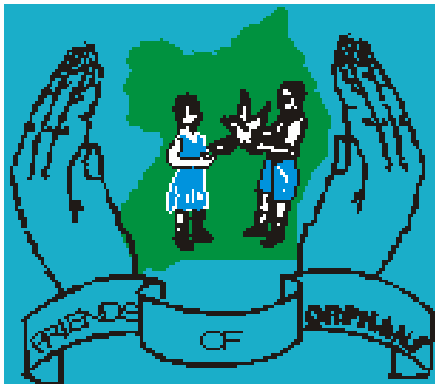




REACHING VULNERABLE YOUTH IN EMERGING ECONOMIES

Impact of Micro-enterprises on Youth and Development



From disparity to prosperity

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FRIENDS OF ORPHANS

Focus of the Presentation...

The Role of Youth Microenterprises in the
21st Century: Facing the Challenge of
Youth Unemployment and Vulnerability

Focus of the Presentation...

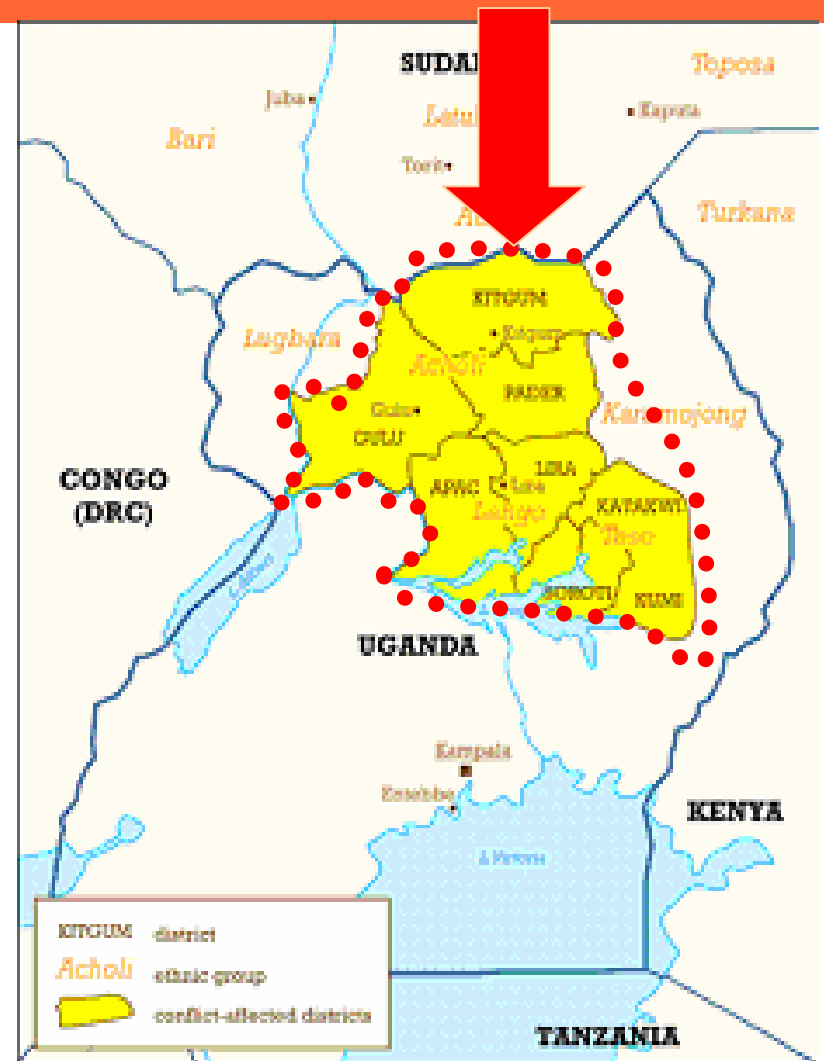
Definition of Youth

- The Constitution of Uganda recognizes that persons falling within the age bracket of 12 to 30 years are the youth, that is to say they are trainable, employable and just beginning to participate in the development of their local economy.

Focus of the Presentation...

