

NICE AFRICA-UGANDA



ANNUAL REPORT

2009



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The New innovation for community emancipation (NICE) AFRICA – Uganda Chapter was incorporated in 2008 as a subsidiary of The Pincer Group International Limited (TPGIL). NICE AFRICA is a not for profit (Non-Governmental) organisation inspired into action by demeaning problems facing Africa and Uganda and the wisdom in unleashing local communities into fixing their own problems. Such approaches have proved to be most sustainable as communities tend to own the processes and outcomes. They thrive on the strength of social capital. NICE AFRICA believes in directly investing in communities by building integrity, visionary leadership, and good governance and transparency skills.

2. PROGRAM FOCUS FOR 2009

During the previous year (2009), a lot of NICE-Africa work focused on *leadership development especially among youth and families. Much of the work was done in partnership with faith-based organisations. Participating communities were helped to discover the wealth of knowledge, opportunities, and potentials they have to cause transformation in the most sustainable ways so as to scale up development within their localities.*

3. MAJOR ACTIVITY AREAS

The Key NICE AFRICA (U) activities were:

- Youth Camps
- Training of trainers
- Networking

3.1 YOUTH CAMPS

During the year 2009, NICE Africa initiated a total of four youth Camps across the country. The specific areas where camps were held during the previous year include Nebbi (13th – 18th January 2009), Bukedi (7th – 11th December 2009), Rwenzori (16th – 20th December 2009) and Madi and West Nile (Arua 28th December 2009– 3rd January 2010) Dioceses. Most Anglican Dioceses in Uganda hold annual youth conferences that are typically evangelical and open to different youth participants. NICE-Africa Camp participants are pre-selected and registered. For those camps that are jointly organized with the churches, carefully selected evangelical messages designed to address real life issues are integrated into broader development themes in a holistic manner. Issues addressed include accountability, values of peace, life

skills, vision, goal setting, and HIV/AIDS among others.

3.2 Objectives of Youth Camps:

- To introduce Biblical Principles of integrity, transparency and Godliness
- To enable youth discover and develop their leadership skills
- To help the youth discover economic opportunities at their disposal
- Encourage hands on experience in development

The following topics were some of the focal areas of discussion:

- Examples of Biblical leaders who exhibited great leadership skills under very difficult circumstances and were able to bring deliverance to their communities. Some of the examples are Nehemiah, Joseph, Daniel, David etc.
- Situational analysis of their respective districts or dioceses on core issues of poverty, education and health.

- Other plenary sessions focused on problems like drug addiction, HIV/AIDS, self discovery, Goal /Vision setting and pursuit amidst distractions of maturation processes.
- Work shop sessions majorly dwelt on practical areas such as:
 - identifying business opportunities/potential with available resources
 - Tree planting exercise
 - Information technology
 - Taking charge of ones destiny.
- Sports and games were major high lights of the activities in the camps.

3.3 Facilitators during the Camps

- There was active participation of the churches at the highest level. Respective Diocesan Bishops came along with key clergy and gave key note addresses in the meetings.
- NICE Africa established a consistent team comprising of members of TPGIL and its affiliates. Among them were Mr. Milton Mutto, Mr Victor Avasi, Mr Tom Duku, Mr Moses Oteba (Planning, coordination and workshops), Mr Joseph Duku(Sports), Ms Maureen

Walabyeki (Ladies), Mr Daniel Magumba and Mr Anthony Mwesigwa (youth)

Others included key businessmen/women, renown civil servants and pioneer achievers/role models.

3.4 Statistical summary of Camp Participants

A total of 860 youth were reached in 2009 through youth Camps of which 390 were female and 470 male.

Table 1: Youth Camp Participation by gender and region

Region/Camp	Male	Female	TOTALS
Nebbi	58	65	123
Bukedi	64	83	147
Rwenzori	122	144	266
Arua	146	178	324
TOTAL	390	470	860

3.5 Challenges

- These being cost shared programs, they could be exclusive; most participants complained of financial challenges constrains. For example, Bukedi Camp had to be stopped midway for shortage of funds to run the camp for an extra day. This rather an anti climax to the Camp.
- Some of the Diocesan parishes did not put reasonable emphasis in the mobilization processes which affected participation for example in Bukedi Diocese, only 28 of the 89 parishes participated.
- Most of the youth lack mentors especially father figures in their lives. A good number of the youth are either orphans or live with divorced single parents. Some are child parents.
- Lack of critical facilities such as IT equipment for

demonstration made the programme on IT theoretical

3.6 Lessons Learnt

- Youth need father figures/ mentors to provide guidance in their lives. They are willing to do the right thing but need continuous guidance through father figures which is a glaring gap.
- The youth are very eagerly seeking for guidance but they cannot afford the cost therefore the stay away.
- Youth have bright ideas which need to be tapped but many times they are denied the opportunities to speak their minds because of the presumption that they have to be thought for.

