, uttering out obscene words to lure customers much to the detriment of young people whose moral fibre is damaged at an early age. Luswata says his interaction with the young people, who have continuity with avenues where young people can find purpose, observing that radicalization or violence extremists is common in slum areas.

Participation in the project, has opened his eyes to the fact that they need direction and are glad to be part of the solution to problems they face and communities within which they live. For example, police’s community policing commissioner Hadijah Namutebi observes that international extremist groups always use money to recruit young people from slums because they are young and desperate, owing to poverty levels in such areas.

Youth cautioned

To that end, Senior Commissioner of Police David Wasswa warms young people to beware of who they connect with on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp, hinging his call on the fact that terrorism groups also lure young people on such platforms.

This was one of the highlighted messages by young Somalis actors and actress through songs and drama. To fortify the point, Luswata argues that many appreciate the social cohesion that the arts have drawn among them.

As such, they are inquiring about when a similar artistic project would bring them together, again. Luswata is in talks with OIM to find ways of Citations of gang settlements, prostitution,
diminished appreciation for life are linked to slums and as Luswata adds, experiences young people go through affects them, leaving them ready to explode at any one time thus the criminal activities. He cites the rampant reports of kidnapes and self-kidnaps as some of the criminal acts that have emanated in society, explained by unemployment of young people.

“Life in the future”

Going forward, Luswata says the journey has started on rough but promising note where lives are changing. He would like to open opportunities for some of the actors and actresses from the slum for future projects Theatre Factory will get for television series and dramas so that they can get fame and boost confidence of fellow young people.

There are results to show. Sharifa Ndagire, a lodge attendant and waitress from Kabalagala, says exposure to drama and acting gives her hope of escaping from the life of being undermined owing to the job she does. She always yearned to do something which would not draw ridicule from society.

“I have gained confidence. Before the project, I was shy. I would like to continue working in theatre because I am not happy working in a bar area. It gives me a promising future,” she says.

Ndagire did not go far in school.

Like some of her peers in the waiting business in bars and lodges, she dropped out of school in Primary Six. Theatre largely requires talent over qualification and it could be their alternative source of livelihood.

Adapted from: https://www.monitor.co.ug

“We are radicalized daily. Bombers are from within. We are not safe from violent extremism. If we can further professionalize the slum youth in artistic engagement, we can play a role on cubing crime,”

Mr. Wasswa suggests.
VOICES FROM THE BENEFICIARIES

European Union project creating jobs for slum dwellers
When Sukaka Saleh arrived in Uganda two years ago, all he had were his two children and wife. Gunmen had tried to kill him in his home village of Ukyuru located in North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo and that explains why he arrived in Kisenyi with nothing.

Surviving in a new environment was hard and the 48-year-old had to do petty jobs to sustain his family. Despite having 23 years of experience as a tailor, Sukaka couldn’t secure a well-paying job in Uganda.

“My kids were not going to school and sometimes my wife would fall sick but I couldn’t even find money to pay for her medication,” narrates Sukaka.

Months later, Sukaka joined the Refugees Driver’s Association (RDA), which helps urban refugees find jobs, and it is here that he found three other experienced tailors.

With the guidance of RDA, the four members submitted their business plans to IOM, the UN Migration Agency (IOM), which is implementing a project that supports vulnerable slum populations, fully funded by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF).

Through the Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum populations (SSCoS) project, Sukaka and his colleagues were each given a sewing machine, an over-lock machine and other accessories to start their own businesses.

They also underwent a one-week financial literacy training conducted by Enterprise Uganda on how to run their businesses.

However, instead of starting their own businesses, the beneficiaries united and started a tailoring workshop where they would train other refugees and nationals in fashion and design. Currently there are thirteen youth and women undergoing training at the workshop located in Kisenyi and the students are only required to pay Ushs 30,000 to cater for things like cloth material and other accessories.

“I know what feels like having no job. When I came here, I didn’t even know where to start; life was really hard. I was a tailor and a trainer back home in North Kivu, so I decided to help others here. All I want is for these people to learn,” says Sukaka.
According to Isma Muhindo, a programme officer at RDA, the European Union-funded project is changing lives in the area because many youths have started embracing the skilling classes. RDA is not only focusing on teaching youths fashion and design but other skills like hair dressing, graphics and design, electrical installation, among others.

The 35-year-old Congolese refugee explains that many youths refugees and Ugandans have great ideas but are hindered by lack of capital. Of the 134 members of RDA, 75 have received small business start-up (SBS) kits from the SSCoS project, funded by the European Union.

“According to the SSCoS project Baseline Survey carried out in 2017, unemployment remains one of the key socio-economic challenges for slum dwellers. Overall, 42% of respondents were either casual labourers or totally unemployed. Of the unemployed, 88% were aged 15-34 years.

Without money or work, youths become especially vulnerable to a whole range of vices, including radicalization and recruitment into criminal gangs.

Rahma Ahmed, a SSCoS project assistant at IOM Uganda, says because Sukaka and his colleagues are united, they have managed to jointly open up bigger businesses using their start-up kits. Another group, of five women (three Congolese, one Rwandese and a Burundian), are running a salon in Kisenyi. Other ventures like washing bays, restaurants and photography studios have been opened up by beneficiaries.