Vulnerable Youth :

- Youth can be vulnerable because of many reasons including war, diseases like HIV/AIDS, orphans and others.
- On this particular case we are going to look at vulnerable youths in Northern Uganda due to War and HIV/AIDS.



Introduction...

Highlights of the War in Northern Uganda

- War started on the 20th of August 1986 and is now 21 years: for all these years a vast part of Northern Uganda and particularly the Acholi community who inhabit it has experienced one of the most horrifying conflicts in history.
- The War is between the rebels of the Lords' Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government of Uganda.
- They mostly use youth and children to fight the war.
- These youth are illiterate and have grown up in a world of war and violence knowing only how to use the gun.
- The rebels abducted more than 25,000 children and youths from their homes and forced them into a life of war and sexual slavery.

Introduction...

Highlights of the War in Northern Uganda

- The conflict underwent changes in the context and scope. But the most outstanding outcome is the mass displacement of over 1.8 million people to live in IDP camps.
- The IDP camps are a humanitarian disaster as toilet blocks sit reeking less than 100ft from the water sources, children run filthy and naked, covered in easily curable skin diseases.
- The Camp life is full of dependency and idleness of people because they are to wait for the relief food from WFP
- The youth are victims of this life style, and as such they get involved in non-productive activities, like theft, drunkenness, immorality, and others.
- Since then, no viable economic activities have been taking place thereby worsening the living conditions of the IDPs
- It's very clear therefore that the characteristic of the youth as employable, energetic, trainable and just beginning to participate in the development of their local economy can be manipulated or coerced into human resource that can destroy their own communities drawing from the experience of Uganda.

Introduction...

Results of the War

- As a result of this conflict, poverty level has risen from 65% to 75% according to a recent study by Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in the war-affected north, doubling the national statistic of 33.4%.



Introduction...

Background of the Conflicts in Northern Uganda

■ It was the peace agreement between the President of Uganda - **Yoweri Kaguta Museveni** and the UPDA Commander Maj. Kilama that brought the first phase of the rebellion to an end.

■ Hardly had it taken three months later than the Holy Spirit Movement emerged under the leadership of Alice Lakwena and her father Lukoya Svirino with a claim that they were messengers of the Holy Spirit sent to galvanize support to wage war on the Kampala based Government for the Acholi people.

Introduction...

After the defeat of Alice Lakwena at Maga-maga in Jinja, Joseph Kony and his spiritual leader for the rebellion Mr. Ojuk took over the leadership of splinter rebel group left behind in Gulu district. This later became the LRA (Lords' Resistance Army). Since that time it's now 21 years and there has been an estimated loss of life of over 500,000 People.



Introduction...

Background of the Conflicts in Northern Uganda

- Many efforts have so far been made to bring the war to an end, ranging from the use of military options to peace talks but with little or no success.
- However it's still fresh in our memories, that there were efforts towards resolving this conflict peacefully. There was a team of Acholi elders who went to meet the rebels at "*Tee got Kilak*" (under Kilak hill), in 1993 only to be beheaded.
- The second initiative was by Betty Biombe in 1994, though it was not successful.
- Then the Presidential Peace Team was appointed with the Presidents' brother-*General Salim Saleh* as part of the team, but with no documented efforts towards the Peace Talks.
- This was then followed by Betty Bigombe's second attempt in 2004, which again failed.
- And now there is "*Juba Peace Talks*", an initiative of **Dr Riek Marchar** the Vice President of Southern Sudan, which is looked at as the last chance for a peaceful resolution of a two-decade conflict.

Introduction...