3.7

Recommendation

- The leadership gap needs to be urgently addressed or else we shall end up with a large population of misguided youth country wide. This can be dangerous.
- The “mentors” they look up to are ill trained and need trainer’s training.
- There is need for funding of this programme to supplement youth who are unable to afford programs such as these youth camps and also to-
 - attract facilitators who are able to address the need gaps.
 - Additional funding for this program would be needed to facilitate movement of youth from different regions to have camps together so as to expose the participants and break the tribal myths that has divided the country of Uganda overtime.

Youth Camps in Pictures



Figure 1: At the Point of Mission where we feel the heart beat of need and sacrifice



Figure 2: At the Peak is the Cross-the ultimate victory



Figure 3: The fatigue for a tough journey of conquest



Figure 4: Everyone counts



Figure 5: Downhill is as challenging; you need reliable breaks!



Figure 6: Across could be the motivating beauty



Figure 7: Order is of essence on the way up!



Figure 8: Unmatched beauty: the handwork of our God!



Figure 9: Music training is part of the program



Figure 10: The Camp fire night: celebrating with bull roasting



Figure 11: Standing to be counted for change



Figure 12: The experiences are personalized



Figure 13: Some of the supporters take time to participate



Figure 14: Some of the supporters create time to participate

4. Training of trainers

In August 2009, NICE Africa-Uganda sponsored and along with a Team from Nairobi, Kenya co-facilitated an intense one week training of trainers (TOT) course for mainly lay Church leaders. The course content covered areas of strategic leadership and intercession as bases for spiritual healing and reconciliation.

This was based on an expressed need of the region given the decades on traumatic exposure and divisions. The course drew a total of 51 Participants from Busoga (15), Kampala Diocese (8), Northern Uganda (3), Mbale (1) and Nebbi Diocese (22). Some of the key issues included in the training program were:

- Spiritual Mapping – a three phase process of identification of key issues for action focusing on physical, historical and spiritual dimensions of local communities. Physical mapping particularly involves studying the natural endowment on the area and how the-

community is affected by them. In this way the community is helped to discover the wealth around them. Historical and spiritual mapping asks the question of how what is came into being and the spiritual implication of them to the community.

- **Bondages:** This is a study of practices and habits that keep the community or individuals tied to anything whether positively or negatively. Emphasis was placed on those practices that keep the community negatively bound or operating below their full potential. In Religious terms these issues are referred to the sins which are door ways to bondages.
- Reconciliation was a crucial area addressed and the different tribes had to forgive one another for different attitudes or deeds that led to tribal grudges in the past. This was good for creating conducive working environments for all.

4.1 Participation by Gender and Region

Region	Male	Female	TOTALS
Nebbi	13	19	22
Busoga	7	6	13
Kampala	9	3	12
Northern Uganda (Gulu)	1	2	3
Mbale	0	1	1
TOTAL	24	27	51

5.0 Tree Planting Program

As one of the practical approaches to unleash young people towards productivity and independence on the basis of existing opportunities,

NICE engaged to youth in Nebbi in tree planting for the local churches. In total 80 pine trees were planted at the local Angwech Church of Uganda, Nebbi Diocese. This activity was crowned by the Bishop of Nebbi Diocese, Rt. Rev. Wathokudi.

The process involved the following:

- Explaining the Natural endowment of their locality and its suitability for forestry.
- The market value of different types of trees and what it would take the youth to tap into these markets.
- The environmental importance of forest cover and its affect the soil and crop yields.
- The value of trees, duration to maturity: 15 years for eucalyptus, 20 years for pine, 15 year for teak
- Emphasis is on the viability of trees as investments for one's future.
- Mobilizing the youth to witnesses through tree planting.

- Land wrangles between some community members and the church threaten the tree projects.
- Inconsistent rains at the infant stages of the planted trees.
- Lack of proper follow up care for the trees after the youth have gone home
- Uncontrolled burning of bushes at that time of the year risks erasing the trees

4.1 Challenges/threats

5.0 Other Youth Programs: Scripture Union Conference

In August 2009, Milton Mutto and Moses Oteba represented NICE Africa for the annual Scripture Union youth Conference in Arua. Milton was a key speaker and focused on leadership development. Other areas addressed included recognition and harnessing of opportunities. The conference took place at Mvara Senior Secondary School, his former school and was attended by close to 800 young people

5.1 Output

- Talks on discovering the leader in you
- Teaching on identifying opportunities around you
- Teachings on setting compelling goals and understanding strategic thinking
- Discussion on developing a dream and keeping custody of your own dream

5.2 Immediate outcome:

- The youth committed themselves to complete their school cycle and those who had dropped out decided to do all it takes to get back to school.
- The older men present in the meetings (Father's Union) requested for a special session to the members of the Father's union in the Diocese concerning local investments especially tree planting

6.0 Networking

As part of ongoing networking activities, Tom Duku travelled to Kalamaroo City, Michigan State in the US from the 21st of June to the 2nd of July 2009. This particular trip was initiated by Dr Betty Pacutho Udongo (A PhD graduate of Western Michigan- University).