Ahmed further adds that by working together in such joint ventures, slum dwellers can significantly reduce their vulnerabilities. There is also strengthened cohesion as beneficiaries are willing to share the new acquired skills with community members, irrespective of one’s nationality.

“Supporting urban refugees and other vulnerable community members with small-business start-ups enables beneficiaries to support their families better. Due to European Union funding many slum dwellers are taking their children to school because they have a source of income,” Ahmed says.

Laini Mulonda, a mother of three now studying fashion and design at the tailoring workshop under the guidance of Sukaka, is particularly upbeat. She says that if all goes well at the workshop, she will be able to feed her daughters, take them to school, and pay her rent.

“If I get a sewing machine, there will be a substantial change in my life. There is hope so long as I get my own business that can get me some money to enable me stand on my own as a woman,” says 34-year-old Mulonda.
EU-SSCoS project financially empowering slum dwellers through savings cooperatives

Hasfah Kayima the Chairperson of the Bwaise SACCO Ltd (second right) with some of the leadership executive members of the SACCO. Photo: IOM Uganda 2019
By Abubaker Mayemba,

Most times, small businesses operating in slum settings like Bwaise, all they need is a financial boost to thrive. But unfortunately, due to lack of funds or poor management, majority of these die a few months after establishment. This leaves the once would-be prominent business people jobless in the challenging slum life where the vulnerable, especially youth and women, resort to crime to feed themselves and their families.

Sauda Namulindwa, 32, nearly gave-up her dream of owning a garments shop in Bwaise. She had started her dream business in 2016, after doing different jobs and managed to raise Ushs1 million as capital for her venture. However, six months later, her business was on its knees.

“I had less capital yet my clients wanted more services and I didn’t have security to get a loan from the bank,” she says.

According to a baseline survey carried out under the Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum (SSCoS) project, it was revealed that community-level programs that provide financing services to residents are quite essential in boosting household incomes and improving social welfare. However, sources of credit such as village savings and loans schemes, microfinance institutions are few which means that struggling businesses like Namulindwa’s struggle to find loans to thrive.

Basing on the Baseline survey recommendation of providing financial support and Income Generating Activity (IGA) support to vulnerable groups aged between 15 and 35 years, the SSCoS project moved to improve access to financing for small businesses. In 2017, using part of the EUR 4.3million funding from the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF), the SSCoS project facilitated the setting up of three savings cooperatives in slums of Bwaise, Katwe and Kisenyi.

That same year, Bwaise Community Co-operative Savings and Credit Society Limited (BCS) was formed after the merging of three community savings groups based in Bwaise. Namulindwa was among the first members to join BCS and after getting Ushs1 million loan, the mother of three re-invested the money in her shop. Ever since then, her business has been on an upward spiral.

“I had to join BCS to get money for the business to serve my clients better. In the start, I got a loan of Ugx: 1 million and then kept getting more to grow my business. I have managed to increase my stock from Ushs2 million to about Ushs6 million,” says the 32-year-old.

Hasfa Kayima, the BCS chairperson, says the savings cooperative gives loans to members only and these range from Ushs100,000 to Ushs1.5 million, depending on one’s business. Members are given a payback duration
of up to 10 months but they can choose to repay the loans in weekly or monthly installments.

Before giving out a loan, Kayima says, a loan committee inspects the applicant’s business to establish whether they are qualified to receive the funding and after that their loan request is forwarded to the board for approval. After one’s loan has been approved, BCS monitors the applicant to ensure if they are progressing well and if not, they are given financial advice on how to manage their businesses better.

“The members we started with have benefited from the financial trainings because at the start in 2017, these people were trained by Enterprise Uganda on how to set up a business, where to set it up and how to maintain it through book keeping. They were taught the importance of saving,” says Kayima.

Dorothy Ogolla, the SSCoS senior project assistant, says the initial plan was to have 60 people per a cooperative savings group but because of the need for business financing in the slums, the membership numbers have doubled. For instance, BCS, which started with 60 people in April 2017 now has a membership of over 160 members. The other two cooperatives, Bwaise II Craft Makers SACCO and Rise and Win SAACO in Kisenyi, are still growing in membership.

She further adds that on top of supporting income generating activities to boost household incomes, the SAACOs are promoting cohesion among community members because for some, loans are only given to groups and not individuals. She explains that for instance craft-makers may want to acquire a new machine for their workshop. To get a loan, they will apply collectively and get the machine. This promotes oneness as members have to support each other.

“It is in those small groups that community members are building trust among themselves because they have to work as a team to grow their businesses,” she says.

Kayima adds that during financial literacy trainings members engage each other on how to make their communities better. For instance, members get to advise one another on the challenges they face at home and work. This is in line with SSCoS key interventions to aimed combating violence and extreme radicalization in the four slums of Bwaise, Kisenyi, Katwe, and Kabalagala.

“The project is changing our lives because now we can easily and cheaply access loans. It’s from this business that I get money to pay school fees, buy food, and pay rent for my family, says Namulindwa.