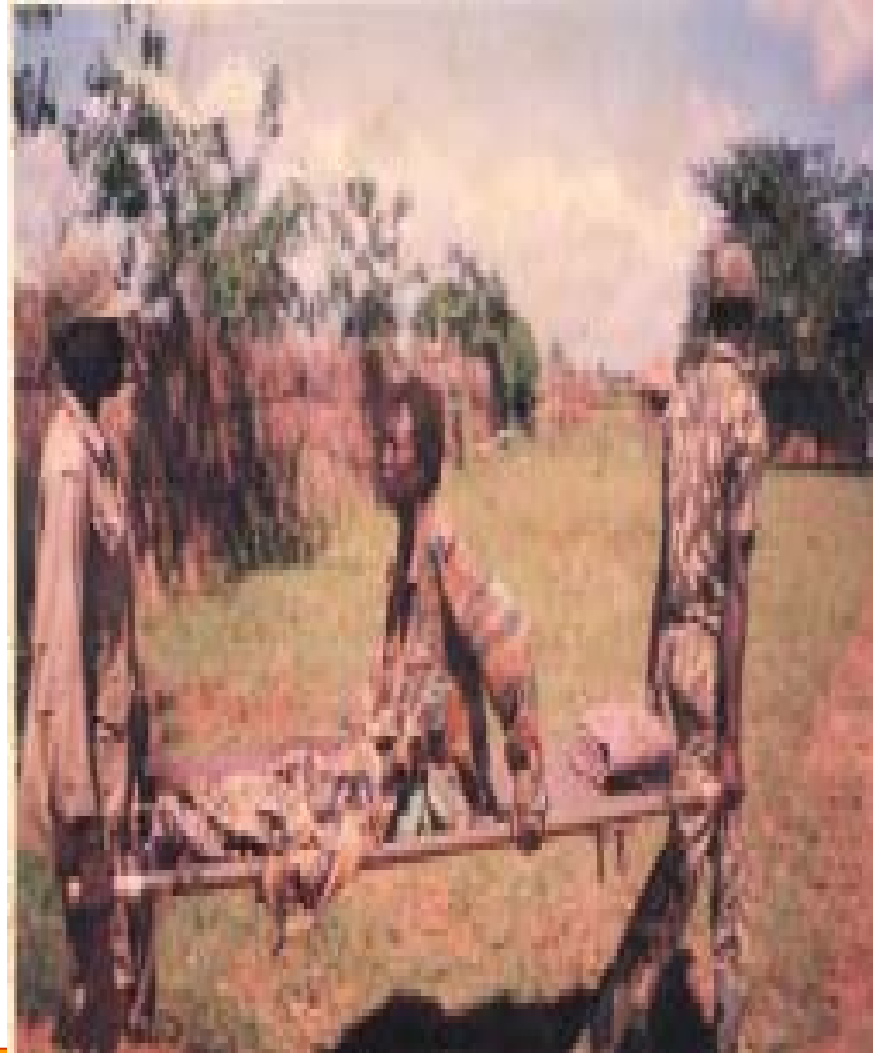
The Peace Talks

- Despite all these initiatives, none of it under took the participation of the youths who are the major victims of the war. It is therefore necessary to bring a consortium of youths who will echo their voice on peace and development.
- The idea of peace talks is widely accepted in the country and Acholi in particular because it is in line with the traditional justice systems, locally known as "*Mato Oput*".
- Mato oput is presided over by the Chief (*Rwot*) through the mediators between the warring parties.
- This initiative (Mato Oput) is now the main emphasis being used in the "Juba peace talks" between the government of Uganda and the LRA. It is important to note, that despite all these good initiatives in place, none of it has directly targeted and involved the participation of the youths.