The objective of the visit was mainly to explore prospective partnerships for NICE Africa work in Northern and Eastern Uganda. The specific areas explored included youth training through faith based organisations and networks. The following matrix summarises the visit detail and people met.

6.1 Summary of Activities during the trip.

DATE	PERSONS MET	DESCRIPTION OF PERSON	PURPOSE	OUT PUT	WHAT WAS ACHIEVED
Thursday 25th June 2009	Band of Brothers	Men's fellowship group made of business men in the City of Kalamazoo	Discussed broadly about Uganda and work of TPGIL and its consortium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power point on status of Education in Northern Uganda • Discussed Opportunities for youth capacity building through faith Based organisations (NICE Africa) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Further discussion – exchanged addresses ➤ Discussed a more sustainable model of support for youth Children in Northern Uganda beyond school fees sponsorship-Addresses exchanged.
Friday, 26th June 2009	Founder members of Kalamazoo Prayer Clinic.	Udongo family, Robert Kagumba, Dr. Mwakasisi and Sherry	Develop a Vision& Mission statements and strategic paper for NGO registration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision statement developed • Mission statement • Ethos/ Values • Activities – work plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To hold an annual mission anniversary celebration ➤ Invited for the June 2010 annual anniversary of Kalamazoo prayer clinic.
Saturday, 27th June 2009	Western Michigan University	Graduates, relatives and or / friends families and University officials	Attended graduation ceremony of Dr. Betty Pacutho Udongo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed with the president of the University who referred me to Sandra Khan for further discussions (International Students admission counsellor) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prospects/interest in student exchange programmes for the PG Institute ➤ Prospect of sending students for research in Africa especially PGI ➤ under graduate Presidential scholarships & faculty scholarships for graduate students
Sunday, 28th June 2009	Graduation thanks giving service	Family and friends of the Udongo Family	Thanks giving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power point presentation of the Status of Education situation in Northern Uganda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A family to visit Uganda and be a part of Nice Africa youth capacity building through IT equipment hands- on experience
29th June 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ James Nowell ○ Dinner invitation by a church member 	James developed a micro Finance institution in Liberia	Discuss partnership opportunities with TPGIL and the consortium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained NICE Africa consortium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Exchange addresses on Nice Africa - new paradigm of 'thinking together' Vs begging for assistance. ➤ Attracted high school contribution for Africa youth ➤ Expressed interested in partnership with Western Michigan University students for research exchange programme ➤ A Team to visit in February 2010 after groundwork.

6.2 Follow up Activities:

- As an exchange visit strategy, a team of three students from Kalamazoo (US); Martha, Brianna and Jesica arrived in Uganda on 18th June 2010. They travelled to Northern Uganda where, as part of internship, they participated in a number of activities at Nebbi Standard Secondary School. This was in a way to experience the plight of students in Northern Uganda. The team travelled back on 24th July 2009. Martha and another set of friend will return to Uganda in summer of 2011 to partner with NICE Africa on youth empowerment through agricultural demonstration projects and student exchange visits. At the moment she is raising funds towards this cause.
- On 15th October, the “Christ Followers for Change”, an Association of 14 pastors from different churches in Kalamazoo City sent a team of seven Pastors to visit Uganda led by Pastor Dan. The purpose of their visit was to facilitate in a conference organised in Kampala and visit Northern Uganda as a follow up of the visit Tom Duku made to Kalamazoo. The three day bus trip to Nebbi District involved a discussion on the state of life in Northern Uganda during and after the war. We went through the IDP camps in Agung, Olwiyo and Purongo in Amuru district in a bid to appreciate the the plight of the people of Northern Uganda. Later the team had a late lunch in Nebbi. The following day the team took a tour through the Murchison Falls National Park to enjoy the riches of game in Uganda.
- The family of Mr and Mrs Jasson who were present during the trip to Kalamazoo travelled to Uganda together with the purpose of adopting a Ugandan child and also establishing deeper links with NICE Africa through business possibilities in Uganda especially in the area of Education. This is work in progress.

6. Appreciation

- All our partners who have contributed financially to the various programs
- TPGIL provided seed funding as part of its social responsibility
- Partner churches
- Individuals who have continued to make monthly donations to this Nobel cause