“These cooperative savings in the slums of Bwaise, Katwe and Kisenyi are giving the youths and women hope that they too can succeed at being their own bosses without resorting to crime,” says Dorothy Ogolla.
The Town Hall Meetings

Figure 9 A female police officer interacts with some of the youths at a town hall. Photo: IOMUganda©2019.
The EU-SSCoS project organized two community town hall events in February 2019 in the areas of Bwaise and Kisenyi community where the police officers and communities had the opportunity to discuss Prevention, Countering Violent and to enhance community policing.

During the ToT, Police officers were trained on skills to facilitate community town hall meetings.

The town hall meetings were organized with the objective of generating trust and to create space for community members to voice their opinions on how violence extremism could take hold of their communities and share concerns, if any. The community had a wide representation that included men and women, youth, the elderly as well as migrants.

During the townhalls, IOM with support from the Uganda Police Force officers administered pre and post-questionnaires to assess knowledge on P/CVE. The purpose of the assessment was to test knowledge improvement after the after police presentations on radicalization and violent extremism.

The knowledge questions inquired about the role of police and the community in preventing violent extremism. The community was also asked to give recommendations on how to effectively engage with youth on preventing violent extremism.

A total of 750 (338 males and 412 females) participated in the two town hall meetings, 78% of these were youth (below 35years). This high youth participation created an enabling atmosphere for the community members and the police officers to engage productively, while feeling safe and free to express their views.

To increase knowledge and community participation the participants were organized into small working groups facilitated by Police officers, the aim of the working groups was to also improve cohesion and create trust.

To ensure equal participation, appropriate measures were taken (e.g. hiring translators, organizing break-away groups for smaller discussions). The meetings focused on creating an environment where the community and police officers can engage in a free conversation about their safety as well as ways to reduce the chances of violence and radicalization.

Figure 10 Through group discussions like this, the youths in slums raise many issues that can be helpful in strengthening social cohesion
Group discussions facilitated by the police officers were held during the town hall meetings, these aimed at emphasizing the role of the police, community members and youth in preventing radicalization and violent extremism. Each group was issued a set of questions to discuss and come up with recommendations and solutions.

Other methods such as community mobilization, sensitization & advocacy were used to foster the police and community engagement in responding to responsibilities of both parties in averting violent extremism and radicalization, six groups were formed, and the 200 participants shared their views on how the relationship between the law enforcers and the community can be improved. The groups discussions were facilitated by nine police officers, the groups later presented their recommendations to the audience.

However, distrust due to lack of confidentiality on the part of the police, the community claimed that they do not report crime or give names of suspects because of fear that the Police would not consider the information confidential leading to criminals returning to hurt the reporters. The community urged the police to improve to win their trust. Police action was key for the communities in Bwaise and Kisenyi.

The SSCoS project aims at facilitating the closure of the gap between the community and the law enforcers, and therefore continuous engagements and training of police on Human rights best practices will contribute to the reduction in violent extremism and radicalization.
SLUM RESIDENTS THRILLED BY THE BEERA CLEAR CAMPAIGN

Peer educators sensitizing the youth and community members on the dangers of violent extremism and how to shun crime in their communities. Photo: Digida Events

The peer educators (sensitization teams) spoke to the slum population and allowed them to express their views in response to the campaign messages. The Team explained key themes of the campaign and engaged them on how they make choices that affect their lives. The target audiences were encouraged and motivated to be agents of change in their communities and in their own lives by making right choices and emulate those who have succeeded before them as they aspire for the same/similar standards of living.

The Beera clear campaign aimed to motivate people living in the slum areas to avoid violent extremism and in the process, empower them, especially the Youth, on how to harness their potential without getting involved in potentially disruptive activities that threaten the social cohesion and stability of the community they live in. In so doing the campaign team created awareness that would encourage the target audience to avert any possible activates of violent extremism, and/or stay away from abetting crime. The messages were thus a call to action.
KEY MESSAGES DISSEMINATED DURING THE SENSITIZATION ACTIVITIES

1. Encouraged them to be masters of their own destiny by making right choices for life.

2. Taking up changes positively for a better life starting with individual initiative against choosing violence.

3. To prioritize gender equity among the communities they live in.

4. Seeking good social actions that foster social cohesion and stability within their communities.

5. Choosing to be clear by way of harnessing peace, being focused and avoid all means / forms of extremism and radicalization.

6. Embrace social commitment to positive community changes and prevent crime and criminality of any form that results from any bad peer pressure.

Peer Educators sensitizing the youth and public about the dangers of radicalization and how to shun violent activities to create a positive impact in their communities. Photo: Digida Events
OVERVIEW OF OUTPUTS

A total target audience of 56,994 people was exposed to the Beera Clear campaign messages. Of those 57.8% were Male and 42.2% Female. Out that total number 36,110 were Youth aged between 10 and 25 years (59% Male and 41% Female). The target population of those above 25 years was a total of 20,884 of which 55.7% were Male and 44.3% Female. The outputs are illustrated in Graph A below.

GRAPH A: OVERVIEW OF ACTIVATION OUTPUTS

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54
Choose Sports, Not Violence

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