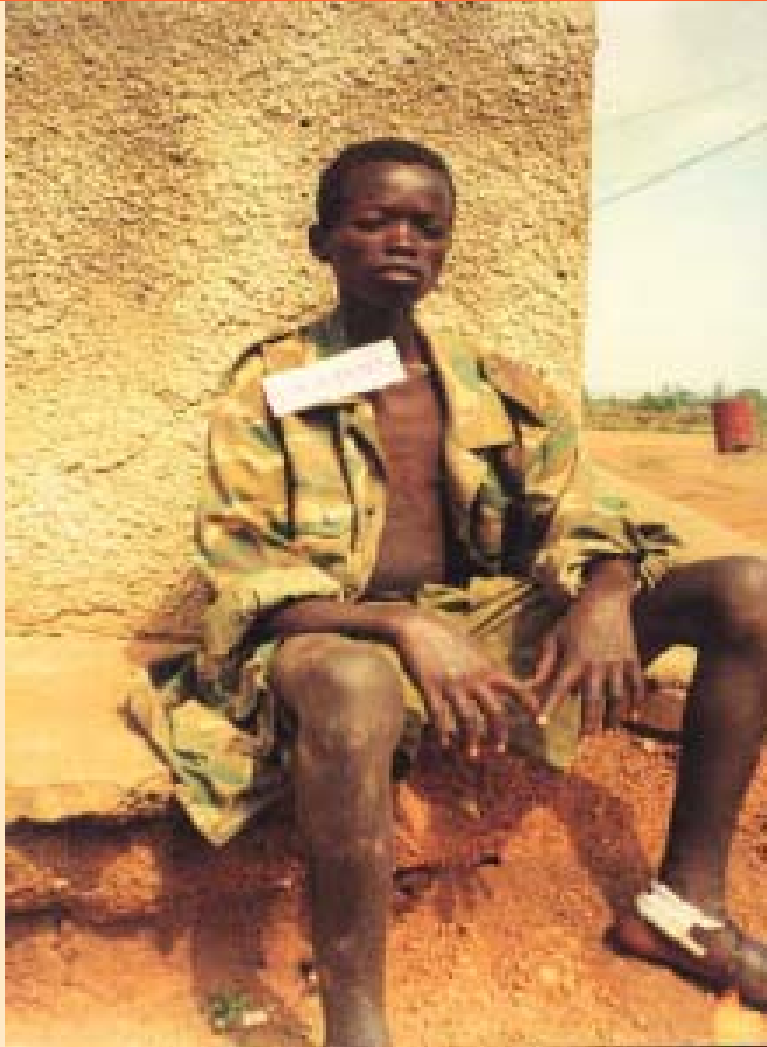
Youth the beacon of hope in
conflict transformation and
reconciliation in Northern
Uganda.

The Youth...

The 21 years war in northern Uganda has seen the youth placed at the centre stage of the conflict taking up the role of rebels (LRA), GOU forces (UPDF), they formed the largest population of the victims of abduction, torture, and brutal killing.



The Youth...



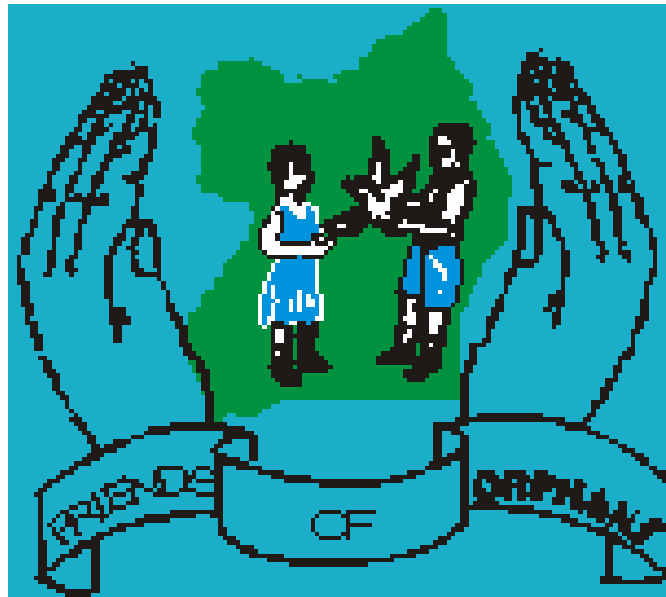
The elderly could have begun the war but since the first bullet was fired all the subsequent war was characterised by the youth trying to kill one another irrespective of the sides and roles in the conflict

The Youth...

- It is therefore undeniable that the youth of this country have been victims of exploitation and coercion to perpetuate violence/armed conflict and yet marginalised at the decision making table when matters that concern their society and country's development are being discussed.
- For that matter, the youth should be involved in reconciliation programs at all levels i.e. community level, local level, regional level, and national level.
- The Reconciliation should aim at bringing individuals, families, communities and societies together in the search for better understanding of what went wrong that led to the broken relationships with particular attention to the youth of Acholi sub-region whose 21 years experience has left them largely traumatized with little hope of the future and highly redundant resulting in to the current high level of HIV/AIDS prevalence in the IDPs , domestic violence, Alcoholism, and being highly militarised in the mind.

FRIENDS OF ORPHANS

Atim Kikoma " Let Me Do it Myself" Vocational Program



From disparity to prosperity

Case Study...

- Friends of Orphans Atim Kikoma “ Let Me Do it Myself” Vocational Program aims at empowering, rehabilitating and reintegrating former abducted youth (child mothers, abductees, orphans and youths heading vulnerable households) impacted by war and HIV/AIDS in Pader District northern Uganda.
- Through skill based and self employment oriented vocational training followed by capital input donation to launch a sustainable income generating activities.



Case Study...

- It's a multi-sector approach, cross cutting between education, vocational training, and reintegration of youth/ex-combatants to communities, support to their livelihoods, income-generation and economic empowerment of vulnerable youths to eradicate poverty.
- This is to aid their voluntary return to their villages which is in line with the government of Uganda strategic development plan that encourage the war impacted community to fight poverty.
- Youths are trained in business management and entrepreneurship skills along side the vocational skills training to allow them manage their own business when they start generating income. The aim is to create self employment to improve on house hold incomes and nutrition.



Atim Kikoma vocational training centre ...

Justification/reasons for starting

- The educational trends have been affected in northern Uganda for the last 21 years due to the on going war creating high needs for catch up education/training especially in vocational skills so that vulnerable youths affected by war are able to generate their own income.
- Hundreds of former abducted youths are living traumatized with their bad experiences in the IDP camps since most of them never went through rehabilitation centres and even those who went through rehabilitation centres were not empowered with any necessary skills to generate their own income leaving them vulnerable to involvement in crimes and violent activities within the community. This calls for their further rehabilitation, reintegration and empowerment.
- Most of the organizations operating within Pader district are focusing on food distribution and other basic needs, leaving out basic skills training, vocational training and economic empowerment of the youths. This creates a cycle of dependency syndromes, and this gap needed to be filled to eradicate poverty.

Atim Kikoma vocational training centre ...

Primary Learning Objectives and Outcomes

- To create self employment for former abducted youths, child mothers, orphans, youths heading vulnerable families to eradicate poverty and further their social reintegration and rehabilitation in the community.
- To support further rehabilitation, reintegration, and empowerment of former abductees and vulnerable youth through income generating activities.
- To empower youths and improve their lives to create self reliance and coping mechanism.
- To build the capacity of vulnerable youth there by aiding their reintegration into the community, creating self employment, improving on house hold incomes and nutrition.

Recommendations...

- Different categories of youths should be allowed to converge and design strategies of meaningful participation in development processes. Youth should be given opportunities to fully get involved in the development process rather than being witnesses of development.
- Youth should be provided with platforms where they can participate in open dialogue on their current challenges, needs, share experiences, and identify opportunities for their future. This will inspire confidence and trust among the youth as a basis for sustainable development.



Recommendations...

■ Youth should be supported to form networks beginning from sub -county level to regional level to coordinate youth developmental activities. Enabling the documentation of the attitudes and aspirations of the youth towards development. This will revitalise the determination of the youth to work hard towards sustainable development.

■ Youth leaders/representatives from all parts of the regions/world should meet and give recommendations on how development plans should target them. While some presentations will be made, many facilitated discussions should be held during the events offering participants time and space to make their voice heard. The aim of such meetings/conferences should be fully to document youth's views and ensure that they are made known to all key stakeholders of Government, donors, and civil societies in their areas/around the world.

Conclusion...

- There has been limited involvement of youth especially in third world countries in viable economic activities. This has led to increased poverty, death, HIV/AIDS spread and many other untold sufferings for the youth.
- For a long time the youth have been sidelined if not ignored when it comes to advocacy for development, yet they constitute a greater percentage of the population. Therefore there is need to bridge this gap, which hinders the youth participation in the development processes.

Conclusion...

- The youth are always not particularly being targeted to participate in open dialogue and involvement so that their alternative views on development can be sought and taken care of. They are always witness of development instead of being partners in development. This would give them an opportunity to present their agenda on how they want to get involved in development process.
- The youth for instance in case of wars always take a centre stage on both sides of the warring parties, and forming the largest portion of victims of abductions, rape, brutal killings, and other forms of torture. The wars always to a larger extent affect the youth, in various ways more than others.

The End...

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO
ME!**

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